

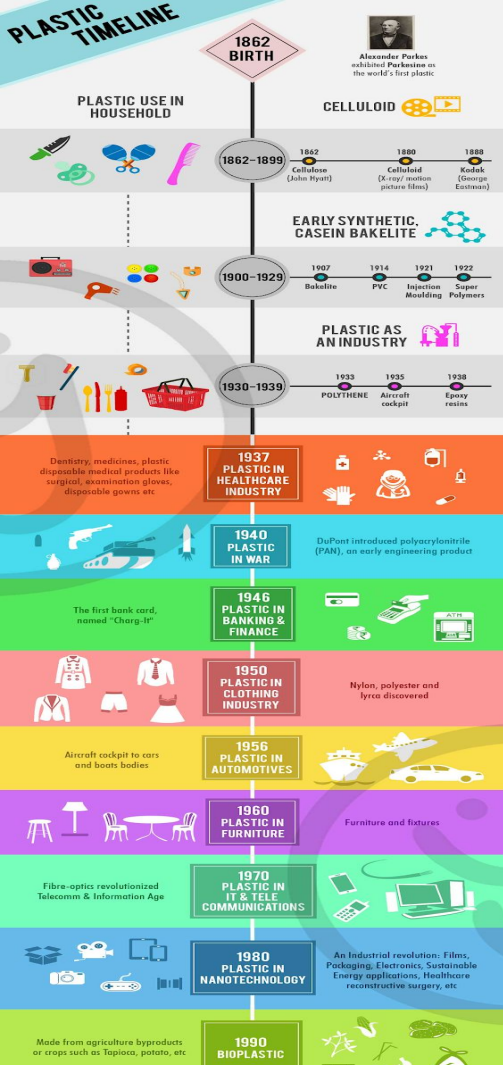
Plastic

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

Thank you for joining us!
The webinar will begin shortly.

Order of Events:
Introduction
Plastic Overview
Panelist Discussion
Q&A





History of Plastic

- 1869 - Celluloid - 1st plastic
- 1907 - Bakelite - 1st fully synthetic plastic
- WWII - plastic production 300% increase
- 1960s - concerns over plastic arise
- 1980s - plastic recycling starts

Source: <https://www.sciencehistory.org/the-history-and-future-of-plastics>,
<http://tryforgood.com/plastic-timeline-the-good-and-the-evil/>

Plastic Production

In 2015, around 322 million tons of plastic were produced worldwide.

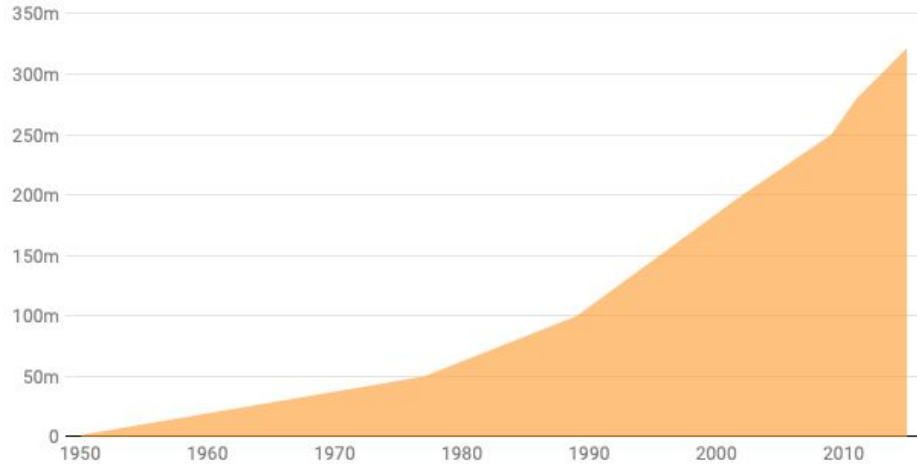


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Plastics Europe • [Get the data](#)

What are plastics used for?

More than one-third of the plastic polymers produced in 2015 were used for packaging. That category also generated the most waste.

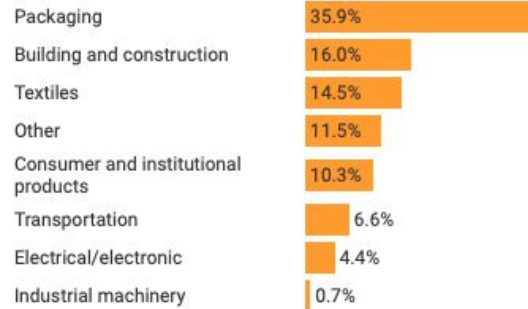


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: [Science Advances \(2017\)](#) • [Get the data](#)

Source: <https://theconversation.com/the-world-of-plastics-in-numbers-100291>

Impacts on the Environment & Us

- Animals mistake plastic as food
- Habitat loss & entanglement
- Plastic doesn't biodegrade => microplastic
- Microplastics are almost everywhere
- Litter => ocean pollution



Source: <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/is-plastic-a-threat-to-your-health>
<https://www.consumerreports.org/health-wellness/how-to-eat-less-plastic-microplastics-in-food-water/>

Plastic Recycling

- Recycling is dependent on markets
- Usually cheaper to make plastic from virgin materials
- Plastic degrades each time it is recycled



Source: https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/897692090/how-big-oil-misled-the-public-into-believing-plastic-would-be-recycled?utm_source=pocket-newtab, <https://lexiscleankitchen.com/ways-to-reduce-plastic/>

Today's Panelists on Plastic



Nick Lapis
Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste



Julia Au
Outreach & Communications Manager
RethinkWaste



Michael Brownrigg
Burlingame City Councilmember
RethinkWaste Boardmember



Additional Resources

RethinkWaste → rethinkwaste.org | <http://bit.ly/plasticinfosheet>

Californians Against Waste → cawrecycles.org

Thrive Alliance Plastic Research → <http://bit.ly/thrivealliance>

Plastics Free Initiative → <https://plasticsfreeca.org/>

NPR Plastics Article → <https://n.pr/37H7dzp>

PBS Frontline Plastic Wars Episode → <https://to.pbs.org/34vDJCy>



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