Recycling of Plastic

Plastic is produced from fossil oil. Plastic is used for many different products. Some plastic products like, for example, wrapping foil, bags and disposable containers for food and beverage have very short lifetimes and thus constitute a major fraction of most waste. Other plastic products like, for example, gutters, window frames, car parts and transportation boxes have long lifetimes and thus appear as waste only many years after they have been introduced on the market. Plastic is constantly being used for new products because of its attractive material properties: relatively cheap, easy to form, good strength and long durability. Recycling of plastic waste from production is well-established, while recycling of postconsumer plastic waste still is in its infancy. This chapter describes briefly how plastic is produced and how waste plastic is recycled in the industry. Quality requirements and use of recycled products are discussed, as are the resource and environmental issues of plastic recycling.

General information
Publication status: Published
Organisations: Residual Resource Engineering, Department of Environmental Engineering
Contributors: Christensen, T. H., Fruergaard, T.
Pages: 220-233
Publication date: 2011

Host publication information
Title of host publication: Solid Waste Technology and Management
Volume: Volume 1. Chapter 5.3
Place of publication: Chichester, West Sussex, UK
Publisher: Wiley
ISBN (Print): 978-1-405-17517-3
Source: orbit
Source ID: 269300
Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Book chapter – Annual report year: 2011 › Research › peer-review