

Promoting the Use of Recycled Plastics

Resource Recycling Division

2025. 7. 16



Table of Contents



- 01 » Background**

- 02 » Global Trends**

- 03 » Past Efforts**

- 04 » Ways to Promote**

- 05 » Future Roadmap**

Necessity for Reducing Plastic Use and Promoting Resource Circulation



Plastics, while useful materials, are emerging as a major environmental problem for Humanity and ecosystems due to environmental persistence and microplastics

OECD, 2022

- ✓ Plastic waste : 350 million tons(2019) → 1.10 billion tons (2060)
- ✓ Ocean/water plastic accumulation : 140 million tons(2019) → 490 million tons(2060)



South Korea, as a high plastic-consuming nation, experiences continuous growth in plastic demand and waste generation

Plastic Waste

- ✓ 2.06 million tons(2012) → 5.62 million tons(2023) : 272% increase over 11 years



02 » Global Trends

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Accelerating Movement Towards Using Recycled Plastics



EU

PET Contact Packagings

'30:30%, '40:50%

Other plastic Packagings

'30:35%, '40:65%



GBR

Plastic Packagings

'22:30%



GERMANY

PET Bottles

'25:25%

Single use bottles

'30:30%



USA

California

Plastic Packagings and products

'22:15% '25:25%

'30:50%

03 Past Efforts

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Collect

Separate Collection + Quality Standards

Separate Collection of PET

(Apartment '20.12~, Detached House '21.12~)



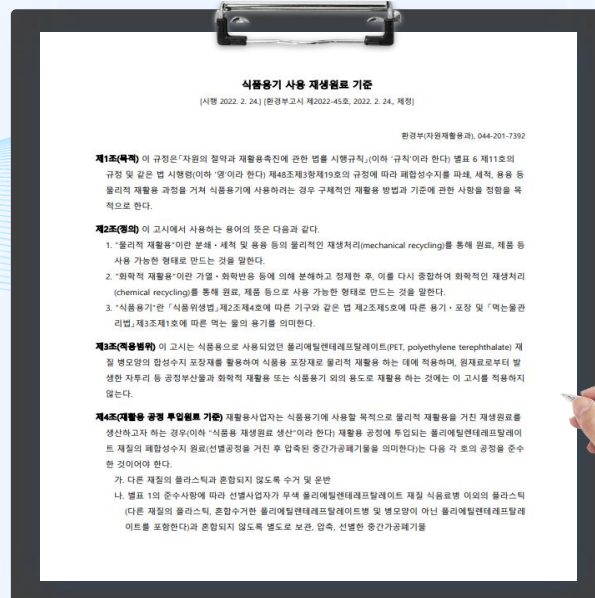
Apartment Complex



Detached House

Separate Collection bag for clear PET bottles

“ Established Standards for Recycling facility and raw material(flake) of the production of recycled materials used in food containers ”



03 Past Efforts

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Usage

Mandatory Use + Labeling System

Mandate the use of Recycled Plastics (2023~, 3%)

Producers of PET polymers(> 10kt/year)



SM 티케이케미칼

Launch the labeling system of Usage ratio ('24.3.29~)



Products from companies like Coca-cola, LotteChilsung, and Aromatica(146 products)



Manufacturers of products using recycled materials at a Certain ratio or higher may indicate the ratio on the product.

03 Past Efforts

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Usage Creating atmosphere to promote the use of Recycled Materials

Business Agreement about Using Recycled plastic for clear PET bottles('24.7~)

Establishing a foundation for activating the market for Recycled Raw Materials



Agreement details

- ✓ Producer : PET bottle producers use more than 10% Recycled Plastic
- ✓ Monitoring the Quality(contents, containers, preforms) or Products using Recycled Materials



Participants(13 organizations, 16 products)

- ✓ Ministry of Environment, Korea Environment Corporation, Seoul Arisu, Coca-Cola, Sparkle, etc.

03 Past Efforts

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Usage

Monitoring the Quality and Safety

Monitoring quality of recycled plastic from clear PET bottles('24.7~)

Contents

✓ Spring water, Bottled tap water

Analyze 50 items for spring water, 59 items for tap water

✓ Beverage Analyze 5 items for soft drinks

✓ Milk Analyze 6 items

✓ Dairy Products Analyze 6 items

For products using r-PET, the contents, containers, and preforms are evaluated. If one or more items exceed the standard, the product is deemed non-compliant.

