

**Globally 27 Million End of Life Cars per year (2021)**

**10 Billion Pounds of Auto Shredder Residue (ASR)  
Goes to Landfill or Incinerator**

**50%**

**AVERAGE VOLUME  
OF PLASTICS IN  
MODERN CARS**



*Eastman Chemicals Promo Video*

**One Car => 4,000 lbs of waste**  
**80% metal and glass**  
**20% Automotive Shredder Residue (ASR)**  
**5 million tons in the US per year**





*Seat fibers from a crushed vehicle which will become ASR. Photo credit: Padnos*



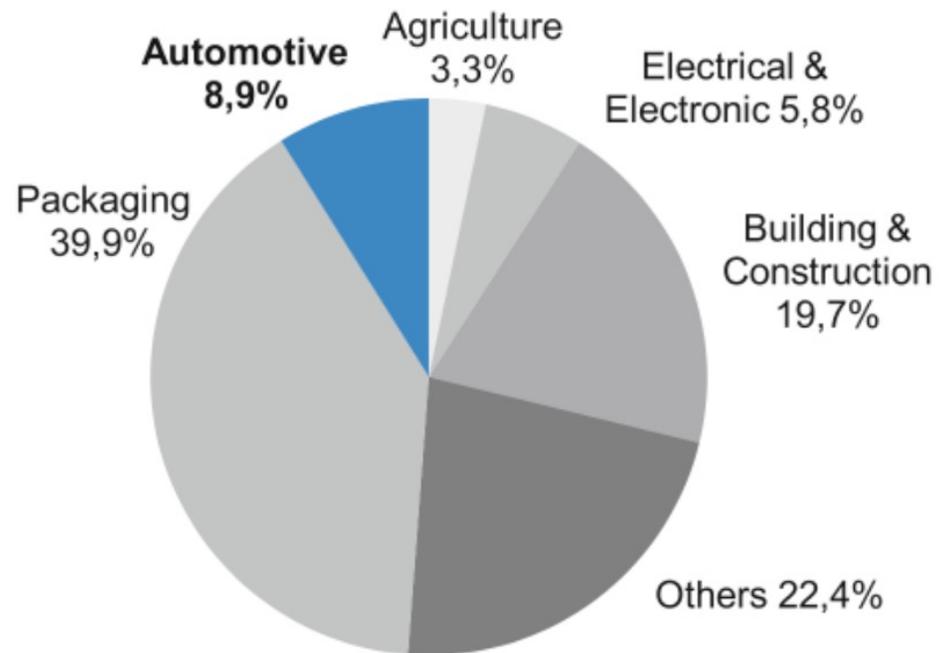
*Auto Shredder Residue (ASR). Photo credit: Pandos.*



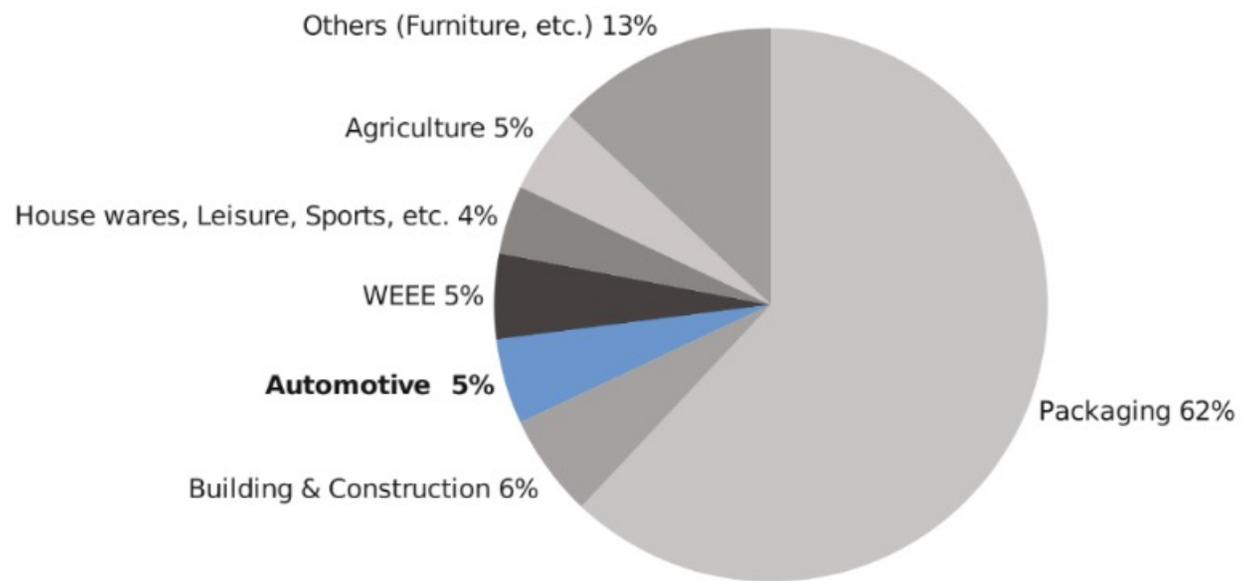
**Ford 2023 85% of plastic in their cars is recycled**

**Volvo promises in 2025 25% recycled plastic**

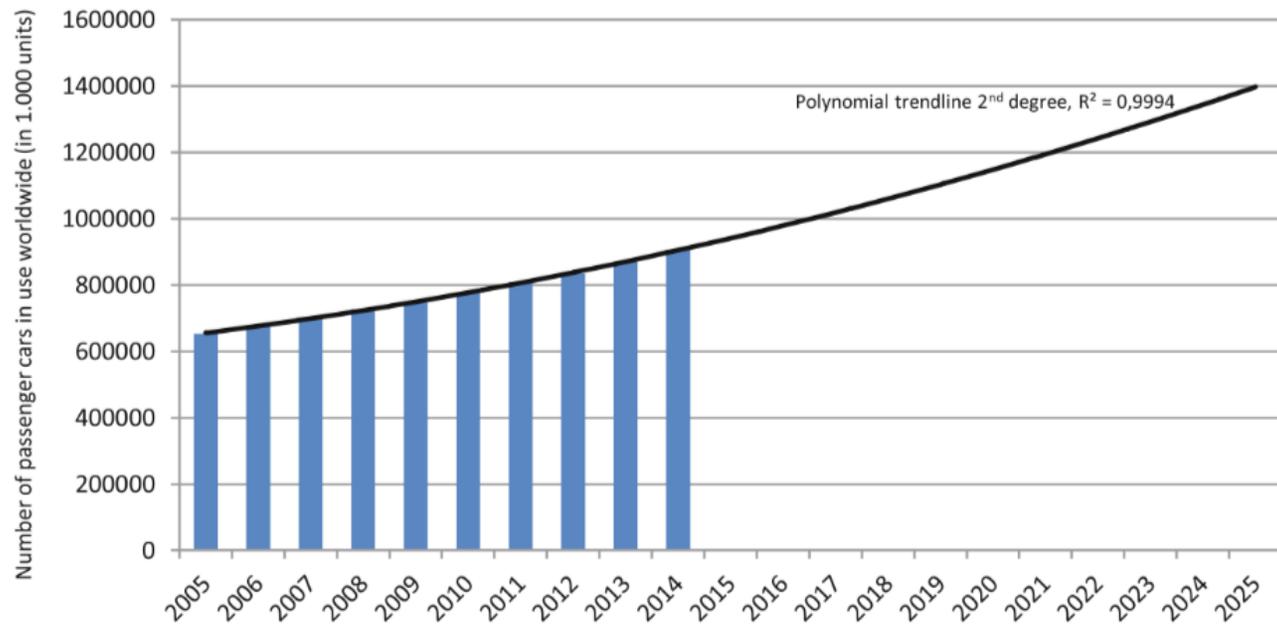
**Renault as some models with 30% and some with 90% recycled plastic**



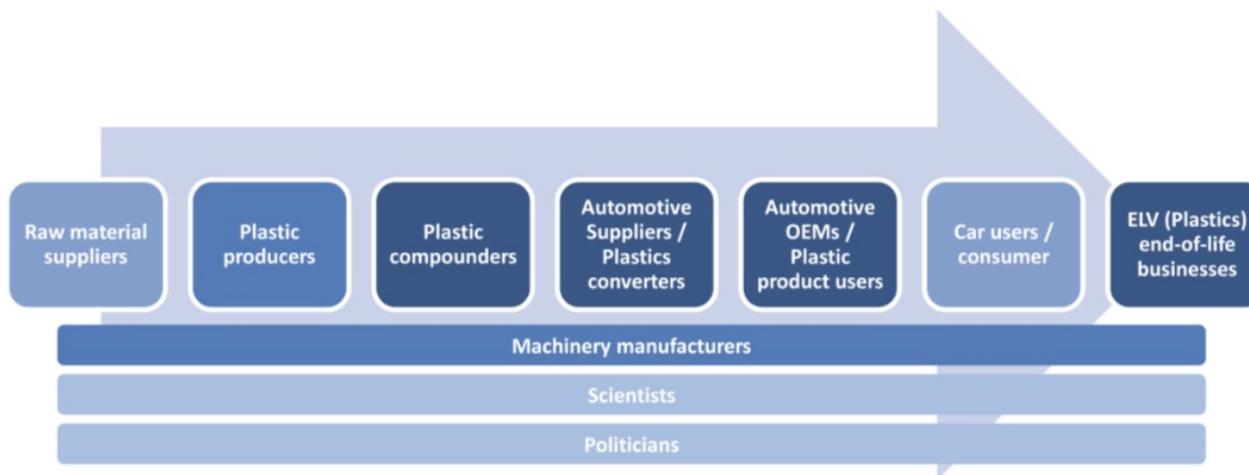
**Fig. 3.4** Plastics Demand by Segment in the EU-28+N/CH in 2015 (total of 49 Mt, 'others' include consumer and household appliances, furniture, sport, health and safety,...), adapted with kind permission from PlasticsEurope (PlasticsEurope 2016, p. 17)



