



PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND

Our Oceans 2017



Good Morning Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honored to participate on this panel this morning

And on behalf of the Plastic Solutions Fund would like to thank the European Union and the Government of Malta for this opportunity to announce our intention to raise EURO 12.6 million (\$15 million) over the next three years to combat the problem of single use and other disposable plastic packaging.



The Plastic Solutions Fund was established earlier this year to support non-profit organizations, particularly in Asia, the European Union and the United States, that want to transform plastics packaging supply chains, reducing not only the amount of this plastic that enters the environment, but the amount that is manufactured in the first place.



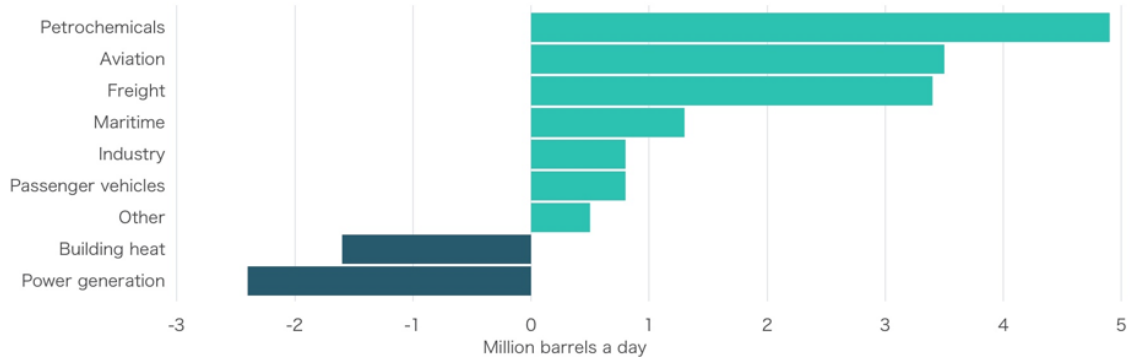
We are all of course familiar with graphs like this one that demonstrate the extent to which plastic, and particularly plastic packaging waste is impacting our Oceans.

The word litter however, as included on this slide, tends to make us think of plastic as trash that that can simply be plucked out of the ocean – our mind immediately goes images of the trash gyres – but macroplastic is only the tip of the iceberg – microplastic formed by the mechanical breakdown of macro plastic – what 5 Gyres Co-Founder Marcus Erikson calls the ‘smog of the sea’ is a much more intractable problem.

And we are quite literally, as HRH the Prince of Wales said, eating plastic as a result...

Plastic Fantastic

Petrochemicals are seen as the strongest source of global oil demand growth in 2015-2040

