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Chemical Recycling A key technology on our way towards a circular economy

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#### **Cautionary note regarding forward-looking statements**

This presentation contains forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current estimates and projections of the Board of Executive Directors and currently available information. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of the future developments and results outlined therein. These are dependent on a number of factors; they involve various risks and uncertainties; and they are based on assumptions that may not prove to be accurate. Such risk factors include those discussed in Opportunities and Risks on pages 139 to 147 of the BASF Report 2019. BASF does not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements contained in this presentation above and beyond the legal requirements.

#### **Sustainability at BASF**

#### Key measures

#### **Climate protection**

Decouple our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from organic growth through a Carbon Management program

► CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral growth until 2030

#### Sustainable product portfolio

Further increase our sales from "Accelerator" products, which make a substantial sustainability contribution in the value chains

▶ €22 billion by 2025

#### Circular economy

Invest in cutting-edge technologies to speed up the transition to a circular economy, such as our ChemCycling<sup>™</sup> project

#### **Our purpose:**

## We create BASE chemistry for a sustainable future



#### **Plastics production today**

Plastics industry needs to adapt to a changing legislative environment

## Highly efficient production of high-performance plastics

- Optimized system over 50 years
- Crude oil based
- Large variety of specialized plastics for demanding applications



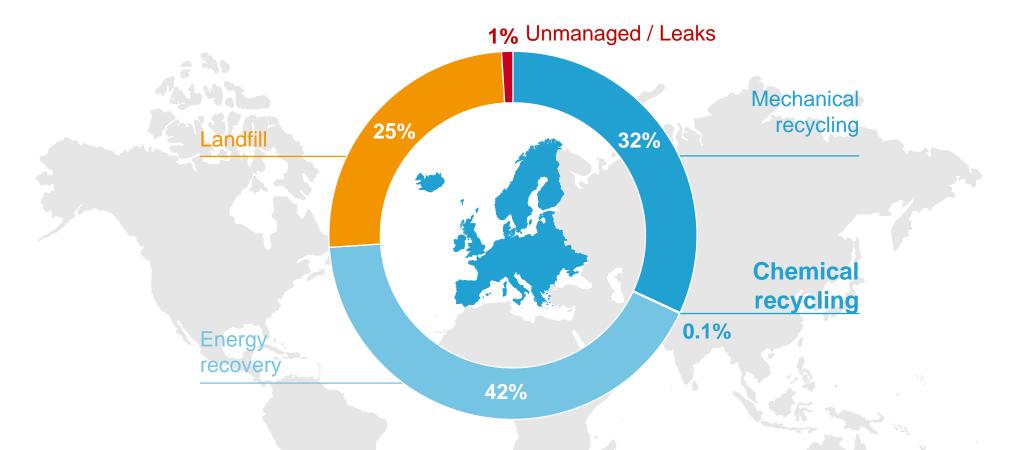
#### Challenges

- Public pressure to reduce plastic waste (marine littering, landfill)
- Ambitious legislation targets
  - Reduce GHG emissions
  - Increase recyclability of plastics
  - Increase recycled content in plastics

Chemical recycling can handle the challenges while maintaining process efficiencies and plastics performance

