



Statement

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2020

Contact: Jennifer Killinger (202) 249-6619

Email: jennifer_killinger@americanchemistry.com

ADVANCED RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES OFFER TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISE

WASHINGTON (June 3, 2020) – *Earlier today, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), released a report on chemical recycling. The American Chemistry Council responded with the following statement, which may be attributed to Keith Christman, managing director of plastic markets:*

Scientists, businesses, and nonprofit organizations around the world are excited about [chemical recycling](#), also known as advanced recycling, because it increases the types and volumes of plastics that can be recycled and repurposed into useful products, while helping to conserve resources such as energy and water.

Closed Loop Partners (CLP), an investment firm focused on building the circular economy, recently found that advanced recycling technologies could [help unlock a \\$120 billion market](#) in the United States and Canada.

Additionally, a [recent peer-reviewed study](#) by Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) found that pyrolysis, a common advanced recycling technology that converts plastics back into basic hydrocarbon building blocks, helps to reduce fossil fuel use by 96 percent and water use by 58 percent throughout a product's life cycle. ANL also determined that 75 percent of plastics processed through pyrolysis were converted into liquid hydrocarbons, the feedstocks for new products such as new plastics, chemicals, waxes and ultra-low-sulfur transportation fuels.

America's plastics makers are committed to eliminating plastic waste and to optimizing the sustainability of our products and operations. We believe that advanced recycling will help to accelerate the modernization of plastics recycling in the United States and around the globe.

Rapidly emerging advanced recycling technologies are already converting a wide variety of traditionally non-recycled post-use plastics into useful fuels or specialty chemicals to make new plastics and other products. Select examples include:

- [Agilyx \(Oregon\) is converting used polystyrene \(PS\) into styrene](#), which Americas Styrenics (Texas) is using to make virgin quality PS plastic

— more —



*ADVANCED RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES OFFER TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISE*

June 3, 2020

Page 2

- [Agilyx also is supplying feedstock to Monroe Energy \(Pennsylvania\)](#) for Delta Airlines to use as jet fuel
- In Tennessee, [Eastman is converting used carpet](#) into high quality polyester
- In Louisiana, [Shell is using pyrolysis oil from Nexus](#) (Georgia) as a feedstock for new chemicals
- Brightmark is nearing completion of its [first plastic conversion project \(Indiana\)](#) that will divert 100,000 tons per year of mixed plastics from landfills, giving them renewed use in the form of liquids, waxes and fuels.
- In Europe, [SABIC and Plastic Energy](#) are converting low-value mixed plastics into new plastics used in food, beverage, and home-care packaging.

Since China said it would stop importing mixed used plastics in mid-2017, the private sector has announced nearly \$5 billion in investments to modernize plastics recycling in the United States, roughly 80 percent of which is aimed at advanced recycling.

###

<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$553 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

