

THE PROBLEM

Plastic bags, straws, bottles, and other waste present a significant threat to the ecosystems in the Long Island Sound and across Connecticut. More than 200 species of marine life have been found entangled in plastic, and the effects can be catastrophic. Sea turtles are prone to mistaking plastic bags for jellyfish, but ingesting the bags causes significant digestive issues. Whales and dolphins have been found with intestinal blockages due to plastic consumption.

While recycling programs can help, only 9% of plastics produced in the United States are ever recycled. Some plastics, like single-use shopping bags, cannot be recycled. Because plastic takes more than 400 years to decompose, the plastic waste clogging our waterways will be here for a long time to come.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Some towns in Connecticut have taken steps to combat plastic pollution. Greenwich and Westport have enacted bans on single-use plastic bags, while Guilford, Mansfield, Norwich, Stamford, and Waterford are considering similar legislation. Stoughton is considering a ban on both plastic bags and straws.

A statewide ban or fee on single-use plastic bags would greatly reduce the amount of pollution in Long Island Sound and other waterways and generate revenue for Connecticut.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about plastic pollution, visit CTLCV.org/plastics.html or contact:

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More than **8 million tons** of plastic enter our oceans each year. At this rate, plastics will outnumber fish by 2050.



CT uses more than **400 million** plastic bags each year. Plastic bags are not easily recycled, and often end up in our oceans, lakes, streams, and waterways.



A five-cent tax on plastic bags could generate more than **\$20 million** in revenue for Connecticut.

