

PLASTIC OMNIUM'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

A biodiversity challenge that is a natural extension to our long-standing commitment to the environment

The French manufacturing group, Plastic Omnium, is a world leader in automotive equipment, with two core lines of business: firstly, body panels and parts, and secondly, fuel systems and emissions reduction solutions.

Consideration for the environment has long been a part of the group strategy. It is addressed through a structured approach, incorporated into day-to-day management, with environmental governance based on a commitment from Corporate Management, performance indicators, standards systems and related action plans.

The protection of biodiversity forms a natural part of this environmental framework, with four key areas of focus:

1 The reduction of CO₂ emissions and atmospheric pollutants related to automotive transport, which acts as an indirect mechanism for biodiversity conservation

Numerous scientific studies concur in their findings, demonstrating that global warming constitutes a direct threat to biodiversity. In this context, the reduction in CO₂ emissions released through the combustion of fossil fuels constitutes an indirect mechanism for preserving biodiversity.

Car manufacturers have been committed for many years now to plans aimed at a continual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for new vehicles put on the market.

Plastic Omnium anticipated this development at a very early stage, making it a key focal point of its R&D strategy for several years now.

Expenditure equates to around 6% of annual turnover, with this strategy resulting in multiple innovations (reduction in vehicle weight, improved aerodynamics, NOx emissions reduction, fuel systems to address the constraints associated with hybrid vehicles, etc.) enabling Plastic Omnium to provide manufacturers with products and functions that make a direct contribution to their emissions reduction targets.

In order to measure this contribution over the entire product lifespan from design, to usage, through to the end of the vehicle's life, the group's latest products will be subject to new Life Cycle Assessments (LCA).

More recently, Plastic Omnium has made a determined commitment to developing hydrogen-based "zero emission" vehicle propulsion systems.

Plastic Omnium's hydrogen commitment is aimed at finding a substitute for fossil fuels by 2040. This commitment could enable mobility to achieve carbon neutrality.

Plastic Omnium is making a considerable commitment to hydrogen development: we have invested €100 million since 2016, and investments are set to double by 2020.

Lastly, on the Hydrogen Council, which brings together the main manufacturing groups involved in hydrogen, Plastic Omnium is seeking to start a global dialogue with the main stakeholders likely to ensure the promotion and development of this energy source.

2 Efficient management of sites' environmental footprint

Biodiversity conservation also includes careful management of our production sites' environmental footprint, through a systematic approach to environmental certification and actions focused on optimising fuel and material consumption as well as recyclability and waste management.

- Since 2001, Plastic Omnium has been committed to the voluntary adoption of the ISO 14 001 international standard for environmental management systems. This standard, which was revised in 2015, is aimed at improving a site's environmental results and, more generally, at managing its impacts better, whether this involves the sustainable use of resources, the protection of local ecosystems and biodiversity, or the adoption of anti-pollution measures. Over 90% of Plastic Omnium sites are now ISO 14 001 certified and every new site must obtain this certification within 3 years of starting up or of joining the group.

- Energy management has been the subject of a dedicated programme, Top Planet, since 2007. As a result, the group reduced its direct CO₂ emissions (in relation to turnover) by 9.7% between 2014 and 2016. This programme is due to be reinforced with a target being set by 2020 for the reduction in energy consumption per kilo of processed material, and the rollout of ISO 50 001 certification for energy management.

- Although none of its facilities is located in a water sensitive area, the group also strives to conserve water resources: with equipment running on closed circuits, the industrial processes carried out in the group's plants allow controlled consumption of this resource, and water contaminated by painting activities undergoes a rigorous pollution control procedure.

- Lastly, the group is managing the reduction of final waste while developing a range of products designed using recycled materials (regenerated and regranulated material from rubbish bins, bottles and tops).

3 Combating plastic pollution in the oceans

In May 2018, Plastic Omnium joined forces with the Race for Water Foundation, becoming an official sponsor of the Race for Water vessel that is powered by a combination of renewable energy sources, namely solar, wind and hydrogen, with the latter by means of technology developed by Plastic Omnium.

This revolutionary vessel set off from Lorient in April 2017 on a five-year tour around the world to promote energy transition and demonstrate commitment to protecting the oceans from plastic pollution.

Through its commitment to Race for Water, Plastic Omnium is contributing to the search for solutions to avoid plastic waste, which now makes up 80% of marine debris, from reaching our oceans. It is about helping to develop plastic

waste, drawing inspiration from social entrepreneurship and the circular economy. So, the Race for Water Foundation has devised the means of turning illicit plastic waste into energy to make recovery of such waste worthwhile for the local population affected by this pollution, in the same way as they already see the value to them of collecting a variety of materials, such as aluminium, paper, cardboard and glass.

4 Encouragement for local biodiversity initiatives

Plastic Omnium supports several different local initiatives to help protect biodiversity.

For example, Plastic Omnium has been contributing to the Izta-Popo National Park reforestation project since 2010 through its Puebla site in Mexico. The group is thus directly helping to maintain 5 hectares of forest through various cleaning and reforestation activities, with over 300 trees planted, as well as actions to protect the local fauna.