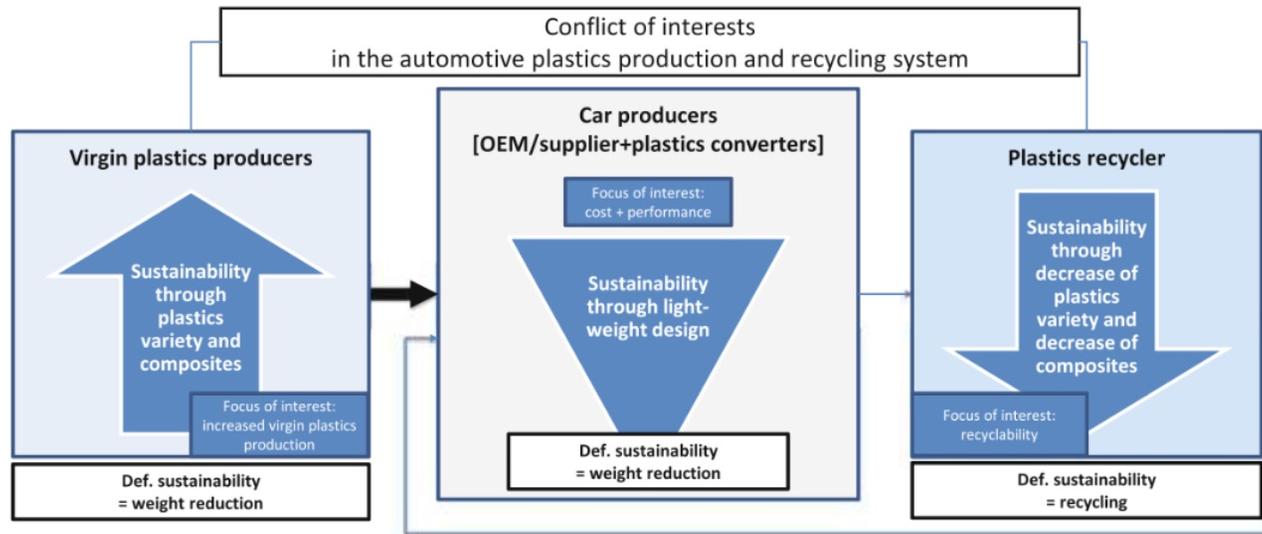
**Fig. 3.10** Proportions of Plastics Waste in the EU-27+N/CH in 2008, adapted with kind permission from European Commission DG ENV et al. (2011, p. 66) cited after PlasticsEurope (2009)



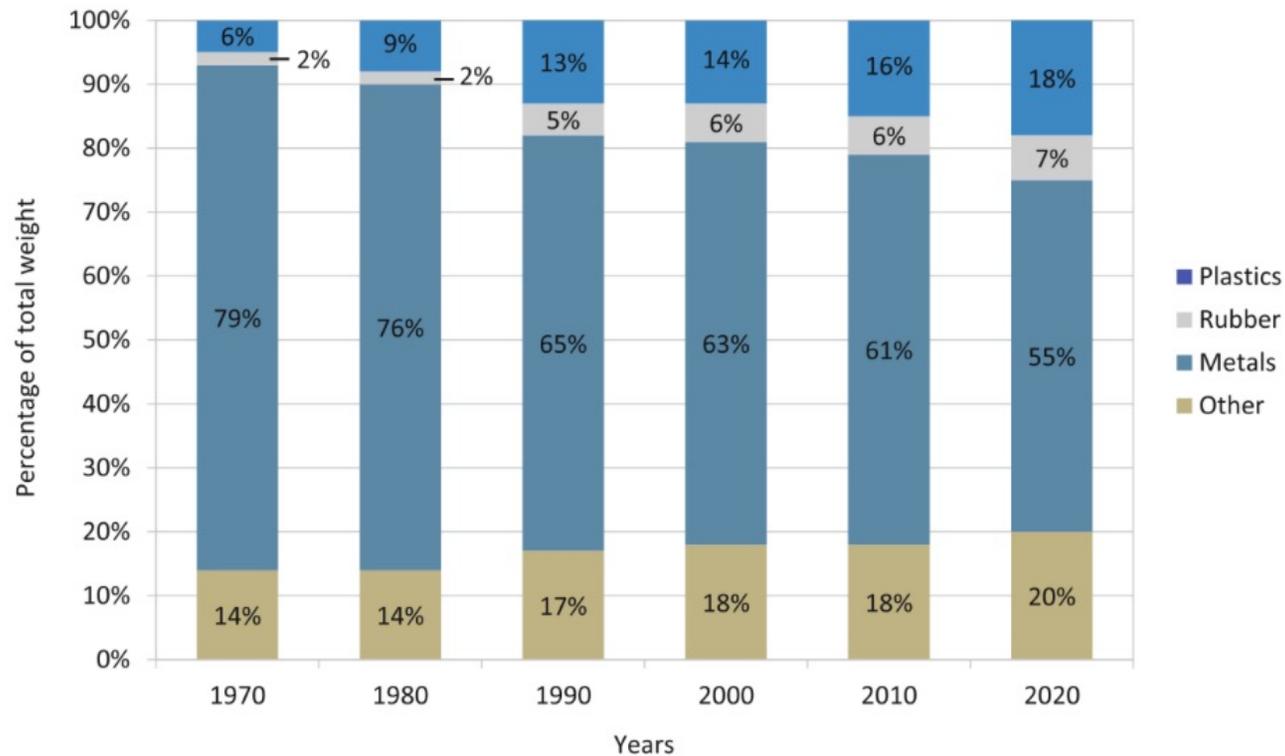
**Fig. 3.16** Passenger cars in use worldwide, adapted with kind permission from OICA (2016a), modified by adding a polynomial trendline



**Fig. 6.3** Value chain of automotive plastics



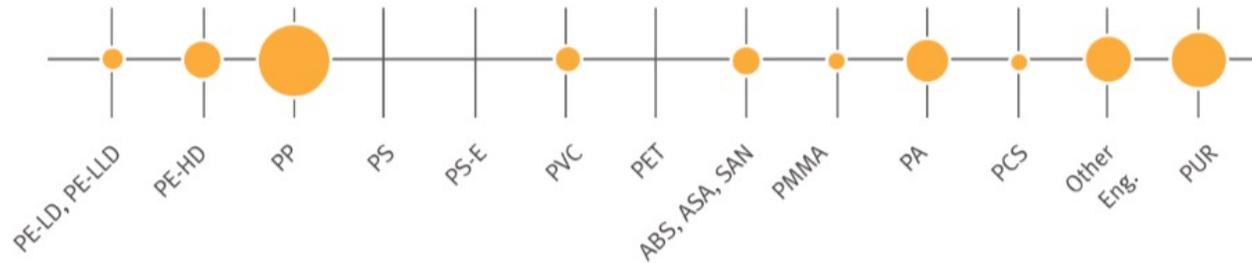
**Fig. 7.1** Conflict of interests concerning automotive plastics, validated with experts



**Fig. 3.17** Automotive materials development, adapted with kind permission from Weill et al. (2012, p. 2), modified by the author. (Color figure online)

