Greendelta



EcoProfiles: public LCA datasets for recycled plastics in Europe

Chiara De Grandis

Sustainability Consultant and Communications

Julia Cilleruelo Palomero

Sustainability Consultant and Researcher,
Communications

Jonas Hoffmann

Sustainability Consultant and Researcher

Max F. Bringmann

Sustainability Consultant Sustainability Consultant

Agenda

- Introduction
- EcoProfiles: background and new datasets
- Methodology of the Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles
- Showcase
- Outlook
- Q&A

We present ourselves

GreenDelta





Sustainability
Consultant &
Researcher



Julia Cilleruelo Palomero

Sustainability
Consultant &
Researcher,
Communications



Max Bringmann

Sustainability Consultant



Chiara De Grandis

Sustainability
Consultant &
Communications

Introducing GreenDelta



TREASOURCE

SHZE

Sustainability consultancy and research

environmental LCAs, resource criticality, social LCAs, Life Cycle

Costing, Circular Economy

























Database development and distribution



Circularity























Background

- By 2060, plastic production is projected to triple
 - contributing to 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions¹
- Performing Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) of plastic products is crucial for understanding their environmental impacts
- **EcoProfiles** (PlasticsEurope) focus on **cradle-to-gate** analysis for plastics/chemicals to **provide LCI data** (**aggregated**)
 - Description of the technology and product
 - Examines all resource inputs and emissions to air and water during the production process
 - Does not include further processing, product use or end-of-life
 - Assesses the environmental impacts using an LCIA method

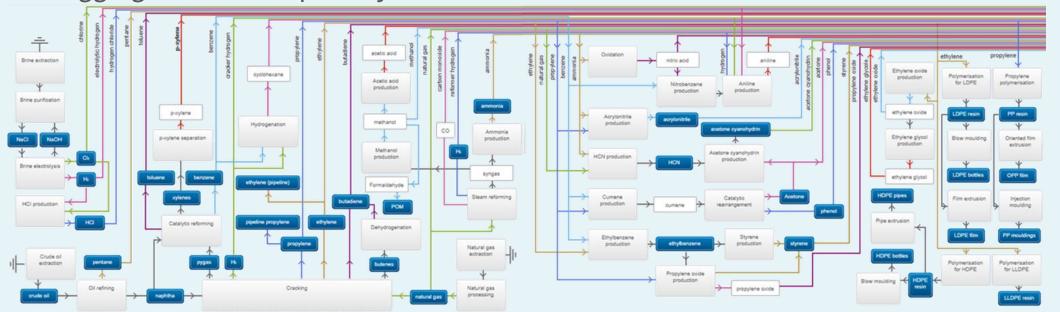


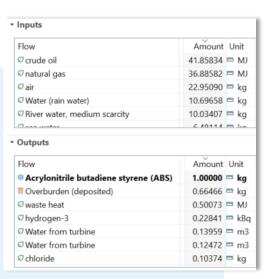
PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the fast Facts, 2024.

1 World Economic Forum The New Plastics Economy—Rethinking the Future of Plastics (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, McKinsey & Company, 2016).

Intro to EcoProfiles

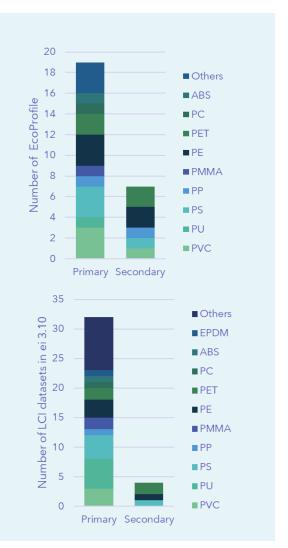
- **EcoProfiles** (PlasticsEurope) focus on **cradle-to-gate** analysis for plastics/chemicals. They **provide LCI data** (**aggregated**).
 - Examines all resource inputs and emissions to air and water during the production process
 - High representation of industrial production capacity
 - Aggregation ff Transparency





LCI data for plastic recyclates

- Existing EcoProfiles and LCI datasets focus on primary materials
 - Covering rPVC, rPE and rPET etc. from SRP (upon request)
 - Mostly secondary rPET and rHPDE (ei 3.11, license)
- Current EcoProfiles are aggregated, limiting updates and detailed supply chain analysis
- The PRIMUS project addresses this by creating new EcoProfiles for high-value recyclates (rABS, rHIPS, rPP) using European industry data
 - Data contributes to the circular economy and sustainable development
 - Enables environmental benchmarking against industry averages
 - Supports eco-design by informed decisions in product development

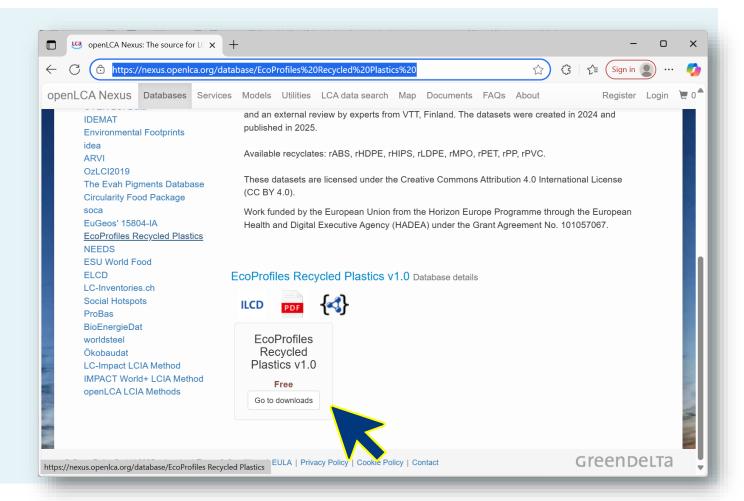


New EcoProfiles for recycled plastics – What do they look like?

Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles ILCD v1 12.8 MB Inventory for recycled plastics coming from Europe. Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles JSON-LD v1 14.4 MB Inventory for recycled plastics coming from Europe. Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles PDFs v1 14.0 MB zip file with all EcoProfile datasets in PDF format	Name	Compatability	Filesize	Info
Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles PDFs v1 The state of the s	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles ILCD v1	ILCD	12.8 MB	
PDF	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles JSON-LD v1	{< }	14.4 MB	
	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles PDFs v1	PDF	14.0 MB	·

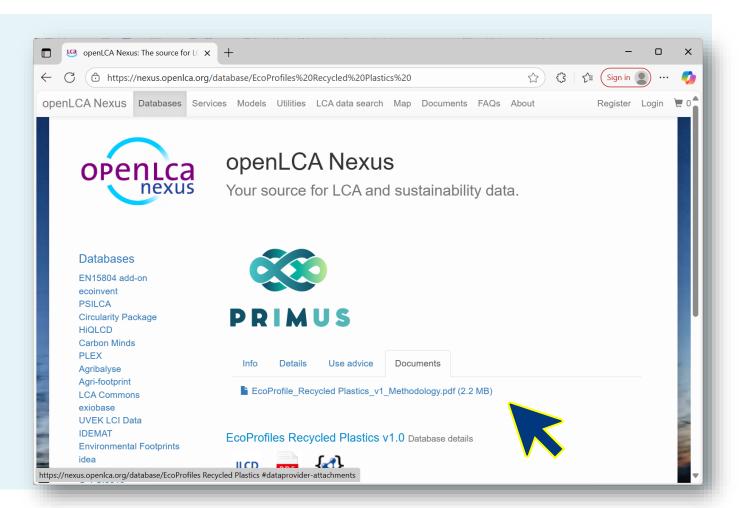
New EcoProfiles for recycled plastics – Where to find them?

 openLCA Nexus https://nexus.openlca.org/dat abase/EcoProfiles%20Recycle d%20Plastics%20



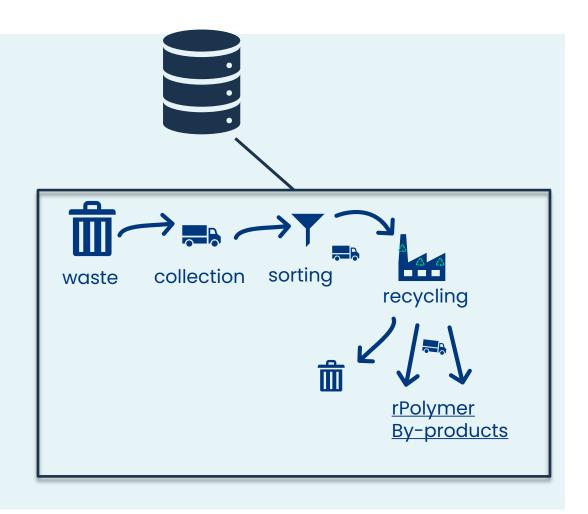
New EcoProfiles for recycled plastics – Documentation

 openLCA Nexus https://nexus.openlca.org/dat abase/EcoProfiles%20Recycle d%20Plastics%20



New EcoProfiles for recycled plastics

- Cradle-to-gate & gate-to-gate Datasets for recycled plastics in Europe
- Primary data collected in 2024 by Plastic Recyclers Europe
- Publicly available
- Free



Funding

PRIMUS

PRIMUS is a European project that aimed to improve the plastic recycling industry with new polymer recycling technologies for automotive and home appliances applications.

Create quality and safe recyclates

Support the use of recycled plastics as safe raw materials

Demostrate application with 4 novel demo cases in automotive and home appliances

Support recyclates market with debromination pretreatment and analytics



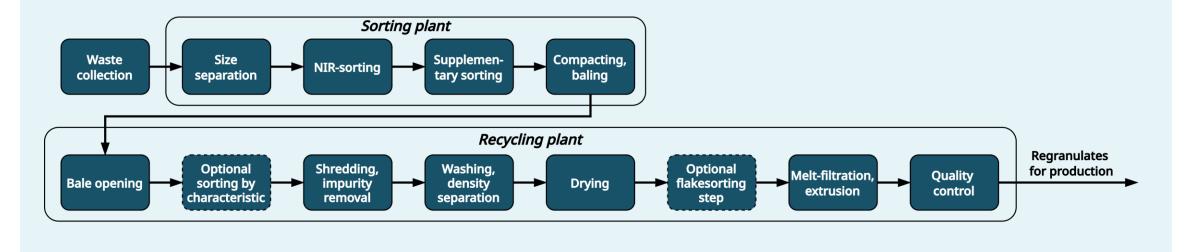


Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or HADEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



