

Workplans of the project groups established by the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for the biennium 2024-2025¹

¹ The workplans form the basis of the workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership for the biennium 2024–2025, approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in decision BC-16/18 as set out in UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.3/Rev.1

Project group 1 on prevention and minimisation

Activity 1: Provide information, best practices and lessons learned on measures taken to prevent and reduce plastic waste, in particular on single use plastic waste and packaging waste, and analyse the impacts and challenges, including environmental, socio-economic and technical considerations.			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
<p>a. Measures taken by key stakeholders to prevent and reduce single use plastic waste and packaging waste (Act.1)</p> <p>b. Broadening the knowledge base on measures taken to reduce single use plastic: experiences from Africa, Eastern Europe, Western Asia, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean (Act.1 study recommendation)</p>	<p>Priority stakeholders: Government authority/Policymakers Local government authority Industry</p>	Medium	<p>There are many similar initiatives, for example under the Ellen Macarthur foundation (see ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)</p> <p>EEA / European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use: Pathways to circular plastics in Europe: Good examples from countries, business and citizens (to be published in I.Q 2023),</p> <p>Inspiring practices from the food & beverage value chain (2020) http://www.cprac.org/en/news-archive/general/the-business-case-for-tackling-plastic-packaging-is-now-available-download-it</p> <p>Environmental Action is a Swiss-based consulting office and they have done some nice work as infographics that could be interesting for PG1 on how to present the key findings: PROJECTS EA_v2.1 (e-a.earth)</p> <p>UNEP spotlight on measures</p>
c. How to implement bans on single use plastic and the role of different stakeholders	All relevant	Medium	Tie in with work on plastic waste guidelines
d. What can't we live without? Exploring essential uses for single use plastics	All relevant	High	
e. Efforts to transition single use plastics into multi-use	<p>Priority stakeholders: Government authority/Policymakers Industry</p>	Low	

Topics for Insight briefs			
a. Examination of the social, environmental and economic consequences of various policy interventions used to regulate single-use plastics products and to promote their alternatives (Act.1 study recommendation)	Priority stakeholders: Policymakers	High	
b. Highlighting innovations related to service as opposed to product delivery	Priority stakeholders: Policymakers	Low	Refer to Norwegian project on service delivery and measuring impacts

Activity 2: Provide information on best practices and identify challenges for improving the design of plastic products to increase their durability, reusability, reparability and recyclability, as well as to reduce, and where possible eliminate, hazardous constituents in plastic products.			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
a. Considerations at design phase of plastic products to increase their durability, reusability, reparability and recyclability (Act.2) and to reduce, and where possible eliminate, their hazardous constituents (Act.2) (i) From waste experts' perspective (ii) From recyclers' perspective (i.e. use of monomaterials)	Priority stakeholders: Policymakers Product manufacturers Brand owner and retailers Scientists and technologists	High	EEA / European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use: Pathways to circular plastics in Europe: Good examples from countries, business and citizens (to be published in I.Q 2023)
Topics for Insight briefs			
a. Tackling regrettable substitutions for hazardous chemicals/substances in products (Act.2 study recommendation)	Priority stakeholders: Policymakers Industry Consumer associations	High	
b. Consideration of the impacts on microplastic pollution and its effect on the environment	All relevant	Low	
c. Improving public access to reliable and harmonised data on hazardous constituents in	Priority stakeholders: Policymakers Industry	Low	Chemicals in Products (CiP) GEF SAICM project UNEP - UN Environment Programme

<p>plastic products (Act.2 study recommendation), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The issues associated with lack of transparency (ii) Increasing transparency through the value chain and accessing data 	<p>Globally Harmonised System</p>		<p>Also see the following database that has been set up within the “Clean Cycle Project” by ETH Zurich: Wiesinger, Helene; Wang, Zhanyun; Hellweg, Stefanie (2021): Deep Dive into Plastic Monomers, Additives, and Processing Aids. In: <i>Environmental Science & Technology</i>. DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.1c00976. Deep Dive into Plastic Monomers, Additives, and Processing Aids Environmental Science & Technology (acs.org) Provide links to already existing databases and information</p>
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Activity 3: Provide information on best practices, challenges and opportunities on re-use of plastic products, especially packaging, including on identification of infrastructure development needs related to re-use, such as refill systems.			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
<p>a. Opportunities and best practices for re-use of both plastic and non-plastic products, including infrastructure of re-use systems (Act.3)</p>	<p>Priority stakeholders: Policymakers Civil society Industry</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>EEA waste prevention profiles for each member states contain chapter on best practices for re-use (including plastic products) https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/waste-prevention/countries</p>
<p>b. How to implement re-use systems and the role of different stakeholders</p>	<p>All relevant</p>	<p>High</p>	
<p>c. Campaigns and initiatives to promote the re-use of both plastic and non-plastic product (Act.3) <i>(Note: this activity could be cross-cutting with PG4)</i></p>	<p>All relevant</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>https://ewwr.eu/actions-db/page/7/?filter_action_theme=reuse-and-preparing-for-reuse</p>
Topics for Insight briefs			
<p>Highlighting innovations related to consumer reuse options</p>	<p>Priority stakeholders: Policymakers Industry Consumer associations</p>		

