

# The University of Rhode Island Global Plastic Forum

## **Building Capacity** to translate research into global solutions

*Consumer Behavior/Social Interventions*

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

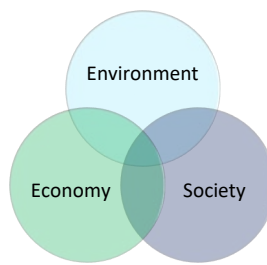
May 15, 2023

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Office of the Director

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management



# Policies to reduce plastic waste

## Accomplishments

Making  
the Ocean  
State a  
National  
Leader in  
Recycling

.....  
50 WAYS  
WE'VE  
SAVED THE  
BAY



Picture courtesy of <https://savebay.org/mandatory-recycling/>

## Current Bills

EPR for Packaging and Printed Paper

Deposit Return System for Bottle Bill

Nips Bill

Prohibit Styrofoam containers

Everything on request

Recycling and Composting at State Offices

...

## Future Efforts

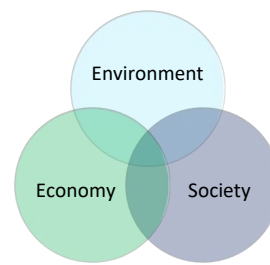
Local – Leading the way

State - Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan

Regional – NOAA Marine Debris Plan

National - EPA National Plastics Strategy

Global – Treaty on **plastic pollution**



# Social Interventions to reduce plastic waste



## Plastic Bags



Picture courtesy of <https://patch.com/rhode-island/barrington/survey-to-help-gauge-effectiveness-of-plastic-bag-baned71da3a57>

## Bottle Bill

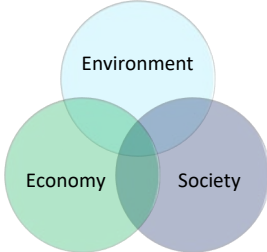


Picture courtesy of <https://cleanwater.org/releases/new-coalition-calls-governor-mckee-fight-plastic-pollution-bottle-bill>