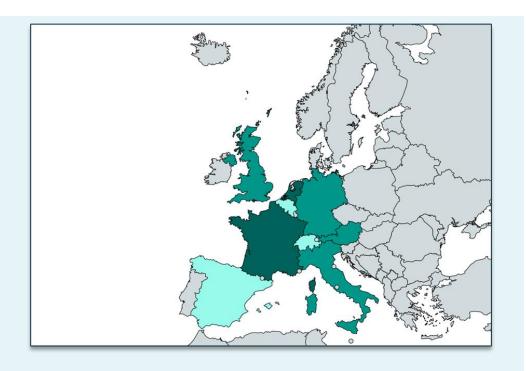
EcoProfiles for Recycled Plastics

- Mechanically recycled plastics produced in Europe
- The full list of polymers is: rABS, rHDPE, rHIPS, rLDPE, rMPO, rPET, rPP and rPVC
- We produced **50 EcoProfiles** for recyclates



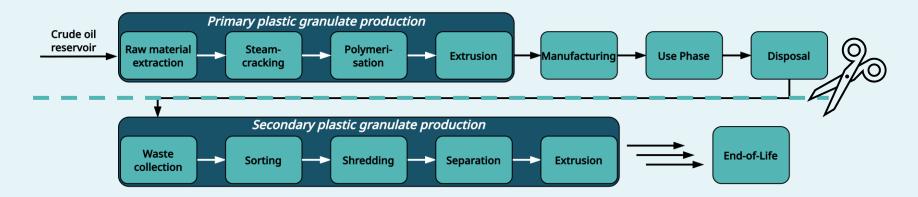
Data Collection

- 22 recycling sites in 9 European countries
- Coverage of 2.8 29.6%
- Polymers as **granulates** or **flakes**
 - Waste streams are comprised of household, industrial, WEEE, ELV, and construction sectors
 - No data on quality
 - Washing chemicals, flotation, water, energy, transport
- **Collection and Sorting is not primary data**