Activity 4: Provide information that allows for the comparison, including environmental and socio-economic aspects, between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plastic products and alternatives to plastic products, - bio-based and non-bio-based plastic products, and - bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable plastic products, taking into account a life-cycle approach.			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
Lessons from the lifecycle: bio-based plastic products and biodegradable plastic products (Act.4)	All relevant	High	The Life Cycle Initiative has published various reports on the LCA of plastic products: Reports - Life Cycle Initiative
Topics for Insight briefs			
Highlighting innovations related to product substitution and plastic alternatives	All relevant	Medium	

Project group 2 on plastic waste collection, separation and recycling

Activity 1: Provide information, best practices and lessons learned to improve the environmentally sound collection, separation and recycling of plastic waste			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
a. Systems for source separation and separate collection of plastic waste to promote recycling (Act 1 and 2, output 1)	Policy-makers, actors involved in policy implementation, civil society	Priority: high Notes: Inter alia, with a view to achieving separation and contamination in line with the Plastic Waste Amendments; Focus on PET bottles.	General publications on Circular Economy of Packaging: Ellen McArthur Foundation (2017). The New Plastic Economy. Catalysing Action. The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing action (ellenmacarthurfoundation.org) Ellen McArthur Foundation (2016). The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the Future of Plastics. The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics (ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)
b. Policies and measures for integration and cooperation with the informal sector in plastic waste collection, separation and recycling (Act 1, output 1)	Policy-makers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, waste pickers, other informal sector actors, civil society, industry	Priority: high Notes: -consider gender and youth aspects -health and safety aspects -use of EPR instruments	-GPML: access for all -ESM expert group doc
c. Applying standards and certification systems for recycled plastics to promote environmentally sound recycling (Act 1, output 1)	Policy-makers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: high Notes: -inter alia, with a view to ensure ESM recycling, that prevents hazardous releases and use of post-consumer recycled content that ensures against reintroducing toxic additives into new products. -consider also existing solutions for hazardous plastic waste	
d. Developing national systems for PET collection and recycling (Act 1, output 1)	Policy-makers, actors involved in policy implementation and along the PET value chain	Priority: medium	

e. Good practices for establishing and improving the functioning of EPR systems for plastic packaging (Act 1, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: medium Notes: consider as input/outcome of EPR Forum	Various; OECD WPRPW Findings from outputs 1 of act. 1 and 2
f. Key factors for setting up and operating successful deposit return schemes for plastic packaging (Act 2, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: medium Notes: -to consider how key factors also apply to DRS for reuse. -consider lessons learnt from DRS for other materials -crosscutting with GPI -Consider economic viability aspects	
Topics for Insight briefs			
a. Exploring labelling as a means to promote environmentally sound management of plastic waste, including more efficient separation and recycling (Act 1 and 3, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry, the informal sector	Priority: high Notes: Consider largest volume applications from land and sea-based sources	
b. Exploring tracking methods to provide transparency of waste flows for plastic waste generation	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: high Notes: tracking is important for lost, abandoned and discarded fishing gear	
c. Expanding coverage of recycling systems, including sorting and separation, to include additional plastic polymers (e.g HDPE) (Act 1 and 2, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: high	
d. Options for reducing the complexity of plastic products in use, in largest volume applications, to facilitate sorting and recycling of plastic waste	Policymakers, industry	Priority: high Notes: consider: -Number of plastic polymers -Additives -Multilayer materials -Overlap with discussions on design -Packaging and other uses -Durability of products	
e. Exploring how the quality of recycled plastic could be maintained as high as possible	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy	Priority: medium Notes:	