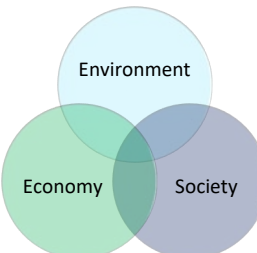
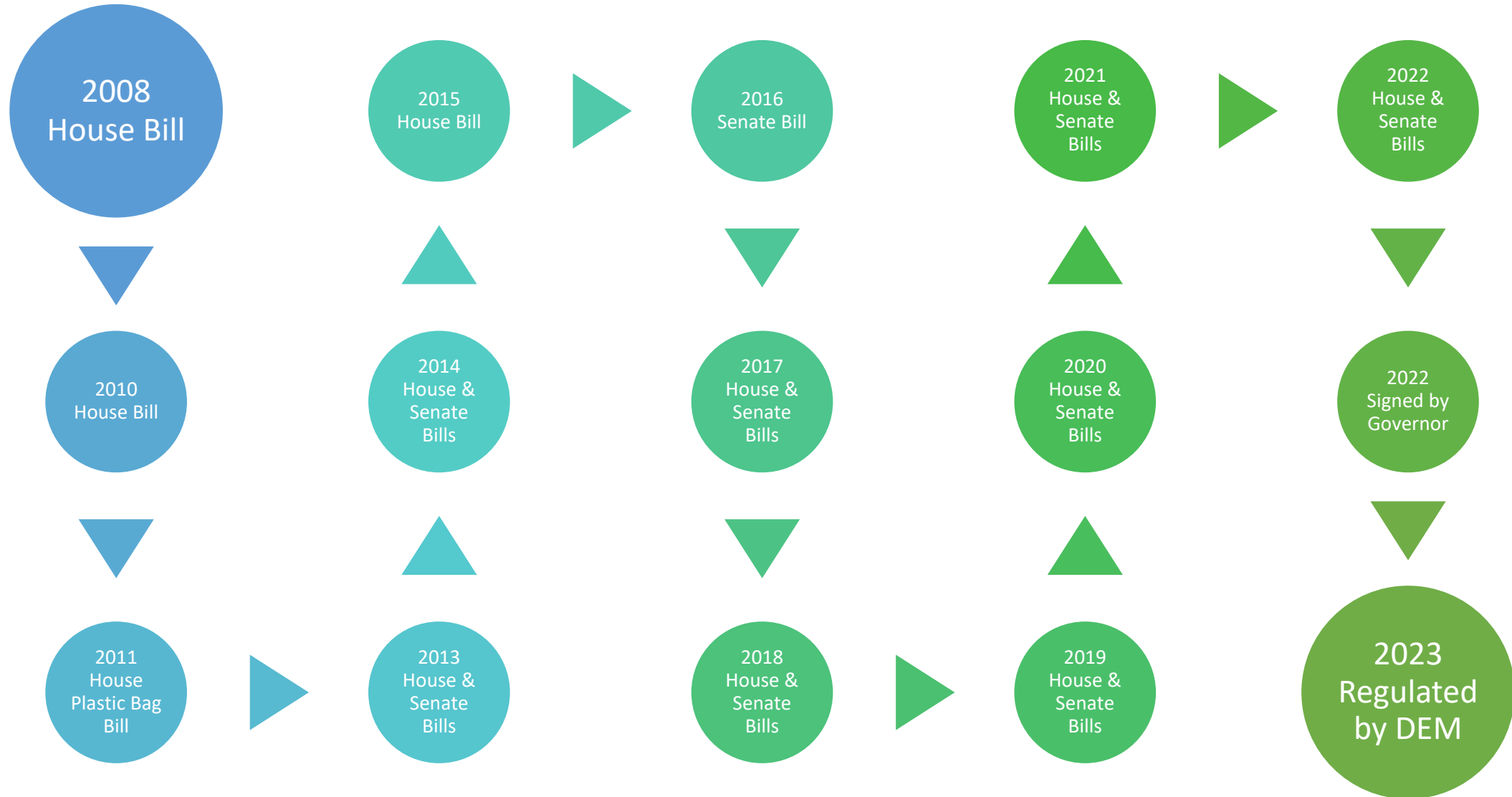
## Nips



Picture courtesy of <https://fishwrapwriter.com/2022/04/08/its-time-to-ban-nips/>



# 15 Years of State level plastic bag policy efforts





# Flexibility – Evidence-based decision making

## Prohibit



Picture courtesy of <https://www.cityofmartinez.org/government/sustainability-resources/plastic-bag-polystyrene-styrofoam-ban>

## Redesign

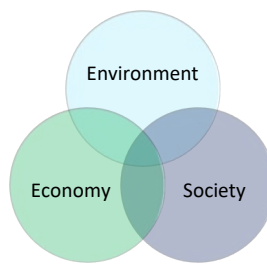


Picture courtesy of <https://stories.starbucks.com/press/2020/starbucks-strawless-lids-now-available-across-the-u-s-and-canada/>

## Alternatives



Picture courtesy of <https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-bill-would-mandate-reusable-food-takeout-boxes-the-logistics-could-be-messy-a9e24a09>



# Inclusive Audience - Evidence-based decision making

Advocates

Industry

Government

Academia

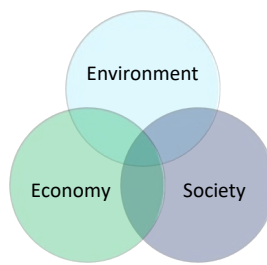
Community

...

