

The *Versnellings Tafel Chemische Recycling van Kunststoffen* (VTCR) is a public-private partnership between 13 Dutch industrial companies and the Dutch government^{1,2}.

Chemical recycling is the generic term for a number of techniques that are intended to be capable of high-quality recycling of plastics. The VTCR started from the joint ambition of the Dutch government and VNO-NCW to improve the investment climate for chemical recycling. In collaboration, we develop knowledge and build capacity to take maximum advantage of the opportunities offered by chemical recycling. In this way, companies in the Netherlands can position themselves internationally as frontrunners and develop their competitiveness. The VTCR has been designated as a moonshot project of the *Versnellingshuis Nederland Circulair*³.

Achieving the ambitions set out in the Roadmap Chemical Recyclig does not happen overnight.

The *Roadmap Chemische Recycling kunststoffen 2030 NL*⁴ identifies concrete action points to accelerate chemical recycling through 2030. Since drafting the Roadmap, the VTCR has engaged in numerous ways of knowledge development and -exchange.

In this Whitepaper, the VTCR presents its sharpened vision on the position of chemical recycling within the recycling landscape and puts forward several (policy) recommendations for the coming years aimed at achieving the set ambitions.

The vision of the VTCR can be summarized in 6 principles.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Chemical recycling - like other recycling routes - does not replace Reduce and Reuse. |
| 2 | Only carbon retained in a chemical recycling route as a resource for the chemical industry can be classified as recycling. |
| 3 | Chemical recycling is complementary to mechanical recycling. Both are necessary to achieve the ambitions. |
| 4 | Information on chemical recycling performance with regards to quantity, quality and CO2 should be transparent and verified ⁵ . |
| 5 | Acceleration and scale-up is a common effort of chain actors, the industry, and governments. |
| 6 | The choices made today - and in the coming years - largely determine what the plastics sector will look like in 2040 or 2050. |

¹ Participating parties as of 1-1-2023 are: the Ministries of IenW and EZK, RVO, Afvalfonds Verpakkingen, BASF, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, Dow, ExxonMobil Chemical Holland BV, Havenbedrijf Rotterdam, Invest-NL, Neste, PreZero, Renewi, SABIC, Shell, Unilever. The VTCR was established in cooperation with the Versnellingshuis Nederland Circulair and is facilitated by VNO-NCW and Rebel.

² Participation by IenW and EZK/RVO in discussions and working groups takes place as part of a social dialogue, which also serves as input for policy. Positions presented, for example in Whitepapers, are those of the VTCR, not of the Cabinet.

³ We refer to: <https://versnellingshuisce.nl/projecten/moonshot-7-chemische-recycling>

⁴ We refer to: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2021/03/12/bijlage-1-roadmap-chemische-recycling>

⁵ We refer to, e.g., the *Green Deal Betrouwbaar Bewijs Voor Kunststof Recycelaat*: <https://www.greendeals.nl/green-deals/green-deal-betrouwbaar-bewijs-voor-toepassen-van-kunststof-recycelaat>

In addition to dealing with technology challenges, realization of the objectives also requires economic, legal, logistical, and spatial interventions from both policy and the private sector.

The VTCR calls for prioritized attention to several bottlenecks and provides 8 recommendations for what is needed – in addition to existing (policy) measures – to advance (the scale-up of) Chemical Recycling.

The recommendations are addressed to policymakers, but also to private actors in the chain: the chemical industry, technology providers, brand-owners, EPR-parties, waste companies and financiers.

