

## Further to the Circular Plastics Alliance Declaration

Municipal Waste Europe represents the provision and providers of the service of general interest that is waste management.

As representatives of waste management, we are pleased to co-sign the Circular Plastics Alliance Declaration as we agree with its intentions however we find that its ambitions are not high enough. In particular as the goal is to achieve recycling of 10 million tons of plastics by 2030 and per year thereafter, while already now yearly production is 26 million tons worldwide and forecast to grow; the declaration's goal does not even aim to tackle today's 50% 10 years from now.

We have co-signed this document as a signal that the providers of public waste management services are prepared to work alongside the producers of plastics and plastic products to reduce their environmental impact, prevent where needed and improve their recyclability. This is done on the understanding that each party to the declaration takes full responsibility of their part in the value chain so that true progress can be made. To be precise, the waste management sector cannot correct mistakes that occur earlier in the value chain but, provided with high quality, recyclable waste plastics in sufficient quantities, will be able to produce high quality secondary polymers and plastics. This requires coordination along the whole value chain and the proper functioning of extended producer responsibility schemes.

In this light, in addition to the pledges made in the declaration, Municipal Waste Europe expects the Alliance to work on:

1. prevention measures: to prevent litter and reduce the overall polymer types entering the market which will enable economies of scale to be reached in their reprocessing;
2. eco-design to design out additives and hazardous substances which reducing recyclability and cause harm to the environment and human health;
3. increase of recycled content (replacing virgin material) in new plastics and plastic products;
4. increase of the number of recycling loops possible

We should be striving for a full circular economy for plastics. We would therefore like to stress that the intentions of the declaration can only be a start, not the final goal.