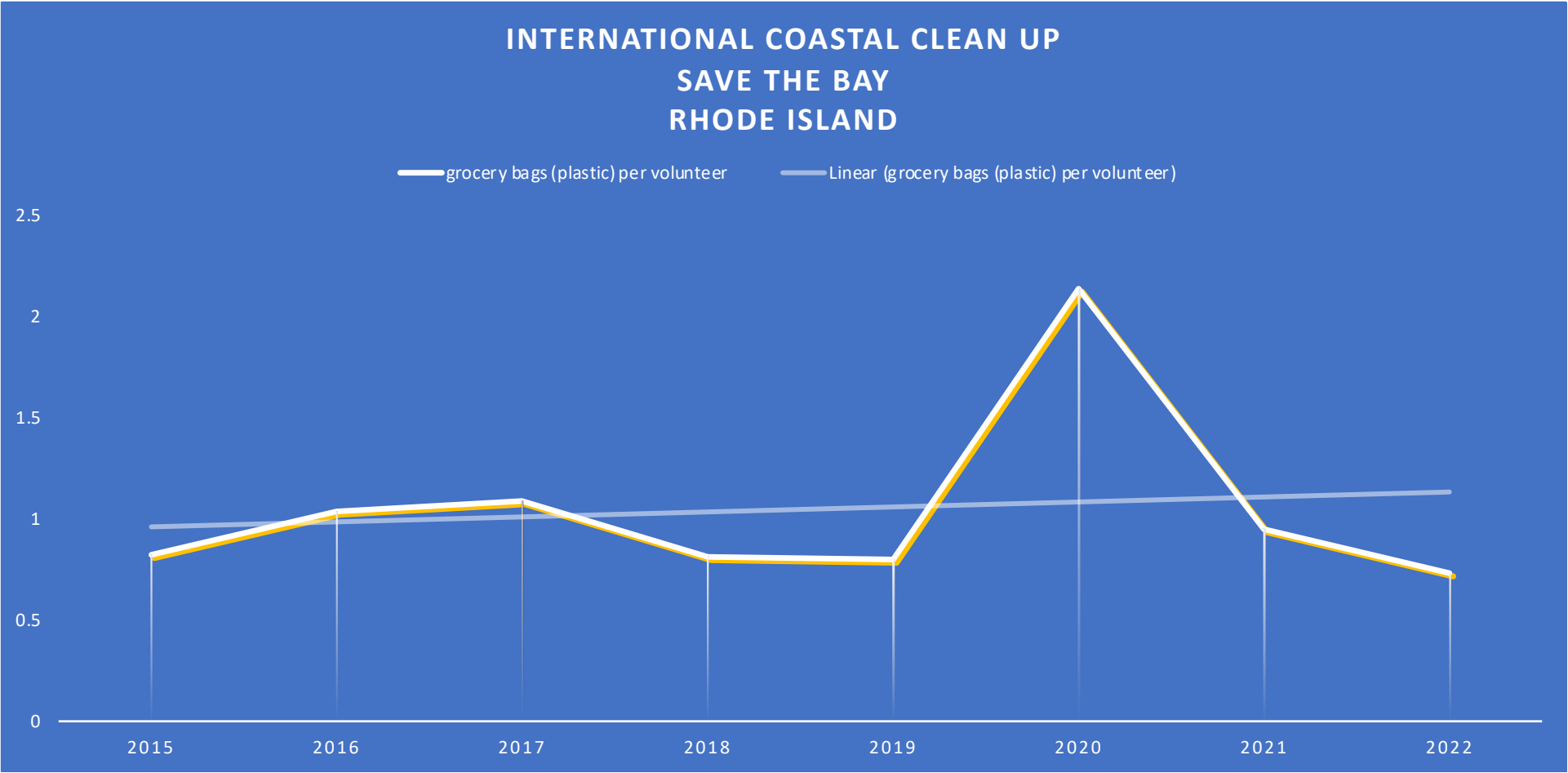


Picture courtesy of <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/jun/08/tree-of-the-week-this-mango-tree-provides-food-and-brings-people-together>

Don't leave anyone out of the conversation & Don't leave a problem for the next generation



# Local Knowledge - Evidence-based decision making



Picture courtesy of <https://savebay.org/about-us/publications/>

