


## HISTORY

- Before 1950, plastic wasn't a big part of our lives
- During WW2, the military discovered the versatility of plastic
- In the 1950s, companies found more ways to use this cheaper material
- By the 1960s, global plastic production increased 400\% as we embraced the new "disposable lifestyle"
- By 1979 we were producing more plastic than steel
- Since the 1950s, over 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced globally
- Over 300 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year
- Every year, an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic waste end up in the world's oceans
- The economic cost of plastic pollution to marine ecosystems is estimated to be at least $\$ 13$ billion per year

- Americans consume 50 million plastic water bottles a year
- Americans use 5 trillion plastic bags a year (it takes about 14 plastic bags for the equivalent of the gas required to drive one mile)
- The average person ingests a credit card's worth of plastic ( 5 g ) each week
- Microplastics have been found in human blood and breastmilk, Antarctic snow, and rain
- Plastic production is on track to almost triple by 2060

Single-use plastics - plastic packaging, and disposable plastic items such as bags, straws and cutlery that are used once then thrown away - represent the largest plastics application category and account for a third of all plastics consumed globally. Evidence shows that single-use plastics are also the most damaging to people and the planet.

More than half of the world's single-use plastic waste can be traced directly to just 20 petrochemical companies.


Currently the only way to permanently eliminate plastic waste is by destructive thermal treatment, such as combustion or pyrolysis. The pyrolysis process has a significant environmental impact, mainly due to gas emissions.

Three big interventions would deliver a huge improvement in single-use plastic waste and associated greenhouse gas emissions:

- Limit fossil fuel plastic production and consumption
- Increase plastic products and materials that are designed for circularity and are circulated in practice
- Eliminate plastic leakage to the environment across the lifecycle through environmentally sound waste management


## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

|  | POLYMER PRODUCERS | INVESTORS | POLICY <br> MAKERS | OTHER COMPANIES IN THE VALUE CHAIN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Limit fossil fuel plastic production and consumption | Include Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions from plastic polymers in net zero climate targets and strategies. | Actively engage with investees (or use voting rights) to stop the building of new fossil fuel-based polymer facilities, or divest. | Put a levy on fossil-fuel polymer production and/or consumption to generate funds for scaling plastics collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure. | Set clear corporate targes to reduce virgin plastic consumption - e.g., through EMF/UN's Global Commitment and lend public support to policy measures with this objective. |
| 2. Increase plastic products and materials that are designed for circularity and are circulated in practice | Set a minimum $20 \%$ target by 2030 for recycled vs fossil fuel feedstock in polymer production. | Demand clear, ambitious and time-bound targets for recycled vs fossil fuel feedstock in polymer production from every producer. | Set target on overall plastic material circularity - i.e., combined mass of re-used, recycled, and sustainable plastics put on the market including 20\% minimum recycled content standards for all singleuse plastics by 2030. | Create certainty for greater investment in recycling by entering into long-term forward contracts for recycled plastics at fixed and fair prices. |
| 3. Eliminate plastic leakage to the environment across the lifecycle through environmentally sound waste management | Invest in or partner with plastic waste collection, sorting and recycling systems and capacities, with a focus on high-leakage countries. | Lend public support for policies that will create economic conditions for more investment in plastics collection, sorting and recycling (e.g., through the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty). | Under the Global Plastics Treaty, create a fund to support waste management systems in countries most impacted by plastic pollution (following the example of COP27's Loss and Damage Fund). | Harmonize design standards for sale plastics use, disposal and recyclability (including chemical additives). |

People don't need plastic, points out polymer scientist Brad Olsen at MIT. "We need things like clothing, health care, shelter. The idea is to provide for those needs with the best materials solution." That will usually be a polymer, he adds, but it doesn't always have to be a human-made one. Many naturally occurring polymers (hefty strings of molecules that make plastic) are used as materials: cotton, hemp, rubber, birch bark.


## THE RECYCLING PROBLEM

We can promote all the recycling initiatives in the world, and it still would not be enough to combat the waste produced by billion-dollar corporations.

Recycling is failing to scale fast enough and remains, at most, a marginal activity for the plastics sector - from 2019-21, growth in single-use plastics made from virgin polymers was 15 times that from recycled feedstocks*. Only strong regulatory intervention with economic incentives can solve what amounts to market failure.
*Feedstocks - Refers to the raw materials used to produce plastics
Recycling has been sold as the solution to throwaway plastic for years, but recycling will never be able to absorb the existing and expected future growth of plastics. Efforts to transform plastic recycling should be seen as a complement to the large-scale transformation of production and consumption of plastic.