**Table 3.4** Plastics used in a typical car, used with kind permission from EuPC (2013)

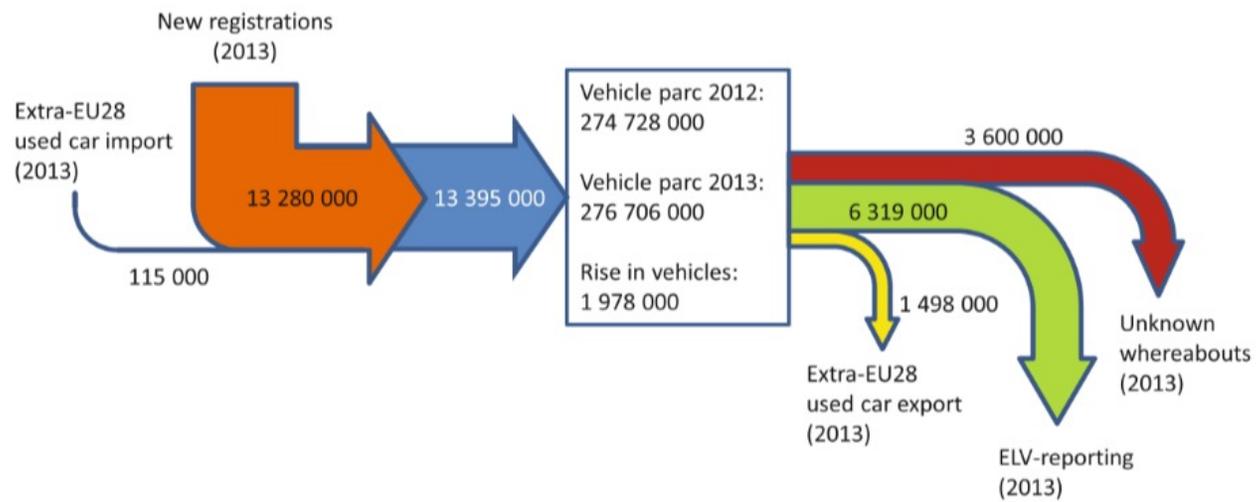
<b>Component</b>	<b>Main types of plastics</b>	<b>Weight in av. car (kg)</b>
Interior trim	PP, ABS, PET, POM, PVC	20
Seating	PUR, PP, PVC, ABS, PA	13
Bumpers	PP, ABS, PC/PBT	10
Under-bonnet components	PA, PP, PBT	9
Upholstery	PVC, PUR, PP, PE	8
Dashboard	PP, ABS, SMA, PPE, PC	7
Electrical components	PP, PE, PBT, PA, PVC	7
Fuel Systems	HDPE, POM, PA, PP, PBT	6
Body (incl. panels)	PP, PPE, UP	6
Lighting	PC, PBT, ABS, PMMA, UP	5
Exterior trim	ABS, PA, PBT, POM, ASA, PP	4
Liquid reservoirs	PP, PE, PA	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>105</b>



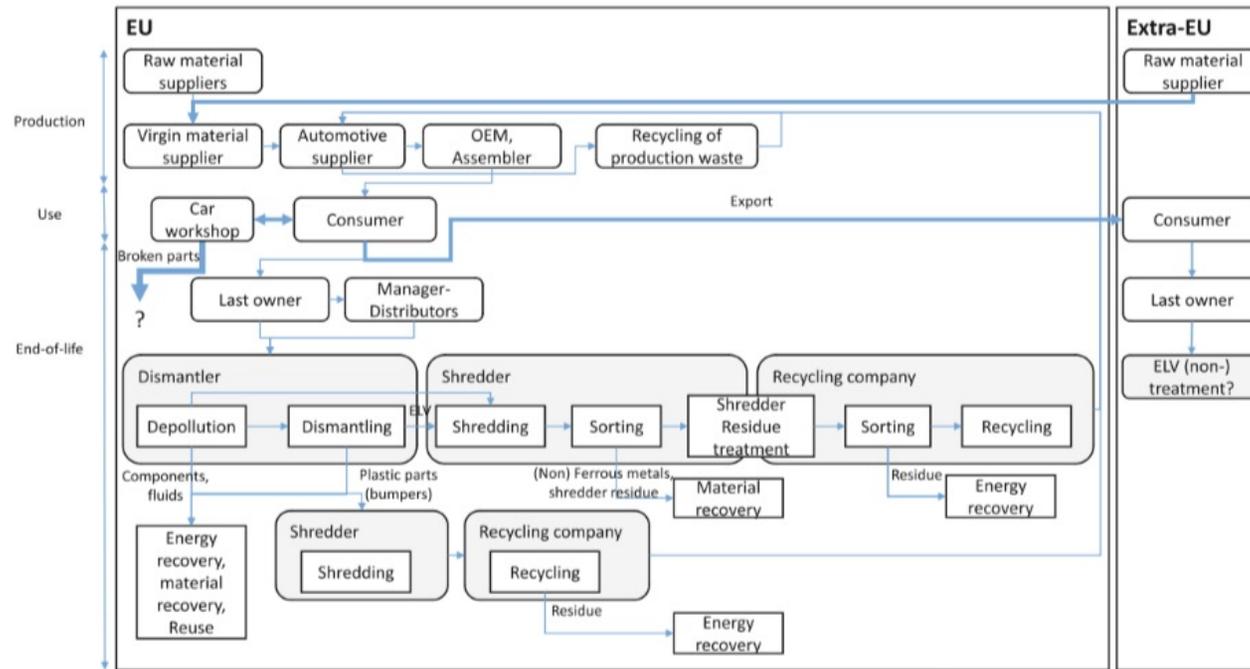
**Fig. 3.18** Automotive plastic types, used with kind permission from PlasticsEurope (2013b). All rights reserved

**Table 3.3** Most prominent plastics and their estimated percentages in terms of weight used in a typical car, based on PlasticsEurope (2013a) and Weill et al. (2012)

Plastic type	Acronym	% by weight	kg (224 kg total per car)
Polypropylene	PP	28.6	64
Polyurethanes	PUR/PU	17.4	39
Polyamides	PA	11.9	27
Polyethylene	PE-HD/MD/LD/LLD	9.7	22
Styrenic copolymers	ABS, ASA, SAN	5.3	12
Polyvinyl chloride	PVC	3.8	9
Others		23.3	51



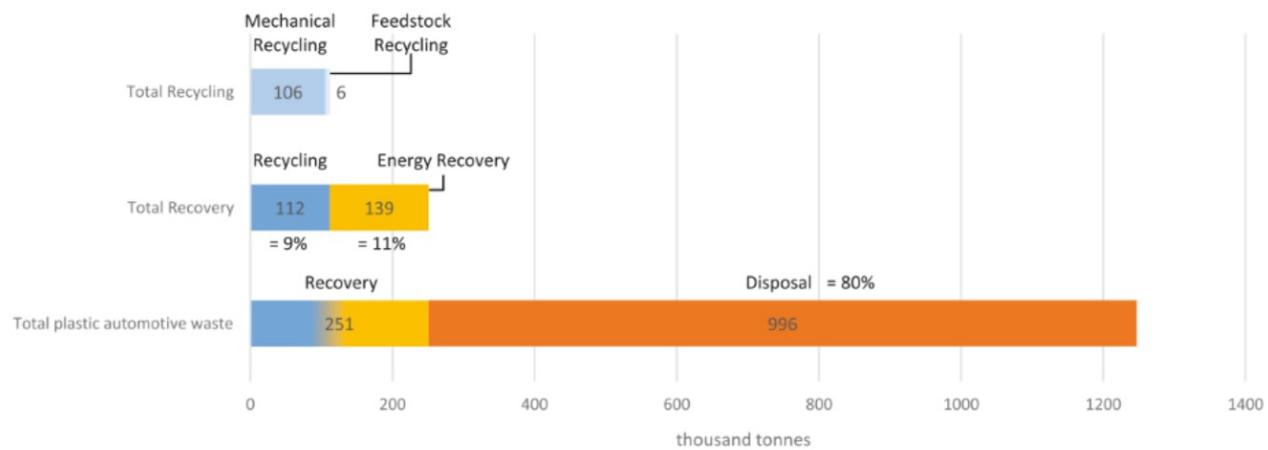
**Fig. 3.19** Automobile streams in the EU-28 in 2013 (M1+N1 vehicles), reproduced from Oeko-Institut e.V. et al. (2016) (CC BY-SA)



**Fig. 3.20** The car life-cycle in the EU with the focus on ELV treatment, adapted with kind permission from Kanari et al. (2003), Maudet et al. (2012)

Two ways to shred a car





**Fig. 3.21** Treatment of total automotive plastics waste in EU-27+N/CH in 2008, adapted with kind permission from European Commission DG ENV et al. (2011, p. 86)

**Table 3.5** Plastics content in a 2015 ELV, estimation (European Commission DG ENV et al. 2011, p. 125)

	<i>%</i>	<b>kg</b>
PP	42	44.63
PU	11	11.69
PA/PC	8	8.50
ABS	7	7.44
PVC	7	7.44
Other	12	13.81
Total	100	106.26

