

European Feedstock Recycling and the Development of Polymer Cracking Technology in the UK

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Polymer Cracking is a technology originally developed and currently led by BP Chemicals (now part of BP Amoco) for feedstock recycling of mixed waste plastics with the support of the whole European Plastics manufacturing industry. The paper will first review the main issues affecting plastics waste recycling with respect to European Union Packaging Waste directive and other potential directives in different market sectors, and the limitation of mechanical recycling in the future. The paper will then give an overview of Polymer Cracking technology and the steps towards a commercial scale development. In particular, results and findings from a joint study conducted in Scotland (UK) looking at the feasibility of using such technology, the supply needs and the infrastructure required to consider a major investment in the region.