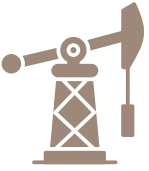


Chemical Recycling

Pro-plastic industries market “chemical recycling” as the solution to plastic waste.
Here’s what the evidence really shows.

Industry Claims	VS	Reality
 Chemical recycling can recycle plastic waste		Only <u>0.1% - 14%</u> of plastic processed at chemical recycling facilities can be manufactured into new plastic products. Most plastic waste is broken down into oils, gases, fuel, chemicals, and hazardous waste. This material is ultimately burned.
 Chemical recycling makes hard-to-manage plastic recyclable		Chemical recycling <u>doesn’t eliminate the problems</u> that make all plastic (including plastic film) difficult to recycle. Different resin types, additives, adhesives, food residue, and other contaminants interfere with the already flawed technology.
 Chemical recycling reduces the demand for fossil fuels		Chemical recycling relies heavily on <u>fossil fuels</u> . The small amount of feedstock that can be turned into new plastics must be mixed with large amounts of new fossil fuel-derived material to create new plastics.
 Chemical recycling helps address climate change		These technologies are energy-intensive, emit substantial greenhouse gases, and have environmental impacts far <u>worse than conventional plastic production</u> . The real solution is to reduce our dependence on fossil-fuel based plastic – not building more infrastructure to process it.
 Chemical recycling is good for the environment		Chemical recycling doesn’t eliminate plastic’s toxic chemicals – it can spread them. Facilities can release <u>hazardous air pollution</u> and generate <u>hazardous waste</u> containing substances like benzene, lead, mercury, arsenic, and dioxins. Communities near these facilities are left to bear the environmental and health risks.
 Chemical recycling is not incineration		Chemical recycling technologies may heat plastic without directly burning it, but much of what they produce is ultimately used as fuel. That fuel is burned on-site to power the facility or is shipped elsewhere to be burned – turning plastic waste into another source of pollution.
 Chemical recycling is a solution to plastic pollution		Plastic pollution is a production problem. Presenting chemical recycling as a solution gives producers a reason to manufacture more disposable plastic. But chemical recycling doesn’t make that waste disappear. Facilities still generate char, ash, and other hazardous waste that must be landfilled, while much of their output becomes fuel that is ultimately burned.
 Chemical recycling is a manufacturing process		These facilities handle plastic waste. They don’t manufacture anything but pollution. Classifying them as manufacturing operations exempts them from solid waste regulations designed to protect communities and the environment.