

MACROSETS: Attitudes and Concerns on Microplastics Mail Survey

Please be sure to read the Key Information document included with this packet prior to filling out this survey. When marking your answers, be sure to fill in the question completely. We advise using a black or blue ink pen when completing the survey.

I have had the chance to read and think about the information in this form. I have asked any questions I have, and I can make a decision about my participation. I understand that I can ask additional questions anytime while I take part in the research.

- ☐ I agree to take part in this study
- ☐ I do not agree to take part in this study

Section A (1 of 5)

This section is intended to assess your general thoughts about microplastics.

1. Of the following, which would you consider a microplastic? Select **all** that apply.

- ☐ plastic water bottle
- ☐ glitter
- ☐ plastic bottlecap
- ☐ plastic straw

2. I think the U.S. has sufficient laws to keep general plastics out of the environment.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure
-

3. I think the U.S. has sufficient laws to keep microplastics out of the environment.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure
-

4. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
Please mark only one answer per statement by filling the circle in completely.

<i>Statement</i>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I think microplastics are a serious problem for human health.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think microplastics are a serious problem for ecosystem health.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think the cost of using plastics outweighs the benefits.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think microplastics are an environmental justice issue.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think climate change is a problem for both humans and the environment.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think microplastics are related to climate change.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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5. How likely do you think it is for each of the following environments to be affected by microplastics? Please mark only one answer per area by filling the in circle completely.

	Very Likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
Urban areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The atmosphere	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Forested areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Your nearby park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lakes and rivers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oceans and beaches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Indoor air	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor air	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

6. How likely do you think it is that each of the following items could be a source of microplastics? Please mark only one answer per item by filling the in circle completely.

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
Acrylic paint	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Car tires	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A fleece vest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Glittery eyeshadow	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A Polycotton t-shirt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A plexiglass window	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A tennis ball	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

Section B (2 of 5)

This section is intended to assess your concerns about microplastics.

7. Please rate your level of concern surrounding the following topics related to microplastics.
Please mark only one answer per item by filling the circle in completely.

	Most concerned	More concerned	Neutral	Less concerned	Least concerned
as water pollutants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
as land pollutants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
as air pollutants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
effects on biodiversity and ecosystem health	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
effects on the human body	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
as food contaminants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
carrying out policy and control strategies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
economic cost of removal efforts and technology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

8. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
Please mark only one answer per statement by filling the circle completely.

	Most concerned	More concerned	Neutral	Less concerned	Least concerned
I actively try to use less plastic in my day-today life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would be willing to buy eco-friendly plastic alternatives, even if they cost a little more	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is difficult to find alternatives to many plastic items	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
More research should be done on eco-friendly plastic alternatives	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. How has your interest in microplastics changed in the last two years?

- ☐ Increased a lot
☐ Increased slightly
☐ Neither increased nor decreased
☐ Decreased slightly
☐ Decreased a lot

10. How has your concern about microplastics changed in the last two years?

- ☐ Increased a lot
☐ Increased slightly
☐ Neither increased nor decreased
☐ Decreased slightly
☐ Decreased a lot

One way microplastics enter water systems is through discharge from household washing machines, which may contain tiny plastic fibers shed from fabrics like polyester, nylon, and fleece. Please answer the following questions about filters that can be attached to washing machines to prevent these microfibers from entering water systems.

11. Would you be willing to buy a microplastics filter for your household washing machine?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Depends on the price
- ☐ I do not have a household washing machine

12. Low effectiveness filters cost about \$35, while high effectiveness filters cost about \$150. If you were to purchase a washing machine filter, what approximate price would you be willing to pay?

<i>Price</i>	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Unsure	Probably no	Definitely no
\$0 (Free)					
\$10	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$25	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$50	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$100	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$150	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. Highly effective washing machine filters cost about \$150. If this were offered to you with a government subsidy covering part of the cost, approximately how much would you be willing to pay to cover the remaining cost?

<i>Price</i>	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Unsure	Probably no	Definitely no
\$0 (free)					
\$10	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$25	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$50	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$100	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

Section C (3 of 5)

This section is intended to understand who you feel is responsible for microplastics.

14. For each of the following groups, select the level of responsibility you believe each sector should have for regulating and/or curbing plastics, including microplastics.

