

Supplementary information (SI) for:

Plastic Packaging Waste Management in Iceland: Challenges and Opportunities from a Life Cycle Assessment Perspective

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S1. Data underlying LCA model

SI-1: Data provided by the Icelandic Recycling Fund [1,2]

Plastic packaging demand (in market)	2017	2018	2019	2020
Packaging	12,202	13,128	13,906	11,497
Silage film	1,801	1,682	1,721	1,351
Deposit bottles	2,047	1,961	1,866	1,597
	16,050	16,771	17,493	14,445

Sent for recycling	2017	2018	2019	2020
Packaging	1,273	4,819	4,625	3,905
Recycling	961	1,921	1,501	1,630
Incineration with energy recovery	207	2,212	2,091	987
Incineration without energy recovery	28	7	0	0
Landfill	0	0	0	0
Not packaging	33	643	944	1,287
Water, dirt etc.	43	37	89	0
Silage film	2,032	2,721	2,523	2,796
Recycling	1,034	1,365	975	951
Incineration with energy recovery	0	0	0	0
Incineration without energy recovery	1	3	9	3
Landfill	3	42	157	57
Not packaging	0	0	0	0
Water, dirt etc.	995	1,311	1,244	1,365
Deposit bottles	1,625	1,625	1,586	1,447
Recycling	1,625	1,625	1,586	1,447

Recycling in Iceland	2017	2018	2019	2020
Silage film for final recycling (pellets)	0	0	138	419

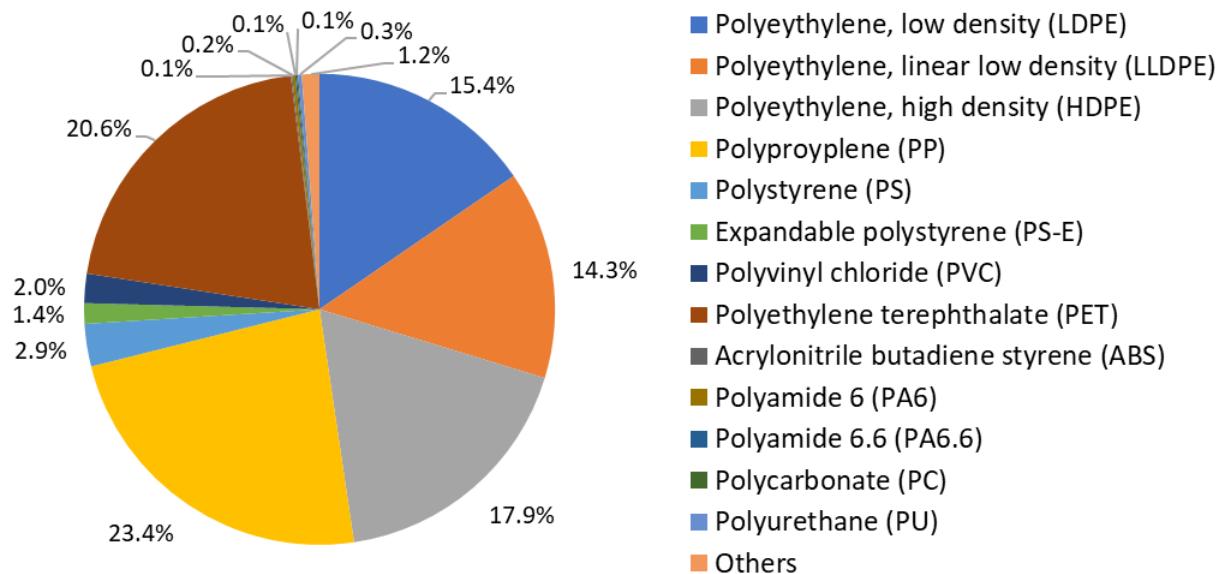
Remains in Iceland (no information available) *	2020
Packaging	8,879
Deposit bottles	150
	9,029

Assumption: Disposal in Iceland	2020
Landfill	92.4%
Incineration without energy recovery (Source: IRF)	7.6%

SI-2: Environmental impact of landfilling in Iceland (Environment Agency of Iceland, 2021, 2020).

