



The University of Rhode Island
Global Plastics Forum

Building Capacity

to translate research into global solutions

Day 1: **May 15, 2023**

Here is [May 15th registration](#) to livestream. Register in advance for this webinar.

Location: The University of Rhode Island, The Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering

(9:00 am) (Livestream) Welcoming and Opening Remarks (*Ground Level, Rooms 10/25*)

Anthony Marchese, Dean, College of Engineering / Professor, Mechanical, Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Rhode Island

Vinka Oyanedel-Craver, Director URI Plastic: Land to Sea / Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Program, College of Engineering / Professor, Civil, and Environmental Engineering / Director, Rhode Island Water Resources Center, University of Rhode Island

(9:10) (Livestream) National and Global Plastic Perspective / Opening Keynote Speaker + Panel

(*Ground Level, Rooms 10/25*)

In February 2022, at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution (5/14) was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment with the ambition to complete the negotiations by end of 2024. This session will explore what is the plastics problem from a national and global lens with a discussion of what is needed for solution.

Introduction/Moderator: Marc Parlange, President, University of Rhode Island

Keynote presenter: US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

(9:35am) (Livestream) Response Panel:

Jonathan Gillibrand, Senior Advisor on Plastics, US Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Manuel Carmona Yebra, Counselor for Environment and Oceans at the Delegation of the European Union in the US

Karla Pozo Gallardo, Universidad San Sebastián, Chile

Ebenezer Owusu-Addo, Director, Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD), College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana

Terrence Gray, Director, RI Department of Environment Management

US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

(11:00am) (Livestream) Session 2: State of the Science (Ground Level, Rooms 10/25)

A discussion from diverse scientific perspectives of what we do we actually know, sort-of know and need to know to advance science, policies and solutions.

Presenters/Organizers:

Kay Ho, US Environmental Protection Agency, Atlantic Coastal Environmental Sciences Division
Kara Lavender Law, Research Professor of Oceanography, Sea Education Association

Panel:

Mark Hahn, Senior Scientist, Biology, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Ludovic Hermabessiere, Research Associate, National Research Council of Canada
Philip J. Landrigan, Director, Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good and Global Observatory on Planetary Health, Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College
Jaime Ross, Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy, George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience

(12:15PM) Lunchtime Networking / Location: Toray Commons, main floor

(1:30PM) Session 3 / Breakout rooms: (2) Breakout sessions will NOT be livestreamed

Breakout 1: Circular Economy/Remove, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: opportunities and challenges

(Ground Level, Room 10) A discussion of approaches and pathways to mitigating existing plastics in our environments.

Organizer: Vinka Oyanedel-Craver, Director URI Plastic: Land to Sea / Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Program, College of Engineering / Professor, Civil, and Environmental Engineering / Director, Rhode Island Water Resources Center, University of Rhode Island

Lightning Talk + Panel:

Yaw Amo Sarpong, Coordinator for KNUST Short Courses/Special Programmes, Environmental Scientist/Biometrician/M&E Expert/Development Practitioner, Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD) / Institute of Distance Learning (IDL), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
Robert Allen, Bioenergy Science and Technology directorate at National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Linda Molnar, Program Director, National Science Foundation- Technology Innovation and Partnerships (NSF-TIP)
Rob Torgerson, Kestrel Innovation Fibers, LLC
David Bethoney, PhD, Executive Director, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Breakout 2: Marine Plastics: Science and Impacts (*Ground Level, Room 45*)

A discussion of magnitude, movement, fate and impacts of plastics across scales and ecosystems

Organizers:

Andrew Davies, Department of Biological Sciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences and
Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island

Britta Baechler, Associate Director, Ocean Plastics Research, Ocean Conservancy

Lightning Talk + Panel:

Eric Chassignet, Professor and Director at the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS) of
Florida State University

Karla Pozo Gallardo, Universidad San Sebastián, Chile

Koty Sharpe, Interim Director, Center Center for Economic and Environmental Development,
Associate Professor, Biology, Marine Biology & Environmental Science, Roger Williams University

Coleen Suckling, Assistant Professor in Sustainable Aquaculture, University of Rhode Island

(2:45pm) Break**(3:00pm) Session 4: Breakout Rooms Breakout sessions will NOT be livestreamed****Breakout 1: Consumer Behavior/Social Interventions** (*Ground Level, Room 10*)

A discussion of policies and social interventions to reduce plastic waste, and what's needed for
evidence-based decision making.

Organizer: Emi Uchida, Professor/Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, University
of Rhode Island

Lightning Talk + Panel:

Lisa Erdle, Director of Science & Innovation at the 5 Gyres Institute

Joshua Abbott, Professor in Environmental and Resource Economics, ASU (online)

David McLaughlin, Program Services Officer + Office of the Director, Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management

Sarah Davis, Marine Ecology PhD Student at University of Rhode Island, creator of Mapping Microplastics

Breakout 2: Convergence approach to accelerating the design of novel materials (*Ground Level, Room 45*)

Nereid Biomaterials, an interdisciplinary team of scientists, engineers, and government experts, will share
the story of working together through the support of National Science Foundation's Convergence
Accelerator program to develop truly ocean-degradable plastics that will enable the next generation of ocean
observing.

