THE VALUE OF PLASTICS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Plastics require less energy to produce than glass, paper, wood, metal and more. Many plastics also save energy during their use.

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION
Food packed in material other than plastics such as glass or paper weighs 4 times more, has double the related energy consumption, triple the greenhouse gas emissions, and increased food waste.

TRANSPORTATION SAVINGS
Energy efficiency of modern vehicles could not be achieved without the use of plastics. This includes lighter automotive components, light-weighted packaging, reduced weight in aircraft and more.

Replacing plastics with other materials would require the use of 57% more energy and result in a 61% increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Plastic packaging consumes much less energy to make than alternative materials and weighs considerably less. One example: A popular coffee brand reduced the weight of its coffee container by 84% when switching from metal to plastics. The plastic container saves energy in manufacturing and reduces fuel use in transportation.

Most vehicles consist of 50% plastics by volume and 10% by weight. Steel has been safely replaced by lighter-weight plastics which helps alleviate the car's load on the engine, reducing fuel use. Because of plastic, the average car is 66kg lighter compared to 30 years ago.

80% REDUCTION IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Building and construction is the second largest use for plastics behind packaging. Combining thermal insulation with tripled glazed windows and other simple things can reduce energy consumption by up to 80%. Plastics are one of the few materials that can be used in both applications.

SOURCE: AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL, NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)

PLEASE RECYCLE!

SOURCE: PLASTICS EUROPE