In Iceland, 15 active landfill operations have permits that allow them to receive mixed active waste for landfilling [3]. That includes mixed household waste (within municipal solid waste, MSW) that consists of, among other wastes, unsorted plastic packaging. Emissions from landfilling are however not only from active landfills but from landfills not in operation due to the decomposition of waste previously landfilled. The active landfill sites are of varying sizes, from very small to very large in Icelandic terms. The three largest landfill sites make up for most of the landfilling in the country. The largest active landfill, in the capital area, is due to stop all MSW landfilling by January 2023 according to its permit [4]. Even if plastic packaging waste does not include hazardous materials, they still contain additives that can pollute the leachate. Leachate is the liquid that passes through a landfill and has extracted dissolved and suspended matter from it [5]. In Iceland five of the 15 active landfills have leachate collection and in four of them, it is made to pass through a treatment process meant to neutralize it. Following this, the leachate is released to the nearest receiving waterbody. Additionally, none of them are meant to filter out microplastics, only to neutralize certain chemicals and nutrients as in Europe. Iceland's largest landfill releases its leachate into the ocean, following the treatment, and it is treated as municipal wastewater [4]. As stated above 10 of the 15 have no collection or treatment of the leachate but these are very small landfills even on an Icelandic scale.

SI-3: Plastic packaging demand by polymer type in 2020 (European average)[6,7]



For the unspecific consumption share („others“) an average mix of the available plastic types were considered.

SI-4: Calculation procedure

Environmental impact of **plastic demand** in Iceland for household plastic 2020

$$\text{Household plastic demand in Iceland (per plastic type)} \times \text{Enviromental impact of household plastic production (per plastic type and cradle-to-gate)} = \text{Environmental impact of the consumption in iceland for household plastic (per plastic type)}$$

Environmental impact of **plastic waste** in Iceland for household plastic 2020

$$\text{Household plastic waste in Iceland (per end-of-life option)} \times \text{Enviromental impact of end-of-life option (per end-of-life option, impact and credit)} = \text{Environmental impact of the plastic waste management in iceland for household plastic (per end-of-life option)}$$

$$14,445 \text{ t} \times \text{enviromental impact/ton} = \text{enviromental impact}/14,445 \text{ t}$$

SI-5: Life cycle inventory data sets [8,9]

Data set	Country	GUID	Source
Material			
Polyethylene, LDPE, granulate	EU-28	{63E805C4-CE60-4CAA-BD2A-6CC779C01208}	[8]
Polyethylene, LLDPE, granulate	EU-28	{b8c432bd-e016-4226-94db-91074f2cef9f}	[8]
Polyethylene, HDPE, granulate	EU-28	{6ee18ba1-66e9-4573-b03d-3d84e92d7bda}	[8]
Polypropylene, PP, granulate	EU-28	{5F5BDF35-A41C-4C95-8737-943B5EE4F234}	[8]
Polystyrene part (PS)	RER	{03a20498-f406-4baf-9b4b-c0a08eb94073}	[8]
Expandable polystyrene (EPS)	EU-28	{b60b30bf-991d-41b8-a295-5d0b2e5f2bb5}	[8]
Polyvinyl chloride, from suspension process, S-PVC	EU-28	{0a149b76-27a3-4209-9b00-0207ca1a44a2}	[8]
Polyethylene terephthalate, granulate, bottle grade, at plant	RER	{84854d79-77da-4794-9d2a-f108f7e91741}	[8]
Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)	EU-28	{864a6be9-1a0a-44fb-860a-199bdb66dd60}	[8]
Polyamide 6 (PA6)	EU-28	{c3a53e26-b87f-4d41-bffa-785fc0ca4935}	[8]
Polyamide 6.6 (PA6.6)	EU-28	{35D4884B-E15D-453C-8F61-5090E273678A}	[8]
Polycarbonate	EU-28	{acf81ba2-1ebb-4150-9b26-06d8e2c6be10}	[8]
Polyurethane rigid foam (PU)	RER	{e24c0df0-1ad8-43c9-8552-7fb9e1a3685f}	[8]
Transport			
Truck, Euro 4, 28 - 32t gross weight / 22t payload capacity	GLO	{BF2EC8D5-CEBB-462B-8E11-09DE1E1C96FF}	[9]
Diesel mix at filling station	EU-28	{99248EE9-3A59-47E4-B1F1-BB79067249BA}	[9]
Container ship, 5,000 to 200,000 dwt	GLO	{14B21448-160F-4F43-962D-20A65461902A}	[9]
payload capacity, ocean going			
Heavy fuel oil at refinery (1.0wt.% S)	EU-28	{50462B0D-7D2B-40D4-843E-9857061E3C08}	[9]
Incineration			
Plastics (unspecified) in waste incineration plant	DE	{a2883726-6b1d-486b-b5f3-3dfeed719d45}	[9]
Plastics (unspecified) in waste incineration plant	SE	{91e63099-f053-4d9b-b7b8-10eb2b845fe3}	[9]
Plastics (unspecified) in waste incineration plant	NL	{f7f7e18e-647e-4c0b-bcac-1b30e19d9188}	[9]
Plastics (unspecified) in waste incineration plant	PL	{088a3a2d-8902-4848-b238-d68582a0fb1e}	[9]
Plastics (unspecified) in waste incineration plant	DK	{F509750E-3FA5-4FE3-A3DE-B3640B341EA3}	[9]
Landfill			
Plastic waste on landfill	EU	{64197300-3307-11dd-bd11-0800200c9a66}	[9]
Recycling			
Washing (plastic recycling)	DE	{9334dd0d-f18b-4361-af5e-c974171a1352}	[9]

