

02 Production of plastics contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions

Plastic production accounts for 85% of known greenhouse gas emissions in the plastics life cycle. Production needs energy-intensive processes in petrochemical plants where feedstocks undergo refining and cracking processes. Refining fossil fuels is responsible for 40% of emissions from the oil and gas supply chain.[1]

In 2015 alone, the combustion of fossil fuels for the global production of plastics led to the release of a total of 1.7 Gt of greenhouse gas emissions.[2]

1. IEA 2018
2. Cabernard *et al*. 2022

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Photo by Sufyan Arshad: *A woman in Mandi Bahauddin Punjab, Pakistan is collecting and grading plastic bottles to sell them in the factory. This is her means to feed her family due to the lack of resources in the region. Some people, like this lady, work for their own survival as well as for the planet by transporting plastic to the recycling factories.*