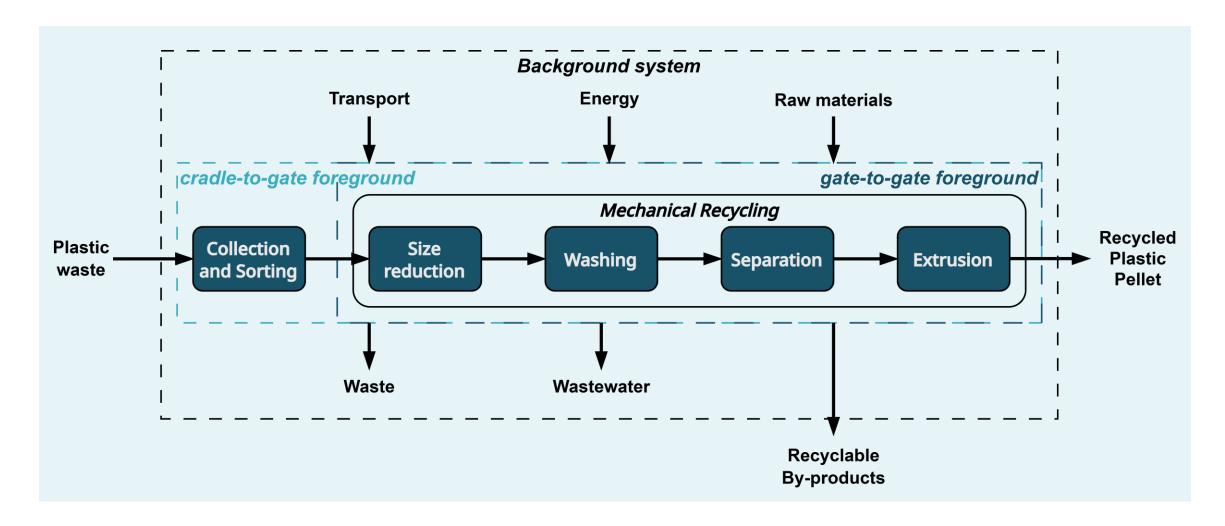
Principal Approach and Assumptions

Cut-off between first and second life cycle

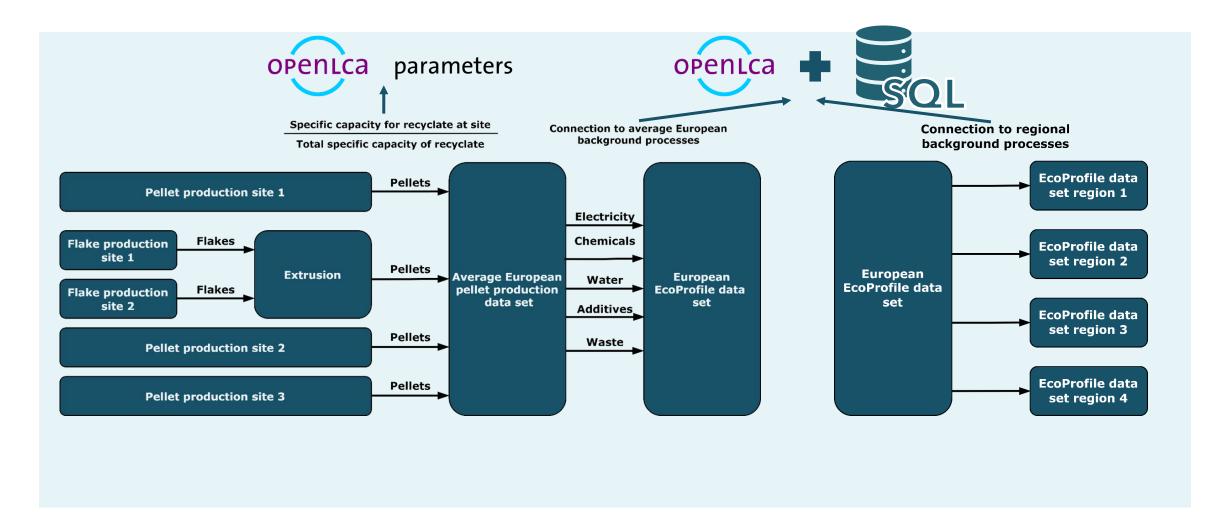


- Multifunctionality: Physical allocation based on mass
- Waste stream information lost because of Confidentiality