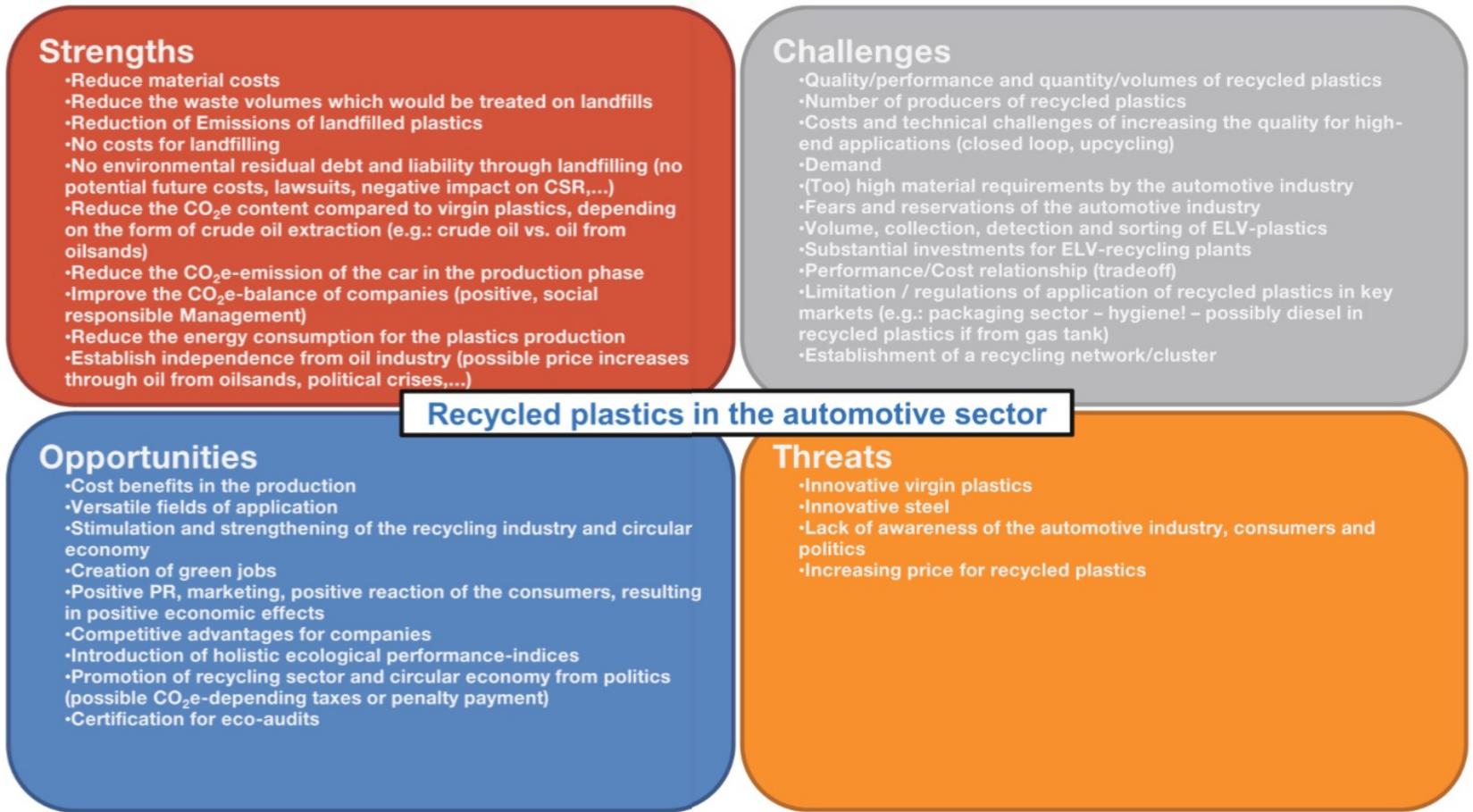
**Table 3.6** Usage of recycled plastics in car fleets in Europe (BMW Group 2015; Daimler AG 2015; PSA Groupe 2015; Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Group [FCA] 2015, p. 64; Volkswagen AG 2015; Nissan Motor Corporation 2016, p. 138; Renault Group 2015, p. 16; General Motors 2015; Ford Motor Company 2016)

<b>OEM</b>	<b>Proportion of recycled plastics</b>
FCA Group (Fiat/Chrysler)	34.9% (avg. 2015)
BMW Group	No clear indication (up to 20% in 2014)
Nissan Motor Corporation	No clear indication (13% in the best performing model)
PSA Group (Peugeot/Citroen)	No clear indication
Renault SA	No clear indication
Ford Motor Company	No clear indication
General Motors Company	No clear indication
Volkswagen Group	No clear indication
Daimler AG	No clear indication

**Table 3.7** ELV-Directive (European Union 2000, p. 38)

	<b>As of Jan 1, 2006</b>	<b>As of Jan 1, 2015</b>
Reuse and recycling (%)	80	85
Reuse and recovery (%)	85	95

**Fig. 5.1** SCOT analysis of the usage of recycled plastics in the automotive sector, developed with experts



**Table 5.1** Overview of future perspectives concerning recycled plastics in the automotive sector - Literature sources: Sperling and Gordon (2009); Weill et al. (2012); Heuss et al. (2012); BMW Group (2015); Daimler (2015); Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Group (FCA) (2015); Ford Motor Company (2016); General Motors (2015); Nissan Motor Corporation (2016); PSA Groupe (2015); Renault Group (2015); Volkswagen (2015); European Commission (2011, 2014a, b, c); European Union (2013); PlasticsEurope (2016)

Source	Literature	Survey	Expert work-shops and inter-views
Prognosis			
Number of cars will increase worldwide	X (=confirmed)	0 (=not asked)	X
Car weight will decrease	X	0	X
Share of plastics in cars will increase significantly till 2020	X	X	X
Innovative metals (High strength steel, aluminium, magnesium,...) will increase	X	0	X
Holistic life-cycle thinking will increase	X	0	X
Political incentives for circular economy will increase	X	0	X
Increasing share of recycled plastics in new cars and car parts till 2020		X	X
Demand for more sustainable materials will increase till 2020		X	X
Marketing with recycled plastics will be beneficial in 2020		X	X
Hierarchy of ELV treatment in 2020: 1. Rank: Mechanical recycling 2. Rank: Thermal energy recovery 3. Rank: Chemical recycling 4. Rank: Landfilling		X	X

Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

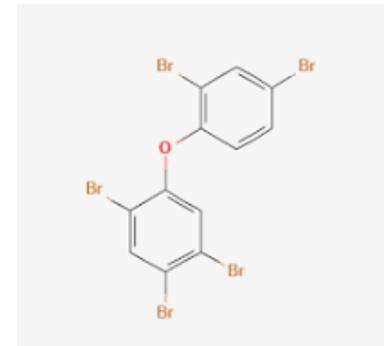
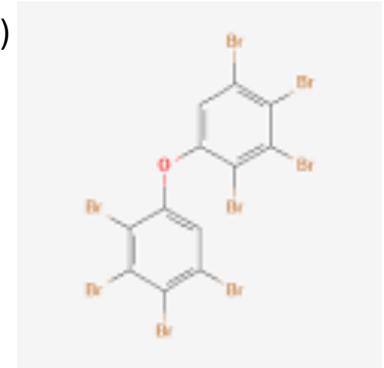
May/probably contain bromine flame retardants (BFRs)

a. Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (also known as octabromodiphenyl ether or commercial **octaBDE** which is a commercial mix of several types of BDEs); used as a flame retardant for some acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) thermoplastics particularly for those used for **electronic goods** such as computer monitor and television casings, photocopiers, microwave ovens, laptops, and printers. Also used in coatings and lacquers, and in polyurethane foam for auto upholstery.

b. Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether (also known as commercial **pentaBDE**); used predominantly in **polyurethane foams for vehicles seats** and fittings and foams used for furniture, mattresses, carpet underlay, and electronic equipment.

BFRs are toxic and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment. They are capable of **long-range transport, persist in the environment, and bioaccumulate in human and animal tissue.**

They have the potential to be **transformed into brominated dioxins** when burnt at low temperatures or when the chemicals break down. This can occur during handling, recycling or disposal. The brominated dioxins are **extremely toxic and carcinogenic.**



## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

- ASR contains a variable mix of thermoplastics, rubbers, thermosets, foam, felt, fiber, glass, metal (copper), stones, mud, wood, water, dirt
- Unpredictable, useless extraneous material
- Hazardous substances: Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, PCBs, BFRs
- ASR is classified as hazardous
- ASR is being landfilled
- Sorted resins are eligible for recycling, most for pyrolysis or incineration

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

- Average at 13.7 years we reach ELV
- Transfer of ELV from affluent to Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe
- Scrap yard for cannibalization (systematic or upon demand)
- Car wrecks are depolluted by removal of fluids, catalytic converters, batteries, PCBs
- Systematic dismantling (rare) bumpers, cushions,
- Shredder (1950s to now) result in fist size metal, fine shredder dust (aluminum/magnesium/plastics), dense shredder dust
- Fiber glass bodies, hybrid and EVs are a problem for conventional shredders

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

- Switzerland, Japan and later the Netherlands pioneered pyrolysis for ASR. EU followed.
- ELV Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of-life vehicles 2000/53/EC [10, 11, 16];
- Directive 2000/76/ EC (December 4, 2000) on the incineration of waste [17];
- Directive 1999/31/EC (April 26, 2000) on the disposal of waste in landfills [18].
- EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemical substances (REACH, 2007) [19, 20], to protect people and the environment from chemical hazards, impacts the potential recycling of automotive materials.

