

Reducing Plastics and Other Toxics from Erosion Control Products & Practices

A virtual peer exchange hosted by MnDOT and VTrans

November 17 – 19, 2020

Schedule at A Glance

Times are Eastern

Tuesday, November 17

1:00pm – 5:00pm	Session 1: Introduction, Case Studies, and Current Impacts – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Welcome & Introductions 1:15pm – 2:45pm (Chris Slesar, VT Agency of Transportation & Ken Graeve, MnDOT)
1:15pm – 2:45pm	State Case Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minnesota (Ken Graeve, MnDOT and Peter Leete, MN DNR – 15 min)• Vermont (Chris Slesar, VT Agency of Transportation – 15 min)• California (Jack Broadbent, CalTrans – 10 min)• Idaho (Tom Furror, Idaho DOT – 10 min)• New York (Peter Dunleavy, NYS DOT - 10 min)• Oregon (Bob Marshall, Oregon DOT – 15 min)• Washington (Jeannie McCully, Washington DOT – 15 min)
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Case Study Q&A
3:15pm – 3:30pm	BREAK
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Discussion on Micro Plastics and Other Environmental Problems (Moderator: Ken Graeve, MnDOT) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microplastics (Peter Leete, MN DNR & Jen Russell, VT Agency of Transportation)• Malachite Green (Laura Lyle, MnDOT Toxicologist)
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Moderated Discussion and Q&A
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Wrap-up and Summary on Next Two Days (Chris Slesar, VT Agency of Transportation & Peter Leete, MN DNR)

Wednesday, November 18

1:00pm – 5:00pm	Session 2: Alternative Methods
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Summary of Day 1 & Introduction on Alternatives (Stephanie Smith, VT Ag, Food, and Markets)
1:15pm – 3:15pm	Hemp – How ‘bout it (Moderator: Stephanie Smith, VT Ag, Food, and Markets) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why hemp? And MN Hemp R&D Project (Riley Gordon, AURI)• History of U.S. Hemp Industry (Jane Kolodinsky, University of Vermont)• MN and National hemp industry (Anthony Cortilet, MN Dept of Ag)• Vermont hemp industry (Stephanie Smith, VT Ag, Food, and Markets)• Can it work for growers (Heather Darby, University of VT)• Manufacturer perspective (Craig Shultz, American Exelsior)
3:15pm – 3:30pm	BREAK
3:30 – 4:15pm	Wool (Rob Ament, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University)
4:15pm – 5:00pm	Moderated Discussion and Q&A

Thursday, November 19

1:00pm – 5:00pm

Session 3: Next Steps Moving Forward

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Agreement on Terminology; Defining: Plastic, Synthetic, Natural Fiber, Biodegradable, and Compostable (Moderator: Ken Graeve, MnDOT)

- Defining Terminology (Jen Russell, VT Agency of Transportation; Heather Voisin, VT Agency of Transportation)
- Biodegradable Plastics? (Tim Farnan, MN Pollution Control Agency)
- Unintended Consequences of international natural fiber (Chris Slesar, VT Agency of Transportation)

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Ways to Reduce Existing Product Use – Greening vs Reducing (Heather Voisin, VT Agency of Transportation)

2:30pm - 2:45pm

BREAK

2:45pm – 4:00pm

Multi-State Coordination: Enabling Easier Industry Transition – Group Discussion (Jeanie McCulley, WA; Scott Hidden, North Carolina DOT)

This session will include smaller breakout group discussions to brainstorm top three recommendations to phase out plastic, and will then reconvene to full group to talk through ideas.

4:00pm – 4:45pm

Timeline for Phasing in Changes

4:45pm – 5:00pm

Wrap up (Chris Slesar, VT Agency of Transportation; Ken Graeve, MnDOT; Peter Leete, MN DNR)