



OVERVIEW OF THE OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT - PLASTICS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: DESIGN OF SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS FROM A CHEMICALS PERSPECTIVE

Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group
on Marine Litter and Microplastics
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OECD ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS) PROGRAMME

36 Member countries, many partner countries and other stakeholders work together to develop and co-ordinate activities on chemical safety and biosafety on an international basis. One of the core aspects of the work relates to the Mutual Acceptance of Data.

The main objectives of the Programme are to:

- Assist OECD Member countries' efforts to protect human health and the environment through improving chemical safety and biosafety
- Make chemical control policies more transparent and efficient and save resources for government and industry; and
- Prevent unnecessary distortions in the trade of chemicals, chemical products and products of modern biotechnology.



<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/>

OECD Global Forum on Environment:
Plastics in a Circular Economy

**Designing sustainable plastics from
a chemicals perspective**

29-31 May, Copenhagen



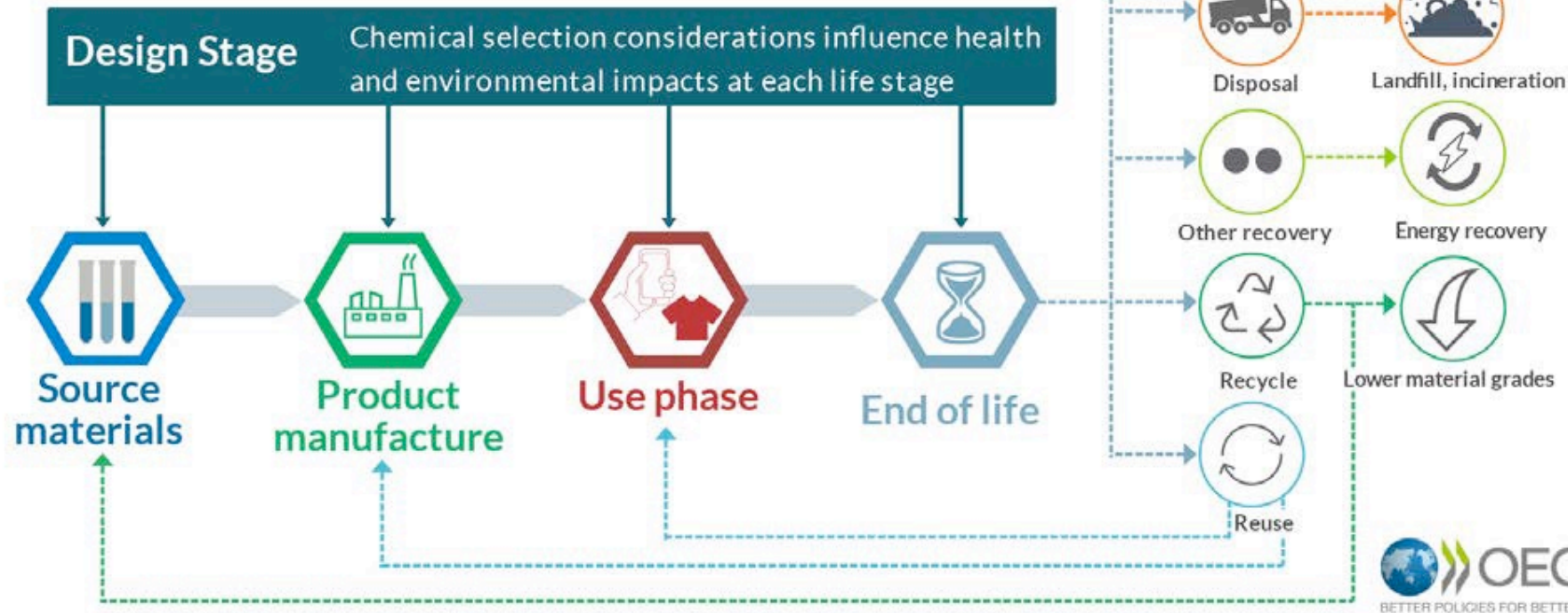
oe.cd/plastics-forum



[@OECD_ENV](https://twitter.com/OECD_ENV)



Plastic Product Design and Life Cycle Stage



<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/global-forum-on-environment-plastics-in-a-circular-economy.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT8pEDdvmDM&t=1s>





Topics of focus of Global Forum

Design of 'sustainable plastics' from a chemicals perspective

- **Scene setting & case examples**

- **Topic 1:** What does it mean to be "sustainable" from chemicals perspective



- **Topic 2:** Identification of available technical tools for use at the design stage of a plastic product



- **Topic 3:** Approaches to incentivise, at the design stage, the use of more benign materials.



- Opportunities for Potential Further Work at the OECD



Highlights of What We Heard

- Plastics are important materials that generate significant economic benefit but they need to be made and used in a more sustainable way
- Circular economy
 - need closed loops and clean loops



Highlights of What We Heard



- Opportunity to take advantage of issue attention cycle
- Address whole value chain and integrate environmental, economic and social goals
- Life-cycle thinking needs to take place at the design stage and include considerations along the value chain; the chemicals-waste interface is an important dimension



Highlights of What We Heard

- Gaps in information along life cycle, including traceability, are a challenge
- Need consistent terminology
- Need to future-proof approaches





Highlights of What We Heard – Policy Approaches

- **Suite of policy instruments** are necessary
 - Voluntary and regulatory measures are complementary
- **Voluntary approaches** allow to act fast and stimulate actions across the market
- **Extended Producer Responsibility** is a key policy but challenging to incentivise good design
- **Green deals** to facilitate experimentation and innovation
- **Recycling targets** as key drivers
- Measures to **create markets** for recycled plastics, but **no differentiation in chemicals/material standards**



Output



- Finalised background documents to be declassified and published:
 - Considerations/criteria for defining 'sustainability' from a chemicals perspective
 - Technical tools and approaches for chemical selection at the design stage
 - Policy approaches to incentivise sustainable plastic design
- Workshop report (available on-line)
- Menu of ideas of possible future work at the OECD



Possible Areas of Work

- Expand criteria for defining sustainability from a chemicals perspective
- Identify best practices for considering trade-offs (methods, benchmarks, costs, or optimisation)
- Good practices for information exchange along the supply chain



Possible Areas of Work

Policy approaches

- Assess economic and voluntary instruments that can support sustainable plastics design in order to develop recommendations on their design and to analyse their economic costs and benefits;
- Improve incentives for sustainable plastics design in the framework of Extended Producer Responsibility;
- Improve understanding of linkages between chemicals and waste management legislation.



Future Microplastics work at OECD

- Stock-taking of microplastics generated during *product use-phase*
 - *Major sources*
 - *Environmental fate*
 - *Options for mitigating the sources*
 - *Policies in place*
 - *Additional policies that could be envisioned*



Further Information

- Website
 - <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety>
- EHS Newsletters (sign up to receive automatically)
 - <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/environment-health-safety-news.htm>
- Email: eeva.leinala@oecd.org