Granulator	DE	{ecb15cb5-5d34-4aec-becb-3b1812dd5af7}	[9]
Pelletizing and compounding	DE	{0f4c3fb4-bc30-43e5-8567-e41ffa5487b0}	[9]
Water (desalinated; deionised)	EU-28	{ded83dc7-a169-4de2-af43-ed30a5e2bb00}	[9]
Municipal waste water	EU-28	{9805E7EE-B500-46B4-A0F0-37B09E00A3FA}	[9]
Washing (plastic recycling)	DE	{9334dd0d-f18b-4361-af5e-c974171a1352}	[9]
Granulator	DE	{ecb15cb5-5d34-4aec-becb-3b1812dd5af7}	[9]
Electricity mix			
Electricity grid mix	DE	{48ab6f40-203b-4895-8742-9bdbe55e494}	[9]
Electricity grid mix	SE	{0982d3bc-3459-44f8-82d4-c0b90b3bcacf}	[9]
Electricity grid mix	NL	{BA65B4F5-B979-4609-81FF-D0E16D8D2E59}	[9]
Electricity grid mix	PL	{1598ea72-ae02-42fc-ae87-7dbe90df17ce}	[9]
Electricity grid mix	DK	{53F9EFFD-6C33-4CAD-AC0B-A4FACB00832E}	[9]
Electricity grid mix	IS	{d5d84799-7696-4876-87d3-0a02fcf26e93}	[9]
Thermal Energy			
Thermal energy from natural gas	DE	{cfe8972e-6b51-4a17-b499-d78477fa4294}	[9]
Thermal energy from natural gas	SE	{009f27a6-f336-4200-81c0-28e4fa5638a4}	[9]
Thermal energy from natural gas	NL	{CAA2A766-26C2-4930-8655-A2AB89597275}	[9]
Thermal energy from natural gas	PL	{fc0ef91a-8bc0-4d0d-8b51-9c90e8828d82}	[9]
Thermal energy from natural gas	DK	{87FADE97-C24D-4688-8942-D5C43A5B8F15}	[9]
Steam			
Process steam from natural gas 85%	DE	{07f9b4e1-16b8-49df-81b9-dcc064590cdc}	[9]
Process steam from natural gas 85%	SE	{b99924c4-b03b-4f03-aa3b-2d5c01e5987b}	[9]
Process steam from natural gas 85%	NL	{1b8701ad-d89e-4a24-b041-c4f314dac740}	[9]
Process steam from natural gas 85%	PL	{164604cd-eb90-4a4a-857c-518e981b32ad}	[9]
Process steam from natural gas 85%	DK	{DCEFOFD6-902B-4827-8160-607879565BBB}	[9]

SI-6: Electricity mix of different European countries [9]

