

Over \$89 Billion in Plastic Expansion Undermines “End Plastic Waste” Alliance Goals

*#EndPlasticWaste #beatplasticpollution #zerowaste #plasticfree #keepitintheground
#WasteColonialism #breakfreefromplastic*



Photo by [Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Committee](#)

Key information

- The alliance clearly [formulates](#) their mission as “helping end the flow of plastic waste into the environment” – thereby pointing to plastic pollution as a waste management problem. With this initiative, they distract public attention by getting the media to focus on the bottom end of the plastic supply chain.
- Over \$89.3 billion will be invested into plastic expansion projects by 2030 by signatories of the alliance (more info below). NGO group BreakFreeFromPlastic [urged member companies to focus their energy upstream](#) where their plastic production expansion plans will rapidly undermine any downstream progress.
- The global plastic market size is [expected to reach USD 721.14 billion](#) by 2025 with 37% dedicated to packaging.
- Most members of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste are headquartered in US, Japan & Europe, where [most problematic products are designed](#) and oil & gas imperialism takes roots.

- US & Europe [export Millions of Tonnes of non-recyclable plastic waste](#) to the Global South every year, flooding cities that are just starting to [deal with their own waste problem](#) and escaping their responsibility to develop local solutions.

In Focus: Alliance Members Investments 2014-2030

- Members of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste are investing heavily in plastic expansion projects.
- Based on [Recycling Network's research](#), we compiled the investment costs involved in expansion projects by members of the Alliance. The project timelines span from 2014 to 2030. Figures are taken from the press releases and news reports supplied by the research. As such, this is not a complete list - for example, it does not supply figures for Shell's ongoing investments in [Pennsylvania](#) and [China](#).

Alliance Companies Recent and Upcoming Expansion Projects, 2014-2030. Individual Companies recent/upcoming expansions:

COMPANY	LOCATION	FACILITY	PRODUCTION CAPACITY	\$ BILLION INVESTED
BASF	Shanghai, China	Plastic additives plant	42,000 tons per year	Unknown
BASF	Guangdong	Verbund chemical production site	One million tons of ethylene per year	\$10
Berry Global	Evansville, Indiana	Plastic packaging	Unknown	\$.70
Braskem	La Porte, Texas	Polypropylene production line	450 kilotons (kt)	\$.675
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC	US Gulf Coast	Two polyethylene units	500,000 metric tons of plastic resin per year	\$6
Covestro AG	Baytown, Texas	MDI plant (chemical)	Unknown	\$1.7
DOW	Freeport Texas	New ethylene production	1.5 million tonnes ethylene	\$4

		facility & 4 other facilities	/ PE (400); LDPE (350); EPDM (200); elastomers (320)	
DOW	Terneuzen, Netherlands	Plastics factory	Unknown	“A few hundred million euros”
DOW	Louisiana	Two new polyolefins plants	Unknown	\$1.06
ExxonMobil	US Gulf Coast	Growing the Gulf expansion initiative	11 major chemical, refining, lubricant & LNG projects	\$20
ExxonMobil	Guangdong, China	Petrochem plant, LNG terminal	Includes 1.2 million-tonne-per-year ethylene plant	\$10 (Speculation)
Formosa Plastics	Texas, USA	Expanding production facilities	Unknown	\$13
LyondellBasell	Houston Texas, USA	Polyethylene plant	1.1 billion pounds of polyethylene a year	\$.700
NOVA Chemicals	Bayport, Texas, USA	625 kilotonne per annum (ktpa) polyethylen unit	1.1 million tonnes polyethylene	Unknown
ExxonMobil	Singapore	Bought refining and petrochemical plant	Aromatics 3.5 million tonnes per year (not just plastic)	\$1.7
PolyOne Corp	India	Acquiring India's Formulated Polymers Ltd.	Unknown	\$3.2

