

# Plastics Pact Network

PLASTICS PACT



Supporting national implementation of a Global Plastics Treaty

Convened by



ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Implementing a **Global Plastics Treaty** will need robust and coordinated action that connects policy with governments and businesses at a national level. The **Plastics Pacts Network** is a proven and well-established collaborative action platform that brings together public, private and civil sectors to tackle plastic pollution, and is uniquely placed to inform and enable policymaking and the implementation of the treaty.

vision: **to create a circular economy for plastics, and so eliminate plastic waste and pollution.**

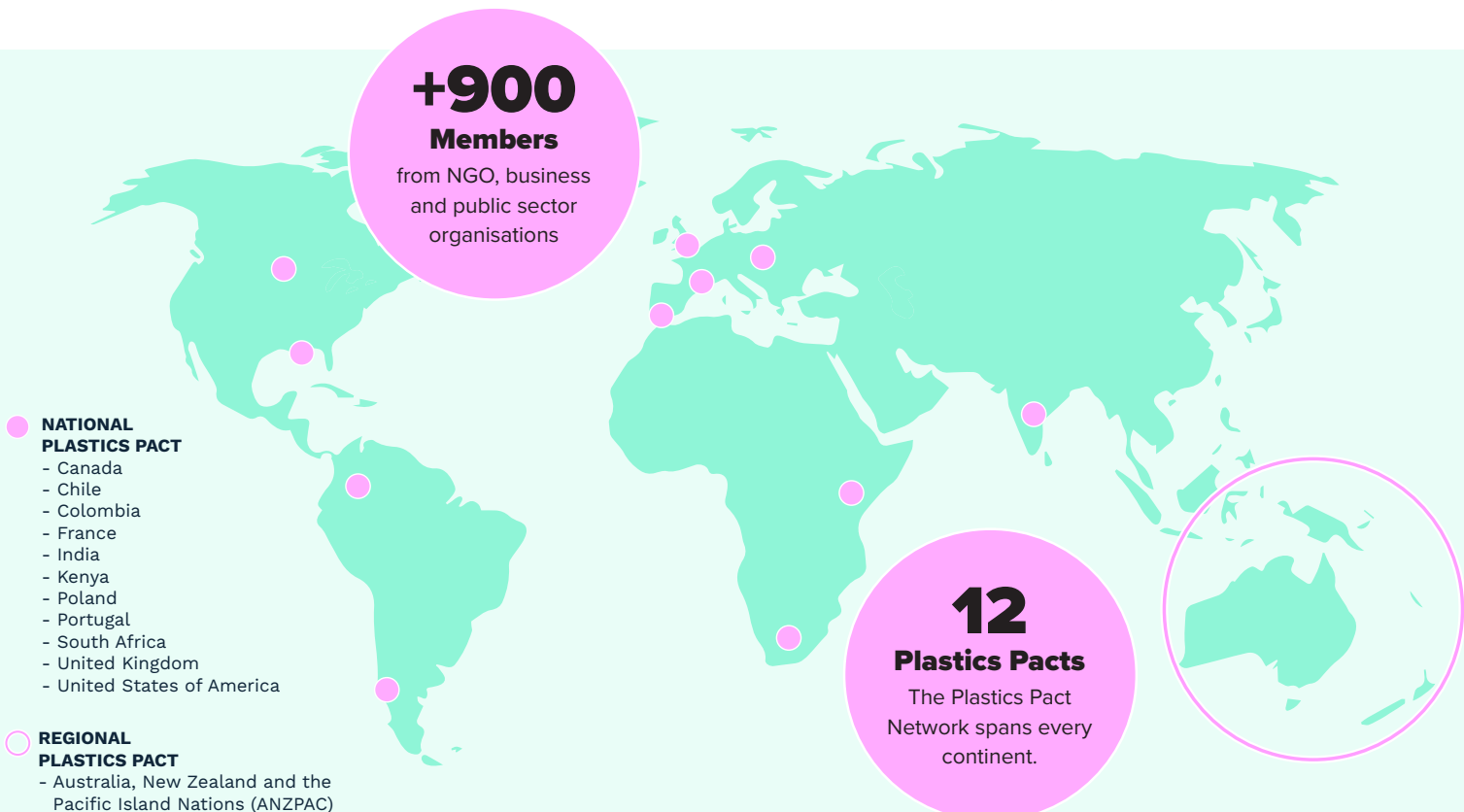
The Plastics Pacts have an **ambitious set of collective, timebound targets that are monitored** through public annual reports, generating greater transparency, and data to inform decisions at a national and global level.

