

Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 21, EGU2019-18671, 2019
EGU General Assembly 2019
© Author(s) 2019. CC Attribution 4.0 license.

Giving Plastic New Life

Ed Mitchell
Pennon Group

Of the 4.5 million tonnes of plastic produced in the UK annually, about 85% used to go to landfill.

Now over 45% of plastic bottles are collected for recycling; and this is still increasing.

But too much plastic still ends up in landfill when there are so many uses for it, ranging from new bottles and food trays to underground drainage products and fibre-fill for sort furnishings. Alongside this plastic pollution is one of consumers' top concerns with 82% stating they are worried about plastics in the ocean.

The primary opportunities for recycling plastic are in PET and HDPE. These types of plastic can successfully replace virgin polymer, saving energy and CO₂ in the process.

Ed will bring the circular economy to life, describing how a plastics recovery facility separates over 6,000 tonnes of plastic a month into 8 streams of materials, supplying the market with what it demands.