



Tappwater

**Plastic Paradox: Unravelling Malta's
Recycling Progress and the Urgency of
Reduction**

13th November 2023

<https://tappwater.mt/blogs/news/plastic-paradox-unveiling-malta-recycling-progress-and-the-urgency-of-reduction>

Con's

- CO2 emissions for “single use journeys”
- CO2 emissions on the collection, processing and exporting of waste
- Waste not being reprocessing in Malta
- Time lost in participating
- Profiteering by sit down catering

Pro's

- 200+ million containers recycled
- 9,000 tons of waste recycled
- 77% collection rate
- Generated revenue for litter-pickers & charities
- Mixed waste decreases by 1/5th (18,000 tons)

Happy 1st anniversary to BCRS!

200 million containers recycled
€Millions of deposits returned
8 Jumbo deposit machines + 320 RV Machines in Malta



#1 Myth

“Plastic can be used over and over again”

- “The process of recycling is, for the time being, downcycling, which results in an undiminished use of new or ‘virgin’ plastic.”

<https://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en/plastic-problem/bogus-solutions/recycling-myth/>

Your plastic single use bottle becomes a plastic brush head, a carpet or polyester yarn.

After that more than likely landfill.

“PET Bottles are part of the circular economy”

- “What will happen to that winter jacket that is made out of PET bottles after it has been worn for a couple of years? It will not be recycled into a new winter jacket, but most likely be thrown away and probably end up in a landfill or incinerator,”
- 17% rPet usage rate in bottles currently
- Maximum likely 61% with substantial changes and assumptions

HOW CIRCULAR IS PET?

A report on the circularity of PET bottles, using Europe as a case study

February 2022

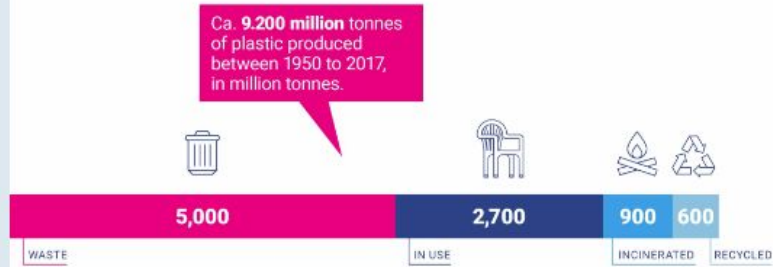


https://zerowasteurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/HCIP_V13-1.pdf

“Recycling is the solution to the plastic crisis”

THE LIFE CYCLE OF PLASTIC

Global production, use and disposal of plastics, 1950 to 2017 in million tonnes.



SOURCE: PLASTIC ATLAS 2019 | © PLASTIC SOUP FOUNDATION

WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THAT PLASTIC AFTER PURCHASE?

Between the 1950s and 2017, an estimated 9.2 billion tons of plastic have been manufactured. Of this, a little more than one quarter is still in use and only 600 million tons has been recycled¹. About 40% of all plastic products are thrown away within one month². Year after year we saddle the earth with about 300 million tons of plastic waste.³

<https://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en/plastic-problem/bogus-solutions/recycling-myth/>

“Let’s build more recycling systems”

“A boom of investment in the construction and expansion of plastic recycling infrastructure could unintentionally sustain a single-use, linear economy by providing downstream measures to deal with current or even increased plastic production and use.

Plastic recycling should, therefore, only be used as a bridge to greater plastic reduction, and as the production of plastic decreases over time, so too should recycling. The highest priority should be developing zero-waste systems where all materials are produced and consumed responsibly within ecological limits.”

