

# PPoW Quarterly Meeting

## Chesapeake Bay Plastic Pollution

### Source Reduction Strategy

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# Overview

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**01** Re-Introductions: RTI Team and Plastic Source Reduction Strategy Scope

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**02** Project Status Update

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**03** Emergent Themes

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**04** Interactive Strategy Discussion

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# The RTI team brings a combined 50+ years of designing and implementing waste management solutions



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# Review Global Best Practice & Inventory Current Management Practices in the Bay

## Literature Review of Best Practices - *Complete*

**Objective:** Conduct a literature review of implemented plastic pollution source reduction strategies to provide an evidence base for strategy development.

**Approach:** RTI reviewed peer-reviewed and grey literature and synthesized findings from 129 documented interventions across 12 strategy categories, assessing what types of plastics they target, implementation conditions, and available evidence of effectiveness.

### **Findings:**

- **Evidence is strongest for larger plastics** and related interventions to reduce disposable use and improve collection: e.g., bag bans, deposit systems, reuse/refill, voluntary programs
- **Microplastic evidence remains limited:** Research focuses on sources and pathways more than prevention and its effectiveness
- **Cleanup complements prevention:** Litter capture data can inform upstream source-reduction actions.
- **Successful implementation requires support:** Policy authority, funding, infrastructure, outreach, and enforcement are key.
- **Evidence gaps remain:** Limited monitoring and inconsistent metrics constrain comparisons.

# Review Global Best Practice & Inventory Current Management Practices in the Bay

## Inventory of Current Interventions – *Final Revisions Underway*

**Objective:** Develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-specific inventory of existing plastic pollution policies, programs, and implementation activities to understand what actions are already underway and where opportunities exist.

**Approach:** RTI created a comprehensive inventory of 302 policies, programs, plans, research activities, and funding initiatives, supported by a map of 229 stakeholder orgs.

### **Findings:**

- **Most actions target larger plastics:** Regulations, voluntary programs, producer responsibility are most common.
- **Emphasis remains downstream:** capture and cleanup are well documented while upstream prevention is less emphasized.
- **Reported benefits** include reduced disposable plastic use, lower business costs, and declines in litter following policy implementation.
- **Evidence is limited:** only ~35% of records reported outcomes of interventions, using inconsistent measures (low comparison)
- **Gaps persist:** limited evaluation of microplastic prevention, purchasing policies, utility practices, and agricultural plastics.

# Forthcoming: Develop Source Reduction Strategy

## Strategy Development

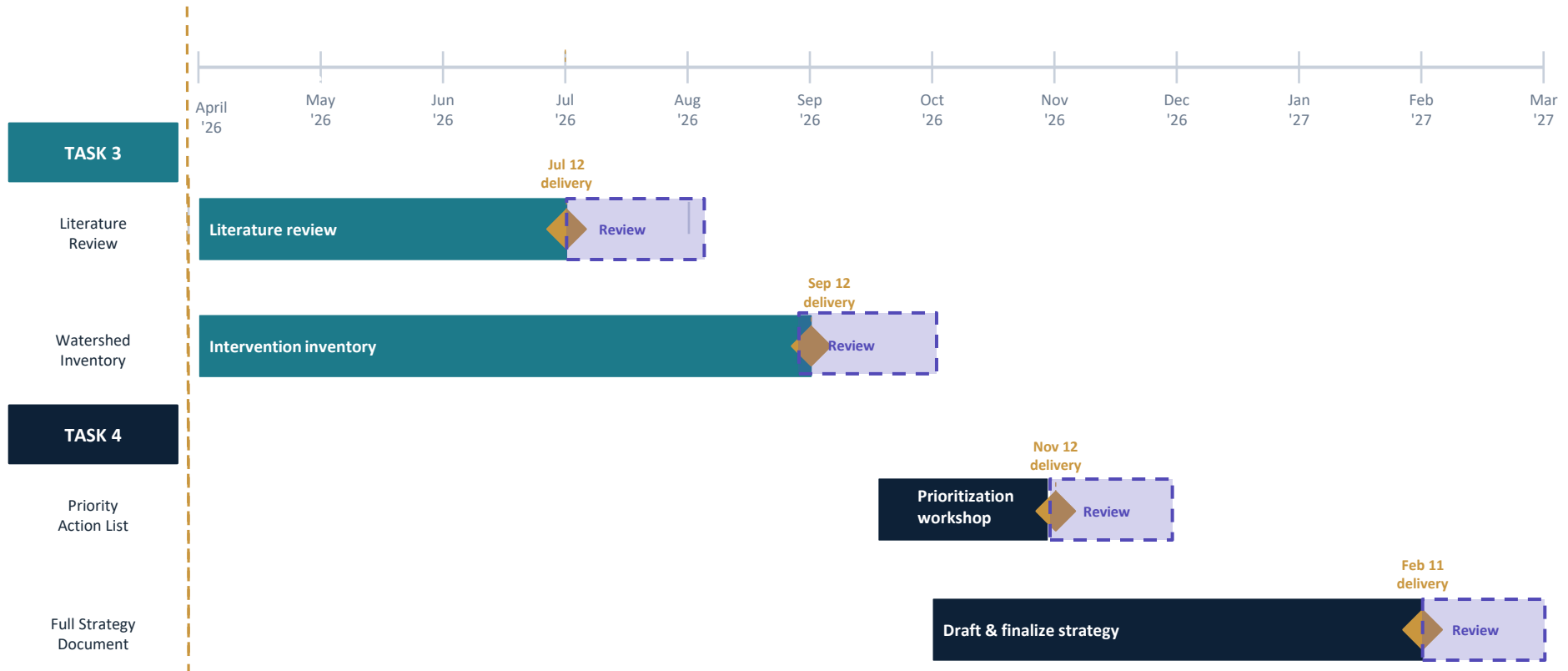
**Objective:** Develop a practical, evidence-based Plastic Pollution Source Reduction Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. RTI translated findings from the literature review and watershed inventory into a prioritized set of actions and a comprehensive strategy tailored to Chesapeake Bay governance, pollution pathways, and implementation realities.

RTI will:

- Work with PPOW to evaluate candidate strategies based on effectiveness, feasibility, cost, scale, and implementation barriers, using structured stakeholder engagement and human-centered design methods to build consensus around priority actions; and,
- Integrate priorities into a watershed-wide strategy that identifies gaps, opportunities, and actionable voluntary and policy approaches aligned with EPA's National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution.



# Project Timeline



# Interactive Strategy Discussion on Strategy Development

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01

What does the strategy need to contain in order to be successful (*useful and actionable*)?  
What does it *not* need?

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02

What, if any, priority pathways or sectors should be prioritized? Why?

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03

Where is coordination most needed and how have you seen this be successful?

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# Thank you

We look forward to partnering with you.