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### EU regulations:

- **Carmakers** must reduce their use of hazardous substances (mercury, hexavalent chromium, cadmium, or lead) when designing and producing vehicles.
- **Producers** must use International Organization for Standards (ISO) guidelines for labelling and identification of vehicle components suitable for reuse and recovery and meet the costs for collection and recovery.
- EU Member **States are required to establish collection systems** for ELVs and ensure that all vehicles are transferred to authorised treatment facilities, through a system of vehicle deregistration based on a **certificate of destruction**.
- The last holder of an ELV may dispose of it **free of charge** (free take-back).
- Vehicle **dismantlers must obtain permits** to handle ELVs.
- **Storage and treatment of ELVs are strictly controlled** through de-pollution procedures and **designated parts removal** requirements (cf. 2006/12/EC [21]).
- **Vehicle manufacturers** compile data and report regularly to the authorities designated.
- Every 3 years **Member States** are required to report to the European Commission on implementation.

ELV Directive (2000/53/EC) is the first **Extended Producer Responsibility** Law (EPR)

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

In the EU ASR is classified as hazardous waste.

Most ASR is landfilled

To a rising extent energy is recovered, mainly by co-combustion with municipal solid waste [22] or in cement kilns.

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### Japan:

Retrieve CPCs, airbags, and ASR  
Car producers own recycling companies  
Consumers pay at purchase for recycling

### South Korea:

Car producers and importers responsible for ELV

### US:

“Product Stewardship” calls for “shared responsibility”. No mandates.  
Some industrial groups have formed to address the problem, ASR hasn’t been specifically addressed

Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

Car Crushing

**Decontamination:** Removal of fluids and batteries etc

**Flattening:** crushing of car

**Bailing:** Ship bails to shredding plant (hopefully)

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### Shredding Process

**Remove Recoverable Parts:** wheels and tires, steering columns, fenders, radios, engines, starters, transmissions, alternators, selected plastic parts and components, air bags, glass, foams, catalytic convertors, mercury switches, bumpers, cushions, dashboards

**Shredder:** fist size wrinkled plates of steel and light fluff (**ASR** and light weight metals) and heavy fluff (steel fragments and other metals)

**Light fluff:** magnetic separation followed by eddy current separators for aluminum and other nonferrous metals.

**Heavy fluff:** sink float separators for different metals and plastic-coated wires etc.

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### **ASR Composition:**

Residual ferrous and non-ferrous metals (5–23 %),  
plastics (20–49 %),  
rubber (3–38 %),  
textile and fibre material (4–45 %),  
wood (2–5 %),  
and glass (2–18 %)

### **ASR Classification:**

- Light fluff, generated during shredding, following spontaneous air classification (75 % of ASR; 10–24 % of the ELV)
- Heavy fluff, remaining after metal separation from the heavy shredded fraction (25 % of ASR; 2–8 % of the ELV)
- Fine soil and sand are sometimes reported separately, but usually part of the heavy ASR (2.5 % of the ELV)

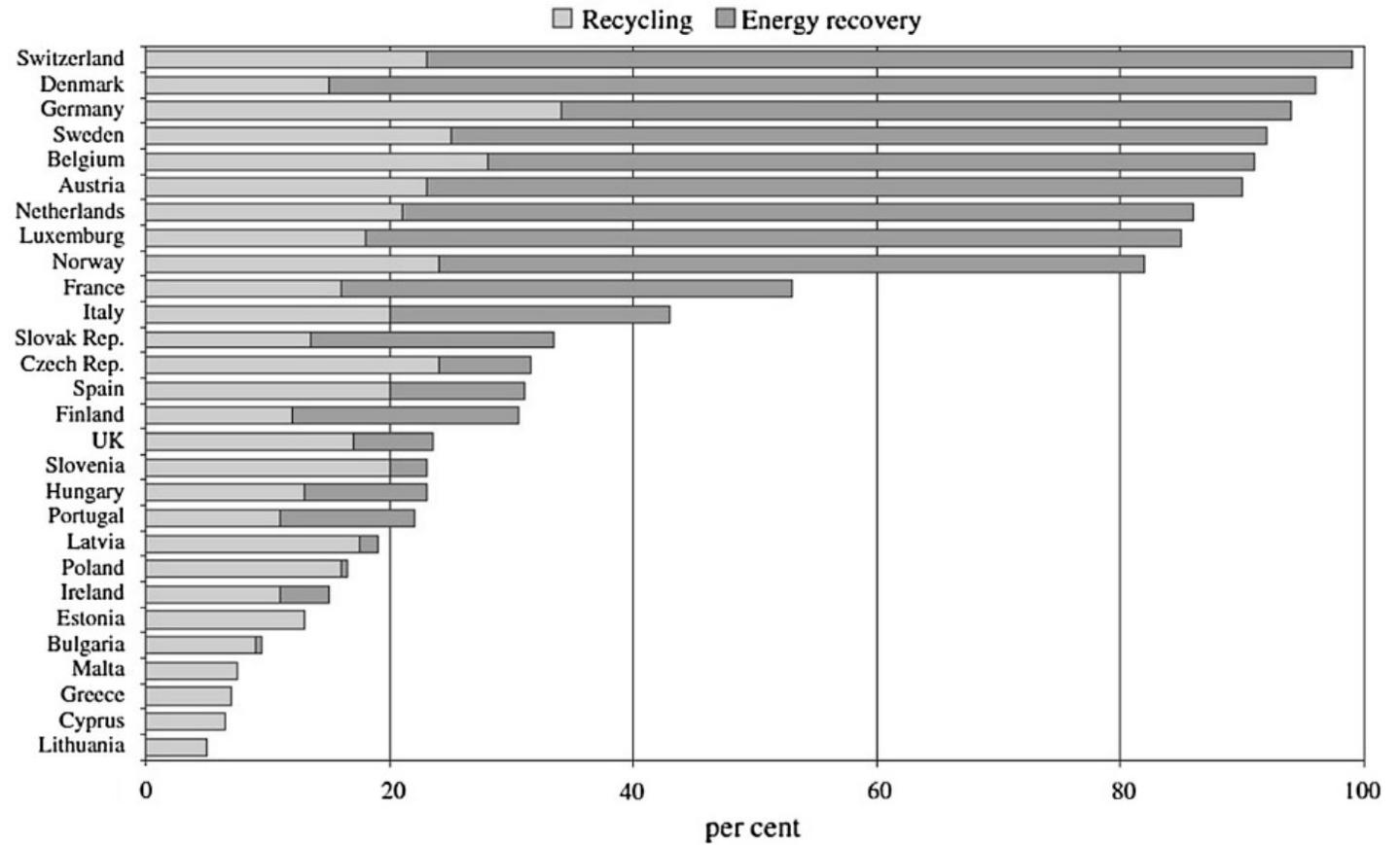
0.7 to 25 % moisture  
18 to 68 % ash  
14 to 30 MJ/kg for fuel

plastics (ca. 38 MJ/kg)  
rubber (23 MJ/kg)  
textiles (17 MJ/kg)

**Table 1** Composition of ASR, light and dense fraction [25]

	[45]	[6]	[40]	[46]	[47]	[48]	[49]
(a) Composition, as wt%, of ASR, according to the origin: light fluff							
Metal	1–1.7	21	8.8	2.5	3.7	0.3	
Wire	2.9–3		4.7	1	2.2		0.5
Rubber	3.8–4	3.1	2.6	3	8.8	10.3	4.1
Textile	37.5–39.6		36.1	32.5	26.2	8.3	7.9
PUR foam	6.6–20.6		35.3	8			3.8
Plastic	16.1–24.1	31.8	11.7	9	46.1	11.0	8.7
Wood	0.03–0.4			1	2.7	0.6	
Paper	0.8–1.0				0.8		
Soil/sand	6.4–21.6				4.3		
Glass	0	2.3		43 (minerals)			
Others	2.7–6.2		0.8		5.2	69.5 (<10 mm)	75 (fines)
(b) Composition, as wt%, of ASR, according to the origin: heavy fluff							
Metal	0.2–1.4	1.6		5		0.7	
Wire	7.0–12.7			3			0.7
Rubber	14.1–17.3	9.3		55		43.7	44.8
Textile	7.7–11.6			3		10.5	10.5
PUR foam	0.9–2.8						3.3
Plastic	23.8–30.9	8		19		32.6	29
Wood	0.06–0.7			7		4.7	5.6
Paper	1–2.5						
Soil/sand	7.6–12.3			8 (minerals)			
Glass	8.3–11.0	9.4					
Others	4.6–4.0					7.8	6.1 (fines)

**Fig. 1** Recycling of general plastics in various European countries [51]. Recycling rate, mechanical recycling; energy recovery rate, thermal recycling



## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### Sorting of ASR

- liberate large pieces of metal,
- the mixed plastics are classified and a light fraction is sorted out.
- subsequent wet separation allows sorting it into different subfractions, graded according to their density.
- then the ABS-PS (styrenics sinks in water) and PE-PP concentrates (polyolefins float) are mechanically and thermally dried.
- remaining metal and other conductive contaminations are subsequently separated, using hamos electrostatic separators.
- downstream electrostatic separators convert the ABS-PS or PE-PP mixtures into separate fractions.
- if required, light-colored plastics fractions can be produced using optical-electronic sorting.

