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MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION

A circular economy for ~~less~~ no plastic wasted.

SEA of Solutions 2021
Session 5

Ambrogio Miserocchi - Senior Policy Officer
17 November 2021

The Global Commitment 2021

Progress
Report





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KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE 2021 REPORT

1

After decades of growth, **virgin plastic use appears to have peaked** for Global Commitment brands and retailers and is set to fall faster by 2025

2

Progress has been largely driven by recycling, **but that is not enough to solve plastic pollution** – much more focus must urgently go to eliminating single use packaging

3

A large number of businesses and countries are supportive of a global agreement on plastic pollution, recognising **voluntary initiatives alone will not be enough**



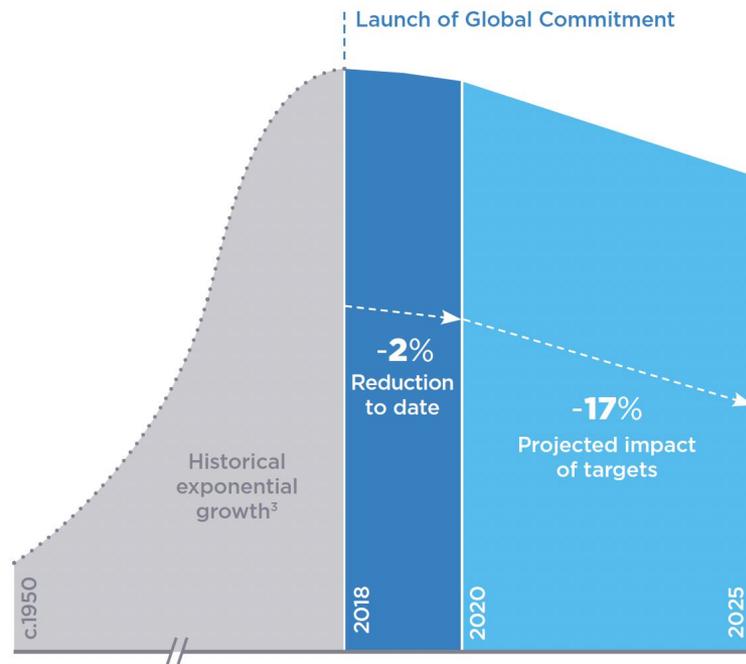
NEW
PLASTICS
ECONOMY

Why a peak in virgin is important , and why do we need to set ambitious reduction targets?

1

Virgin plastic use appears to have peaked

Estimated trajectory of the weight of virgin plastic in packaging for brand and retail signatories 2018-2025



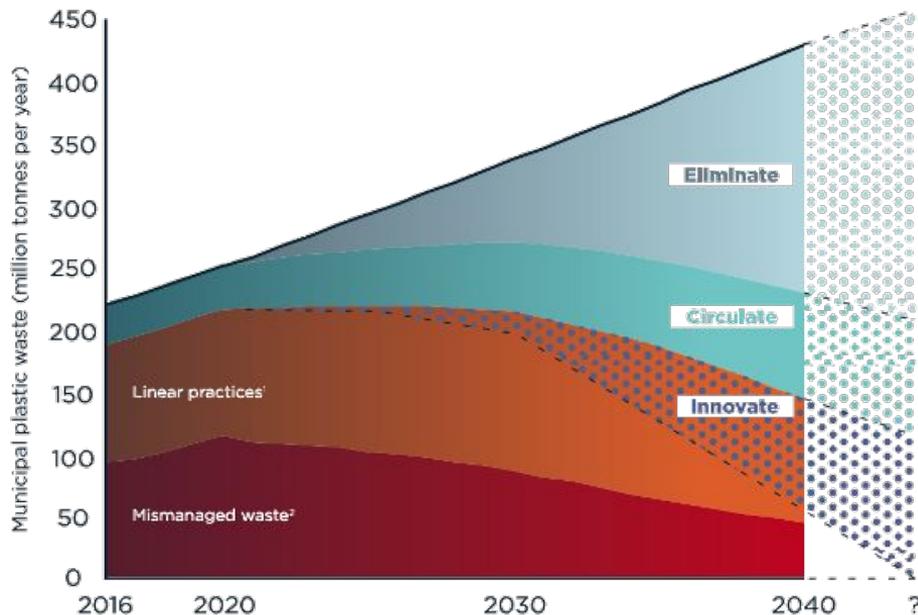


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A comprehensive circular economy approach to plastics is needed

1

Virgin plastic use appears to have peaked



Based on data from *Breaking the Plastic Wave* study by The Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ (2020)