	Most responsible	More responsible	Somewhat responsible	Less responsible	Least responsible
Individual users of plastic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste management entities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Industries that manufacture plastics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Industries that use plastic packaging	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local government (e.g., City of Gresham, Clackamas County)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
State government (e.g., OR, WA)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The federal government (US gov)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intergovernmental organizations (e.g. The United Nations)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scientists and researchers studying microplastics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

15. (Optional) Please explain or elaborate on your reasoning for the answers above regarding responsibility for curbing microplastic usage.

16. Please rank the following strategies to address microplastic pollution based on which you think would be most effective (Rank 1) to least effective (Rank 6).

- _____ Bans on single-use plastic items like bags or straws.
 - _____ Changing individual consumer behavior so that people buy fewer plastic/ plastic-packaged items and carefully recycle the plastic that they cannot avoid.
 - _____ Policies that require plastics manufacturers to make their products easier for local governments and waste management companies to recycle (for example, via curbside pickup programs).
 - _____ Policies that make plastics manufacturers responsible for reclaiming and recycling their products after use.
 - _____ Policies that reform current recycling infrastructure to make recycling plastic easier and more efficient.
 - _____ Startups and nonprofits using new technologies to remove plastic from the ocean.
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17. (Optional) If you have any additional thoughts or ideas regarding microplastic regulation responsibilities and management strategies, please provide them below.

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

Section D (4 of 5)

This section is intended to assess your sources of information on microplastics.

18. Please select which media sources you use or engage with when learning about the following topics. Mark **all** that apply.

	Television or radio	Online news sources (e-newspapers, e-magazines etc.)	Print media (books, magazines, etc.)	Online social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	Action alerts from interest groups you follow	Scientific journal articles	Friends/word of mouth
Environmental issues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Health issues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information on microplastics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

19. Within the last year, I have read a news article in which the main topic was microplastics.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

20. I believe microplastics receive adequate news coverage relative to their importance as environmental pollutants.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Section E (5 of 5)

This section is intended to collect demographic information.

21. In what year were you born? Write on the line below.

22. Please specify your gender. Write on the line below.

23. Please enter the zipcode of your home residence. Write on the line below.

24. How long have you lived in Oregon, in years (or part of a year)? Write on the line below.

25. Please specify your ethnicity. Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Asian
 - ☐ Black
 - ☐ Latino or hispanic
 - ☐ Native American
 - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - ☐ White
 - ☐ Other/Unknown
-

26. Please approximate your annual household income.

- ☐ Less than \$20,000
 - ☐ \$20,000 to \$34,999
 - ☐ \$35,000 to \$49,999
 - ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
 - ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
 - ☐ \$100,000-\$199,999
 - ☐ Over \$200,000
-

27. What is the total number of members in your household? Write on the line below.

28. How would you describe your political views?

- ☐ Very liberal
 - ☐ Slightly liberal
 - ☐ Moderate
 - ☐ Slightly conservative
 - ☐ Very conservative
-

29. What is the highest level of education you have obtained?

If currently enrolled, select the highest degree you have received.

- ☐ Some high school, no diploma
 - ☐ High school, diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)
 - ☐ Trade/technical/vocational training
 - ☐ Associate's degree
 - ☐ Bachelor's degree
 - ☐ Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)
 - ☐ Doctoral or other terminal degree
 - ☐ Other
-

Please continue to the next page for additional questions.

30. If you have obtained a college degree or higher, which of the following best describes the disciplines in which you obtained your university training? Mark all that apply (e.g., if you have an undergraduate degree in one field and a graduate degree in a different area.)

- ☐ Arts
 - ☐ Business
 - ☐ Earth and environmental sciences
 - ☐ Education
 - ☐ Engineering
 - ☐ Humanities (History, Language, Philosophy etc.)
 - ☐ Life sciences
 - ☐ Mathematical sciences
 - ☐ Physical sciences
 - ☐ Psychology
 - ☐ Public policy or political science
 - ☐ Social sciences/studies
 - ☐ Other
-

31. Which of the following best describes your current work area or field of study?

- ☐ Academic research
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Arts and entertainment
- ☐ Business management and/or administration
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Education (any level)
- ☐ Fisheries management/seafood industry
- ☐ Food packaging and processing
- ☐ General manufacturing
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Health and medicine
- ☐ Non-profit or advocacy organization
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Service industry
- ☐ Textile production
- ☐ Water and/or sanitation service provider

32. How long have you worked in your current area or field of study?

- ☐ Under a year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 10+ years

This concludes the survey. We thank you for your time!

(Optional) If you are interested in receiving future updates on this project, please enter your contact information below.

First Name

Last Name

E-mail address