## The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act Reintroduced in the $118^{\text {th }}$ Congress

The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2023 expands and improves upon earlier versions of the bill.


The legislation addresses the plastic pollution crisis by:

1. Shifting the financial burden of waste management and recycling off municipalities and taxpayers to the producers of plastic pollution;
2. Spurring massive investments in domestic recycling and composting infrastructure;
3. Phasing out certain single-use plastics that aren't recyclable;
4. Establishing minimum recycled content standards;
5. Launching a national beverage container refund program to bolster recycling rates;
6. Placing a temporary pause on new and expanding plastic facilities until the EPA updates and creates vital environmental and health regulations to protect frontline and fenceline communities;
7. Prohibiting plastic waste from being exported to developing countries; and
8. Require a comprehensive analysis of the scale of fishing gear losses by domestic and foreign fisheries, including an evaluation of the ecological, human health, and maritime safety impacts of derelict fishing gear, and recommendations on management measures.



We can eliminate plastic pollution within a decade but to do so we must abandon the idea that industry can transform of its own accord.

Dr Andrew Forrest AO
Chairman, Minderoo Foundation


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"Plastic is not designed to be recycled - despite industries and governments telling the public that we should recycle plastic."


The same companies that created the plastic pollution crisis are motivated to keep the public from believing that their product needs to be phased out.


## WE CAN'T RECYCLE OUR WAY OUT OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

Recycling was a lie - a big lie - to sell more plastic, industry experts say
More Recycling Won't Solve Plastic

## Pollution

We Can't Recycle Our Way Out of the Plastic Pollution Problem
As we build a better system for our waste, follow this handy guide for what can and can't be put in the recycling bin
Waste is an enormous problem. But recycling is the wrong solution

Is This the End of Recycling?
Americans are consuming more and more stuff. Now that ot countries won't take our papers and plastics, they're ending u trash.

ALANA SEMUELS MARCH 5, 2019
Plastic recycling is myth': what really happens to your ru

You sort your recycling, leave it to be
 The US Recycling System Is Garbage Into Belie
Recycled
CHiNA has Shut down its inefficient, poluting "ReCYcling villages" in favor of modern facilities.
 WHVSSOUEOFIT-ALOTMORE

The Crisis After China's 'No' Exposing The Myth Of Plastic Recycling: Why A Majority Is Burned Or Thrown In A Landfill

## WORLD PLASTIC PRODUCTION



## REGYCING IS FAILING TO SGAL E FAST ENOUCH AND REMAINS A MARGINAL AGTIVITYFOR THE PLASTICS SEGTOR.

Only strong regulatory intervention can solve what amounts to market failure.
From 2019-21, growth in single-use plastics made from virgin polymers was 15 times that from recycled feedstocks. Petrochemical companies are (naturally) only expanding into recycling in markets where the economic conditions are (somewhat) more favourable. These are markets where policies are more progressive and demand for recycled plastics is stronger. However, across all polymers and technologies, only 3 MMT of additional on par recycling capacity is expected to be brought online by 2027 ( 0.7 MMT by the petrochemical industry).

Single-use plastios
from fossil fuels, MMT


Single-use plastics from recycled waste, MMT

Recycled
share of total

1\%

2\%
$3 \%$

## Bottleneck: Despite Recycling Boom, Far

 More Plastic Is Still Produced In US 40 mPlastics, Generated \& Recycled In Municipal Solid Waste Management
35 m [US, tons, 1960-2018]


## PET peeve



What happens to your plastic
Disposal of plastic in 2019, in tons
$\square$ Landfilled $\square$ Burned $\square$ Recycled


Source: Anelia Milbrandt et al, "Quantification and evaluation of plastic waste in the United States." Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

## US news

## US is recycling just 5\% of its plastic waste, studies show

According to the Last Beach Cleanup and Beyond Plastics report, about $85 \%$ of plastic ends up in landfills with $10 \%$ incinerated


## PLASTICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## PLASTICS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Online resources provided to you by the Geneva Environment Network and its partners www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/plastics-and-the-environment

## Vicroplastics - where do they come from?

All conventional plastic that ends up in the environment eventually becomes microplastic. Plastic ends up in the environment through several routes: Wind carries plastic items from landfills to rivers and the rain flushes trash to the sea. Microplastics get into the wastewater when we wash our clothes and they are formed when plastic items like car tires, plastic bags and packaging wear and tear. Often times plastic ends up in the wrong place due to people's indifference: the recycling bin is too far away or there is none.

