

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

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NOTICE

>>> ANNUAL RETURN FILING DEADLINE FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING EPR EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 30, 2024 FOR FY 2023-24

Source: SGS

In a significant update, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has announced an extension in the timeline for filing the Annual Return (AR) by registered Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) as well as Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) for the fiscal year 2023-24. According to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines notified by MoEF&CC as the IV Amendment to the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules on February 16, 2022, PIBOs and PWPs who were registered during the fiscal year 2022-24 on the EPR Plastic Portal are required to file their Annual Returns for FY 2023-24 by September 30, 2024, respectively. However, following the issuance of an Office Memorandum (OM) dated June 18, 2024, by MoEF&CC, it has been officially communicated that the deadline for filing the Annual Return on the EPR portal for plastic packaging for the FY 2023-24 has been extended to **November 30, 2024**, for both PIBOs and PWPs registered during the year FY 2023-24.

>>> INC-5: HOPE AND CHALLENGES AT UN'S FINAL PLASTIC POLLUTION MEETING

Source: [Plastic Recycling Updates](#)

The fifth and final United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) meeting on plastic pollution began on November 25 in Busan, South Korea, with a mix of urgency and optimism. This pivotal event aims to finalize a global treaty on plastic pollution, with a focus on protecting marine environments, by the end of 2024.

Delegates face pressure to reach consensus, with South Korea's Environment Minister Kim Wan Sup urging, "We must end plastic pollution before it ends us." Despite progress at previous meetings, key disagreements linger, particularly over capping plastic production and regulating harmful chemicals in plastics.

The U.S. delegation initially showed openness to production limits but has since reversed its stance, favoring market-driven solutions. Environmental advocates have criticized this approach, with some warning that U.S. hesitation could undermine global efforts.

The negotiations are divided into sub-groups tackling issues like plastic waste management, sustainable product design, and financing. However, debates over whether measures should be legally binding or voluntary have slowed progress. For example, discussions on managing existing plastic pollution remain unresolved.

Observers and civil society groups have also raised concerns over limited access to negotiation rooms, calling it a barrier to transparency and inclusivity. Indigenous communities, waste pickers, and other stakeholders stressed that their participation brings crucial insights to the treaty process. With the clock ticking, INC-5 delegates must navigate these challenges to meet their deadline. As one delegate summarized, "Bold political will is essential to finalize a treaty that can truly tackle plastic pollution worldwide."

»» BSWML TO FLOAT TENDERS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANTS

Source:Deccan Herald

Bengaluru's Solid Waste Management Initiatives: Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) is set to issue tenders for establishing integrated solid waste management facilities at four locations in the city. This project aims to address the city's daily generation of around 5,000 tons of waste, much of which currently ends up in landfills due to inadequate processing capacity. However, BSWML faces challenges in securing land for these facilities, as initial proposed sites were dropped due to local opposition

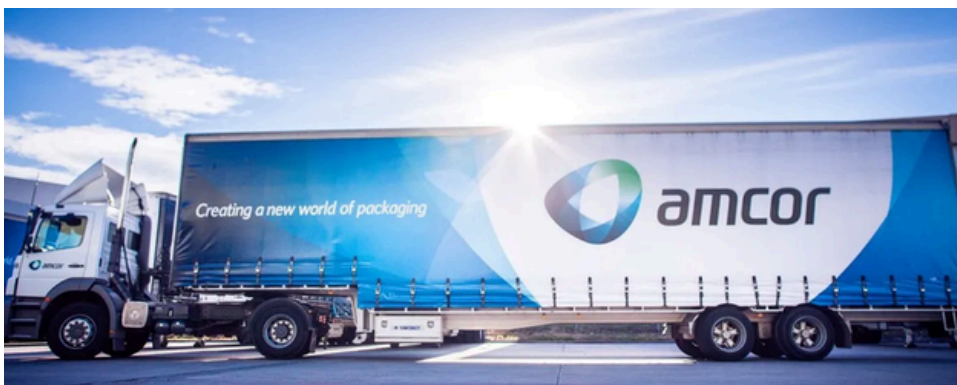


»» AMCOR TO ACQUIRE BERRY GLOBAL IN \$8.4 BILLION DEAL TO LEAD GLOBAL PACKAGING MARKET

Source:Packaging dive

Amcor has announced plans to acquire Berry Global in an \$8.4 billion all-stock deal, aiming to strengthen its position in consumer and healthcare packaging. The transaction, expected to close in mid-2025, will make Amcor the dominant player in the global packaging industry, with combined annual revenues of \$24 billion.