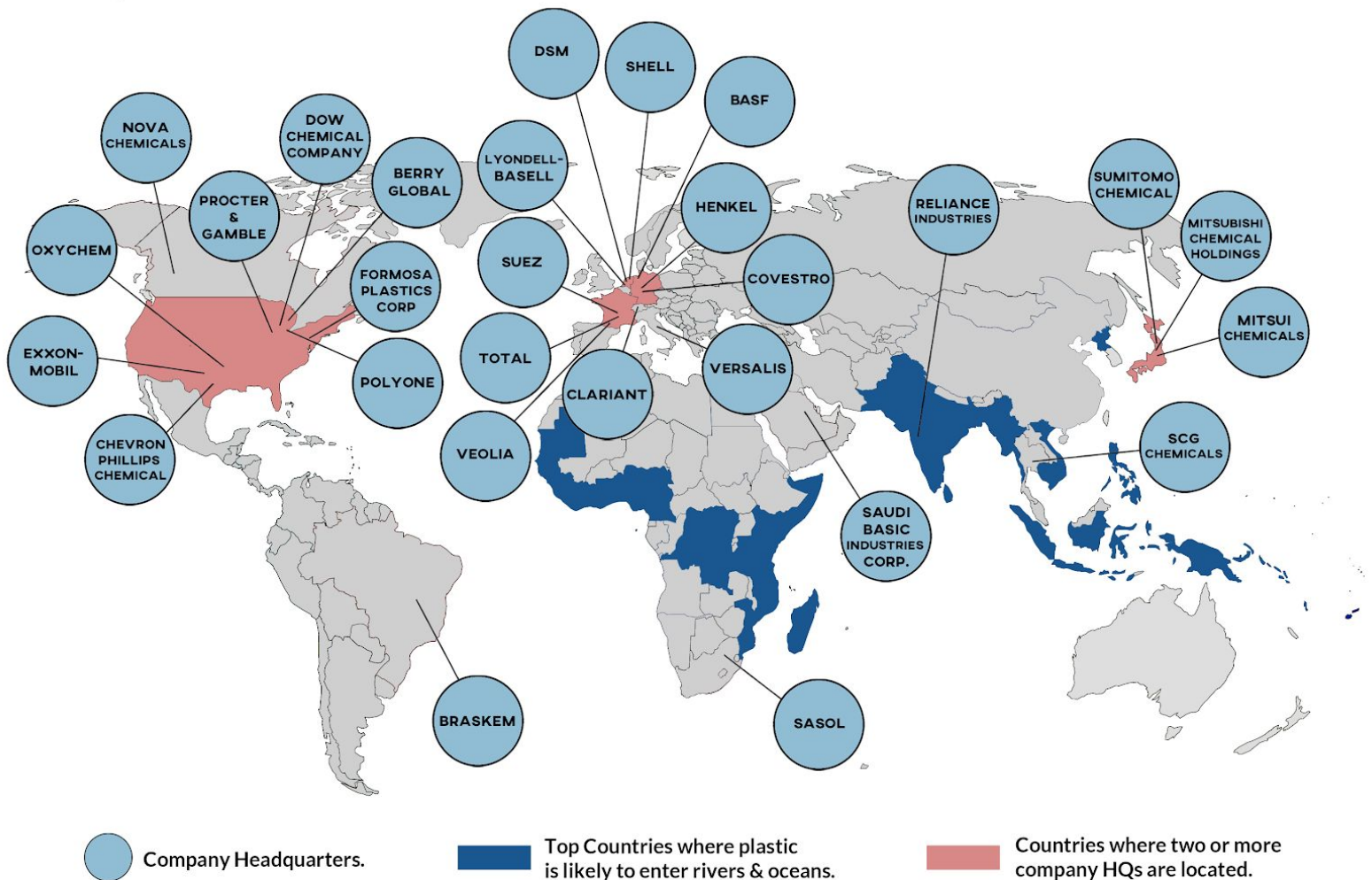
Sabir	western Red Sea coast	World's largest oil-to-chemicals facilities	9 million tonnes of chemicals and base oils per year	\$20
Shell	Pennsylvania	Petrochemicals Complex	1.6 million tonnes of polyethylene	Unknown
Shell	Guangdong Province, China	Second ethylene cracker	Ethylene 1.2 million tonnes per year	Unknown
SCG Chemicals	Vietnam	Integrated petrochemical plant	Olefin production capacity of 1.6 million tonnes	\$5.4
Total (w/ Borealis and Nova)	Gulf Coast	Ethane steam cracker and a new Borstar® polyethylene unit	1 Mt/y ethane cracker, 625 kt/y polyethylene	\$1.7
Versalis (Eni)	Mantova, Italy.	Production plant	Unknown	€125
TOTAL				\$89.33

