PBPC Plant Based Products Council

America is facing a waste management crisis. Over 267 million tons of municipal solid waste are produced each year in the U.S., and over half of the waste produced annually ends up in landfills. That is over 850 pounds of municipal solid waste landfilled per capita every year in the U.S.

Plant-based products present a clear opportunity to address waste management challenges and help ensure a more sustainable planet.

Since the rise of plastic as a widespread consumer material in the late 1950s, more than 6.9 billion tons of plastic waste have been generated.

However:

- **Only 9% of plastic waste has been recycled.**
- **79% ends up in either a landfill or the environment.**
- Since 2000, **the percent of total annual municipal solid waste recycled out of all municipal solid waste generated has only risen over three percent.**
- **It is estimated that over 26 million tons of plastic is added to landfills across the country each year**

By 2030,

if two-thirds of conventional plastics around the globe were replaced by plant-based alternatives, the reduction of emissions would be equivalent to removing from the atmosphere the annual energy use of over 80 million homes.

Landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions, **emitting 107.7 million metric tons of CH_4 and 16.4% of the U.S.' total annual output.**

Plant-based materials can help reduce landfill waste and landfill methane emissions because they offer a wide range of disposal opportunities, such as recyclability and compostability, while some are even biodegradable.

Plant-based materials offer a solution to help reduce the amount of plastic and food waste in our country's landfills.

PBPC is working to guide the global economy toward more sustainable and responsible consumer products and packaging through greater use of plant-based materials.