Packaging

✓ 'Standards and Specifications for Utensils, Containers and Packages':

Analyze 20 items



All Products Confirmed

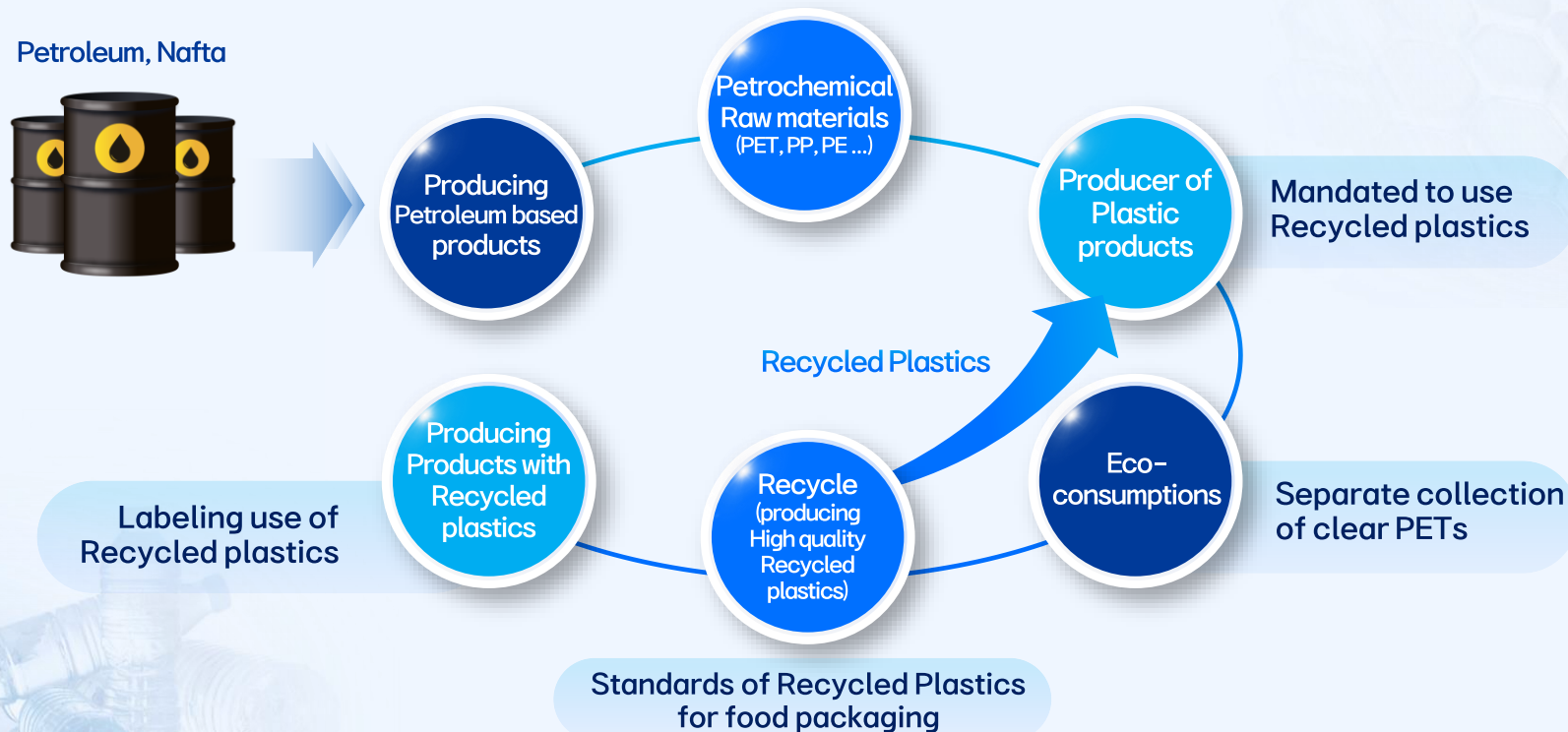
✓ All products with recycled plastics found compliant (24.July-25.June)



04» Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Key measures for promoting the use of recycled plastics



04» Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Legislation

Direction of legislation related to the Recycled Plastics

Resource Recycling Act

Obligation on manufacturers of Plastic products and containers to use Recycled plastics



Article 33-3 of the Resource Recycling Act

Enforcement Decree of Resource Recycling Act

Manufacturer of final products of drinking water and beverage PET bottles (over 5000 tons per year)



Article 37-2 of the Enforcement Decree of Resource Recycling Act

Notice on mandatory use of recycled plastic

Setting a 10% usage target rate by 2026



Notice on mandatory use of recycled plastic

04 Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Legislation

Legislation related to the use of Recycled Plastics

Indicating the percentage of recycled materials

Article 33-2 of the Resource Recycling Act

- ✓ Operator : Ministry of Environment
- ✓ Indication Expiration date : 3 years

- ① If a manufacturer, etc. intends to indicate the ratio of products and containers that have used recycled raw materials above the ratio prescribed by Ordinance of the Ministry of Environment, he/she shall apply to the Minister of Environment to confirm the ratio of the use of recycled raw materials as prescribed by Ordinance of the Ministry of Environment.
- ② Manufacturers, etc. who have obtained confirmation of the ratio of the use of recycled raw materials pursuant to paragraph (1) may indicate the ratio of use on the relevant products and containers as prescribed by Ordinance of the Ministry of Environment.
- ③ Where a person who has indicated the percentage of the use of recycled raw materials on products and containers continues to indicate the percentage of use, he/she shall obtain confirmation from the Minister of Environment again pursuant to paragraph (1) on the date of three years from the date of the final confirmation of the percentage of use. If the ratio of use is confirmed more than once, it must be confirmed again with the Minister of Environment on the basis of the date of five years from the date of final use ratio confirmation.

04 Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Legislation

Legislation related to the use of Recycled Plastics

Obligation to use Recycled Plastics

Article 33-3 of the Resource Recycling Act

- ① In order to promote the use of recycled plastics, manufacturers of products and containers prescribed by Presidential Decree (referring to the person who originally placed an order, in the case of products and containers manufactured according to the method of labeling the person who originally placed an order), shall use more than a certain percentage of Recycled Plastics in their products and containers.

"Obligation to use recycled plastics" is assigned to the final product producers of spring water and beverages drinking PET bottles

Promulgation
(2025.3.25.)



Enactment of
Decree(25.July)



Enforcement
(2025.9.26)



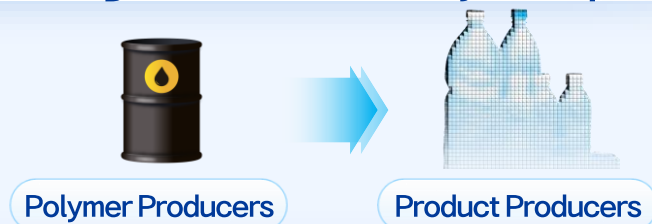
Application
(2026.1~)

04 Ways to Promote use of RP

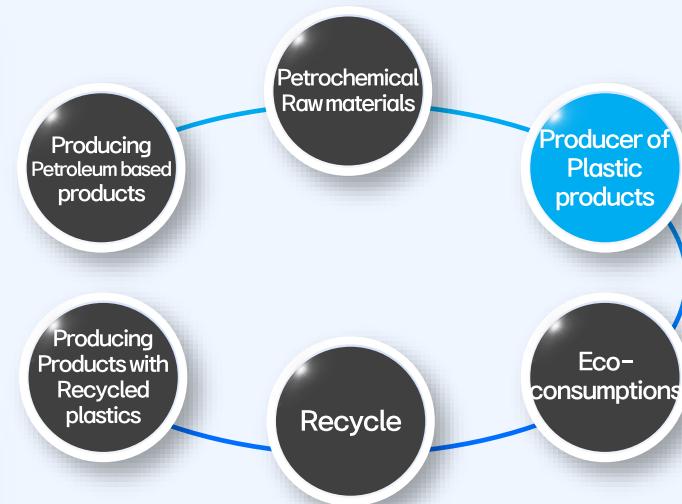
Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Clear PET Phased expansion of mandatory recycled material use

Mandate use of recycled plastics on PET product producers (market demanders) to encourage the use of recycled plastics.(2025~)