Under the deal, Amcor shareholders will own 63% of the new company, while Berry shareholders will hold 37%. Amcor's CEO, Peter Konieczny, will lead the combined business. The companies believe this merger will create a packaging giant with unmatched global reach, operating in over 140 countries with 400 production sites and 70,000 employees.



The deal marks the largest acquisition in Amcor's history and follows Berry's strategic shift to focus on consumer packaging. While the merger will not immediately change Amcor's name or headquarters in Zurich, it will also establish a significant presence in Berry's home city of Evansville, Indiana.

The new company aims to innovate with sustainable packaging solutions, offering products that use more recycled materials and support eco-friendly practices. This deal is expected to drive growth in key sectors such as healthcare, food, and beauty packaging.

PLASTIC RECYCLING



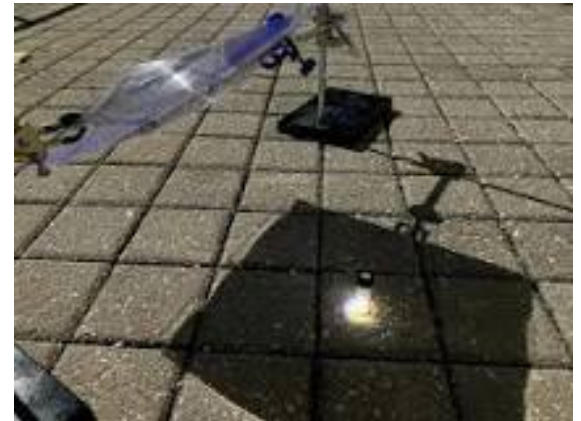
»» USING SUNLIGHT TO RECYCLE BLACK PLASTICS

Source: Science Daily

Recycling black plastics like coffee cup lids and foam containers has long been a challenge due to the color additives that hinder sorting. But now, researchers have found a way to use sunlight or LED light to transform black and colored polystyrene waste into reusable materials, offering a breakthrough in sustainable recycling.

The key lies in carbon black, an additive already present in these plastics. When exposed to intense white LEDs or focused sunlight, carbon black converts light into heat, breaking polystyrene into smaller chemical components called styrene. These components can then be recycled into new plastic products, completing the recycling loop.

Using sunlight outdoors, the team achieved an impressive 80% efficiency, far higher than LEDs. Even waste contaminated with food residues was recyclable. This innovative method could revolutionize plastic recycling, turning previously non-recyclable items into valuable resources while reducing landfill waste.



»» EXXONMOBIL AND CYCLYX BOOST TEXAS RECYCLING CAPACITY

Source: Plastic Recycling Updates

ExxonMobil is significantly expanding its plastic recycling efforts in Texas. By 2026, the energy giant will add 350 million pounds of chemical recycling capacity, bringing its total U.S. recycling capability to 500 million pounds annually. The new facilities will be located at Baytown and Beaumont, complementing the Baytown plant that began operations in 2022 and has already processed over 70 million pounds of plastic waste.

ExxonMobil uses advanced recycling, also known as chemical recycling, to transform hard-to-recycle plastics into raw materials for new products like packaging and high-quality polymers. Globally, the company aims to reach 1 billion pounds of recycling capacity by 2027, with projects planned in Europe, Asia, and North America.



Supporting ExxonMobil's efforts, Cyclyx, a joint venture with Agilyx and LyondellBasell, collects and prepares plastic waste as feedstock. Cyclyx is constructing its second processing center near Fort Worth, set to process 300 million pounds of plastic annually by 2026.

While these initiatives offer potential solutions to the plastic waste crisis, chemical recycling remains controversial. Critics argue it is not traditional recycling and question its environmental benefits. ExxonMobil, however, continues to champion the technology, addressing global plastic pollution challenges.

