

Plastic Pollution in Ghana – Policy Discussion & Recommendations

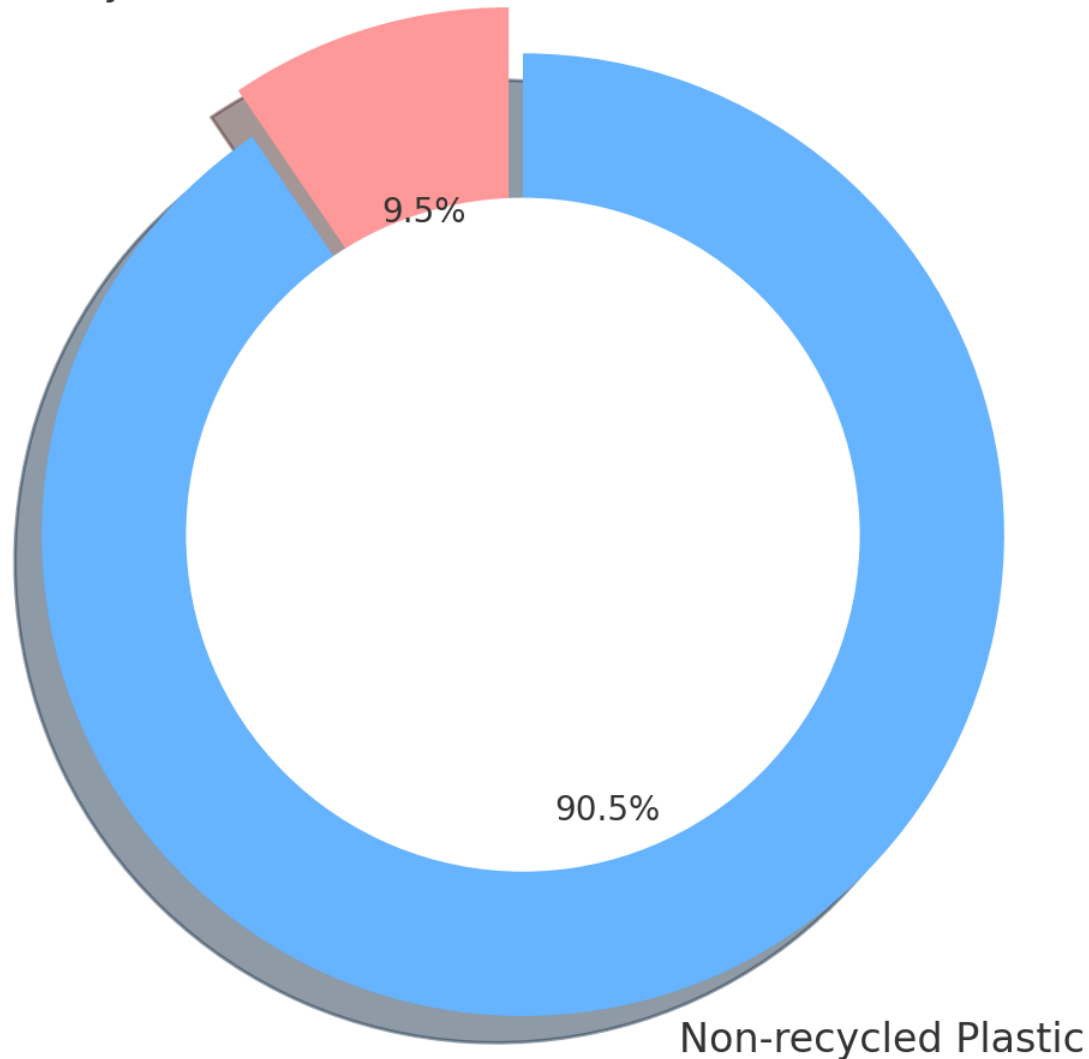


Why is Plastic Waste A Problem Globally?

- Plastics take several years to decompose (20-500 years).
- More than 80% of marine plastic waste comes from land-based sources
- When plastic wastes that contain vinyl-chloride are burnt and the smoke is released into the air, exposure to such contaminated air could lead to ailments such as lung cancer, lymphoma, and liver cancer among others.
- Dumping is presently the biggest outlet for disposing of plastic waste.

Source: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/725/1/012006/pdf>

Plastic Waste Recycling in Ghana



Why is Plastic Waste a Problem in Ghana?

- 86% of all waste generated in Ghana is plastic.
- Ghana generates 840,000 tonnes of plastic waste a year. Only 9.5% of this is collected for recycling.
- So where does the rest go?

Ghana Plastics Impact Map



The Role of Policy

- Regulatory Frameworks
- Incentives (Tax breaks, subsidies etc)
- Behaviour Change
- Research & Development
- Enforcement Measures
- Sustainable Production
Conceptualisation (Circular Economy)
- Extended Producer Responsibility
(EPR)



Ghana Plastics Policy & Regulatory Framework Mapping



NPMP 2020 – Focus Areas



Behavioural Change



Strategic Planning & Cross-sector
Collaboration



Innovative Resource Mobilisation
towards Circular Economy



Good governance, Inclusiveness &
Shared Accountability

Policy Recommendations

Implementation and Enforcement (timeline & mechanisms).

Financial Models & Resourcing.

Private Sector Incentivisation (Recycling & Adoption of New Technologies).

Plastics Data System

Strategic Research & Development Funding

Legal Framework to support enforcement & transition to better practices (facilitating bans)

Microplastics monitoring & management.