



# Single-Use Product Bans: Policy Models

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# A (very) brief history of UPSTREAM...

## The Product Policy Institute

- 2003-2011: Support & scale Extended Producer Responsibility for many materials
- 2012-2015: EPR for packaging

## UPSTREAM

- 2015-2018- Convene, support & scale US plastic pollution movement - helped to launch BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC
- 2018- present - Support and scale reuse movement




# Policy responses to plastic pollution and waste

Plastic pollution + single-use waste crisis resulted in:

1. **Plastic bans**
2. **Recyclable or compostable instead of plastic** (still single-use)
3. **Circular economy laws**- generally results in focus on recovery and recycling - i.e. single-use







We're never going to be able to recycle or compost  
our way to a sustainable future.

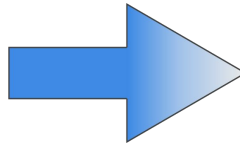
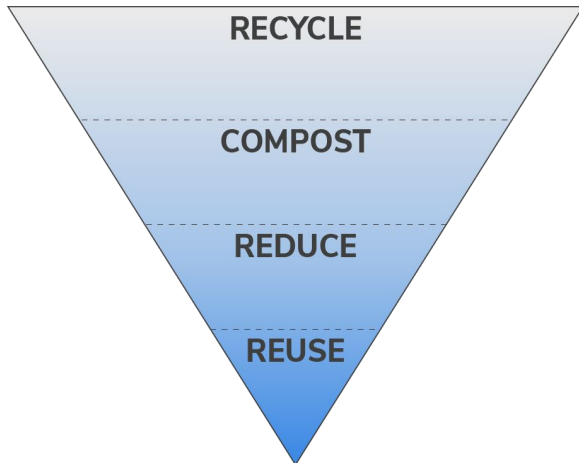
**We have to work upstream** to redesign  
the systems generating the waste in the first place.

The real culprit isn't just single-use **plastic**  
...it's "single-use" itself.

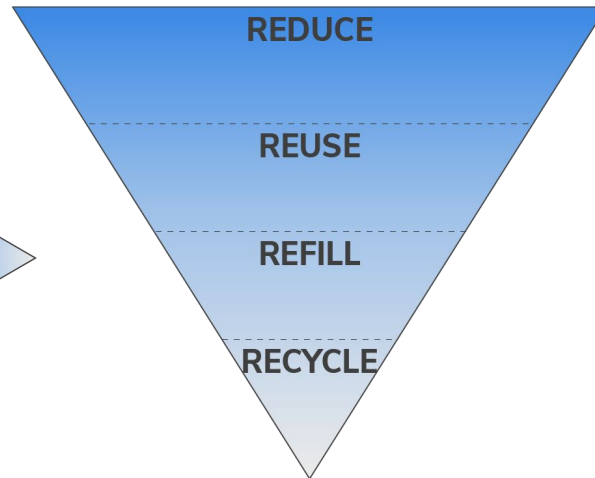
# Reduce, Reuse, Refill Policies

Change How Products are Delivered to Consumers

WHAT WE DO NOW



LET'S DO THIS!





# Model Foodware Policy Based on Berkeley

## 2019: Berkeley Disposable Free Dining

- 1st ban disposables for on-site dining
- 1st single-use cup charge- 25 cents
- Ask-first and opt-in for accessories in takeout and delivery
- Disposables must meet Berkeley “reality test”



# COVID-friendly legislative agenda

## FOCUS ON TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY:

1. Ask-first/ Opt-in for accessories- [model policy](#)
2. Incentivize restaurants to provide reusables for delivery- model policy in development
3. Cup and container charges- [examples here](#)

## FOCUS ON NEW RESTAURANTS

4. Disposable free on-site dining for NEW restaurants- [model policy](#)

## FOCUS ON OTHER INDUSTRIES:

5. Eliminate hotel single-use toiletries: In 2019, California enacted [AB 1162 \(Kalra\)](#)
6. Reuse targets - 25% refillable or reusable by 2030
  - bottled beverages
  - transportation packaging / boxes
  - coffee pods or capsules
  - packaged grocery, personal care, and cleaning products
  - prepared meals in take-out and delivery
  - take-out beverages in single-use cups
  - dry cleaning bags and packaging
  - More TBD