## The Plastic Pact Network

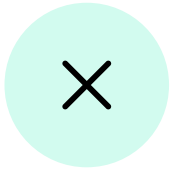
The Plastics Pact Network is a globally coordinated response to the world-wide problem of plastic pollution. There is now a Pact on every continent, forming a global Network involving over 900 local and global organisations. **Plastics Pacts are collaborative, action-focused platforms** that bring together businesses, government bodies, NGOs, research organisations and citizens of a country or region with a programme of action and targets tailored to the local context, yet at the same time, all Pacts are aligned under one common global

**Plastics Pacts members collectively account for an average of 33%<sup>1</sup> of the plastic packaging placed on the market in Pact countries**, showing how Pacts engage with a substantial portion of the plastics sector, including traditionally underrepresented sectors, governments and NGOs.

Type of organisation	Number of members
NGO & other	194
Business	665
Public sector	74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>933</b>

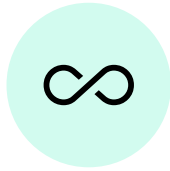


<sup>1</sup> This figure does not consider Pacts with 2030 targets (India, Kenya and Colombia).



**Target 1**

Eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging and items



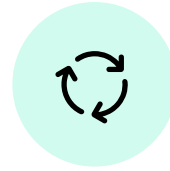
**Target 2**

Plastic packaging to be reusable or recyclable (or compostable)



**Target 3**

Increase amount of plastic packaging effectively recycled



**Target 4**

Increase average recycled content across all plastic packaging

**The value of voluntary action**

Plastics Pacts are well-established platforms for collaboration, evidence-based knowledge creation, and sharing and creating transparency. Led by an independent organisation in each Pact country, Plastics Pacts facilitate impactful action by fostering local and global collaboration across the value chain, and are well-placed to inform and enable policymaking and treaty implementation through a large repository of tools, insights, guidance, and standardised definitions from across the Plastics Pacts Network. Pacts enable evidence-based decisions through public annual reporting, enhancing transparency and informing business and government decisions at a national and global level.

The Plastics Pacts are delivering impact on the ground and at scale towards eliminating plastic waste and pollution. Thanks to Plastics Pacts, tens of billions of problematic or unnecessary plastic items have been eliminated; design for reusability, recyclability and composability in practice and at scale has increased by 23%; and incorporation of recycled content back into packaging has increased by 44%. While the Network has been active for the past 6 years, many of the Plastics Pacts only launched within the past 3 years; this impressive impact has been achieved in a relatively short timeframe.



“ **We need an ambitious global treaty with legally binding actions to have scaled up impact** ”

**The Plastics Pact Network is demonstrating the swift and impressive impact that can be achieved through collaborative voluntary action, but this is not enough.**

A large part of the industry is not yet taking action (representation in Pacts is 33%) and a major push is still needed in topics such as reuse, infrastructure, and flexible packaging to advance the targets. The learnings so far reinforce the need for additional, and more ambitious, binding policy measures, as well as accelerated voluntary business action. This cannot be an either/or: both are crucial to tackling plastic waste and pollution at the pace and scale required.

**Voluntary action needs to be complemented by policy** that creates the right incentives and regulatory frameworks to support further elimination of unnecessary packaging, simplification of packaging design, scaling up of reuse/refill systems, ensures the collection and recycling of all recyclable plastics and encourages higher investment in critical infrastructure.

**To end plastic pollution globally, we need ambitious regulation to complement and accelerate voluntary efforts and create a level playing field for all businesses and all countries.** Based on the Plastics Pact Network’s experience in exploring solutions to eliminate plastic pollution and waste, we encourage governments and negotiators to agree on an ambitious Global Plastics Treaty that establishes:

- Globally binding provisions on problematic and avoidable plastics, design for recycling, reuse and refill, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and just transition.
- Global definitions and criteria to establish an initial list of problematic and unnecessary plastics to be restricted or phased-out, including chemicals and polymers of concern, with the option of countries expanding on the global list based on national context using the same definitions and criteria.
- Minimum global product design requirements, including binding time bound targets for recycled content for priority product categories.
- Mandatory establishment of fee-based, sector-specific, inclusive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for all who place plastic packaging & short-lived items on market to incentivise reuse and aid funding for waste management.
- Provisions that integrate the informal waste collection sector and vulnerable communities in the decision-making process throughout the whole value chain (not just around recycling).



