

ISOPA Statement on Chemical Recycling

With the European Green Deal, the EU aims to become climate-neutral by 2050. This objective to become an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions means that all members of society will have to play a role, including the producers of diisocyanates and polyols.

For the chemical industry, a key driver to deliver on these objectives is to follow the Circular Economy as a guiding principle. The idea behind a circular model is to recover the raw materials that were used to manufacture products and to use the waste as a raw material again. For our industry, that can be achieved with chemical recycling.

Chemical recycling¹ breaks down plastic waste into chemical substances, including monomers. The resulting feedstocks form valuable chemical building blocks from which novel plastic materials can be produced.

Products derived from chemical recycling have properties and characteristics similar to those of virgin products and meeting existing demanding standards and requirements, which is an advantage in comparison to other technologies such as mechanical recycling.

In addition to chemical and mechanical recycling, acceptance of third-party certified attributed recycled content via mass balance approach is needed in the transition towards a full circular economy

ISOPA and its member companies are committed to move from a linear model toward a circular model and to support and promote chemical recycling. By pursuing this path with commitment and consistency, we will help deliver the Green Deal ambitions for a more sustainable planet and a safer society.

¹ Chemical recycling converts polymeric waste by changing its chemical structure to produce substances that are used as products or as raw materials for the manufacturing of products. Products exclude those used as fuels or means to generate energy (CEFIC)