RULES/POLICY

»»» CPCB TIGHTENS RULES TO COMBAT PLASTIC WASTE VIOLATIONS

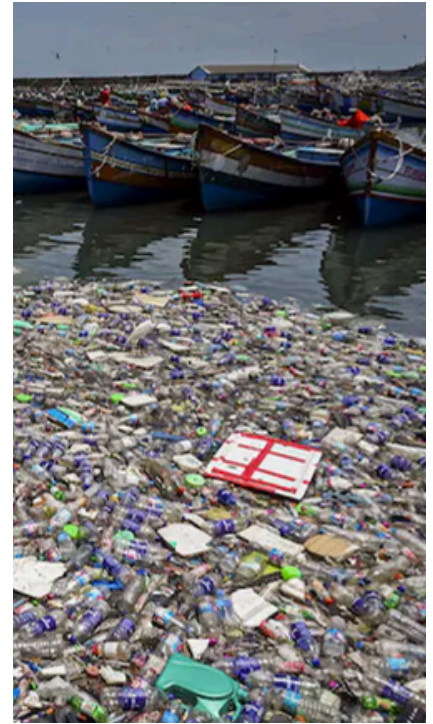
Source: Business Standard

In a push to curb plastic pollution, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued strict directives to state pollution boards to crack down on violations of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016. Complaints about illegal use of thin plastic carry bags and unauthorised single-use plastics have prompted urgent action.

Manufacturers of compostable plastics must now label their products with an official "Compostable Certified" mark, along with a QR code displaying key details like the producer's name, address, and certification number. This ensures that only certified products reach the market.

To boost compliance, state boards have been asked to monitor compostable plastics closely and ensure only certified manufacturers produce them. Government tenders must also align with PWM rules to prevent regulatory breaches. Public notices and awareness campaigns via print and electronic media are being rolled out to inform manufacturers and the public.

Plastic waste in India has surged in recent years, with over 4.1 million tons generated annually by 2020-21. CPCB has reinforced rules like banning specific single-use plastics and setting strict thickness and density standards for carry bags. These efforts aim to tighten enforcement and promote better waste management practices across the country.



»»» INDIA EXTENDS BIS DEADLINE FOR PVC IMPORTS

Source: Argus

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has extended the deadline for implementing quality controls on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) homopolymer imports from August 26 to December 24, 2024. This extension is crucial as only a limited number of production units outside India are currently BIS-certified, which may affect import growth into India in 2024. The country anticipates strong PVC consumption in construction and agriculture sectors, although potential future restrictions on imports are expected as new domestic production capacities come online between 2026 and 2030.



Bureau of Indian Standards
The National Standards Body of India

»»» PAY UP TO RS 400 A MONTH TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE, BENGALURU CIVIC BODY BBMP PROPOSES

Source: Deccan Herald



User Fees for Waste Disposal: The BBMP (Bengaluru Bruhat Mahanagara Palike) has proposed a user fee system for waste disposal, which could charge households between Rs 20 to Rs 400 per month based on their built-up area. This fee aims to generate an additional Rs 600 crore annually starting from the 2025-26 financial year. The proposal has been revised multiple times and seeks government approval to be included as a separate component in property tax.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

▶▶▶ RISHIKESH FIGHTS PLASTIC WASTE WITH PLASTIC BANKS AND EMPOWERS WOMEN

Source: The Economic Times

Rishikesh, a bustling pilgrimage and tourist destination in Uttarakhand, is tackling its plastic waste problem in an innovative way. The Rishikesh Municipal Corporation, under the leadership of Commissioner Shailendra Singh Negi, has launched "plastic banks" across the city to encourage proper waste disposal and recycling.

Plastic banks, made from old plastic bottles, have been set up at popular locations like ISBT, Triveni Ghat, and Virbhadra. These banks encourage locals and visitors to dispose of empty bottles and other plastic waste responsibly. So far, the initiative has recycled 400 kg of plastic. Seeing its success, plans are in motion to establish more plastic banks at Natraj, Transit Camp, and the Railway Station.



The Corporation has also created a unique "Waste to Wonder" park on its premises, featuring swings, benches, and decorations made from old tyres, bicycles, and damaged streetlights. These creative efforts are giving plastic waste a new purpose.

Additionally, the job of collecting garbage fees has been handed over to a women's self-help group, Triveni Sena. This change has significantly boosted revenue from ₹3 lakh to ₹13 lakh per month, with 25% of the earnings going directly to the women's group. This initiative has provided jobs to 250 women, improving livelihoods while promoting cleaner surroundings.

The Uttarakhand government is encouraging all local bodies to follow Rishikesh's example and will reward top-performing cities in plastic waste management.

▶▶▶ EPA UNVEILS NATIONAL STRATEGY TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Source: Plastic Recycling Updates

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a comprehensive National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution, aiming to reduce the environmental and health impacts of plastic waste. Recycling industry leaders have welcomed the move, emphasizing the importance of industry expertise in implementing the plan.