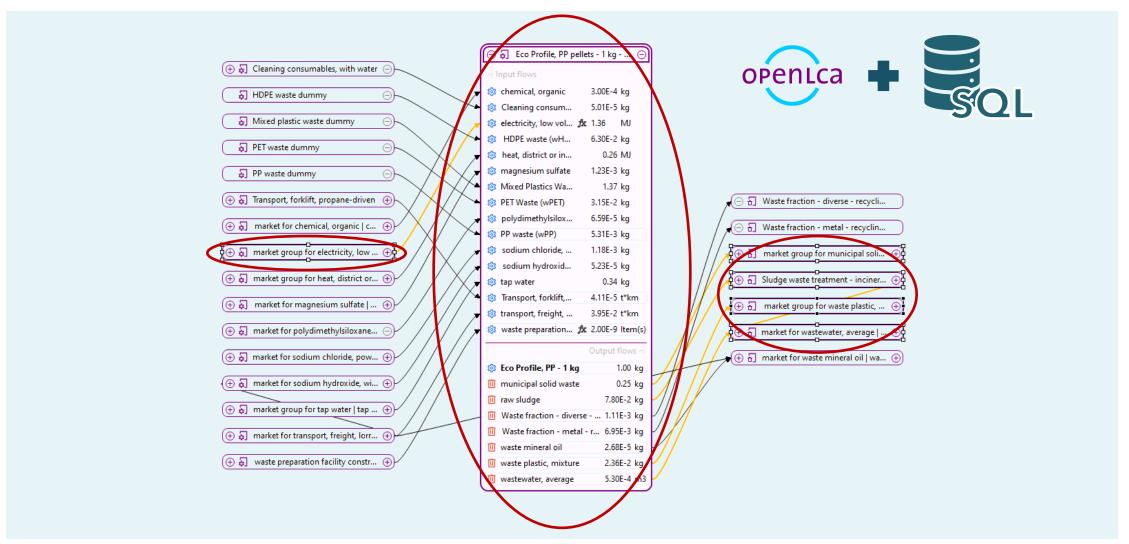
System Boundaries



Aggregation and Regionalisation

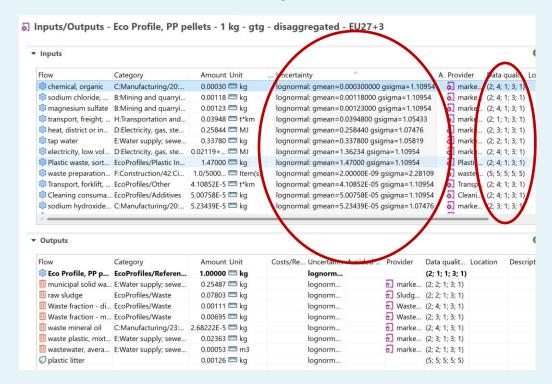


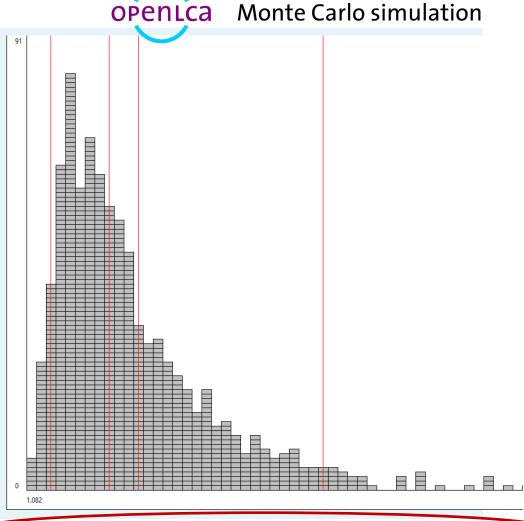
Regionalisation in openLCA



Our Approach to Aggregation Issues

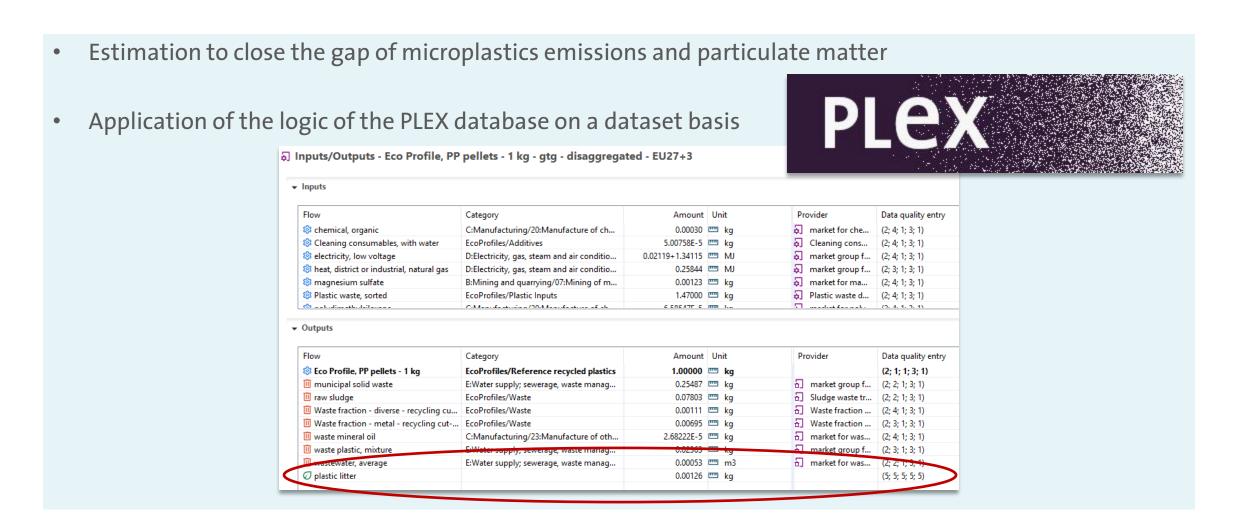
- Quality of the produced recyclate not quantified
- Variation of inventory data





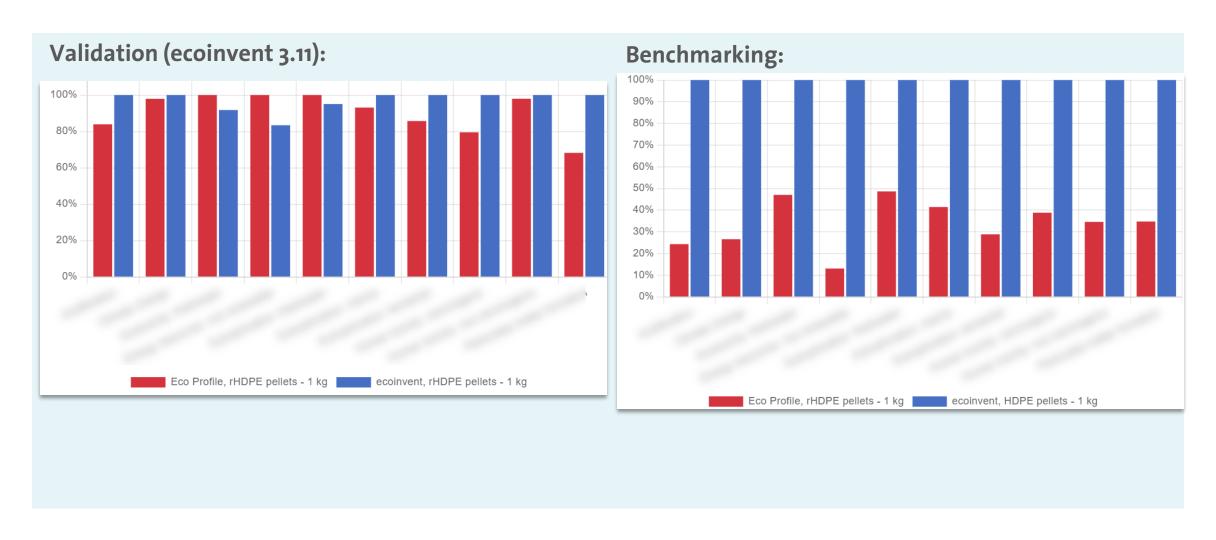
Results: 1000 Mean: 2,249 Standard deviation: 1,113 5% percentile: 1,308 95% percentile: 4,062 Median: 1,935

Additional Data – Plastic Littering Risk



Validation and Benchmarking using openica projects





Review

- Review through independent experts from VTT
- Methodology, individual reports and exemplary data set
- Verification of process inventories and LCIA results
- Confirms the applicability of the method for future dataset production process



What is Available?

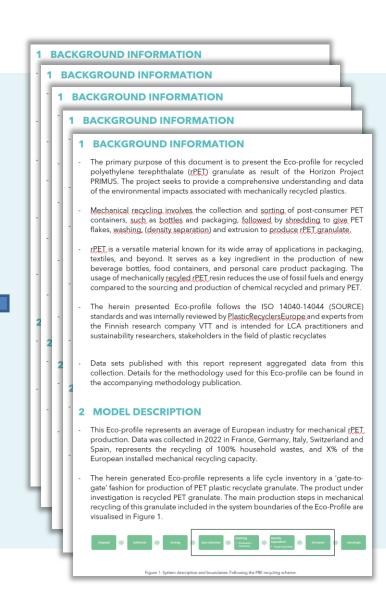


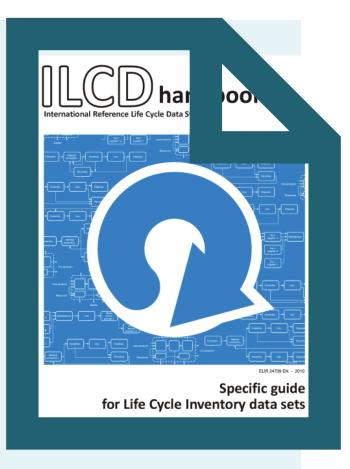
EcoProfile Methodology for Plastic Recyclates

