

01 Extraction of raw materials: More than 90% of plastics are made from fossil fuels

The sourcing of raw materials involves the extraction of fossil-based feedstocks such as crude oil, coal or natural gas. Almost all plastics are derived from fossil-based sources. Currently 4-8% of global oil production is used to make plastics, including for material feedstock and the energy required for the production processes. This percentage is predicted to rise to 20 per cent by the year 2050.[1]

Reducing the carbon footprint of the plastics industry should be considered as a critical opportunity to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.[2]

1. Plastics Europe 2023, Cabernard *et al*. 2022.
2. World Economic Forum 2016.

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Photo by Noemie Coissac/Greenpeace: *Greenpeace International together with artist and activist Benjamin Von Wong unveil a 5-metre tall art installation called the #PerpetualPlastic Machine on the banks of the Seine River on Saturday, 27 May 2023 to present a clear message: the Global Plastics Treaty must stop runaway plastic production and use.*