Increase Mandatory Usage rate Gradually to match International trends
(2026) 10% → (2030) 30%



04 Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

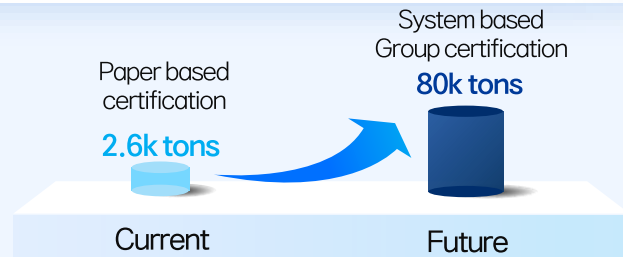
Electronics

Phased expansion of mandatory recycled material use

Develop a group standard for certification to encourage voluntary participation from electronic product manufacturers (market demanders) by 2025.



Expansion of manufacturer participation
Expected expansion of recycled material usage:
 (current) 2,600 tons -> (future) a maximum of 80,000 tons



04» Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Reduction of EPR Obligations

Expand reduction of EPR obligations



Future (2026~) →

**STEP
03**

Planning reduction of mandatory recycling obligations within a limit of 20%.

**STEP
02**

Reduction of mandatory recycling obligations within a limit of 15% for 2024 usage.

← **Current (2025)**

**STEP
01**

Reduction of mandatory recycling obligations within a limit of 5% for 2022 usage.

← **Started (2022)**

04» Ways to Promote use of RP

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Public Part

Promote private participation by leading public sector first •

Public and Private participation items

Seperation	ITEMS	Feedstock
Public	Bottled Tab Water	PET
	Volume based waste bag	PP, PE
Private	Electronics	ABS, PP, PC
	Automobile	ABS, PC
	Cosmetics	PET, PP



Public sector leading



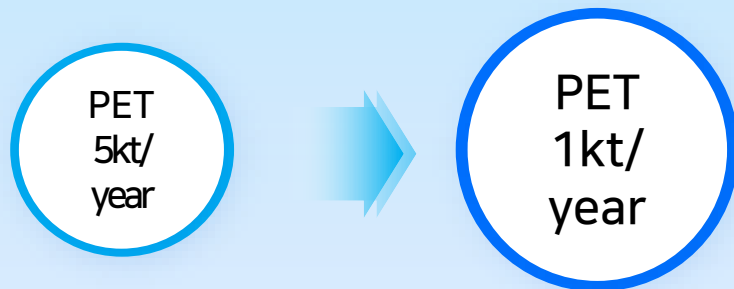
Encouraging voluntary participation of private sector

05 » Future Roadmap

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

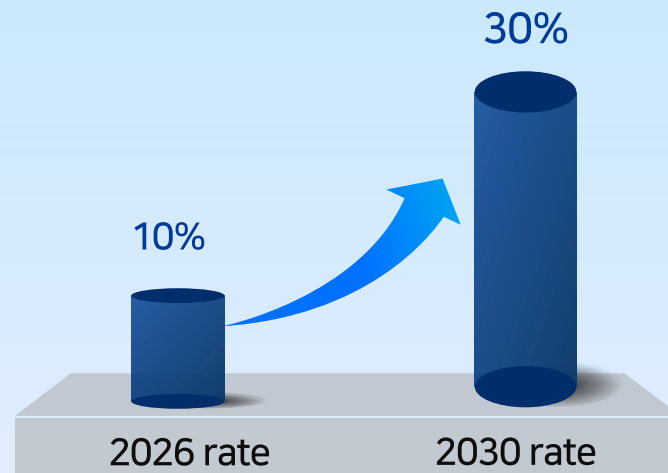
Expanding Recycled Material Use Over the Medium-Long Term

PET bottles – expansion of volume standards



Current : PET bottles more than 5kt/year
Expansion : PET bottles more than 1kt/year

PET bottles – gradual expansion of Mandatory rate



05 » Future Roadmap

Promoting the use of Recycled Plastics

Expanding Recycled Material Use Over the Medium-Long Term

■ Beverage, food containers
PET Bottles



■ Cosmetics and Other Plastics
PP, PS, PET packaging



■ Electronics
Refrigerator,
Washing machine





Thank You