Even the plastic recycling process is a source of permanent microplastics.


Plastics cause wide-ranging health issues from cancer to birth defects, landmark study finds

First analysis of plastics' hazards over life cycle- from extraction to disposal-also shows 'deep societal injustices' of impact


Plastic food packaging contains thousands of hormone-mimicking chemicals: Study

- Analysis of the impact of plastics found disproportionate effects on coastal and ocean-
dependent communities while production workers were at increased risk of a range of diseases. Photograph: Munir Uz Zaman/AFP/Getty Images
Plastics are responsible for wide-ranging health impacts including cancers, lung disease and birth defects, according to the first analysis of the health hazards of plastics across their entire life cycle - from extraction for manufacturing, through to dumping into landfill and oceans.

Toxins hidden in plastics are the industry's dirty secret - recycling is not the answer Charlotte Lloyd
It is estimated that more than 13,000 different chemicals are involved in the production of plastics, and many of these have never been assessed for their toxicity.
$\stackrel{\text { toxicity. }}{\text { Recycled plastic can be more toxic and is no }}$ fix for pollution, Greenpeace warns

Campaign group says plastics are incompatible with circular economy as countries prepare for treaty talks


## New report highlights health hazards of plastics, pesticides

Everyday exposures to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals pose health threats

## PNAS STUDY

 AVERAGE LITER OF WATER: 240,000NANOPLASTIC
PARTICLES
FRACTION OF WIDTH
OFA HUMAN HAIR

## consumer alert

OCBS
STUDY:ALARMING AMOUNT OF PLASTIC IN BOTTLED WATER

## Climate > News

## Majority of burgers, steaks, chicken and plant-based meats contain microplastics, study reveals

Chicken, beef, pork and tofu contain as much microplastic as fish
Stuti Mishra • Wednesday 10 January 2024 14:42 GMT • 4 Comments
A new Consumer Reports investigation found that 99 percent of the food we tested was contaminated with the plasticizers known as phthalates - including canned food, fast food, and even organic products.

Phthalates (pronounced tha-layts) are known to interfere with the production of hormones in our bodies - increasing the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, birth defects, premature birth, neurodevelopmental disorders, and infertility. Yet U.S. regulators haven't set meaningful limits on the amount of these chemicals in our food.

It's time the FDA takes action now to address the risk of plasticizers in our food. Join us in calling on the FDA to limit our exposure to these risky chemicals, and fully ban phthalates in food packaging and production.

TIN

## Chemicals thatmay cause cancer, infertility 'widespread' in packaged products likeCheerios: report

By Lisa Fickenscher<br>Published Jan. 4, 2024, 3:32 p.m. ET



Foods we eat are covered in plastics that may be causing a rise in premature births, study says

By Sandee LaMotte, CNN


One in 10 premature births linked to plastic chemicals: Study


## Microplastics found in human breast milk for the first time

Exclusive: Researchers concerned over potential health impacts of chemical contaminants on babies


## Microplastics Found in Every Human Placenta Tested, Study Finds

## Microplastics Found In Human Hearts For First Time, Showing Impact Of Pollution



Microplasticin placental tissue. (Garcla etala, Toxicological Science, 2024)
It's been over three years since scientists first found microplastics swimming in four different human placentas, and as it turns out, that was just the tip of the iceberg.


Exposure to microplastics may be a contributing factor for not only heart disease, but also diabetes and liver disease.

## (8) тесн

SCIENTIST MAKES DISTURBING NEW DISCOVERY WHILE STUDYING EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS: 'TO US, THIS WAS STRIKING'
"These were not high doses of microplastics, but in only a short period of time, we saw these changes."


Within 3 weeks, mice began to move and act strangely, showing behavior that resembled symptoms of dementia in humans.

## These signs were more profound in older mice, indicating that microplastics' health effects get worse as we age.

## Researchers find high concentrations of

 microplastics in cave water and sediment

Saint Louis University students sample the Cliff Cave system near St. Louis, Missouri, for microplastic d.
In two recent papers, Saint Louis University researchers report finding high concentrations of microplastics present in a Missouri cave system that had been closed to human visitors for 30 years.