**Legally binding measures**



**Binding post-consumer recycle targets**



**Just Transition that integrates the informal waste sector**



**Common definitions**



**Scaling up reuse and refill solutions**



**Establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes**



**Global lists of problematic and unnecessary plastics**



**Global design principles**

## The Plastics Pacts are a mechanism for delivering on Global Plastics Treaty commitments

A Global Plastics Treaty will need to be implemented. **The Plastics Pact Network offers a proven means of engaging stakeholders in the plastics value chain, and helping them to make the changes that are needed, at pace.**

In the context of the Plastics Pact Network, the collaborative format allows a wide range of perspectives from businesses and other actors in the plastics value chain, which not only makes the evidence that they provide to policymakers reliable, but also accelerates policy outcomes. Plastics Pacts have helped build insights and accelerate action aligned with the Global Plastics Treaty discussions, including:

1) **10 lists of problematic and unnecessary plastics** have been developed in Pacts covering 16 countries, all based on globally aligned definitions and criteria but specific to each local context. Pact members have agreed to voluntarily phase out the items on this list and are aligned in looking for alternative solutions.

### Impact:

- Plastic Pacts **have achieved the elimination of over 360,000 tonnes of problematic and unnecessary plastics**, meaning that tens of billions of items have been removed from circulation.
- In Chile, **data and insights gathered by the Pact supported the design of national policy** for the Single Use Plastic Law – improving coordination between legislation towards realistic and effective business action.
- The UK Plastics Pact has enabled industry to **get ahead of regulation to remove problematic and unnecessary plastic items** such as plastic straws, cutlery, plates and bowls – with 99% eliminated a year before the ban.<sup>2</sup>

2) All Plastics Pacts have **adopted a common definition on reuse** and are taking action and measuring progress towards this definition. Pacts have delivered pilots to address the supply chain and behaviour change challenges of scaling up reuse which has built understanding of the feasibility of implementing different applications and models and the associated incentives needed for collaboration.

### Impact:

- Pacts are starting to report reuse progress as a separate measure. For example, the Chilean Plastics Pact has reported in 2022 that 7.2% of the plastic packaging placed on the market by their members is reusable.

- In Canada, Plastics Pact Accelerator Pods are **helping to establish and scale-up reuse & refill**. The Pods will develop standards and create partnerships with the aim of securing funding for robust implementation that can scale across Canada.

3) Plastics Pacts have developed **design guidelines** based on global design principles adapted to their markets where needed. As an example the Canadian, Polish and South African Pacts are aligning to and adapting the **Golden Design Rules** in order to establish effective design for recycling requirements.

### Impact:

- Plastics Pacts have redesigned more than 850,000 tonnes of plastic packaging so that it is reusable, recyclable or compostable at scale.

4) Plastics Pacts have developed **strategies and created tools to help businesses increase the recycled content that they use in plastic packaging**.

### Impact:

- Plastics Pacts have increased the recycled content in packaging by 44%, meaning that over 2.2 million tonnes of virgin plastic were avoided in 2022.

5) In South Africa, Kenya, Chile and India, the informal waste sector associations are Pact members, which has allowed the Pacts to understand the major challenges **faced by the informal waste collection and recycling sector, helped to raise their voice with businesses and governments**, and support a **just transition** to new systems.



<sup>2</sup> For members present in 2018 and 2022.



By delivering impact on the ground, Plastics Pacts will continue to be a driving force of local, collaborative action around the world, informing and complementing national policy and a Global Plastics Treaty. By supporting the Plastics Pact Network, you can help ensure that we move faster to tackle plastic pollution.

We invite you to collaborate with the network:

- ▶ Connect with the insights from the Plastics Pact Network to shape and inform ongoing global dialogues and national level policies.
- ▶ Capitalise on the cross-value chain action coordinated by the Plastics Pacts to deliver impactful policy.



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