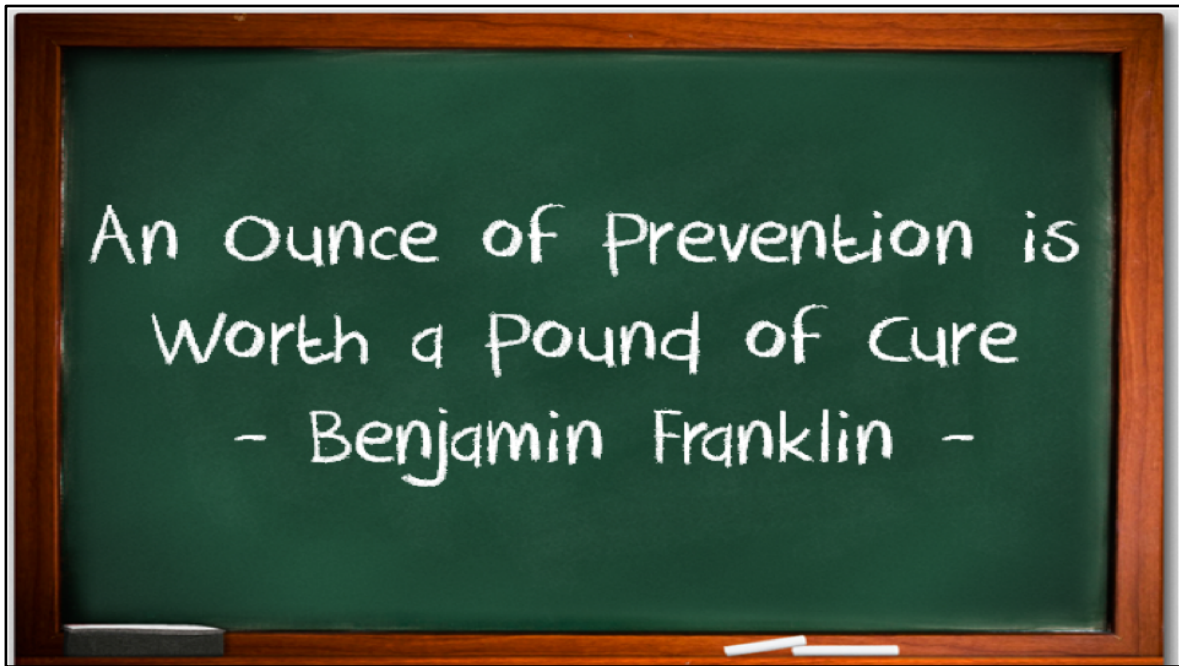


Source: International Energy Agency

But Plastics are not only an oceans problem. They are also a climate problem – with petrochemicals for plastics production set to drive crude oil sales for decades – according to the International Energy Agency they will account for 44% of crude oil demand growth between 2015 and 2040.

In the wake of the Paris Agreement’s commitment to keeping global temperature rise as well below 2 degrees it’s important that petroleum production for all end uses is drawn down.

Furthermore, it is imperative that we destroy the myth that plastic is somehow a net carbon sink, with the US EPA studies showing that “waste to energy” incinerators and landfills contribute far higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions and overall energy throughout their lifecycles than source reduction, reuse and recycling of the same materials.



It is for this reason that the Plastic Solutions Fund is focusing on the upstream drivers of plastic pollution. Although the waste is ending up in the ocean, the problem is coming from, and needs to be solved on land. As they say, an ounce of prevention say is worth a pound of cure.



For this reason, we are supporting cities and communities in 16 high impact sites across Asia to establish zero waste programs that will help prevent more than 868 thousand tons of waste, including more than 173 thousand tons of plastic, from being released into the environment.

As well as providing models of financial and environmental benefits to other cities across Asia.

RETHINK PLASTIC

TOWARDS A FUTURE FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION

RETHINK PLASTIC

RETHINK PLASTIC IS AN ALLIANCE OF LEADING EUROPEAN NGOS WITH ONE COMMON AIM: A FUTURE THAT IS FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION. WE REPRESENT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACTIVE GROUPS, SUPPORTERS AND CITIZENS IN EVERY EU MEMBER STATE. WE BRING TOGETHER POLICY AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FROM A VARIETY OF RELEVANT FIELDS AND ARE PART OF THE GLOBAL BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC MOVEMENT, CONSISTING OF OVER 800 NGOS AND MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WORLDWIDE.

We are supporting organizations and communities in Europe to encourage the European Commission to be a real leader on this issue and set ambitious goals in it's Circular Economy Directive to reduce the production and use of single use plastic.



We are supporting communities around the world to audit not only the type of plastic ending up on their beaches, but who produces it and to start a dialogue with the many companies around the world who's products are polluting the ocean.

As Virginie (previous speaker P&G) said, now is the time for companies to work with their designers and engineers and marketers on innovation and re-design. But it needs to go beyond recycling or new materials; companies need to innovate the way they deliver their products overall.

And we know they can do it because they've done it before. Those of us who live or work in Asia know that multi layer sachets are a relatively new thing – and are a result of companies deciding to deliver their products in a totally new manner – the time has come for them to do that again.



And perhaps most importantly we are supporting 1000s of people and communities from around the world who believe in a world free of plastic pollution to join together to achieve our common vision of social and environmental justice.



PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND

... because there is no 'away'



In our first eight months of operation we have made grants totaling nearly 2.3 million Euro to more than 30 organizations around the world. And with a total of 9m Euro over three years already committed from our founding partner organizations, we are looking forward to at least tripling that investment in the next two years.

In conclusion...

Until recently we have in reality used the oceans as the ultimate trash can. But as we've learned to our cost with carbon dioxide, and as we are increasingly understanding with plastic, there is no away.

And as someone who grew up with the 3-Rs, I'm proud to be playing a role in making the first R – Reduction – which after all is intended to be the largest part of the equation - a reality.

The time has come – as Emily Penn so eloquently articulated (in her speech earlier) to 'turn off the tap'.