90\% of Great Lakes water samples have unsafe microplastic levels - report

But experts say damage can be reversed if US and Canada act quickly to stop new plastics from entering lake system

## Plastic Bag Found at the Bottom of World's Deepest Ocean Trench

Even one of the most remote places on Earth couldn't hide from the scourge of plastic trash.

## Russian Scientists Find Microplastics in Wasp Intestines



Plaoue of Plastics
"If the public thinks recycling is working, then they are not going to be as concerned about the environment." Larry Thomas, President, Society of the Plastics Industry


Reduce your carbon footprint. But first, find out what it is.

Callit y your mark on the worla res the amours of carton doxide eminted dve to your dally sativiesfrom mowing your lawn to vacuuming your home
Find out the ive of your houstorocrs carbon

 M's a start.

## ExxonMobil CEO Blames Climate Crisis on the Public, Stirring Outrage

"It's like a drug lord blaming everyone but himself for drug problems," says one economist.



## Michigan lawmakers OK recycling reform. Critics call it 'burning hot garbage'



## "Chemical recycling" is just greenwashing for burning

## Reduce > Reuse >

 Recycle??????
## EGLE Recycling Program Goals

| Increase Access to and |
| :---: |
| Participation in |
| recycling |
| opportunities |

Inform residents and
businesses on How,
Where, and Why to
Recycle

Take an Equitable \& Inclusive approach to expanding recycling in diverse communities.






Chevron


## ExxonMobil



## The Council for Solid Waste.Solutions



## Executive Board Members

Amocy Chemical Company
Chevron Chemical Company
Dow Plastics, The Dow Chemical Company
Du Pout Company
Exxon Chemical Company
Mobil Chemical Company
Occidental Chemical Corporation
Phillips 66 Company
Novacor Chemicals Inc.

99\% of plastic is made from oil and gas fueling the climate crisis.
And less than 10\% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled.

Yet companies continue to put forward plastic recycling as the solution - all while producing more plastic!

The only way to end plastic pollution is
to dramatically reduce plastic production!

## Top global corporate polluters of 2023

found in Break Free From Plastic Global Brand Audit 2023
(1) тне OQA OOWa company

40 Countries | Total Count: 33,820 Most Common Item: Bottles $(17,703)$
Most Common Brand: Coca-Cola $(16,931)$

33 Countries | Total Count: 9,931
Most Common Item: Bottles $(4,586)$ and
Food Wrappers $(3,451)$
Most Common Brand: Nestlé Water $(4,586)$

3 Unilever
31 Countries | Total Count: 4,485
Most Common Item: Detergents $(1,439)$,
Sachets (700), and Bottles (492)
Most Common Brand: Surf Excel $(1,440)$

30 Countries | Total Count: 34,780
Most Common Item: Food Wrappers $(11,080)$ and Bottles $(13,861)$
Most Common Brand: Lays $(7,336)$
(5. Monddelē̃o

26 Countries | Total Count: 8,094
Most Common Item: Food Wrappers $(7,219)$, Candy Wrappers (100), Food Packaging (64) Most Common Brand: Center Fruit $(3,936)$
(6) MARS
(2) P\&G
(8)

DANONE
( E月 $_{\text {Altria }}$
(1) BAT

\#BreakFreeFromPlastic

Waste management systems cannot cope with the exponential rise of plastic production and waste. Overproduction of plastic also puts an extra burden on taxpayers and municipalities, forcing them to manage increasing quantities of plastic, most of which is not recyclable. Any response that prioritizes end-of-pipe technology instead of addressing the root cause will not only be futile but also increase emissions of toxic and climate pollutants to the environment.


## Who is Responsible?

## Producers Ensure:

- Products are manufactured, marketed, and delivered using recycled content
- Products are designed to be recycled
- Products are collected, processed, and recycled into new products


