



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call for proposals for developing an analysis to show the impact of different applications of mass-balance chain of custody with regard to level playing field

Deadline: February 10 2023

Zero Waste Europe wishes to carry out new research to show the impact of applying different mass-balance approach to calculate recycled content for plastic packaging with regard to level playing field.

Please refer to the Terms of Reference for more in depth information.

Background

Following the European Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Commission is moving forward with proposals to shift towards a more circular economy. Chemical recycling especially pyrolysis, appears as an enabling factor as it is popping up in very different proposals, and often in a non-harmonized way. Indeed, the recent proposal from Eunomia for recycled content targets as part of the revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive put a disproportionate focus on chemical recycling especially on pyrolysis for polyolefins packaging waste. Recent studies nonetheless show questionable yield and underline the high energy intensity of the technology. The Lux Research [paper](#) states that "pyrolysis has an overall polymer yield of 9%".

This makes urgent the need for a report to assess the environmental and climate impact of moving towards pyrolysis as the main route for 'recycling' packaging waste in the context of a limited carbon budget to stay under the limit of +1,5 degree defined by the Paris Agreement. Currently, most studies compare pyrolysis with incineration to underline the positive environmental impact, but recent [publication](#) shows that *pyrolysis can have a lower CO2 footprint than incineration in some scenarios but compared to incineration with high levels of energy recovery, it's more of a wash.*

Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are to assess the climate impact of shifting towards pyrolysis as the main way to tackle packaging waste and the consequences on climate targets. The results of this potential scenario on pyrolysis would then be compared with one where reuse and design for recycling are mainstreamed (eg via functional food barriers as alternatives to pyrolysis).



Deliverables

- 1) A written public report of 15-20 pages, targeted at EU Member State policymakers, in a format detailed in the Terms of Reference. The language of this report will be English and it should be non-technical, clear and understandable by both policymakers and interested citizens.

Tender response

Your response should include:

- Details of the research you will carry out and methods you will use;
- Expected timeline for the work (more detailed than outlined in Terms of Reference);
- A breakdown of the costs of undertaking the study;
- A description of the team that will manage and deliver the work, including the skills and experience of the team members, as demonstrated by the CVs of those who would undertake the work.

The tender response document should be limited to no more than 3 sides of A4 (at a minimum of 10 point font) excluding the CVs of team members.

Timetable

The deadline for the receipt of tenders is 10th of February 2023.

The final report should be ready for publication by **31 May 2023**.

The organisations

Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, businesses, experts, and change agents working towards the same vision: phasing out waste from our society. We empower communities to redesign their relationship with resources, to adopt smarter lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns, and to think circular.

Monitoring and management

The main points of contact for the consultants will be:

Lauriane Veillard, Policy Officer on Chemical Recycling and Plastic-to-Fuels, Zero Waste Europe:
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Janek Vahk, Climate, Energy, and Air pollution Programme Coordinator, Zero Waste Europe:
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