



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Planning and Development

Biodegradable Materials in the Food and Beverage Sector A National Perspective

Virtual Stakeholder Forum for Biodegradable Products

Draft Standard-Compostable and Biodegradable Materials for Food Contact Single-Use
Products and Packaging – Compulsory Requirements

December 1, 2020

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Ministry of Planning and Development

Plastics at the International Level

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) Decisions

- Resolution 1- Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production.
- Resolution 3/7- Marine litter and microplastics
- Resolution 9- Addressing single-use plastics

UN Clean Seas Campaign

- 60 countries
- Trinidad and Tobago joined in 2019.



Basel Convention-Amendments

- Plastic Waste Amendments: Annex II, VIII, IX.
- Contaminated plastic waste-PIC procedure.

Plastic Waste Partnership

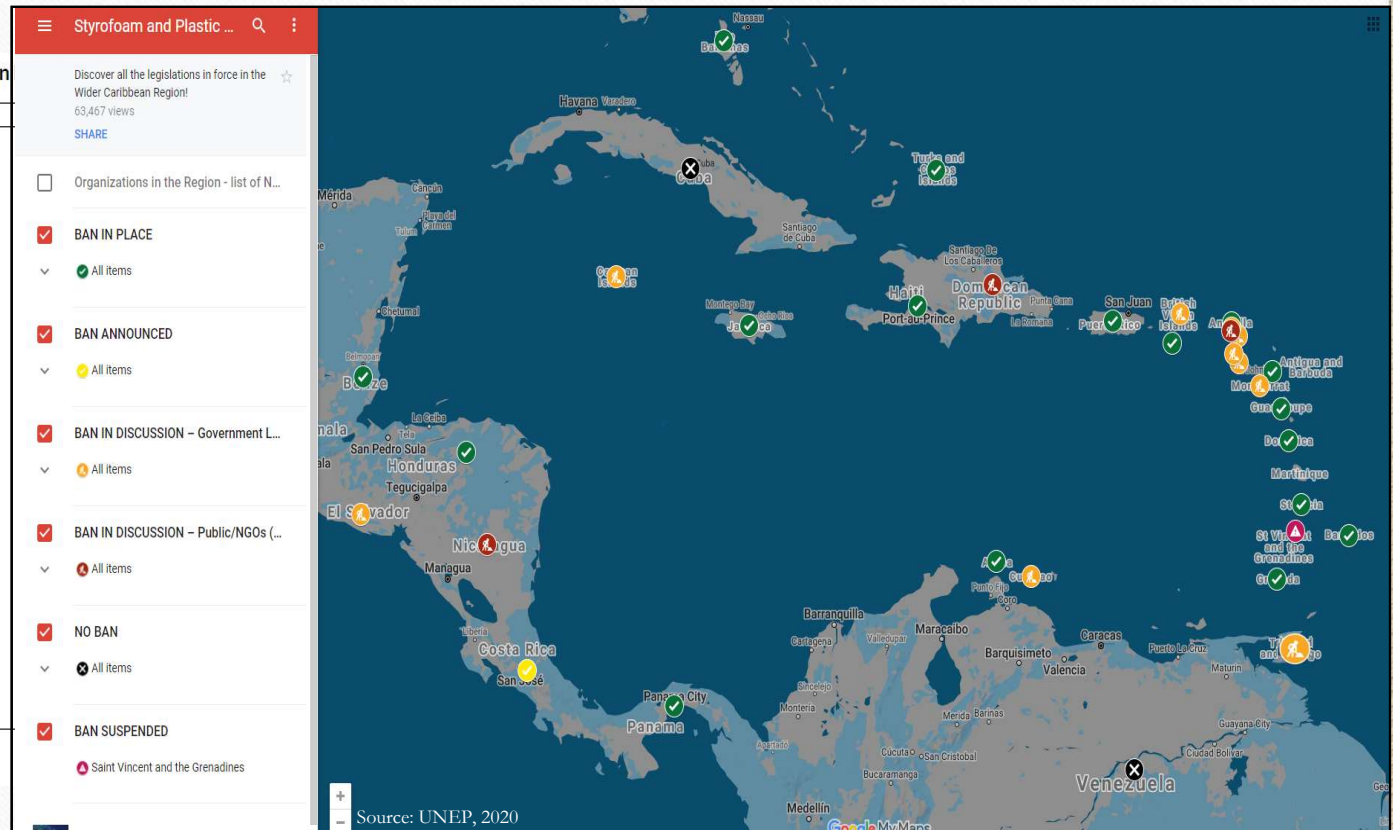
- Aim:
 - To improve and promote the ESM of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels.
 - To prevent and minimize its generation.
 - To reduce significantly and in the long-term eliminate the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, particularly the marine environment.

