

## WP # 2025 Plastics, our Present, and Future, Issue 1

Are polymers and plastics still the future despite environmental risks? Benefits afforded from the widespread use of plastics need to be reconciled with their negative risks to the environment and public health and their use as composite materials for construction.

Polymers also play a pivotal role in enhancing the performance, texture, stability, and efficacy of beauty products. For example, polymers are crucial in cosmetics, and the industry is making great strides towards sustainability. Many global plastics consist of polymers with carbon–carbon backbones, whose environmental persistence and low cost have resulted in a massive reservoir of plastic waste that resides in landfills and the environment. Benefits afforded from the widespread use of plastics need to be reconciled with their negative risks to the environment and public health.

- How are communities of climate innovators using polymer science and technology to eradicate pollution and benefit lives?
- How can social and research scientists bring greater awareness to the threats to human health leading to better policy and public decisions?

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The widespread use of plastics and resulting waste across Africa makes it a highly important regional environmental and human health issue. As Sub-Saharan Africa faces significant challenges from climate change, it is essential to incorporate environmental education into school curricula. This includes teaching students about sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, renewable energy, and the importance of biodiversity.

We invite articles from subject matter experts that illustrate how polymer science creates inclusive careers in research and manufacturing along with environmental challenges and remedies for environmental equity.

Due date is **January 24, 2025**

### **White Paper Guidelines**

- Length: Submissions should range between 1,500 and 2,000 words.
- Content: Articles must be well-researched, data-driven, and geared toward policymakers, scientists, educators, and administrators.
- Author Credentials: Include a professional biography detailing relevant expertise in chemistry and polymer science, and education, or science careers.

Submissions should provide clear, actionable insights and recommendations to drive innovation and address research and environmental challenges.