

Greening the Plastic Industry in Pakistan

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Abstract

Greening of the plastic industry in Pakistan may be regarded as the most difficult and challenging task. The country's plastic footprint goes across the world as 50% of the exported plastics circulating the world are produced here. The plastic industry contributes 15% to the country's GDP and 65% of the total waste. Its people waste 3.3 million tons of plastic of which 55 billion single use plastic bags constitute a major part. Plastics per capita consumption is increasing at a 2.4 percent and the plastic industry growing at 15% per year. A lot of manufacturing is done using plastic waste imported from other countries. The problem is that plastic recycling is almost unknown in the country and greening its manufacturing has hardly been even a second thought. The plastic manufacturers powerfully resist the idea of going green or opening to environmental accountability. Pakistan's partnerships with World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership and the World Bank's Green Punjab program are the beginnings the outcomes of which will unfold in a few years. Carbon capture, storage, recycling and the use of green hydrogen or green electricity are under consideration in Pakistan to reduce emissions in plastic manufacturing.