Chemical Recycling: Solving a Plastic Problem!

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It is not often the world community comes together for a common cause, a united call to action! To the contrary, human beings have traditionally gravitated toward issues and ideologies that drive conflict and disagreement within our tribes and communities! Global cooperation and unity have rarely been the outcome.

While it is true that we have seen this type of convergence of opinion and call to action on rare occasions in the past, nothing fills the current global headlines more than the issue of PLASTIC WASTE in the environment. Combining legitimate concerns for the natural environment, global wildlife (particularly marine life), human biology, and overall global ecological sustainability, the world community has declared a state of emergency and sent a very loud and clear message: THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW!

Plastics have become a way of life and a key synthetic material used for thousands upon thousands of applications in our society. In fact, the shear resilience and chemical stability of plastics, especially polyolefins, has led to a real conundrum! The characteristics that makes them desirable as a material of construction (such as durability, flexibility, chemical-resistance, waterproof, lightweight, and long-lasting, just to name a few) are the exact characteristics that makes them so impactful and potentially damaging to our natural environment. They never really go away or actually biodegrade!

The world community believes it faces a simplistic challenge – eliminate the accumulation of plastic waste in our environment. While simplistic in its concept, it encompasses extreme complexities: the resurrecting or developing of substitute materials; establishing effective and comprehensive recycling ecosystems; balancing overall environmental impacts; and changing human behavior! There is nothing simple about any of that...

As global pressure mounts, manufacturers and the Plastics Industry must act. They must lead us down the path to a solution that restores the image of an industry that has historically brought countless improvements to the quality of life across the globe. We will discuss these complexities and share several paths forward being pursued by Braskem and others in the industry.