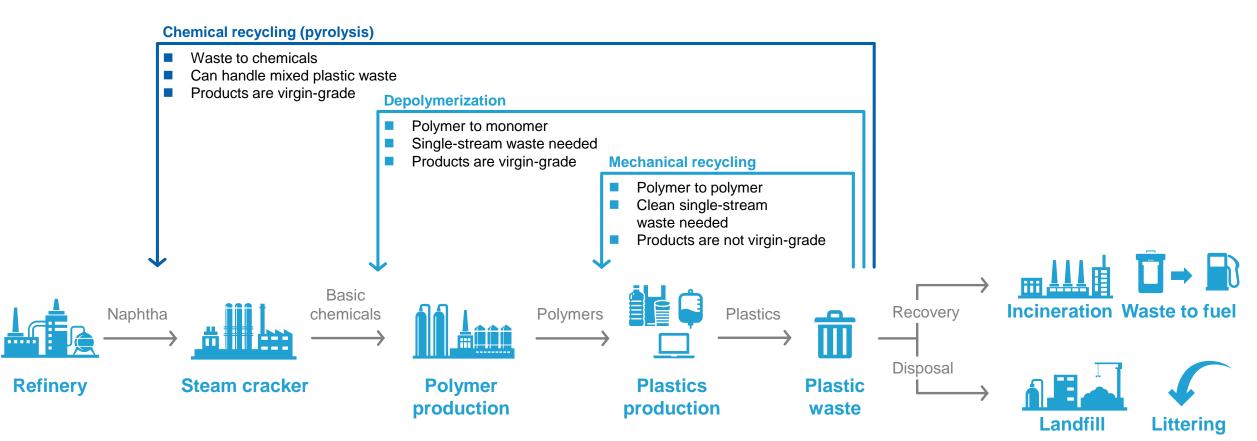
### Today's recycling landscape for plastic waste

End-of-life treatment of 29 million tons of plastic waste in EU28+2 in 2018



#### Only one third of all plastic waste is kept in the materials cycle in EU28+2.

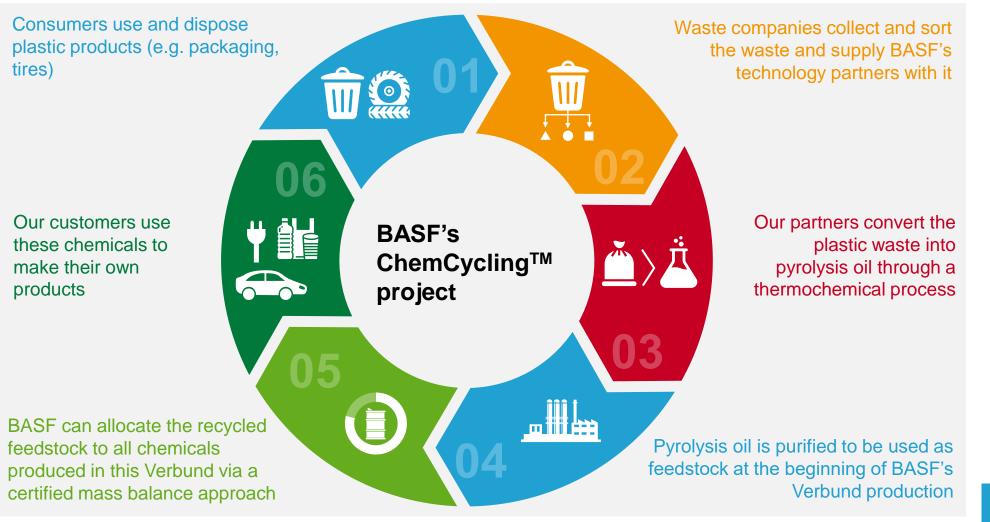
# Chemical recycling complements mechanical recycling and can contribute significantly to achieve EU recycling targets



Chemical recycling is one of many measures needed to reduce fossil resource consumption and to achieve a world free of plastic waste