Plastics at the Regional Level

Status of styrofoam and plastic bag bans in the wider Caribbean

Country	Date of implementation
Anguilla	March 31 st , 2019
Antigua and Barbuda	January 1 st , 2016
Aruba	January 1 st , 2017
The Bahamas	June 1 st , 2020
Barbados	April 1 st , 2019
Belize	April 22 nd , 2019
British Virgin Islands	In Discussion
Cayman Islands	In Discussion
Curacao	In Discussion
Dominica	January 1 st , 2019
Dominican Republic	In Discussion
Guyana	January 1 st , 2016
Grenada	February 1 st , 2019
Haiti	August 1 st , 2013
Jamaica	January 1 st , 2019
Montserrat	In Discussion
Puerto Rico	December 1 st , 2016
Saint Barthelemy	In Discussion
Saint Kitts and Nevis	In Discussion
Saint Lucia	December 1 st , 2018
Saint Martin	In Discussion
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	January 31 st , 2018
Sint Maarten	In Discussion
Suriname	In Discussion
Trinidad and Tobago ²	Draft legislation
Turks and Caicos Islands	January 1 st , 2017
United States Virgin Islands	January 1 st , 2017

Source: UNEP 2019



Plastics in Trinidad and Tobago

Waste Characterisation Study

Material	Sub-category	% of total
Plastics	Clear Pet containers	19.16
	Coloured Pet containers	
	Clear HDPE containers	
	Opaque HDPE Dairy Products	
	HDPE Milk Containers	
	Tubs and Lids (HDPE, PP, LDPE, PS)	
	Nylon socks	
	Clean LDPE film	
	PS Containers (foam)	
	Miscellaneous/ Unrecognisable plastics	

Source: CBCL, 2010

International Coastal Clean-up (ICC)

TOP 10-2019



TOP 10-2015-2019



Plastics in Trinidad and Tobago



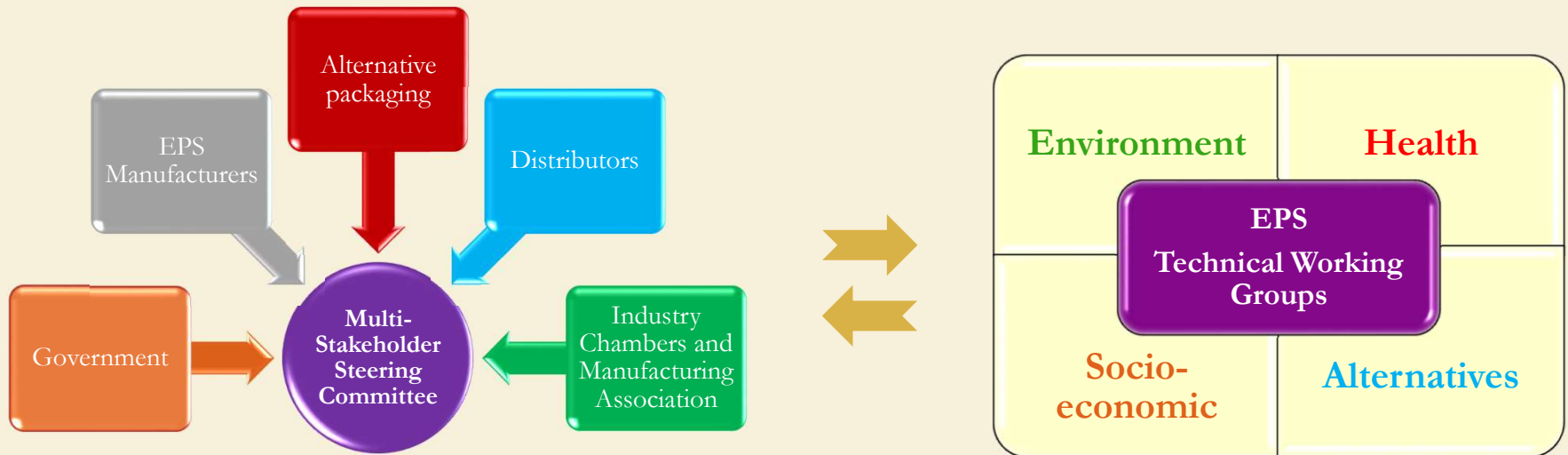
Plastic products in the Food and Beverage Sector in Trinidad and Tobago