WEEE-plastics can be treated similarly

Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmk-lQieQdg>



Recycling plastics from automotive shredder residues: a review

Alfons Buckens · Xujian Zhou  
J Mater Cycles Waste Manag (2014) 16:398–414

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

Co-incineration with limited addition of few per cent ASR to another main-stream is feasible without violating emission standards.

ASR typically contains significant amounts of chlorine (Cl), sulphur (S), nitrogen (N), and a wide range of heavy metals.

**Table 2** ASR contaminants [58]

Compounds	PCDD/Fs	Dioxin-like PCBs	PCB	PAHs
Concentrations	242–329 ng I-TEQ/kg	481–631 ng I-TEQ/kg	13–15 ppm	37–140 ppm

### Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins PCDD

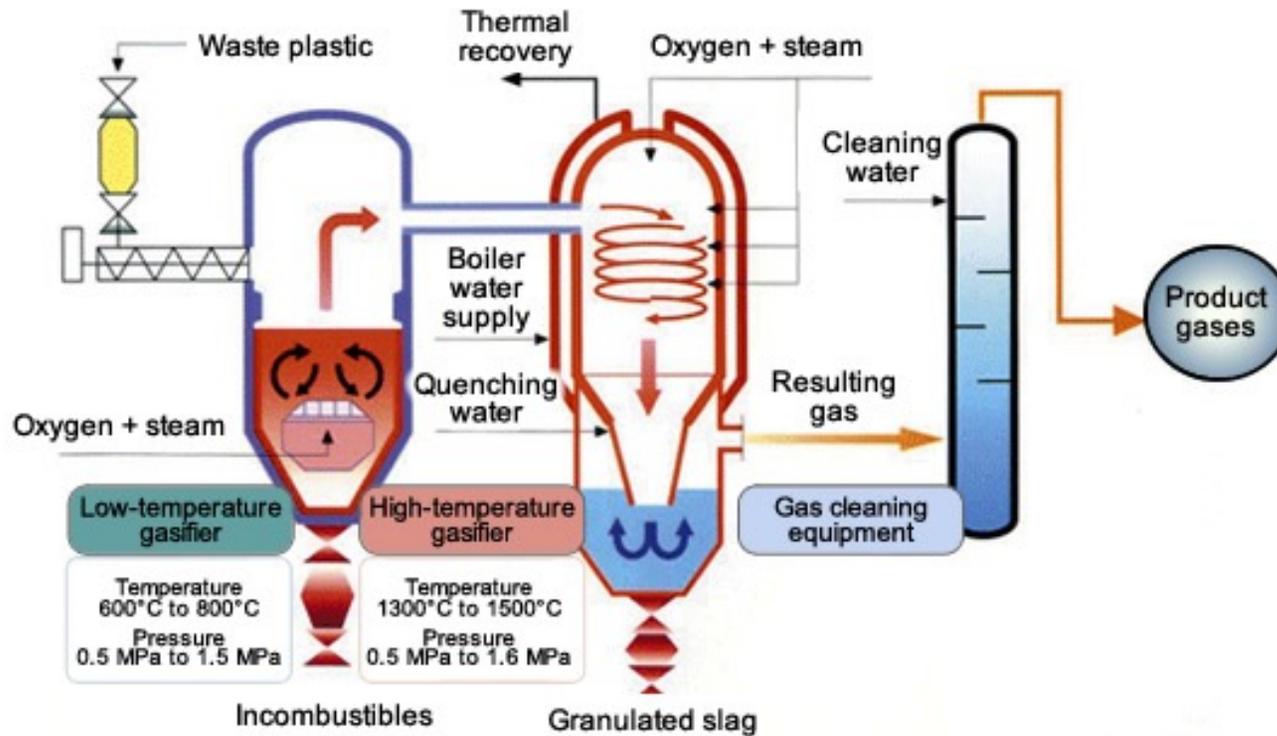
### Polychlorinated dibenzofurans

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

- Heavy metals of miscellaneous origins.
- Various paint pigments, plastics additives, and corrosion products bring in a number of heavy metal compounds;
- brominated flame retardants (BFRs), e.g. from printed circuit boards or car cushions are routinely accompanied by antimony oxides.
- Mercury used in switches, relays, and gas discharge lamps,
- Shredding a single lead battery would impregnate a lot of ASR with lead and its oxides.

zinc (Zn, 2.10 %),  
copper (Cu, 1.85 %),  
lead (Pb, 0.26 %),  
chromium (Cr, 0.16 %),  
nickel (Ni, 0.12 %),  
antimony (Sb, 230 ppm),  
cadmium (Cd, 77 ppm),  
mercury (Hg, 3 ppm)

## Pressurized twin internally circulating fluidized-bed gasification system (PTIFG)

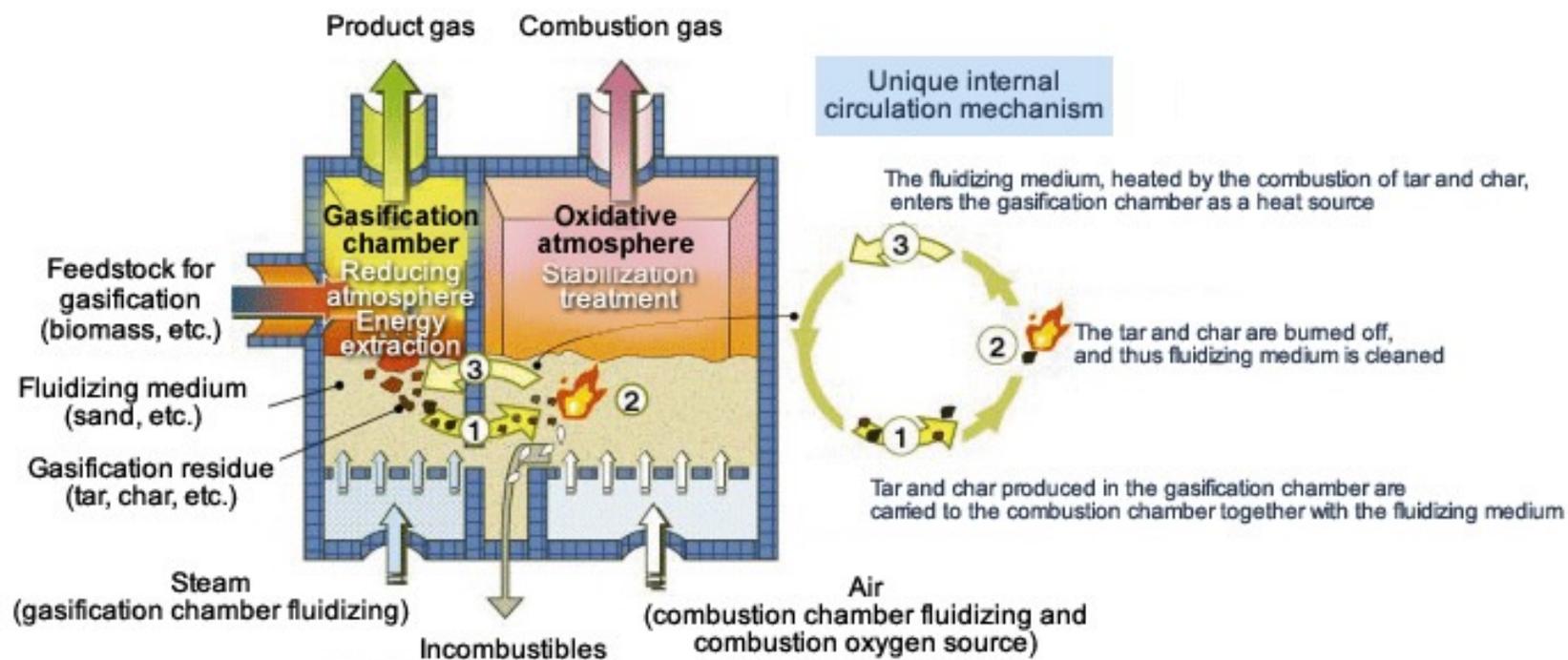


Recycling plastics from automotive shredder residues: a review

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[https://www.eep.ebara.com/en/business\\_technology/technology\\_3.html](https://www.eep.ebara.com/en/business_technology/technology_3.html)

# Internally circulating fluidized-bed gasification



[https://www.eep.ebara.com/en/business\\_technology/technology\\_3.html](https://www.eep.ebara.com/en/business_technology/technology_3.html)

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### **ASR Incineration**

- burning ASR directly, recovering some supplemental metal from incinerator residue and possibly even from fly ash.
- technical and environmental factors.
- Tested in 1980s with Belgian shredder enterprise (IWONL/IRSIA R&D-project), but due to its high calorific value and melting characteristics the ASR burned too fiercely, leading to uncontrollable combustion, local lack of oxygen, agglomeration of burning ASR, and carry-over of unburned fines

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

- Co-incineration can be conducted in a wider range of incinerator categories, such as mechanical grate furnaces, fluidised bed and vortex combustors, rotary kilns, and cement kilns.
- Such solutions are called **Solution by Dilution** by operators of duly licensed hazardous waste incinerators.

