



# CHEMICALS & PLASTICS FACT SHEET

**Medicines, detergents, textiles and plastics. Just a few of the thousands of finished products in which petrochemicals are a key ingredient – and which an increasing number of people around the world enjoy and need.**

## WHY CHEMICALS?

Shell produces base chemicals (ethylene, propylene, and aromatics), which are the raw materials for these finished products. And our intention is to produce more. Our Chemicals business is one of two growth priorities for us, and part of Shell's strategy to thrive through the energy transition.

## WHY PLASTICS?

Plastics provide important health, safety and sustainability benefits. They help to improve living standards, hygiene and nutrition around the world.

They're used widely in healthcare, construction, transport, electronics, agriculture and sport.

Plastics are often associated with disposable and throwaway packaging. But many products have different and long-term uses, for example, as pipes, window frames, sports equipment and roofing.

Most plastics use fewer resources and have a lower carbon footprint than the glass, paper and metal they have replaced. For instance, efficient plastic insulation and lightweight plastic parts in cars and planes save energy and avoid CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. And plastics are integral in the construction of renewable energy, such as wind turbines and solar panels.



## UNMANAGED PLASTIC WASTE

Shell is concerned about the global plastic waste issue. The problem is not with plastics themselves. It's what happens after people use them.

In some places, waste management infrastructure and traditional recycling don't exist or plastic waste is not managed appropriately. As a result, plastic waste can end up as litter.

**Plastics don't belong in our oceans, rivers or landscapes.** They belong in our homes, hospitals, schools and businesses, delivering benefits to hundreds of millions of people around the world every day.

All of society – industry, governments and consumers need to work together to solve this.

## WHAT IS SHELL DOING?

**We want to play an active role in finding lasting solutions to this challenge.**

- We are a leading member of the new global **Alliance to End Plastic Waste**. This major new organisation will advance solutions to eliminate plastic waste in the environment. It includes companies that make, use, sell, process, collect and recycle plastics, as well as NGOs. It has committed over \$1.0 billion, with the goal of investing \$1.5 billion over five years to develop solutions.

[www.endplasticwaste.org](http://www.endplasticwaste.org)

It has four strategic pillars and has already started initial projects and collaborations.



INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION EDUCATION CLEAN-UP

- We are **exploring process technologies** that could transform post-use plastic into liquids that could be used as a source of energy, as chemicals or as new products.

## INDIVIDUAL LINES OF BUSINESS

- **Retail** is helping its service stations reduce, reuse and repurpose waste across its operations and supply chain. Initiatives range from incentivising the use of reusable cups and bags, to converting plastic waste into eco-bricks and solar lights.
- **Lubricants** is reducing, reusing and recycling packaging across its supply chains and exploring different and more sustainable packaging solutions. These include new packaging formats and dispensing and refill solutions.
- **Chemicals** is collaborating with local groups in the Pennsylvania community where it's building a polyethylene resin plant – to encourage more plastics collection, recycling and education.
- **Real Estate** has introduced a range of activities to help Shell employees and contractors to reduce, reuse and recycle at offices around the world.