#### **BASF's ChemCycling™ project**

#### Breaking new ground in plastics waste recycling



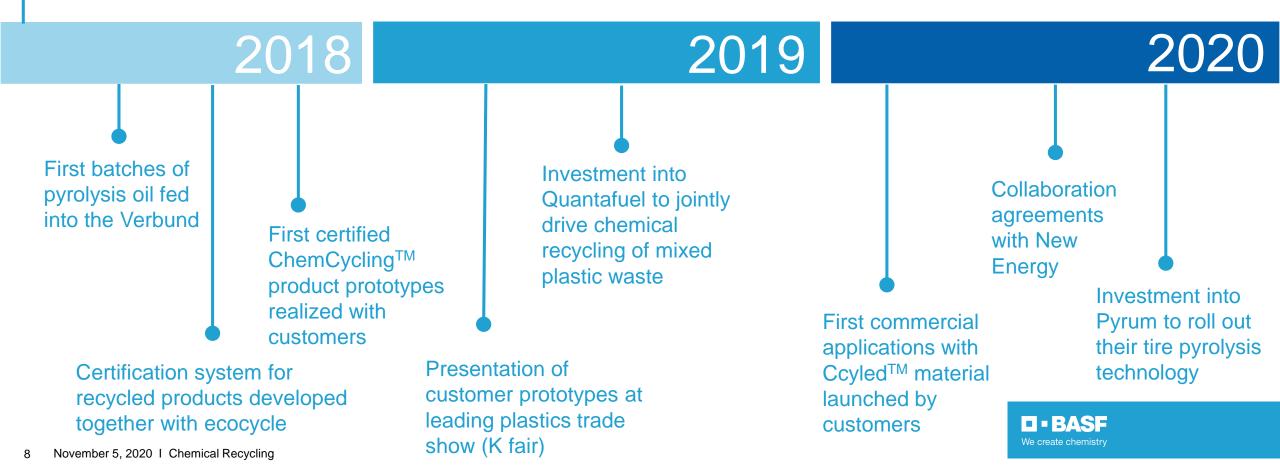
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## Status of BASF's ChemCycling<sup>™</sup> project

(October 2020)

#### • Project start

Network and partnerships along the value chain developed



# Allocation of recycled feedstock with the mass balance approach

### Feedstock **BASF** Production **Products** Verbund Fossil Conventional product (Ultramid<sup>®</sup>) BASF

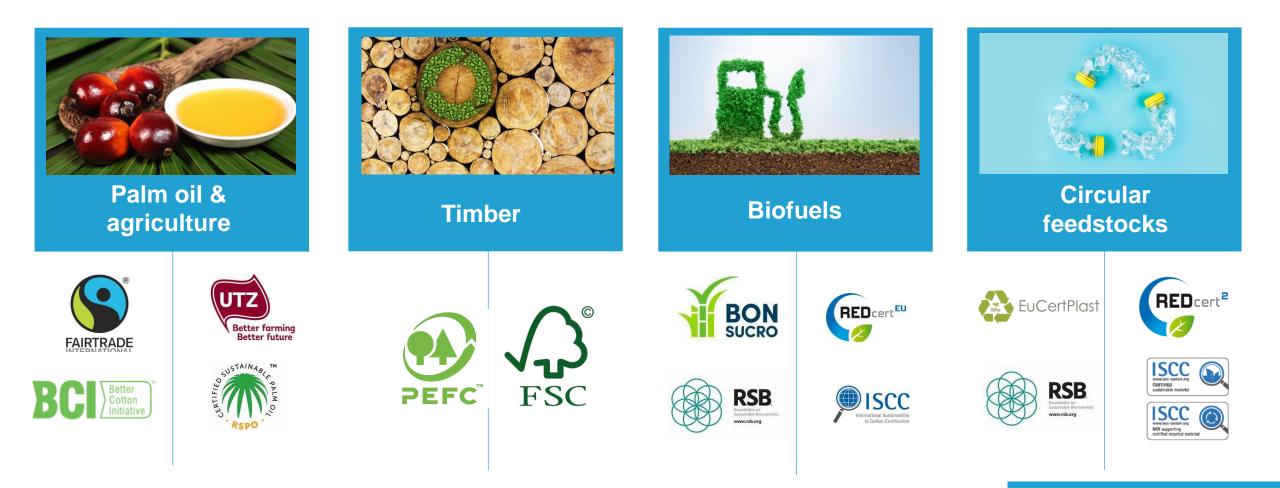
#### Recycled

Use of recycled feedstock in very first steps of chemical production (e.g., steam cracker) Utilization of existing Production Verbund for all production steps Mass balance product (Ultramid<sup>®</sup> Ccycled<sup>TM</sup>)

Allocation of recycled feedstock to selected products



## Mass balance principle is widely used in certification schemes in different industry sectors



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# ChemCycling<sup>™</sup> contributes to a circular economy, saves resources and avoids emissions