Jonas Hoffmann, Max Bringmann, Andreas Ciroth GreenDelta GmbH March 2025 Version 1.2

LCA method overview	
Background database	Ecoinvent v3.10
Dataset type	Cut-off, unit processes
Declared unit	'Production of 1 kg of mechanically recycled polymer pellets (or flakes) []'
ISO conformity	ISO 14040 and 14044 structure, internal review
LCIA method	Environmental Footprint 3.1
Software	openLCA 2.4
System boundary	Cradle-to-gate and gate-to-gate
	Background database Dataset type Declared unit ISO conformity LCIA method Software

Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101057067







Methodology Report



EcoProfile Methodology for Plastic Recyclates

Jonas Hoffmann, Max Bringmann, Andreas Ciroth GreenDelta GmbH March 2025 Version 1.2

LCA method overview	
Background database	Ecoinvent v3.10
Dataset type	Cut-off, unit processes
Declared unit	'Production of 1 kg of mechanically recycled polymer pellets (or flakes) []'
ISO conformity	ISO 14040 and 14044 structure, internal review
LCIA method	Environmental Footprint 3.1
Software	openLCA 2.4
System boundary	Cradle-to-gate and gate-to-gate

Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101057067



Contents

	1	introd	luction and Overali Picture	/
	2	Roles	and Responsibilities1	0
	3	Purpo	se of this Document1	0
	4	Back	round and Data1	1
	5	State-	of-the-art Mechanical Recycling	2
	5.1	F	Recovery of Plastic Waste	13
		5.1.1	Mechanical Recycling for Packaging Plastic Waste1	3
		5.1.2	Mechanical Recycling for WEEE Plastic Waste	4
		5.1.3	Sustainability Considerations	5
	5.2	\	NEEE plastics (ABS, HIPS)	6
		5.2.1	Introduction	6
		5.2.2	Recycling Process1	7
		5.2.3	Sustainability Considerations	7
	5.3	F	PP1	8
		5.3.1	Introduction	8
		5.3.2	Recycling Process	8
		5.3.3	Sustainability Considerations	8
	5.4	F	Rigid PVC	9
		5.4.1	Introduction	9
		5.4.2	Recycling Process	9
		5.4.3	Sustainability Considerations	9
	5.5	F	PE, HDPE, LDPE2	20
		5.5.1	Introduction	20
		5.5.2	Recycling Process	20
		5.5.3	Sustainability Considerations	20
	5.6	F	PET	21
		5.6.1	Introduction	21
		5.6.2	Recycling Process	1
		5.6.3	Sustainability Considerations	21
	5.7	1	MPO	
		5.7.1	Introduction	
•		5.7.2	Recycling Process	2
	2			

			600
			PRIMU
	5.7.3	Castainability Considerations	2
0	Goal	and Scope	2
6.1		Goal	2
6.2		Scope	2
	6.2.1	Declared Unit	2
	6.2.2	Reference Flow	2
	6.2.3	System Boundaries	2
	6.2.4	Data Quality Requirement	2
	6.2.5		
	6.2.6	Modelling Assumptions	2
	6.2.7		
	A-0	entory, impact Assessment and Selection of Impact Cates.	
7	LCLB	Results	
,			
8	LCIA	Results	4
0	Data	quality, Comparative Analysis and Sensitivity Analysis	
9.1		Data Quality	
9.2		Comparative analysis of produced EcoProfiles and secondary Da	
9.3		Comparative analysis of EU-27+3-averaged datasets	
9.4		Sensitivity Analysis for VOC and PM	
10		ion	
10	1		

Individual EcoProfile Reports



EcoProfile of recycle EU27+3, gate-to-g consumer

Jonas Hoffmann, Max Bringmann, Andre GreenDelta GmbH May 2025

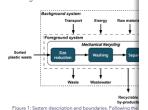
LCA method overview	
Background database	Ecoinven
Dataset type	Cut-off, u
Declared unit	'Producti
	PP pellet
ISO conformity	ISO 1404
LCIA method	Environm
Software	openLCA
System boundary	Gate-to-d

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The primary purpose of this document is to pre-(LCI) and impact assessment (LCIA) for mechpellets as result of the Horizon Project PRIM comprehensive understanding of and dat associated with mechanically recycled plastics
- rPP is a widespread material known for its t commonly used in packaging, automobiles mechanically recycled PP reduces the use of t the production of primary PP.
- Mechanical recycling of WEEE plastics shredding, sorting to remove non-plastics (current separation), grinding, cleaning, dryi
- The documentation of the method followed follows the main principles of the ISO 14040reviewed by PlasticRecyclersEurope and expe Centre of Finland. It is intended for LC researchers and stakeholders in the field of pl
- Details for the methodology used for this accompanying methodology publication. D openLCA Nexus in JSON-LD and ILCD format

2 MODEL DESCRIPTION

- This EcoProfile represents an average of European production. Data was collected from 9 sites in 2022 Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom mix of household, industrial and commercial wastes and 5.58% of the European installed mechanical rec streams. The European coverage has been calci displayed in Table 2 of the accompanying methodol
- The herein generated EcoProfile embodies a life cyc fashion for the production of PP plastic recyclate investigation is 1 kg of recycled PP pellets. Th mechanical recycling are included in the system bou visualised in Figure 1.