<https://www.ciel.org/plasticandclimate/>

The Center for International Environment Law



Plastic & Climate

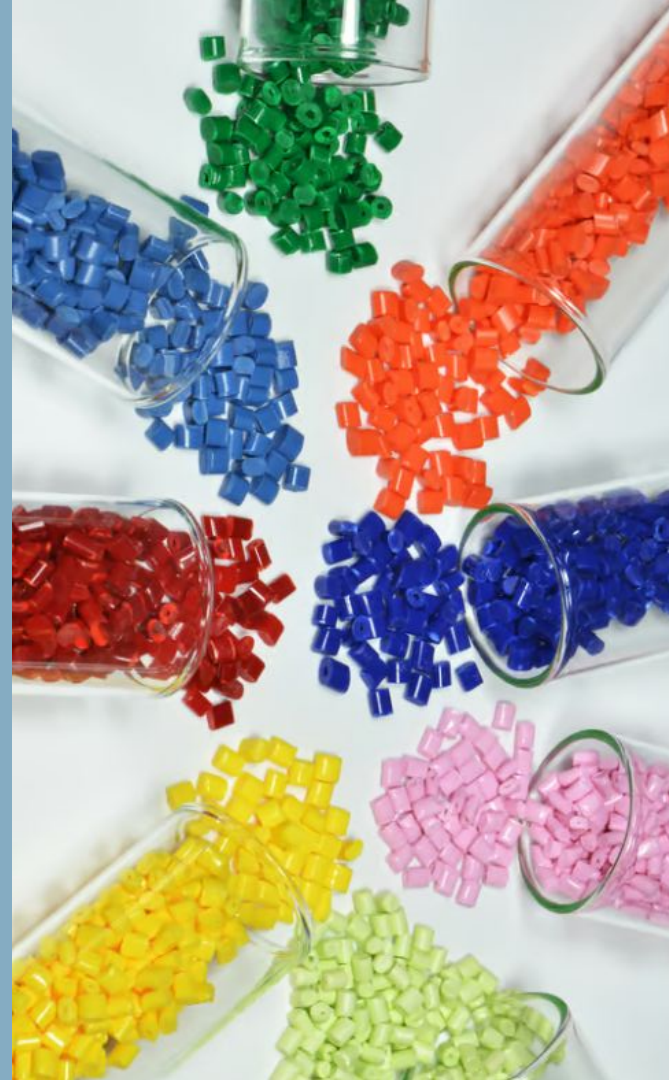
THE HIDDEN COSTS OF A PLASTIC PLANET

“Recycled plastic is better”

“While the use of recycled plastics is normally considered a noble endeavor, a new study says it's time to think twice. In an analysis of the material from more than 10 different countries, hundreds of potentially harmful chemicals were uncovered.

The study, led by scientists at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, looked at recycled plastic pellets from 13 nations in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. By using a range of chemical analysis tools, it was found that the pellets all contained a mind-boggling array of compounds, many of which are considered highly toxic.”

<https://newatlas.com/environment/pharmaceuticals-toxic-chemicals-recycled-plastics/>



“Chemical recycling + waste to energy

“Chemical recycling is a false solution to plastic pollution. Chemical recycling has failed for decades, continues to fail, and there is no evidence that it will contribute to resolving the plastics pollution crisis.”

“Plastics are inherently risky to recycle. Plastics are made with toxic chemicals and when recycled, these chemicals go into the recycled plastic or product. Toxic chemicals can also be created in recycled plastics from cross contamination and heating, resulting in ongoing and often increased chemical threats to our health and the environment.

“Making plastic into fuel to burn is not recycling. According to internationally accepted definitions, plastic to fuel is not recycling. It is a dirty and dangerous disposal method.”

<https://www.beyondplastics.org/publications/chemical-recycling>

REPORT | Chemical Recycling: A Dangerous



CHEMICAL RECYCLING: A DANGEROUS DECEPTION

WHY CHEMICAL RECYCLING WON'T SOLVE
THE PLASTIC POLLUTION PROBLEM

October 2023

“Coca-Cola and Nestle accused of misleading eco claims”

“Coca-Cola, Danone and Nestle have been accused of making misleading claims about their plastic water bottles being “100% recycled”.

A consumer body and two environmental groups have issued a legal complaint to the European Commission over the alleged greenwashing. They argue that the bottles are never made wholly of recycled materials.”

“The evidence is clear - plastic water bottles are simply not recycled again and again to become new bottles in Europe,” said Rosa Pritchard, plastics lawyer at ClientEarth.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-67343893>



Think of Recycling Last not First

Refuse
Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Rot

“humanity cannot
just recycle its way
out of the mess”

Inger Andersson
UN Environment Chief





Tappwater

www.tappwater.mt

+356 99866142

Hello@tappwater.mt