	Sweden	Netherlands	Germany	Poland	Denmark	Iceland
Hydro	38.10%	0.06%	3.76%	1.41%	0.05%	69.66%
Geothermal			0.03%			30.31%
Nuclear	41.95%	3.07%	11.85%			
Natural gas	0.23%	51.03%	13.00%	7.44%	6.82%	
Wind	10.17%	9.24%	17.14%	7.53%	45.75%	0.02%
Hard coal	0.21%	24.02%	12.87%	47.81%	21.63%	
Lignite			22.69%	29.03%		
Photovoltaics	0.25%	3.23%	7.14%	0.18%	3.14%	
Biomass (solid)	6.24%	1.31%	1.69%	3.14%	14.54%	
Biogas	0.04%	0.78%	5.28%	0.66%	2.05%	
Fuel oil	0.19%	1.14%	0.81%	1.06%	0.87%	0.01%
Waste	1.97%	3.65%	2.06%	0.31%	5.15%	
Coal gases	0.47%	2.47%	1.69%	1.44%		
Peat	0.19%					

S2. Additional results

SI-7: Impact and credit per ton of plastic packaging waste

CML2001 - Aug. 2016		Sent for recycling [1 ton] (37,71% Sweden, 38,15% Netherlands, 18,52% Germany, 5,29% Poland, 0,33% Denmark)				End-of-Life treatment in Iceland [1 ton]		
		Recycling	Incineration with energy recovery	Incineration without energy recovery	Landfill	Recycling	Incineration without energy recovery	Landfill
Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years) [kg CO2 eq.]	transport	3.41E+01	3.41E+01	3.41E+01	3.41E+01	7.55E+00	7.55E+00	7.55E+00
	waste treatment	1.30E+02	2.29E+03	2.29E+03	6.72E+01	4.16E+01	2.29E+03	6.72E+01
	credits	-1.64E+03	-1.50E+03			-	1.64E+03	
	net value	-1.48E+03	8.28E+02	2.33E+03	1.01E+02	-	2.30E+03	7.48E+01
Abiotic Depletion (ADP fossil) [MJ]	transport	4.37E+02	4.37E+02	4.37E+02	4.37E+02	1.03E+02	1.03E+02	1.03E+02
	waste treatment	1.44E+03	4.79E+02	4.79E+02	9.75E+02	4.36E+02	4.79E+02	9.75E+02
	credits	-5.85E+04	-2.32E+04			-	5.85E+04	
	net value	-5.66E+04	-2.23E+04	9.16E+02	1.41E+03	-	5.82E+02	1.08E+03
Acidification Potential (AP) [kg SO2 eq.]	transport	6.21E-01	6.21E-01	6.21E-01	6.21E-01	3.04E-02	3.04E-02	3.04E-02
	waste treatment	1.59E-01	4.50E-01	4.50E-01	1.73E-01	1.63E+00	4.50E-01	1,73E-01
	credits	-4.71E+00	-9.52E-01			-	4.71E+00	
	net value	-3.92E+00	1.19E-01	1.07E+00	7.94E-01	-	4.80E-01	2.03E-01
Eutrophication Potential (EP) [kg Phosphate eq.]	transport	7.81E-02	7.81E-02	7.81E-02	7.81E-02	7.72E-03	7.72E-03	7.72E-03
	waste treatment	4.42E-02	9.04E-02	9.04E-02	1.90E-01	3.06E-02	9.04E-02	1.90E-01
	credits	-1.87E+00	-1.66E-01			-	1.87E+00	
	net value	-1.75E+00	2.12E-03	1.69E-01	2.69E-01	-	9.82E-02	1.98E-01
Abiotic Depletion (ADP elements) [kg Sb eq.]	transport	2.50E-06	2.50E-06	2.50E-06	2.50E-06	8.86E-07	8.86E-07	8.86E-07
	waste treatment	8.26E-05	5.86E-05	5.86E-05	1.30E-05	4.55E-05	5.86E-05	1.30E-05
	credits	-4.04E-02	-1.42E-04					
	net value	-4.03E-02	-8.11E-05	6.11E-05	1.55E-05	4.64E-05	5.95E-05	1.39E-05
Freshwater Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (FAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	transport	1.60E-01	1.60E-01	1.60E-01	1.60E-01	4.06E-02	4.06E-02	4.06E-02
	waste treatment	5.40E-01	9.56E-02	9.56E-02	3.11E-01	2.28E-01	9.56E-02	3.11E-01
	credits	-3.46E+02	-9.07E-01					
	net value	-3.45E+02	-6.52E-01	2.55E-01	4.71E-01	2.69E-01	1.36E-01	3.51E-01
	transport	1.26E+00	1.26E+00	1.26E+00	1.26E+00	1.74E-01	1.74E-01	1.74E-01