Average number of plastic units used by business sector per month

Product	Material	Bakery	Caterer	Food manufacturer	Restaurant	Supermarket	Vegetable market
Burger containers	Styrofoam	500	200	50	600	600	50
Straws (long)	Plastic	500	200	50	1 000	300	50
Spoons	Plastic	500	200	50	1 000	300	50
Forks	Plastic	500	200	50	1 000	300	50
Plates (large)	Plastic	450	200	50	600	200	30
Plates (small)	Plastic	450	200	50	600	200	30
Plates (small)	Styrofoam	600	350	50	800	2 400	50
Plates (large)	Styrofoam	600	350	50	800	2 400	50
Bowls (small)	Plastic	600	100	50	600	1 000	-
Food Containers (medium)	Styrofoam	500	350	50	800	4 000	50
Food Containers (large)	Styrofoam	600	350	50	800	4 000	50
Food Containers (small)	Plastic	500	200	1 500	400	4 000	-
Food Containers (large)	Plastic	800	200	1 500	400	4 000	-
White bags (medium)	Plastic	6 000	500	1 000	800	15 000	300

Source: ECLAC, 2020

Management of Plastics in the Food and Beverage Sector in Trinidad and Tobago



National Legislation

Cabinet agreed, *inter alia*:

- To ban the importation of finished Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) products for the Food and Beverage Sector.

- To the removal, for a period of two (2) years in the first instance, of Customs Duty on the importation of select alternative biodegradable products, to the EPS products used in the Food and Beverage Sector;
 - Bioplastics
 - Polylactide Acid (PLA)
 - Crystallize polyactide (CPLA)
 - Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA)
 - Bagasse

- That the local manufacturers of EPS products explore the addition of safe biodegradable additives to the existing manufacturing process, with production trials to commence in the last quarter of 2019.

Status:

- Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs.

National Standard

Compostable And Biodegradable Materials For Food Contact Single-Use Products and Packaging – Compulsory Requirements

- In 2018 the MPD requested TTBS to develop a national standard for alternative products to EPS for use in the Food and Beverage Sector to:
 - support Government's policy.
 - ensure verification of the claims of biodegradability and compostability being purported.
 - ensure that sub-standard products do not flood the local market to the detriment of human health, environment, society and the economy.
 - To ensure there is a clear and common understanding of the parameters of biodegradability and compostability by the public: business sector and consumers.

- TTBS-Multi-stakeholder National Mirror Committee (2020): development of a national compulsory standard for biodegradability and compostability.

- The Draft National Compulsory Standard-a regulatory tool to ensure verification of authenticity of all EPS-alternative products imported or manufactured within the country.

References

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- UNEP (2019). Report on Status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bags Bans in the Wider Caribbean [online] [date of reference 24 November 2020]:<https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/news/blogpost/styrofoam-andplastic-bag-bans-caribbean-interactive-map>
- Ocean Conservancy. (2019). The Beach and Beyond, 2019 Report.
- Organization of American States (OAS). (2016). Sustainable alternative packaging to replace the expanded polystyrene foam containers produced within the printing and packaging industry of Trinidad and Tobago
- CBCL. (2010). Trinidad Solid Waste Management Program Waste Characterization and Centroid Study-Final Report.

Thank You!

Questions?