### **Gasification of ASR:**

1. Fluidized bed gasification (Winkler, Leuna Werke, Germany) at unusually low temperature (750–900 °C). An air factor was used of 25–40 % of the stoichiometric combustion air requirements: partial combustion of char supplies the heat required for autothermal operation. Gasification of carbon with steam or carbon dioxide is still slow below 850 °C. Yet, operating temperatures are restricted by weakening of the ash, leading rapidly to loss of fluidization. Air as gasification agent introduces large amounts of nitrogen in the producer gas, thereby reducing the calorific value of generator gas.
2. Vertical shaft gasifiers (Lurgi, Frankfurt) operate in counter-current, with rising gasification products and the charge gradually descending towards the hearth at temperatures up to 1200 °C. Air is replaced as a gasification agent by a balanced mix of oxygen and steam. Ash is tapped periodically as molten slag, unless gasification temperature is severely limited.
3. A rotary kiln can be used, operating at a higher ratio of (volume reacting gases)/(volume of the charge) and adding tumbling action to the charge. The Landgard partial oxidation plant of Monsanto (Baltimore, MI, USA) was scaled-up too rapidly from pilot to full-scale and fell victim to sequentially occurring operating problems, starting with shredder explosions, solidification of stored shredded fuel, clogging of the slag tapping hole, etc.
4. Co-current flow combustion of pulverized fuel (Koppers-Totzek). The reactor is simply a combustion chamber, into which several pulverized coal burners inject their incomplete combustion products. Temperatures of 1400–1600 °C are reached, so that tar conversion and a fully slagging operation is ensured.
5. Montecatini, Texaco, and Shell all developed processes for converting heavy fuel oil (or any pumpable fuel), injecting these together with oxygen and steam into a combustion chamber at sufficiently high temperatures. Their designs differed mainly in the methods used to separate soot particles and to recover sensible heat from the gas.

## Automotive Shredder Residue, ASR (25% of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs))

### Pyrolysis to monomer

Polymerization of reactive monomers, such as vinyl compounds or olefins and dienes, or gradual polycondensation to form polyesters and polyamides, is thermodynamically favored at low temperature. With rising temperature this trend gradually reverses and monomers become more stable than their polymers.

## Mechanical Separation:

**Table 3** Overview of some post-shredder technologies [25]

	Argonne	Galloo	MBA-polymers	Salyp process	Stena	R-plus (WESA-SLF)	VW-Sicon
Separation techniques							
Air classification	X	X	X		X	X	X
Magnetic separation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eddy current separation	X	X	X	X	X		X
Screening		X		X	X	X	X
Trommel separation	X	X		X	X		
Optical sorting				X			X
Manual sorting				X	X		
Drying						X	
Sink/float separation		X		X	X		X
Froth flotation	X						
Thermo-mechanical sorting				X			
Wet grinding			X				
Hydrocyclone			X				
Static separation tanks		X					
Heavy media separation					X		

Recycling plastics from unsorted municipal solid waste

Alfons Buckens · Xujian Zhou

J Mater Cycles Waste Manag (2014) 16:398–414





## Internal Combustion

Average Age: **12.2 years**  
Expected Life: **200,000+ miles**  
Annual End-of-Life: **14 million cars**



## Electric

Average Age: **3.8 years. . .**  
Expected Life: **250,000+ miles**  
Annual End-of-Life: **TBD**

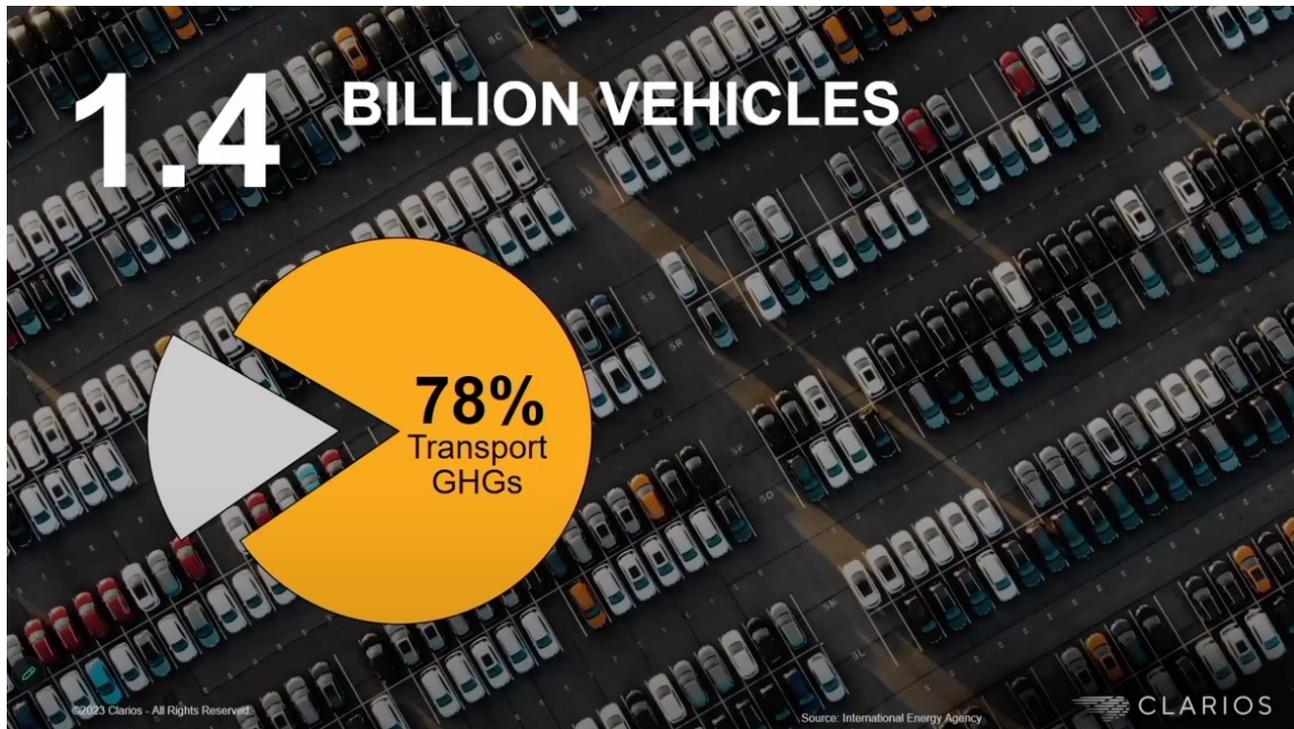


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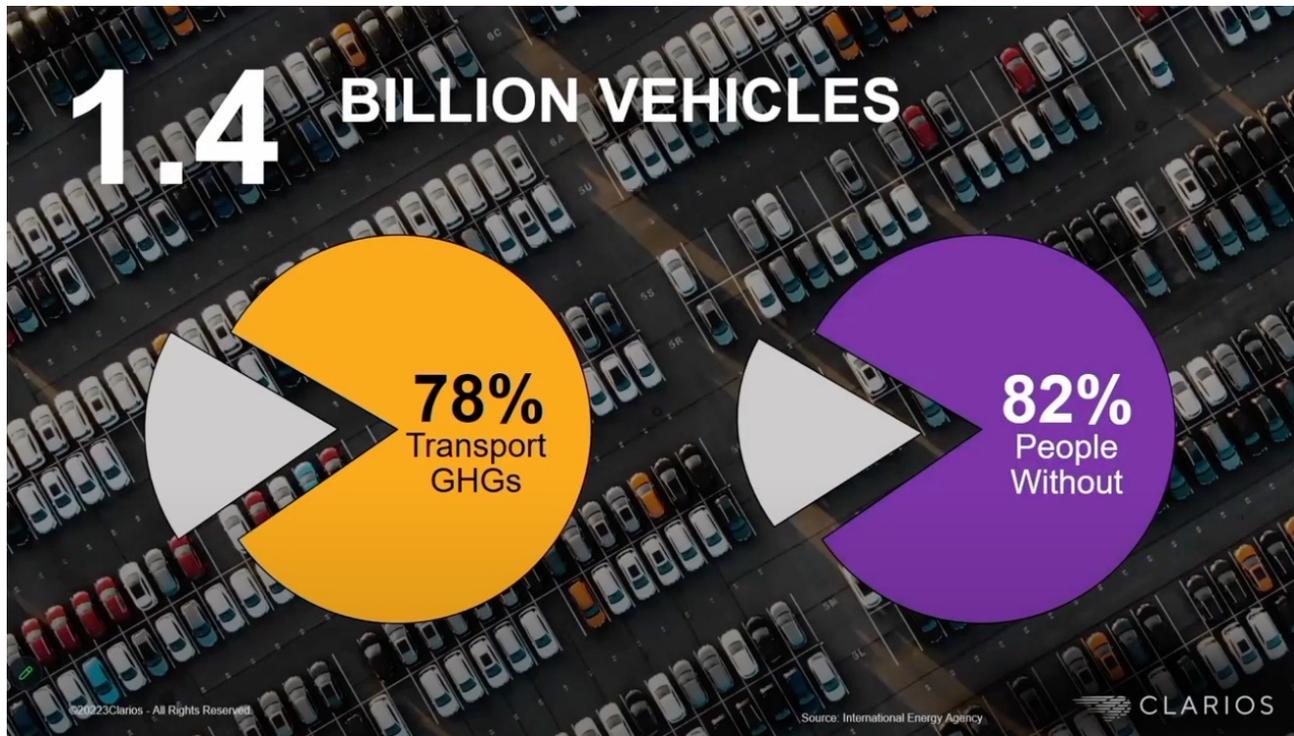
Source S&P Global, Automotive Recyclers Association, Clarios