# COVID-19 Hasn't Stopped Us!

## In 2020:

- 7 jurisdictions enacted cup charges (6 in CA, and City of Vancouver, B.C.)
- 5 adopted disposable free dining (Berkeley, Arcata, Fairfax, San Anselmo)
- Policies in play in San Francisco, NY City, Los Angeles, 4 SF Bay counties.... when COVID hit

## Since COVID:

- 8 jurisdictions have enacted accessories reduction policies



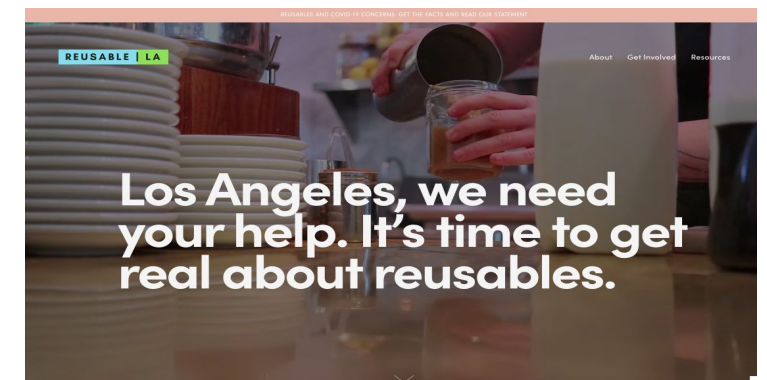
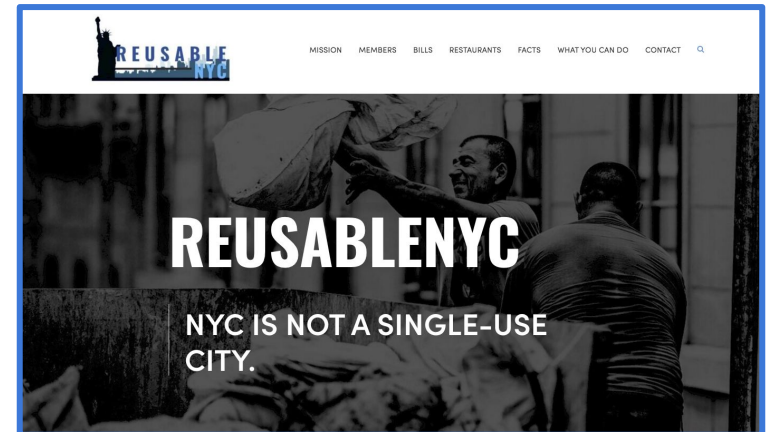
# Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020 (Udall, Lowenthal, Merckel)

- Producer responsibility for plastics and packaging
- Nationwide Beverage Container Deposit- 10 cents
- Source Reduction and Phase-Out Plastic Products- EPS, stirrers, utensils, straws
- Carryout Bag Fee
- Minimum Recycled Content Requirements
- Recycling and Composting labeling system
- Plastic Tobacco Filters, Electronic Cigarettes and Derelict Fishing Gear
- Prevent Plastic Waste from Being Shipped to Developing Countries that Cannot Manage It
- Protect Existing State Action
- Temporary Pause on New Plastic Facilities

# Growing the Reuse Movement

## Strategy: Lead, Seed, and Feed Policy

- **Lead Local Coalitions**
  - San Francisco
  - More planned for Bay Area (Marin, Alameda, Santa Clara counties.)
- **Seed Reuse Coalitions (lead by others)**
  - Los Angeles
  - NYC
  - Honolulu
  - New England:
    - Boston, Providence, Portland, VT
- **Feed - NGOs and GOV**
  - National Reuse Network- 130 NGOs
  - Government Reuse Forum- 60 agencies



# Cross Pollinating: Policy + Reuse Business Acceleration





# Follow Policy and Biz Innovation Progress

[www.upstreamolutions.org](http://www.upstreamolutions.org)



LEARNING HUB MEDIA BUSINESS POLICY ABOUT



DONATE

A young boy with dark hair is laughing joyfully, with water splashing around his face. He is wearing a white t-shirt with the text "THIS WORLD FULL of HOPE" on it. The background is a warm, golden-yellow bokeh.

**Sparking innovative solutions  
to plastic pollution.**

Join us in making it happen.

# Follow UPSTREAM to keep up with Reuse Solutions

- SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL
- FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
- TUNE IN: to the [Indisposable Podcast](#)
- SUBSCRIBE: to our [YouTube Channel](#) to hear from our heroes of the reuse movement and get inspired about what's possible with us!