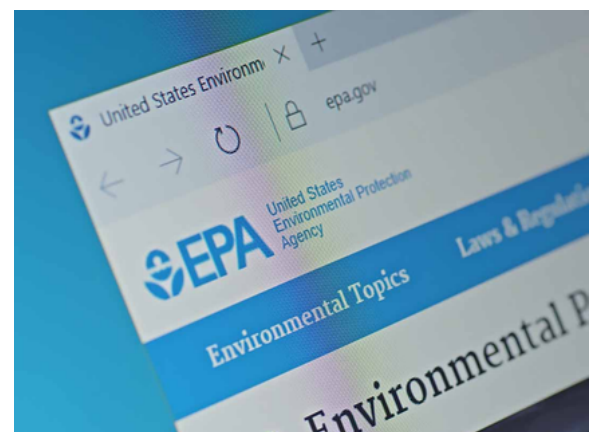
The strategy focuses on six key objectives: cutting plastic pollution at its source, innovating product design, reducing waste generation, improving waste management, enhancing the removal of plastic pollution, and reducing the impact on waterways and oceans.

The plan promotes a circular economy, encouraging materials to be reused and recycled rather than discarded. Actions include redesigning products for sustainability, creating clear recycling labels, and setting standards for eco-friendly materials. For instance, the EPA proposes reducing single-use plastics and supporting reusable products.

One notable suggestion is a voluntary national goal to decrease single-use plastic production, with the federal government leading by prioritizing recycled and reusable products in procurement policies.

To improve waste management, the strategy explores ideas like better collection systems, deposit return schemes, and a national framework for extended producer responsibility (EPR). This would hold manufacturers accountable for the lifecycle of their products. The plan has drawn mixed reactions. Groups like the National Waste and Recycling Association applaud the focus on recycling education and infrastructure, while the American Chemistry Council cautions against replacing plastics with alternatives that could shift manufacturing overseas.

Environmental advocates, such as the World Wildlife Fund, praised the "whole-of-government" approach as essential to protecting communities and reducing pollution.



NEW RESEARCH/INOVATION

»» SWEDISH STARTUP TURNS AGRICULTURAL WASTE INTO ECO-FRIENDLY PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES

Source: [BBC](#)

As the world wakes up to the damage caused by single-use plastics, the demand for sustainable solutions is booming. Sweden-based GreenTech company PlasticFri is leading the charge with an innovative technology that transforms agricultural waste and non-edible plants into eco-friendly, plant-based products.

PlasticFri's products are designed to replace traditional plastics without harming the environment. Made from natural, renewable materials, they are 100% biodegradable and compostable, ensuring they return safely to nature without leaving harmful residues. By focusing on circular economy principles, PlasticFri is offering a greener alternative that supports sustainable living.



The company's solutions are not only good for the planet but also practical for businesses. PlasticFri's products are affordable on a large scale and meet strict international certification standards, making them a reliable option for companies looking to reduce their environmental footprint. For businesses aiming to improve their corporate social responsibility (CSR), enhance their brand image, and align with eco-conscious consumers, PlasticFri offers a win-win solution. With its cutting-edge technology, PlasticFri is paving the way for a future free from plastic pollution, proving that going green can also make economic sense.

»» PLASTIC WASTE COULD DOUBLE BY 2050 WITHOUT URGENT ACTION, STUDY WARNS

Source: [Business Today](#)

A recent study highlights the urgent need to cut global plastic production to tackle the growing plastic waste crisis. Released ahead of critical UN treaty talks in Busan, South Korea, the research warns that mismanaged plastic waste could double to 121 million tons by 2050 if current production continues unchecked. Greenhouse gas emissions from plastic production are also expected to rise by 37% over the same period.

Led by Samuel Pottinger from the University of California, Berkeley, the study outlines four key measures to address the crisis: capping plastic production, investing in waste management, introducing a packaging tax, and enforcing recycling mandates. These steps could reduce plastic pollution by 91% and cut related emissions by a third by 2050.



Plastic pollution poses serious risks to ecosystems and human health, breaking down into harmful microplastics and contributing to issues like cancer and cardiovascular disease. It also impacts climate change, as plastic is derived from oil and gas.

The study notes that 32% of global plastic produced in 2020 was used for packaging. Measures like banning single-use plastics, taxing packaging, and encouraging reuse through deposit schemes could significantly reduce waste. If implemented, these interventions could prevent millions of tonnes of plastic from polluting the planet, safeguarding both people and the environment.

DO YOU KNOW?



IT CONSUMES 66% LESS ENERGY TO PRODUCE NEW PLASTIC FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS INSTEAD OF RAW MATERIALS.