through as many circular operations as possible (Act 1, output 1)	implementation, civil society, industry	-consider health and environmental impacts of circular operations and tension between quality and volume of recyclates -consider good practices from existing circular operations and product-to-product recycling	
f. Exploring how value chains could be established to improve the economic viability of separation, collection and recycling of plastic waste (Act 1 and 3, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: medium	
g. State of the art sorting and recycling technologies to increase the quality and quantity of recyclates (Act 2, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry, academia	Priority: medium Notes: -taking into account the TGs on ESM of plastic waste -consider upstream and downstream focus of the technologies	
Activity 2: Provide information on best practices on regulatory and voluntary measures, economic, technological tools, and other incentives for promoting the use of non-hazardous recycled plastics and the development of markets for recycled plastics and on the implementation of these measures and incentives			
Topics for Insight briefs		Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	
a. Exploring the use of non-hazardous recycled content targets to promote plastic waste recycling (Act 3, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: medium Notes: -Consider the tension between volumes and quality of recyclates -Consider additives having a legacy effect on health in the new products.	Plastic Europe - mandatory recycled content
b. Exploring the use of collection and recycling targets to promote plastic waste collection and recycling (Act 3, output 1) and the development of markets for recycled plastics	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, civil society, industry	Priority: medium Notes: -Explore the most appropriate indicators e.g displacement of virgin plastics	
Activity 3: Collect information on best practices and innovative technologies for separating or eliminating hazardous substances from plastic wastes during sorting and recycling.			

Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	
Technologies and processes for separating and eliminating hazardous substances from plastic waste during sorting and recycling (Act 4, output 1)	Policymakers, stakeholders involved in policy implementation, industry, academia	Priority: medium Notes: -Consider technologies available in the commercial space -Consider overlap with other proposed briefs	

Project group 3 on transboundary movements of plastic waste

Output	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
Activity 1. Develop and undertake capacity building activities for implementation of the amendments to the Convention on plastic waste by relevant actors, including customs, and on linkages with the customs codes on plastics			
a. Regional workshops to assist Basel Convention competent authorities and other key stakeholders in implementing the amendments to the Convention on plastic waste	Competent authorities, focal points, customs authorities, port authorities, prosecutors and those importing and exporting waste	Priority: high Notes: Building on recent regional capacity building workshops, but with a specific focus on plastic waste.	
b. Information on types of plastic waste covered by the entries of the Plastic Waste Amendments in Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention	Regulators, including customs and competent authorities.	Priority: high Notes: Enable regulators to understand which polymers fall within which entries, and how to identify them.	IMPEL guidance on plastic waste shipments
Activity 2. Provide information on actions taken by countries to implement the amendments to the Convention on plastic waste, on their interpretation of these amendments (e.g. “almost exclusively” and “almost free from contamination”) and on the challenges experienced in implementation			
Collect information from Parties and others on: (i) Information on the national contamination levels being applied and challenges in implementing these levels.	All actors involved in TBM.	Priority: high Notes: Collect information on experiences over the two years since the new entries came into being.	
Activity 3. Provide information to promote compliance with regulations on the TBM of plastic waste and enforcement in relation to TBM of plastic waste			
Topics for Spotlight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
a. Methods for detecting mixtures of plastic waste and contamination in plastic waste shipments	Regulators	Priority: high	Processing of WEEE plastics, a practical handbook SRI, 2019
b. Permitting and inspection of facilities that import plastic waste to ensure environmentally sound management	Regulators	Priority: low	Guidance on ESM facilities

c. Inspection for plastic waste shipments	Regulators	Priority: low	IMPEL guidance
Topics for Insight briefs		To be completed	
Explore how Parties classify and manage plastic waste mixed with other types of wastes, e.g. Refuse Derived Fuel, and of waste from multilayer materials	Policymakers, regulators	Priority: medium	
Activity 4. Provide information on the transboundary movements of plastic wastes (Activity 4)			
Synthesis of information on import and export of plastic waste from sources such as the national reports and UN Comtrade	Policy makers, regulators	Priority: medium Notes: - Promote understanding of the effect of the plastic waste amendments on TBM. - Monitoring implementation to inform future negotiations on other waste streams, whether any amendments are needed to the plastic entries and identify potential new flows of concern.	