Human Toxicity Potential (HTP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	waste treatment	6.11E+00	9.71E+00	9.71E+00	1.99E+00	3.14E+00	9.71E+00	1.99E+00
	credits	-7.83E+02	-3.07E+01					
	net value	-7.75E+02	-1.97E+01	1.10E+01	3.25E+00	3.31E+00	9.88E+00	2.17E+00
Marine Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (MAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	transport	5.40E+02	5.40E+02	5.40E+02	5.40E+02	1.36E+02	1.36E+02	1.36E+02
	waste treatment	2.04E+04	7.02E+04	7.02E+04	6.45E+03	8.82E+02	7.02E+04	6.45E+03
	credits	-2.35E+05	-6.56E+04					
	net value	-2.14E+05	5.16E+03	7.08E+04	6.99E+03	1.02E+03	7.04E+04	6.59E+03
Ozone Layer Depletion Potential (ODP, steady state) [kg R11 eq.]	transport	3.11E-12	3.11E-12	3.11E-12	3.11E-12	9.04E-13	9.04E-13	9.04E-13
	waste treatment	1.99E-09	2.39E-10	2.39E-10	1.12E-10	5.81E-11	2.39E-10	1.12E-10
	credits	-2.00E-03	-3.48E-11					
	net value	-2.00E-03	2.07E-10	2.42E-10	1.15E-10	5.90E-11	2.40E-10	1.13E-10
Photochem. Ozone Creation Potential (POCP) [kg Ethene eq.]	transport	7.79E-03	7.79E-03	7.79E-03	7.79E-03	-1.13E-02	-1.13E-02	-1.13E-02
	waste treatment	1.48E-02	2.82E-02	2.82E-02	1.58E-02	2.45E-03	2.82E-02	1.58E-02
	credits	-9.38E-01	-1.12E-01					
	net value	-9.15E-01	-7.61E-02	3.60E-02	2.35E-02	-8.84E-03	1.69E-02	4.46E-03
Terrestrial Ecotoxicity Potential (TETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	transport	5.24E-02	5.24E-02	5.24E-02	5.24E-02	1.87E-02	1.87E-02	1.87E-02
	waste treatment	3.23E-01	2.82E-02	2.82E-02	1.43E+00	2.07E-01	2.82E-02	1.43E+00
	credits	-3.71E+00	2.01E-01					
	net value	-3.33E+00	2.82E-01	8.06E-02	1.48E+00	2.26E-01	4.69E-02	1.45E+00

The net value for recycling, incineration or landfilling a ton of plastic waste can be calculated as the sum of the impacts associated with the transportation of wastes to different countries, from the waste treatment and the associated credits.

SI-8: Scenario analysis (Recycling in Europe 2020, 2021)