The functional unit of the rPP EcoProfile is 'Produc

- recycled PP pellets, obtained from WEEE and unpackaged, representing 5.58% of Europe reference flow of the rPP EcoProfile provided is '1 kg
- Generally, a complete LCI was aimed for, though: secondary outputs had to be cut-off. For multi allocation was used, as described in our methodolo
- The collected primary data was combined with s energy, chemicals, and water) from the ecoinvent 3 life cycle inventory and impacts were calculated usin

3 LCI RESULTS

Table 1. Summary of material and energy in- and outputs of an exen recycled PP pellets with a gate-to-





Table 2. Primary energy demand by carrier using CED method for process for recycled PP pellets with a gat Energy carrie Gas, natural

Coal, brown Oil, crude Energy resources: renewable

¹ This value expresses an aggregation of all polymer waste streams the disaggregated input values per-waste stream in the disaggregat



4 LCIA RESULTS

Table 3. Life cycle impacts of the gate-to-gate cpp model related to 1 kg of pellets Acidification 9.63E-04 ± 1.15E-04 mol H+-Eq Climate change 0.450 ± 0.029 kg CO2-Eq Ecotoxicity: freshwater 2.42 ± 0.20 CTUe 3.47 ± 0.35 Energy resources: non-renewable M.I. net calorific value Eutrophication: freshwater 1.37E-04 ± 1.46E-05 kg P-Eq. 3.69E-04 ± 2.56E-05 1.87E-03 ± 1.93E-04 mol N-Eg 7.81E-10 ± 2.44E-10 Human toxicity: carcinogenia CTUb Human toxicity: non-carcinogenia 4.77E-09 ± 5.82E-10 CTUb Ionising radiation: human health 8 06F-02 + 9 16F-03 kBa U235-Eq 1.68 ± 1.14 Material resources: metals/minerals 2.18E-06 ± 5.78E-07 kg Sb-Eg Ozone depletion 7.90E-08 ± 8.17E-09 kg CFC-11-Eq Particulate matter formation 8 49F-09 ± 8 70F-10 Photochemical oxidant formation; human healt 6.33E-04 ± 5.63E-05 kg NMVOC-Eq. 0.101 ± 0.010 m3 world Eg deprived



² The uncertainty value presented here has been calculated on the foreground data. Details are described in the

Datasets

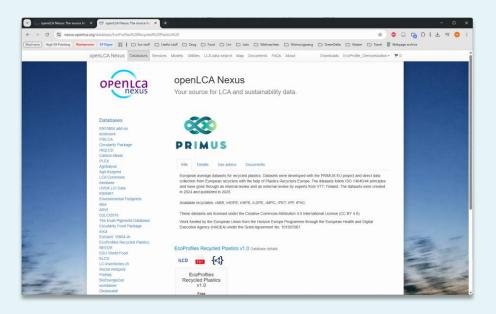
JSON-LD Dataset Showcase in openLCA

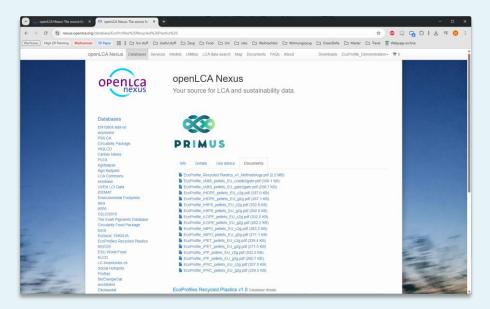
Outcomes of the research project summarised

- Methodology for the creation of average LCI data sets
- 50 EcoProfiles for plastics recyclates
 - Individual reports
 - Full process inventory breakdown
 - CED, plastic littering risk and EF 3.1 life cycle impacts with uncertainty
 - Datasets in ILCD format
 - Aggregated for direct use (with an ecoinvent license)
 - Disaggregated for direct use with ecoinvent 3.10 or use in other databases (free)

Where to find all of this?

On openLCA Nexus, **EcoProfiles Recycled Plastics entry** under Databases





The datasets can be found in the downloads section

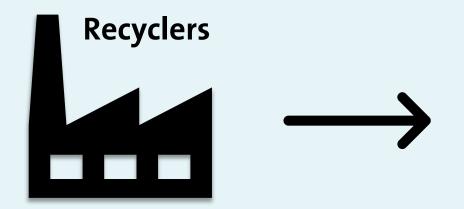
~	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles			
	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles ILCD v1	1	ILCD	Show licence info
	Recycled Plastics EcoProfiles JSON-LD v1	1	JSON-LD	Show licence info



Further Development and Update of EcoProfiles

- Continuation in the STOPP research project
 - Data collection in collaboration with individual recyclers
 - **Deadline**: 31.01.2026

