

Sustainability Strategy Intern – Waste Diversion

Internship Overview

- Pilot project commissioned by the Canadian Plastics Industry Association to reduce microplastics debris found in aquatic environments in Ontario.
- Collaboration between University of Toronto, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, and Canadian Plastics Industry Association.
- “Do it all” consultant project: Combine principles of current academic literature, stakeholder engagement, and business strategy to develop a solution.



Microplastics & Current Concerns

- Small plastic particles <5mm in size.
- Found littered across freshwater and marine ecosystems including beaches, rivers, and oceans.
- Contributes towards operational inefficiencies for businesses.



Pellets & Flakes



Foam



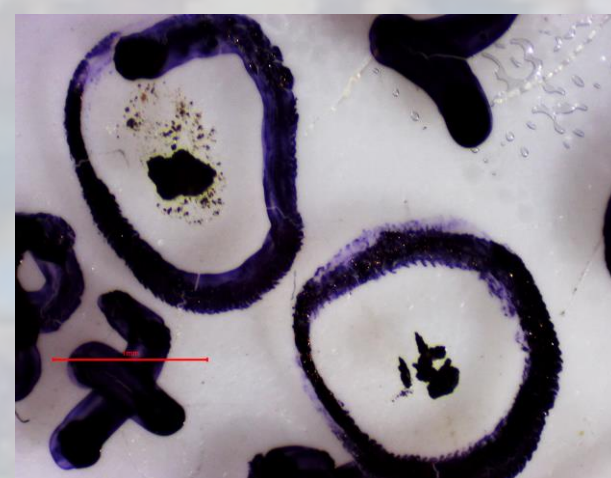
Fragments



Sphere



Film



Rubber

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Effective science drives policy
- ✓ Project organization and management is crucial for achieving goals
- ✓ SOPs should be developed and refined before executing a task
- ✓ Stakeholders are willing to cooperate as long as you provide a clear scope and goals
- ✓ Reducing environmental contaminants is highly material to government and industry stakeholders

Work Hour Allocation



Background research

Develop SOPs

Collect samples

Analyze samples

Develop a “story”

Engage stakeholders

Collect feedback