Overview of investments in the expansion of plastic production that have been made recently or are planned for the near future. **Not a complete list.** Date range: 2014-2030. Investments are related to plastic production, ethane or ethylene crackers. [Data by Recycling Network.](#)

- **Over \$89.3 billion will be invested into plastic expansion projects by 2030 by signatories of the alliance.**
- The Alliance pledges up to \$1.5 billion over the span of 5 years. Majority of the founders are large companies, like ExxonMobil and Shell, with capital expenditures around \$20 billion per year. **Taking this into perspective, \$1.5B across 30 companies is a rather small investment that will rapidly be undermined by plastic production expansion plans.**

In Focus: Where the problem is initially created, and where plastic is likely to enter rivers and oceans

HQs of Alliance Founders vs. Where Solutions Will Be Focused



Data on plastic leakage taken from Jambeck, J. R., et al "Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean". Science, 347(6223), 768-771. Link: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768/>

- Although countries in Asia and Africa are highlighted for ocean plastic leakage, 85% of the top 20 fast moving consumer goods companies and 95% of the top 20 plastics corporations [are based in the U.S. and Europe](#).

- This reflects the founders of the Alliance To End Plastic Waste as well, with **20 out of 28 companies based in Europe, the U.S. and Canada.**
- Disposable, single-use plastic was designed with western infrastructure and waste systems in mind. In pushing this disposable model, with no regard shown for the systems and structures existing in other parts of the world, Western plastic producers have led to the plastic crisis we see in the Global South today. **Should these same western companies be leading the conversation on how to solve the crisis in the global south?**
- Solutions supported by the alliance rely on the notion that single-use plastic will continue be produced indefinitely. **Instead, the \$1.5 billion should be used to scale alternatives to plastic and support local zero waste initiatives, commitments should be made to dramatically reduce the production of single-use plastics.**
- A reduction in single-use plastic would help put a stop to the massive quantities of plastic waste being exported by [Europe](#) and the [U.S.](#) to the very countries the Alliance wants to focus their efforts on. Western systems cannot support the current amount of plastic waste being generated every year. In the EU, [half of all plastic collected for recycling is shipped out of Europe](#), and 70% of it is landfilled or incinerated. That is not sustainable.
- [Reasons given](#) for exporting plastic include the lack of capacity, technology or financial resources to treat the waste locally.

Where the EU Exports its Plastic Waste



- According to [Eurostat](#), EU exports of waste plastics to countries outside the EU came to 1.11 million tonnes (worth €243m) in the first six months of 2018.
- Exports to Malaysia increased by 260% to 272,000 tonnes in the first six months of 2018 - about one quarter of all exports from EU.
- Exports to Vietnam increased by 130% to 147,000 tonnes, and Turkey by 210%, while exports to Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand increased by between 150% and 1,000%.
- Exports to China & Hong Kong were down to 30,000 tonnes.

Taking all this into account, there is not a place on earth that can sustainably manage the amount of plastic waste being generated today. It is not feasible to expect the \$1.5 billion investment into waste management & recycling solutions to adequately address the problem in the next five years. Upstream solutions remain the most important to tackling the plastic crisis.

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