Project group 4 on outreach, education and awareness-raising

Output	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
REVISED Activity 1. Update the communication strategy for the Partnership in relation to activities 2 and 3.			
Update the communication strategy for the Plastic Waste Partnership, taking into account the work of the other project groups of the PWP.	All relevant	Priority: high - Amended from original workplan. - Communications strategy will require periodic updates as work evolves - Include standard text on PWP, SDGs, Triple Planetary Crisis	
Activity 2. Raise awareness about the work of the Plastic Waste Partnership and its ongoing progress.			
a. Development of materials that promote the Plastic Waste Partnership and its objectives in general.	All relevant	Priority: high Same output as original workplan	n/a
b. Dissemination of materials that promote the Plastic Waste Partnership and its objectives in general	All relevant	Priority: high - Same output as original workplan - Seeking synergies with other initiatives e.g. on triple planetary crisis, GPML, INC process	
REVISED Activity 3. Develop and disseminate information materials, including through campaigns and initiatives, on prevention, minimization, environmentally sound management and TBM of plastic waste, including on topics identified by, and on the outputs of, the other project groups and as appropriate, the pilot projects.			
a. Development and dissemination of electronic and visually based communication, education and awareness-raising materials that promote the specific work and outputs of PGs 1, 2 and 3 and as appropriate available in multiple organisations (subject to available resources)	All relevant	Priority: high Original output amended to add pilot projects	n/a
c. Dissemination of PWP related materials at key events to be held in partnership with other organizations to promote information sharing and capacity building on environmentally sound management of plastic waste.	All relevant	Priority: high Same output as original workplan	n/a
d. Synthesise, streamline and disseminate outcomes, best practices*, outreach/education/awareness raising tools developed under PWP pilot projects.	All relevant	Priority: high	See SGP factsheets

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New output relating to pilot projects - * Ask for top 3 outcomes from pilot projects in project templates 	
e. Development of campaigns and initiatives to promote specific topics	All relevant	<p>Priority: high</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New output, potential topics to be discussed - EPR and other Forums 	n/a
NEW Activity 4. Strengthen communication and outreach with other initiatives (e.g. Partnerships, alliances, etc.)			
Strengthen communication and outreach with potential partners and other initiatives (e.g. Regional Centres, Partnerships, alliances, etc.)	All relevant	<p>Priority: medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New activity proposed during consultation phase – potential outputs to be discussed - GPML - Regional Centres 	Calendar of events for PWP

Foresight briefs

New Activity: Provide information on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in specific sectors and waste streams, barriers and recommendations to promote solutions. Goal: Promote the development of policy, regulation and strategies on the prevention and minimization of plastic waste and on environmentally sound management of plastic waste, taking into account the entire life cycle of plastics			
Topics of Foresight briefs	Target audience	Priority and notes on objectives/scope/rationale	Similar publications
a) Textiles	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Producers of textile products made from plastics Workers and Trade Union Leaders in the Textile Industry Owners of Textile Industries and Employers International Associations Fairtrade organizations National Quality Control Boards Textile associations RMG association	Priority: high With special attention to microplastics	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (Netherlands): Hazardous substances in textile products (2014) https://rivm.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10029/557065/2014-0155.pdf?sequence=3
b) Construction and demolition	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Ministry of Construction National Contractor Association/Boards Engineers Fire Department Traders of Construction materials	Priority: medium - Consider applications of plastic in construction - Microfibre, microplastics and nanomaterials - Emerging issue in certain regions/ country contexts	To be completed
c) Clinical wastes from medical care in hospitals, medical centres and clinics Pharmaceutical plastic waste	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: WHO Ministry of Health Workers and Trade Unions in the Health Sector NGOs	Priority: medium - Nanomaterials - Microfibres	To be completed

	Media Traditional Medicine Practitioners Pharma associations		
d) Food packaging	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Traders of packaged food products Packaging companies	Priority: high	To be completed
e) Consumer goods, including cosmetics (product and packaging)	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Consumer Associations General Public Media Workers and Trade Unions	Priority: low	To be completed
f) Agriculture	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Trade Union organizations in the Agriculture Sector e.g. IUF ILO – Agriculture Sector FAO	Priority: high Inventory of agricultural plastic waste Emerging issue	FAO work
g) Shipping industry	Policymakers, industry, civil society, including: Ship owners Custom Officers Police	Priority: medium Tourism, leisure	Consideration of IMO and Marpol
h) Fishing industry		Priority: medium	
i) Electrical and electronic equipment	Policymakers, industry, civil society,	Priority: high Heating, TV, emerging issue with link to PACE II	PACE II