	Recycling			Incineration with energy recovery			Incineration without energy recovery			Landfill		
	2020	Average	2021	2020	Average	2021	2020	Average	2021	2020	Average	2021
Abiotic Depletion (ADP elements) [kg Sb eq.]	-3.43E+02	-3.43E+02	-3.43E+02	-5.31E-02	-8.01E-02	-1.12E-01	1.82E-04	1.83E-04	1.85E-04	8.83E-04	8.84E-04	8.85E-04
Abiotic Depletion (ADP fossil) [MJ]	-2.38E+08	-2.37E+08	-2.35E+08	-2.24E+07	-2.20E+07	-2.16E+07	2.69E+03	2.75E+03	2.82E+03	8.02E+04	8.05E+04	8.08E+04
Acidification Potential (AP) [kg SO2 eq.]	-1.93E+04	-1.91E+04	-1.88E+04	3.65E+02	1.18E+02	-1.72E+02	3.16E+00	3.21E+00	3.28E+00	4.46E+01	4.53E+01	4.61E+01
Eutrophication Potential (EP) [kg Phosphate eq.]	-6.28E+03	-6.25E+03	-6.21E+03	3.07E+01	2.09E+00	-3.16E+01	4.98E-01	5.06E-01	5.14E-01	1.52E+01	1.53E+01	1.54E+01
Freshwater Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (FAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	-8.03E+05	-8.03E+05	-8.03E+05	-5.55E+02	-6.43E+02	-7.47E+02	7.54E-01	7.66E-01	7.80E-01	2.67E+01	2.68E+01	2.69E+01
Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years) [kg CO2 eq.]	-6.68E+06	-6.56E+06	-6.41E+06	8.59E+05	8.17E+05	7.70E+05	6.98E+03	6.99E+03	6.99E+03	5.75E+03	5.77E+03	5.80E+03
Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years), excl biogenic carbon [kg CO2 eq.]	-6.69E+06	-6.56E+06	-6.42E+06	8.59E+05	8.18E+05	7.70E+05	6.98E+03	6.99E+03	6.99E+03	5.81E+03	5.84E+03	5.86E+03
Human Toxicity Potential (HTP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	-4.58E+06	-4.58E+06	-4.58E+06	-1.54E+04	-1.94E+04	-2.42E+04	3.27E+01	3.29E+01	3.31E+01	1.84E+02	1.86E+02	1.87E+02
Marine Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (MAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	-1.11E+09	-1.11E+09	-1.10E+09	1.39E+07	5.09E+06	-5.30E+06	2.12E+05	2.12E+05	2.13E+05	3.98E+05	3.99E+05	3.99E+05
Ozone Layer Depletion Potential (ODP, steady state) [kg R11 eq.]	-1.71E+01	-1.71E+01	-1.71E+01	2.13E-07	2.05E-07	1.87E-07	6.71E-10	7.26E-10	7.93E-10	6.56E-09	6.57E-09	6.57E-09
Photochem. Ozone Creation Potential (POCP) [kg Ethene eq.]	-3.86E+03	-3.84E+03	-3.83E+03	-5.86E+01	-7.51E+01	-9.45E+01	1.05E-01	1.08E-01	1.11E-01	1.30E+00	1.34E+00	1.39E+00
Terrestrial Ecotoxicity Potential (TETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	-1.87E+04	-1.86E+04	-1.85E+04	-3.07E+02	-5.97E+02	-9.41E+02	7.51E-01	7.60E-01	7.71E-01	8.44E+01	8.44E+01	8.44E+01

SI-9: Scenario analysis (Recycling in Iceland)

	Basis Scenario				Szenario: Recycling in Iceland	
	90,6% in Europe		9,4% in Iceland		100% in Iceland	
	transport	waste treatment	transport	waste treatment	transport	waste treatment
Abiotic Depletion (ADP elements) [kg Sb eq.]	1.01E-02	3.33E-01	3.71E-04	1.91E-02	3.94E-03	2.02E-01
Abiotic Depletion (ADP fossil) [MJ]	1.76E+06	5.78E+06	9.69E+05	1.83E+05	4.56E+05	1.94E+06
Acidification Potential (AP) [kg SO2 eq.]	2.50E+03	6.42E+02	2.87E+02	6.83E+02	1.35E+02	7.25E+03
Eutrophication Potential (EP) [kg Phosphate eq.]	3.15E+02	1.78E+02	7.30E+01	1.28E+01	3.43E+01	1.36E+02
Freshwater Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (FAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	6.43E+02	2.17E+03	3.84E+02	9.56E+01	1.81E+02	1.01E+03
Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years) [kg CO2 eq.]	1.37E+05	5.23E+05	7.13E+04	1.74E+04	3.36E+04	1.85E+05
Global Warming Potential (GWP 100 years), excl biogenic carbon [kg CO2 eq.]	1.38E+05	5.18E+05	7.23E+04	1.69E+04	3.40E+04	1.80E+05
Human Toxicity Potential (HTP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	5.08E+03	2.46E+04	1.64E+03	1.31E+03	7.72E+02	1.40E+04
Marine Aquatic Ecotoxicity Pot. (MAETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	2.17E+06	8.22E+07	1.28E+06	3.69E+05	6.05E+05	3.92E+06
Ozone Layer Depletion Potential (ODP, steady state) [kg R11 eq.]	1.25E-08	8.02E-06	8.54E-09	2.43E-08	4.02E-09	2.58E-07
Photochem. Ozone Creation Potential (POCP) [kg Ethene eq.]	3.14E+01	5.97E+01	-1.07E+02	1.03E+00	-5.02E+01	1.09E+01
Terrestrial Ecotoxicity Potential (TETP inf.) [kg DCB eq.]	2.11E+02	1.30E+03	1.77E+02	8.69E+01	8.32E+01	9.23E+02

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