

Supplementary Resources:

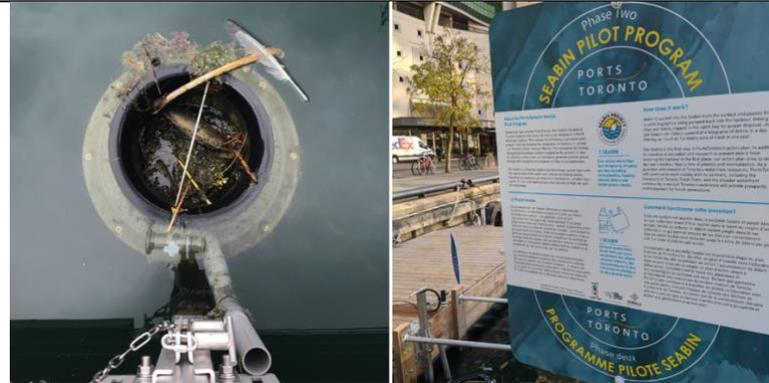
Existing solutions to plastic pollution:

Have you heard about some of these inventions from around the world to help with plastic pollution? These are just a few! Have a look at this list as you think of your own unique solution. Remember, there are many more ideas just waiting to be invented. **Will you have the next big idea?**



Seabins

Two surfers in Australia invented this floating trash bin that sits in marinas and other waterfront locations to capture floating trash. As water is pumped into the bin, trash is sucked into the basket. A few bins were installed in the Toronto waterfront in the fall of 2019 with the help of PortsToronto with plans to install more in future years.



LittaTrap

Litter can enter our lakes by falling into storm drains, usually after it rains when litter on the ground is swept into the nearby drain. A pair of university friends and avid divers in New Zealand designed a special basket you can fit into drains that are then emptied by the city when full of litter.



Trash Wheels

In the city of Baltimore, a group of 'Trash Wheels' sit in river mouths to collect trash as it floats down the river. The wheel was invented by a local community member who used to see litter on his daily walks along the waterfront. With a combination of solar and battery power, a conveyor belt carries floating litter up into the wheel and into a dumpster that can be emptied when full. (pictured: Mr. Trash Wheel, Captain Trash Wheel Professor Trash Wheel)



Washing Machine Filter

Each time you do laundry, a type of microplastic called a microfibre can shed from our clothing. Special filters have been created to help catch these before they enter our water systems and can be installed in your home.

U of T Trash Team and [Georgian Bay Forever](#) together started a two-year study installing washing machine filters in over 100 households in Parry Sound, Ontario. In quantifying microfibers captured at a community-scale, they hope to (1) demonstrate that filters are effective at capturing microfibers in people's homes and (2) advance effective solutions to keep microfibers from entering Lake Huron.

