

# News release

## *Advanced Recycling Facilities Generate Very Low Site Emissions, Report Finds*

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**Media Contact:** Chris Hogan, (202) 591-5144 | [chris.hogan@bcw-global.com](mailto:chris.hogan@bcw-global.com)

EUGENE (March 18, 2021) – Air emissions from advanced recycling facilities are regulated by Federal, State and local agencies and are likely to be below most permitting thresholds, a [report](#) out today showed. The findings demonstrate that these emissions are similar or lower than those from other common facilities, such as hospitals, college campuses, food processing, and auto manufacturing.

Advanced recycling technologies are ideal for plastics that cannot be mechanically recycled economically. The innovative high-tech processes turn waste plastics into new compounds used to create new plastics, waxes, lubricants, and lower-environmental-footprint fuels. These emerging technologies present significant opportunities to recover plastic waste, and if brought online at scale provide an important step forward in recovering plastic waste and making new products without virgin materials.

“Our analysis shows that the emissions produced by pyrolysis-based advanced recycling technologies were below both common facilities air emissions and the threshold for Title V permits,” said Josh Proudfoot, co-founder and principal of Good Company. Advanced recycling facilities are regulated by the federal Clean Air Act and state and local regulatory authorities ensure that the facilities must meet strict criteria for operating.

“This is promising news for an emerging industry that has great potential to help solve the plastic waste challenge and displaces virgin materials, taking us one step closer to total recovery of plastics,” added Proudfoot.

The report looked at emissions for six criteria air pollutants, commonly known as CAPs, from pyrolysis-based advanced recycling facilities, and compared them to publicly available U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards and federally reported air emissions data. The analysis found emissions from advanced recycling facilities to be very low. Additionally, it found that these facilities produce very low levels of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), well below EPA permitting requirements.

This report, “[Comparison of Pyrolysis-Based Advanced Recycling Air Emissions to Common Manufacturing Emissions](#),” was prepared by the Eugene, Oregon-based sustainability firm Good Company for the American Chemistry Council. It is an update to the 2017 report also released by Good Company. The 2021 report looks at advanced recycling facilities that can process up to 55,000 tons of post-use plastics annually, whereas the 2017 report looked at facilities that can process up to 15,000 tons annually, demonstrating rapid growth and commercialization of the industry while continuing to produce emissions that are well below federal permitting requirements. The range of facility sizes were averaged to 55,000 tons of plastics annually and includes smaller and larger facilities—all still regulated under the Clean Air Act.

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