



# FAQs

## WHAT IS HEALTHY POTS, HEALTHY PLANET?

Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet is an initiative founded by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) to build demand for plant containers made of more sustainable materials to reduce the use of virgin plastic. The goal is to show there is interest and a market for more sustainable containers and to advocate for manufacturers to develop them.



## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

The only requirement to be a part of our initiative is to add your name to a long list of people, business, and organizations that care for the earth. The more signatures we have, the more concern we can bring to manufacturers to ditch the plastic and start producing sustainable containers. Sign up here!

**LOTS OF SUPPORTERS = GREATER EVIDENCE OF MARKET DEMAND**

## WHO SHOULD JOIN HEALTHY POTS, HEALTHY PLANET?

- A person or organization that is concerned about plastic pollution
- A landscape designer who's trying to find a way to responsibly dispose of the plastic pots on their projects
- A grower who needs reliable, durable containers that aren't made from virgin plastic
- An installer who would appreciate containers that don't need to go to a landfill for disposal
- An association that wants to promote sustainable practices to its membership
- An organization that is concerned about the environmental impact of plastic
- A product developer who strives for strong sustainability in everything they make
- An environmentalist interested in more ways to have an impact
- A recycler who has to manage immense volumes of plastic that has no market
- A gardener who yearns for a plantable, compostable pot
- Everyone who loves the earth

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help us spread the word. Additional resources are available to promote Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet. Contact [communications@apld.org](mailto:communications@apld.org) for more info.

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## WHAT TYPES OF CONTAINERS ARE MORE SUSTAINABLE THAN 100% VIRGIN PLASTIC?

Examples include: plastic containers made with verifiable, high content of recycled plastic, and alternative containers made of bioplastic or natural, compostable materials. Please understand that it will be difficult to find alternative containers or pots with high levels of recycled plastic. This is what we hope to change.

## IF I SIGN ONTO THE HEALTHY POTS, HEALTHY PLANET INITIATIVE, WHAT EXACTLY AM I COMMITTING TO DO RIGHT NOW?

You are committing to encouraging manufacturers to develop sustainable alternative containers. Your signature indicates a willingness to adopt alternative containers that meet your performance expectations for growing and shipping.

## ARE WE ASKING PEOPLE TO STOP USING PLASTIC POTS?

For now, no. We recognize the durability and affordability of plastic pots. In many cases, they are our only option until we can get alternatives. Through Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet, we hope to make it clear that consumers want more sustainable products.

## WHO EXACTLY ARE THE “STAKEHOLDERS” YOU REFER TO IN YOUR INFORMATION?

Most directly, stakeholders are the green industry, including landscape designers, installers, growers, and manufacturers, as well as other individuals and organizations concerned about plastic proliferation.

**BUT REALLY, WHO'S NOT A STAKEHOLDER? PLASTIC PRODUCTION AND POLLUTION AFFECTS EVERYONE.**



**RE-USING PLASTIC POTS, EVEN IF THEY WERE MANUFACTURED WITH 100% VIRGIN PLASTIC, IS BETTER THAN SENDING THEM TO THE LANDFILL.**

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## ARE THERE ANY FEES ASSOCIATED WITH JOINING HEALTHY POTS, HEALTHY PLANET?

No fees at all! You lending your name to this advocacy program is all that we ask.

## WHERE CAN I OR MY CONTRACTOR BUY PLANTS IN ALTERNATIVE POTS AT THIS TIME?

We don't think you can find these products currently, at least with the sizes, quantity, and performance that you need. And, that's the point. Let's start asking, and keep asking, until we get them.

## IS THERE A LIST OF MANUFACTURERS BEING ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE CONTAINERS? HOW SHOULD WE PROVIDE THIS ENCOURAGEMENT?

Currently there is no list, but that could come in the future. We will encourage manufacturers by the size of the Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet coalition.



## WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE PLAN FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

The big picture is that we want to make a difference. The big picture is that we want our efforts to result in a reduction of pots made from virgin plastic, and yield more pots that are plantable. We will know we have made a difference when we can ask for and receive more sustainable pots that meet our performance expectations, and that those pots are readily available, affordable, and the norm.

We know it will take the participation and commitment of many people and organizations to achieve this goal. From the simple step of joining and thereby publicly declaring support, to actively requesting these products and encouraging others to join, we can make a difference! The united voice of our coalition will implore manufacturers to create healthier pots for our planet.



Association of  
Professional  
Landscape  
Designers

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