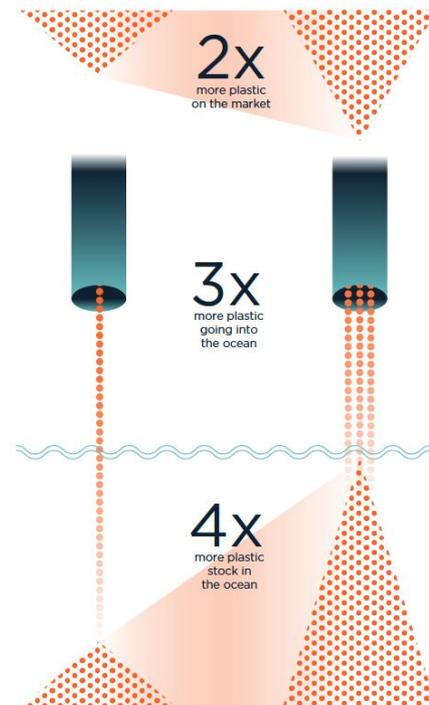
¹ Including landfilling, incineration, and conversion of plastic to fuel or energy

² Including open burning, leakage into the environment and into the ocean

³ Solid lines represent the outcomes of the analytical modeling of the *Breaking the Plastics Wave* study. Dashed lines and dotted shading are illustrative, representing the impact of innovation and the impact of continued eliminate and circulate efforts beyond 2040

2016

2040



Based on data from *Breaking the Plastic Wave* study by The Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ (2020)



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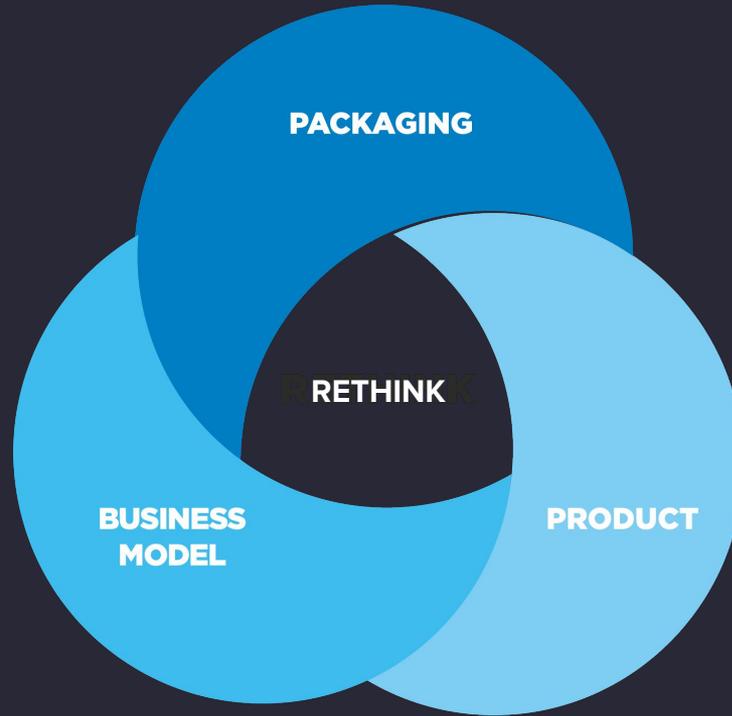
We need a shift in mindset to go beyond recycling



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2

Recycling is
not enough
to solve
plastic
pollution



UPSTREAM INNOVATION MINDSET



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Applying the upstream innovation mindset can help to achieve three key circular economy innovation **strategies**

2

Recycling is not enough to solve plastic pollution



ELIMINATE



INNOVATE
(e.g. reuse models)



CIRCULATE



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Extended Producer Responsibility: a necessary part of the solution to packaging waste and pollution

3

Voluntary
initiatives
alone will
not be
enough



More than 100 leading business has endorsed a statement recognising EPR as a crucial and necessary part in the transition to a circular economy.



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A large number of business and countries are supportive of a global agreement on plastic pollution

3

Voluntary
initiatives
alone will
not be
enough

**Business manifesto calling for a UN plastic treaty
80 leading companies**

**Ministerial declarations considering such a global policy framework
> 2/3 of UN member states**

**Citizens' petition for an international legally binding agreement
> 2 million people**



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Five universal circular economy policy goals to create a **comprehensive policy framework**

3

Voluntary
initiatives
alone will
not be
enough

GOAL 5
COLLABORATE FOR
SYSTEM CHANGE

GOAL 1
STIMULATE DESIGN FOR
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

GOAL 2
MANAGE RESOURCES
TO PRESERVE VALUE

GOAL 4
INVEST IN INNOVATION,
INFRASTRUCTURE,
AND SKILLS

GOAL 3
MAKE THE
ECONOMICS WORK



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ECONOMY



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Thank you!

ambrogio.miserocchi@emf.org