This will likely result in adaptations of the original methodology



A B C D C For the reference year you have chosen, please fill out the following information ### CONTROLL OF THE PROPERTY OF T	## Honse Insert Page Layout Formulas D. ## Agrica Narrow - 11 - ## Agrica Narr	Survey template ICA Greendelta MR2,7012 upustor - Excel a Review View Help Q Tell me what you want to do A B B B Y Wage Fleat A S B B B B Y Wage Fleat A S B B B B Y Wage Fleat A S B B B B Y Wage Fleat A S B B B Wage Fleat A S B B B Wage Fleat A S B W		3 Share V	
For the reference year you have chosen, please fill out the following information	A	В	C	D ^	
WAST CONSUMPTION WAST CONSUMPTION Parameter Amount gains from the Secting Pre-consumer Press consumer Press consumer Press consumer Press consumer Amount gains from the Secting Press consumer Press consumer Press consumer Amount gains from the Secting Press consumer Amount gains from the Secting Note To Press consumer Note To Press consumer Amount gains from the Secting To Construction (packaging) / PREEF FELY / Agriculture / Industrial (packaging) / Other Estimated contamination (Food, L. Construction (packaging) / PREEF FELY / Agriculture / Industrial (packaging) / Other Contamination Level (postional) Amount from the Section of the Se	For the reference year you have chosen, please fill out ti				
Collected waste Amount gainst into the facility Waste Sources Processourcer Processour	WASTE COMING IN				
Pers consumer Pass focuses Pass focuses Pass focus Mark Marce Marce	Parameter	Description	Answer / Value	Unit	
Waste Sources Policy Construence 95	Collected waste			tons/year	
Model Water Type Household [gackaging] / Construction [gackaging] / WEEE / EU/ Agriculture / Industrial [gackaging] / Other Contamination Level (optional) 6 ENERGY CONSUMPTION Energy Carrier Plasse specify in you are using a renewable certified electricity min. if possible Becticity, godinian internal generation Plasse specify in you are using a renewable certified electricity min. if possible With / year Becticity, Consumption from internal generation Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. With / year Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out Plasse specify the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. With your out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Out of the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Water column for the source type, a gleet generator, If you minds, etc. Well Water Consumption Out of the source type, a gleet generator to the source type, a gleet generator					
Waster Type	Waste Sources				
Extracted contamination Level (optional) Set				96	
BRERCY CONSUMPTION Exercispt grain in Exercispt grain in Please specify flyou are using a rememble certified electricity man. If possible With year Exercise grain in Exercis					
ENERGY CONSUMPTION Exercipation Description Description Description Answer / Value Unit Unit Unit Description Please specify if you are using a renewable certified electricity mil. if possible With / year Electricity, formating inform internal generation Please specify the source type, a gleest [generate, PV] permits, etc. With / year Description Please specify the source type, a gleest generate, PV permits, etc. With / year Obers Please specify the source type, a gleest generate, PV permits, etc. With / year Obers Please specify whether you are using matural gas, renewable gas or others Ury generate Others Please specify whether you are using matural gas, renewable gas or others Ury generate Water Consumption Parameter Water Consumption Answer / Value Usit Uppar		96		Estimated contamination (food, li	
Becincity from the Consumption from internal generation Please specify if you are using a remeable certified electricity man. If possible With year Consumption from internal generation Please specify the source page, a glared generation (Please specify the source page and a glared generation (Please specify the source page a glared generation (Plea	ENERGY CONSUMPTION				
Rectificity Consumption from internal generation Please specify the source type, a g, deset generate, Pf pannels, etc. With year			Answer / Value		
Heat Consumption from internal generation Please specify the source type, e.g., direct generation, CFIQ, etc. Os Please specify the source type, e.g., direct generation, CFIQ, etc. Please specify grant using surface and source of the sour					
Gas Plases specifywhether you are using natural gas, renewable gas or others Whit / year Description Plases specify the substance used, if possible Upara Upara Plases specify the substance used, if possible Upara Plases specify the substance used, if possible Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Assert/Value Unit Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Upara Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Upara Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Upara Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Upara VATE VATE CONSUMPTION Upara VATE CONSUMPTION Upara VATE VATE CONSUMPTION Upara VATE VATE VATE VATE VATE VATE VATE VATE					
Desel Please specify Upar Upar Others Please specify Description Upar Upar Upar Upar Upar Upar Upar Upar					
Others Please specify the substance used, if possible Lg / year WATER CONSUMPTION Parameter Description Answer / Value Unit Water retwork Urger Well Urgerr					
WATER CONSUMPTION Parameter Description Answer/Value Usit Water retwork Up Usit Well Up					
WATER CONSUMPTION		Please specify the substance used, if possible		kg/year	
WATER_CONSUMPTION Parameter Description Answer/Value Usit Water retwork // year Well // year					
Parameter Description Answer / Value Unit					
Water network U year Well U year					
Water Consumption and Source.			Answer / Value		
Rain water collection // year	Water Consumption and Source				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Traces consumption and coulded	Rainwatercollection		L/year	
+ Participant information Facility Information What goes in to the facility What comes out of the facility Trans +	+ Participant information Facility Information	mation What goes in to the facility What comes out of the facility Trans (+)			
endy (% Accessibility: Investigate			FF (2)		

Potential Application of the Methodological Principles

