



ABSTRACT: THE PLAST NORDIC EXPERIENCE

Plast Nordic is planning for a chemical recycling facility for PET and polyester waste in Southern Norway, based on chemical depolymerisation. The project has been under industrial preparation for nearly eight years, with the ambition to establish a Nordic production platform for circular chemical raw materials for the plastics and textile industries.

The presentation will share two main lessons from the project development process.

First, what initially appeared to be a technology selection exercise has proven to require a much broader industrial approach. Successful deployment of chemical recycling depends not only on the core process technology, but also on feedstock availability and quality, regulatory development, customer requirements, energy access and cost, site integration, permitting, wastewater management, financing, and the transition from concept to investment readiness.

Second, the project has shifted from viewing recycling primarily as a sustainability objective in itself, to understanding chemical recycling as commercial raw material production. This changes the strategy, communication and market relevance of the project. The central question becomes not only how much waste can be recycled, but how reliably circular chemical raw materials can be supplied to established plastic and textile value chains under industrial, regulatory and commercial conditions.

The presentation will provide a practical project perspective on what is required to move chemical recycling from a promising concept to a bankable industrial project, and why future projects must be positioned as part of the raw material supply system, not only as environmental initiatives.