 CLARIOS

World



Greenhouse gas emissions



Population with no car

## Internal Combustion

**80+%**  
Materials  
Recovered



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## Electric

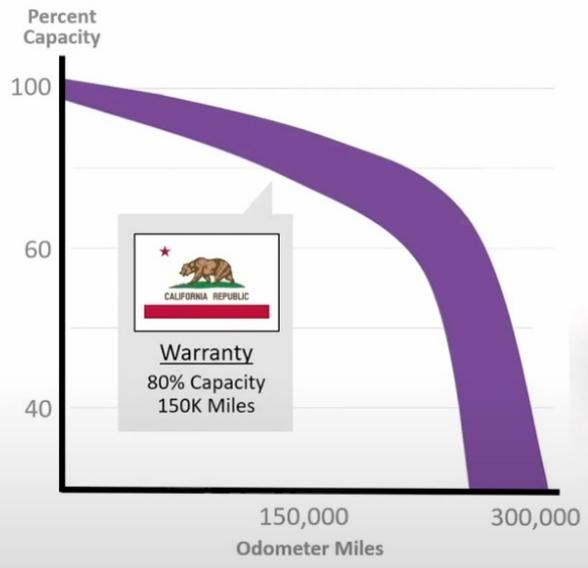
**TBD**  
Materials  
Recovered



Source: Automotive Recyclers Association

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# Capacity Utilization



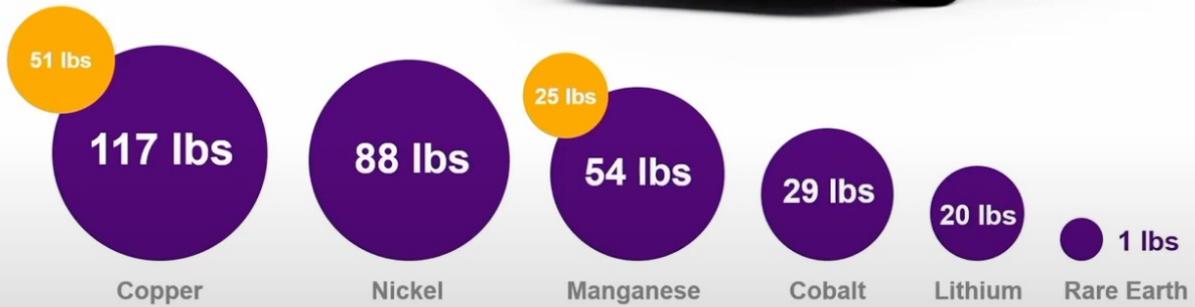
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Illustrative Example



## Mineral content lbs/vehicle

- Electric Vehicle
- Gas Vehicle

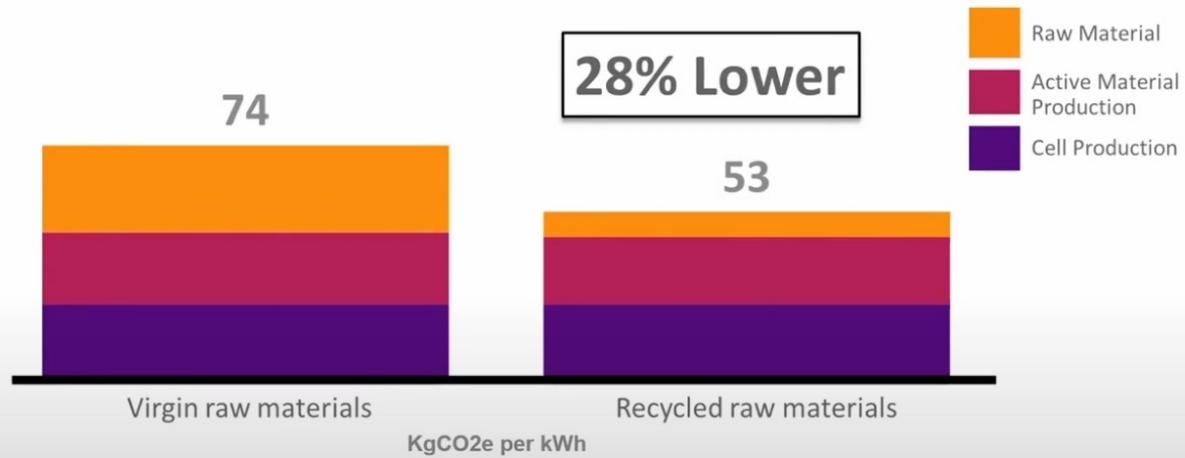


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Source: Elements Visual Capitalist

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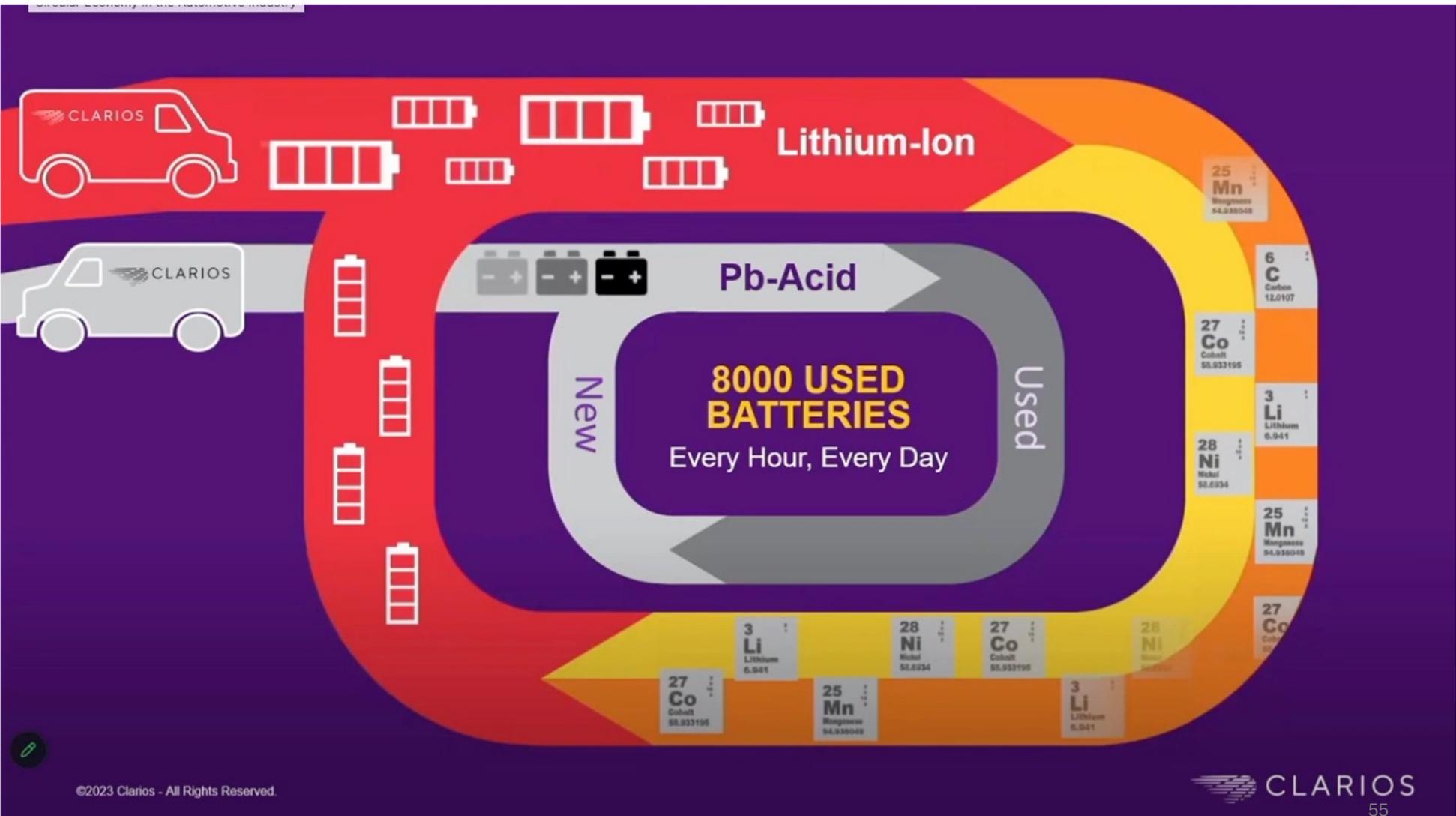
## Life-Cycle CO2e Nickel-based lithium-ion battery cell production



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Source: McKinsey Battery Insights

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From most recycled  
***to most circular***



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Are EVs more circular than ICEs?

