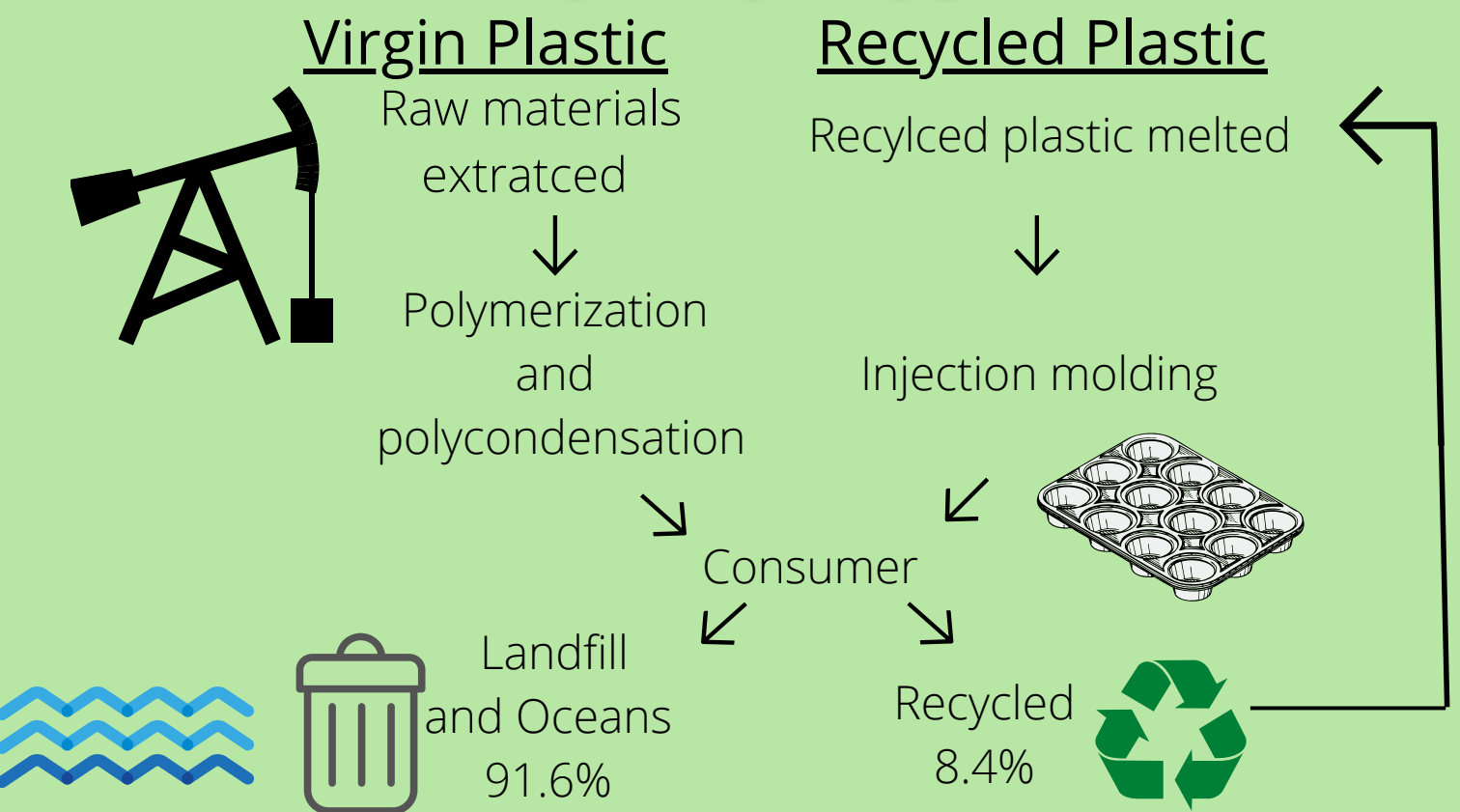


PLASTIC WASTE

Plastic production is at an all-time high, and much of this plastic is not responsibly recycled. Rather it is ending up in landfills and oceans, and harming ecosystems. To reduce plastic use, and increase recycling, it is essential that education on the importance of reuse and recycling, recycling programs are federalized to create consistency and provide equal access to communities, and technology is improved for sorting and recovering to-be-recycled materials.

HOW IT'S MADE



The Problem with Plastic in the U.S.

Ecological

- Of the 35.4 million tons of plastic produced in 2017, 91.6% ended up in landfills and oceans
- Destroys wildlife habitat
- Plastic production causes pollution
- Making virgin plastic is 88% more energy intensive than reusing recycled plastic

Economical

- Plastics labeled 3-7 make up more than 69% of plastic used, and are much more complicated to recycle than plastics labeled 1 or 2
- Cheaper to export to developing countries

Social

- Many recycling facilities in developing countries offer poor working conditions, ignoring environmental and ethical working regulations

If these problems are not fixed, then it will lead to a trash filled world for future generations, harm to wildlife ecosystems, and require a heavier demand on fossil fuel consumption to produce more plastic.

Solutions

Reduce Plastic Use

- Stop using single use plastic
 - Don't buy bottled water
 - Purchase secondhand items
- Bring reusable shopping bags
- Avoid products with micorbeads
- Buy in bulk
- Shop local and request plastic-free packging

Get Involved

- Educate yourself and others on what can and can't be recycled
- Protest and put pressure on legislatures to pass bills and laws that will reduce plastic waste



- Excise taxes on single use items
- Ban plastics that can't be recycled
- Plastic buy back programs

SUCCESS ACROSS SEAS

Peru-banned single use plastics **EU**-working to ban single use plastics

Canada- deposit return program for 90cents/ plastic bottle **India**- Company created ecoware, a sustainable food packaging company