Organizer: Melissa Omand, URI

Lightning Talk + Panel:

Allison Pieja, Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer, Mango Materials (virtual)

Cedric Guidgand, University of Miami, and CEO, Greenwave LLC (virtual)

Madison Cohen, Santoro Lab, University of California Santa Barbara (virtual)

Aurali Dade, Program Officer, NSF Convergence Accelerator (virtual)

(4:15pm) Break

(4:30 pm) (Livestream) Session 5: Towards an Equitable Approach to Marine Plastic Pollution (MPP)
(Ground Level, Rooms 10/25)

Due to increasing interests in MPP and equity from all stakeholders, this session aims to amplify these equity concerns by presenting a comprehensive research report and policy and action roadmap that highlight challenges and opportunities to achieving an equitable approach to MPP.

Land Acknowledgement: Lorén Spears, Executive Director, Tomaquag Museum

Keynote: Yoshi Ota, University of Washington and Jess Vandenberg, University of Washington

Response Panel:

Moderator: Yoshi Ota, University of Washington

Chris Gaynor, Climate Justice Specialist, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Linda Molnar, Program Director, National Science Foundation-Technology Innovation and Partnerships (NSF-TIP)

Ebenezer Owusu-Addo, Director, Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD), College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana

Lorén Spears, (Narragansett-Niantic), Executive Director, Tomaquag Museum

Jess Vandenberg, University of Washington

Closing Remarks:

(6:00 PM) Reception sponsored by [US Extruders](#)

Location: The University of Rhode Island, The Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering, Toray Commons on the main floor.

Poster Session

Day 2: May 16, 2023

Here is the [May 16th registration](#) to livestream. Register in advance for this webinar.

(9:05 am) (Livestream) Welcoming Remarks (*Ground Level, Rooms 10/25*)

Joaquim Nassar, Attaché for Science and Technology, Embassy of France in the United States

(9:10) (Livestream) Conversation: French Delegation (*Ground Level, Rooms 10/25*)

Moderator: Michelle Wyman

Senator Angèle Prévaille, French-elected official from Parliament

Philippe Bolo, député at Assemblée Nationale

(9:30) (Livestream) Plastics Research Funding and Initiatives discussion (*Ground Level, Rooms 10/25*)

Moderator: Bethany Jenkins, Interim Vice President of Research and Economic Development

Presenting Funding Agencies:

USAID: Clare Romanik, USAID Senior Urban and Ocean Plastics Specialist

National Science Foundation- Technology Innovation and Partnerships (NSF-TIP): Linda Molnar, Program Director (virtual)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Demi Fox, Northeast Regional Coordinator, NOAA Marine Debris Program

US Sea Grant: Tracey Dalton, Director, Rhode Island Sea Grant

French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS): Sylvette Tourmente, Research Director and head of the CNRS office in North America

(10:45) Break and move to working groups

In person only. The working groups will not be livestreamed.

(11:00-2:00) Lunch Working Groups - Building Partnerships for Action ([Working Group signup](#))

Plastics Fellows sponsored by [Narragansett Bay Commission](#) will be actively engaged in each of the working sessions and supporting follow-up reports.

Working Group 1: (Ground Level, Room 10)

Accelerating solutions via partners: An Academic-Industry Approach

Title: Future Roadmap of Textiles

Textile industry is a critical sector across the globe. In collaboration across sectors, disciplines and the borders, we collectively have an opportunity to learn from science, re-engineer processes and rethink practices and policies to forge a future path for textiles. This path will accelerate collective understanding, actions and collaborations to reduce microfiber pollution and its impacts on human and environment health and create equitable and sustainable materials, markets and jobs of the future. Join our facilitators in designing an approach that can build capacity and solutions.

Facilitator: Lisa Erdle, Director of Science & Innovation/ 5 Gyres Institute and Rob Torgerson, Kestrel Innovative Fibers

Resources: [2023 Microfiber Policy Brief: Washing Machine Filters Reduce Microfiber Emissions to Ecosystems](#)
[Microfiber Action Roadmap: Combating Microfiber Pollution](#)

Working Group 2: (Ground Level, Room 25)

International Research: Accelerating science through international research networks

Forming a multi-team international collaboration to tackle global plastics pollution issues leverage research and educational resources. This working group will prioritize interests based on expertise and resources to build scientific networks and advance opportunities.

Facilitator: Vinka Oyanedel-Craver, Director URI Plastic: Land to Sea / Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Program, College of Engineering / Professor, Civil, and Environmental Engineering / Director, Rhode Island Water Resources Center, University of Rhode Island

Opportunities: [Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations \(AccelNet\)](#)

Working Group 3: (Ground Level, Room 45)

Equity & Justice Roadmap:

Global approaches to support a diverse, engaged, and informed public and decision-makers that develop efforts that improve understanding of, sustainable use, and equitable and effective management of plastics pollution.

Facilitators: Yoshi Ota and Jess Vandenberg, University of Washington

Resources: [URI Equity & Justice Workshop Agenda, Towards an Equitable Approach to Marine Plastic Pollution 2022](#)

(2:00) Closing Remarks and Next Steps (Ground Level, Rooms 10/25)

Vinka Oyanedel-Craver, Director URI Plastic: Land to Sea