## EPR IS WIDELY APPLIED ACROSS THE US

| beverage CONTAINERS CA, CT, HI, IA, ME, MA, MINY, OR, VT | CARPET <br> CA, NY | MERCURY SWITCHES AR, IA, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NJ, RI, SC, UT, VA, VT | MATTRESSES CA, CT, RI, OR $\square$ $]$ $\square$ | FLUORESCENT LIGHTING MA, ME, VT, WA | RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES <br> CA, IA, MD, MN, NY, NJ, ME, VT*, DC* <br> (*includes alkaline) | ELECTRONICS CA, CT, DC, HI, IL, IN, ME, MD, $\mathrm{MI}, \mathrm{MN}, \mathrm{MO}, \mathrm{NJ}$, NY, NC, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MERCURY THERMOSTATS CA, CT, IA, IL, MA, ME, MN, MT, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT | PHARMA CA, WA, NY, OR, MA, ME, IL | PAINT CA, CO, CT, DC, IL, ME, MN, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA | SOLAR PANELS WA, Niagara County, NY | TIRES CT | PACKAGING AND PRINTED PAPER <br> CA CO ME, OR | HOUSEHOLD <br> HAZARDOUS WASTE VT | GAS CYLINDERS CT, VT |

## "Plastic is not designed to be recycled - despite industries and governments telling the public that we should recycle plastic."

## Projected Impact of EPR in Four Adopting States

(California, Colorado, Maine, and Oregon)

Before implementation of EPR
$34 \%$

### 2.25M tons

of recyclables on average projected to be recycled in California, Colorado, Maine, and Oregon annually.

After implementation of EPR
$60 \%$ in inaterial
4.65M tons
of projected recyclables on average
will be recycled in California, Colorado,
Maine, and Oregon annually.

Personal choices to reduce your contribution to climate change


## TAKE AGTION

- Government Action: Encourage your local and national representatives to implement bans on single-use plastics and support the Break Free From Plastic Act and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). These policies can drastically reduce waste at the source.
- Business Practices: Support companies who make a meaningful commitment to sustainability and use eco-friendly materials and sustainable packaging.
- Community-Led Efforts: Education and collective action are key in changing public attitudes towards waste.
- Each of us has a role to play. Together, we can move towards a future free of plastic pollution.


## Environmentalism:

this crazy notion that we ought to maybe clean
up after ourselves.


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TREE STUMP \& HUMAN FINGERPRINT


WE ARE EARTH

## Blue Nuns Go Green



## Pollution of Air, Land, and Water



## Ocean Fisheries Disappearing



## Sustainability:

Mission for the Millennium

## The IHM Commitment to Sustainability as a Morall Mandate

"Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."'

The Worlal Commission on Envijonmentsand Development


## Vision Emerged of Sustainable Future



Reuse existing building


## Vision Translated

- Reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink
- Choose passive natural energy systems
- Reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources
- Design indoor and outdoor space that promotes sustainable community
- Use products that reduce footprint
- Restore site


## Renovate Not Build New



## 37,6,000 Square Feet of Total Demo and Renovation




## Mass Demolition






## Doors, Wood Trim, Parquet Floors, Wainscoting



600 wood doors sal.Nagedj 450 reused in renovation

## Light Fixtures

Over 100 period light fixtures retrofitted and reinstalled


## Over 800 Wood Windows Restored and Reused



## Window Restoration Matrix



## Marble Saved and Reused



## Gray Water Recycling

- Separate piping system collects sink, shower water
- This gray water routed to constructed wetlands
- 7,270 gallons/day diverted to wetlands
- 4,560 gallons/day recycled to flush toilets



## Asphalt and Brick Salvage



Broken asphalt reused as gravel base


Removed brick saved for tooth-in and infill

## Topsoil



## Ann Arbor Reuse Center

- Sinks
- Toilets
- Cabinets
- Doors
- Hardware
- Radiators
- Guardrails
- Handrails
- Furniture
- Fire Alarms
- Light
 Fixtures


## LEED Certified Renovation




Campus Greening Committee How to Live Green in Renovated Motherhouse


## Campus Greening Programs



Automotive

- Dining Service
-Energy Conservation
-Events
- Grounds
- Housekeeping
- Information Systems
- Medical) Supplies
- Office Supplies
- Waste Management
-Water Conservation

"I wish to address every person living on this planet. I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home."

How are we shaping the future of our planet?


## Take Action Against Plastic Pollution

1. Ban Single-Use Plastic Foam Items in Your State
2. Tell Chick-Fl-A It's Time to Move Beyond Plastic
3. Tell Amazon It's Time to Move Beyond Single-Use Plastic Packaging
4. Tell Coca-Cola to Commit to Refillable Bottles
5. Tell Whole Foods to Stop Using Wasteful Plastic Packaging
6. Tell Target to Eliminate Plastic Bags
7. Protect the Planet from Plastic Pollution


# Historic day in the campaign to beat plastic pollutionations commit to develop a legally binding agreement 