- Plastic waste is turned into feedstock for the chemical industry
- Using recycled feedstock from plastic waste in chemical production helps to replace primary fossil resources
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are avoided in comparison to conventional plastic production and incineration of plastic waste



#### **Regulatory support for chemical recycling needed**

- Chemical recycling needs to count towards recycling targets
- Incentives for recycled content should apply to all kinds of recycling
- Acceptance of mass balance approach: mass-balanced recycled content should be supported to the same extent as singlesourced recycled content

Technology-open definition of recycling is key to address the plastic waste problem



#### Today's capacities and quality of pyrolysis oil by far not sufficient to meet the demand

#### **Example: Plastic packaging recycling**

- Out of 17.8 million tons of plastic packaging waste in Europe ~ 7.5 million tons (42%) are recycled\*
- With the EU target (55% of plastic packaging waste recycled by 2030), recycling demand for another 2.3 million tons of plastic packaging waste arises
- Assuming an equal contribution of mechanical and chemical recycling to address the increased recycling rate (volume), approx. **100 pyrolysis plants** of current average scale are required

Commitment from large plastic producers to continuous investment in chemical recycling capacities needed



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**Pyrolysis plant landscape in EU** 

Commercial plastic waste pyrolysis plants (in operation by end of 2020) Non-commercial demo plants (no complete overview)



#### **Summary**

- Chemical recycling can handle the challenges ahead of today's plastics production, while maintaining process efficiencies and plastics performance
- Chemical recycling is complementary to mechanical recycling and is needed to achieve EU recycling targets
- Challenges regarding the acceptance and technology need to be tackled
- Life cycle analysis demonstrates that chemical recycling is a sustainable way to close the recycling loop for plastics
- Today's capacities and quality of pyrolysis oil are by far not sufficient to meet the demand
- Cross-industry cooperation and continuous investment in chemical recycling capacities and technology are required



# **BASE** We create chemistry

#### Life Cycle Assessment demonstrates that chemical recycling is a sustainable way to close the loop for plastics

#### Approach

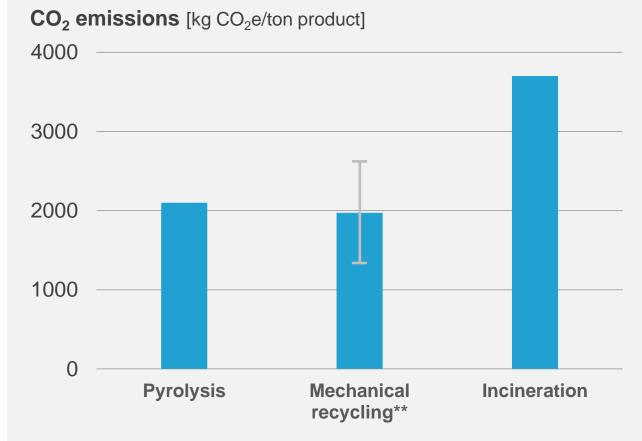
Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study commissioned by BASF, performed by a third-party in consistence with international LCA standards and reviewed by three independent and recognized experts

#### **Results**

- Pyrolysis of mixed plastic waste emits ~50% less CO<sub>2</sub> than incineration of mixed plastic waste.
- Manufacturing of plastics via chemical recycling (pyrolysis) or mechanical recycling of mixed plastic waste results in similar CO<sub>2</sub> emissions\*.

\* Differences in product quality (virgin grade quality for chemical recycling / non-virgin-grade quality for mechanical recycling) as well as differences in sorting losses are included in the calculation by applying the *Circular Footprint Formula* of JRC / EU Commission.

#### **Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the life cycle of** 1 ton of virgin plastics with three end-of-life options



Production and end-of-life treatment of 1 ton of plastics via pyrolysis emit 2,100 kg CO2e, whereas production and end-of-life treatment of 1 ton of plastics via mechanical recycling emits 2,000 kg CO2e. Production and incineration of 1 ton of plastics emits 3,700 kg CO2e.

\*\* The error bar reflects the different scenarios by changing the quality factor and the material loss rates after sorting of waste. The value can vary +/-25%