



Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion 3 Guide

Title	Chemicals in Plastics: A deep dive into composition, recyclability and policy implications
Date & Time	28 June 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 (UTC+2)
Registration link	https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3816800523917/WN_fFdl6MpHQtkGKG8GtoPfWUQ

How do I join the live discussion?

1. Register for the discussion using the **Registration link**  [Register here](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3816800523917/WN_fFdl6MpHQtkGKG8GtoPfWUQ)
2. If you are not yet a member of the **Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP)** on the Green Forum, please sign up here  [Create new account](#)

Our modern world, increasingly reliant on plastic products, faces a complex challenge. The countless chemicals that give plastics their versatility and durability also pose significant obstacles when it comes to recycling, health and environmental safety. These chemicals can present potential health risks, persist in our environment and complicate recycling processes, leading to an urgent need for comprehensive understanding.

The discussion will take a deep dive into the chemical composition of plastics, exploring the roles of different chemicals, their impact on human health and the environment and the challenges they introduce in managing plastics containing hazardous chemicals in recycling processes. The discussion will also be on the intricate ties between chemical composition, recyclability and environmental implications of plastics, aiming to foster an in-depth understanding of this issue that can help guide future policy decisions.

Discussion Questions

Q1	What are the most pressing issues for you related to chemicals in plastics?
Q2	What challenges are you finding in managing plastics containing hazardous chemicals – specifically end-of-life vehicles and management of e-waste?
Q3	What kind of incentives and regulatory frames can be created such that supply chain actors can transfer information regarding chemicals in plastics throughout the plastics lifecycle? E.g. from plastic manufacturers to businesses and consumers that use plastics and finally to waste managers that have to deal with (problematic) plastic waste.

Contact

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Presenters



Roland Weber, International Panel on Chemical Pollution and POPs Environmental Consulting

Since 30 years Dr. Roland Weber does research on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and since 18 years he works as international consultant mainly for UN Organisations (UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, Secretariats of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention) and supported more than 30 environmental ministries in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

He is lead author of the UNEP publication [“Chemicals in Plastic – A Technical Report”](#) and is coordinating a UNEP project on POPs in plastics with other members of the International Panel on Chemical Pollution (a science NGO) including a recent [webinar series](#).

Dr. Weber published more than 180 papers in scientific journals ([h-index 45](#)).



Melanie Ashton, Project Coordinator and Private Sector Engagement Specialist, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)

Melanie Ashton coordinates the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS), Coordination, Communication and Knowledge Management project. She also serves as the Private Sector Engagement Specialist for GEF ISLANDS, leading engagement activities with the shipping and cruise sectors on behalf of the ISLANDS Programme.

Prior to this role, Melanie was a member of the UNEP-GEF Chemicals and Waste, in UNEP’s Economy Division. In this role Melanie coordinated the development of the ISLANDS Programme. She has developed chemicals and waste projects for GEF, the French Government (l’AFD), the Australian Government and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization. Melanie also led the Australian government funded landmark Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries project, which involved the inventory, collection and clean of legacy POPs waste from 13 Pacific countries. She is the author of various papers and book chapters on chemicals and waste issues relating to the Stockholm Convention.

Melanie holds a Masters in Environment and Development Economics, from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, where she was a Commonwealth Scholar. She also holds a First Class Honours Degree in Earth Sciences from the University of Melbourne.

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Facilitator



Brenda Koekkoek, Senior Programme Manager, Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Brenda Koekkoek is a Programme Manager at the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Previously, Brenda worked as a programme manager for the Circle of Excellence on Plastic Pollution, which aimed to foster UNEP-wide leadership, collaboration and communication on marine litter and plastic pollution towards collective impact through establishing and coordinating the internal UNEP Circle of Excellence on Plastic Pollution. By promoting multi-stakeholder engagement and policy dialogues for plastic pollution, including deliberations for a possible future global agreement, she also supported the UNEP-wide sustainable consumption and production workstream including on waste management, chemical additives and microplastics. Prior to this, Brenda worked in a leading role with the secretariat of SAICM from 2012 onwards, including managing the secretariat efforts to design and now execute this multi-stakeholder SAICM GEF project.

Upon joining UNEP in 2006, she worked to establish and manage the Global Mercury Partnership and in providing policy support to the negotiation process for the development of the Minamata Convention on mercury. Prior to UNEP, Brenda worked at Environment and Climate Change Canada on air quality and chemical-related issues.

Brenda holds a Bachelor in Environmental Engineering and a Master's degree in Environmental Management.

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