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e q pv k p wgf " cf x cpegogpv " k p " v j g " hwvwtg " ctg " j k i j n k i j vgf

Keywords: Plastics; Biodegradation; Enzymes; Biocatalyst; Upcycling

Introduction

China is currently the world's largest manufacturer of plastic, accounting for 32% of all plastic produced globally, and production is expected to reach about 370 million tonnes in 2020. The desirable properties and adaptability of plastics, which enable their use in a variety of applications including packaging, automotive, building and construction, electrical and electronic, and common household products, are primarily responsible for the rising trend in plastic production [1,2]. Also, the coronavirus disease outbreak in 2019 has shown once again how crucial plastics are in the production of personal protective equipment. Most personal protective equipment is constructed of plastics including polyurethane, polypropylene, polycarbonate, low-density polyethylene, and polyvinyl chloride, including face masks, gloves, medical gowns, and face shields. Other than PPEs, the demand for plastics used in the packaging industry, including as high-density polyethylene (LDPE), polystyrene, and polyethylene terephthalate, has increased due to the COVID-19's increased demand for packaging materials, notably single-use plastics [3,4]. As of 2015, there were around 6300 tonnes of plastic trash generated as a result of the exponentially rising plastics use. Just 9% of the total plastic garbage was recycled, 12% was burned, and the other 79% was deposited in landfills. A shocking amount of 12,000 tonnes of plastic garbage was predicted to have accumulated in landfills or in the natural environment based on the existing manufacturing and waste management patterns. Plastic pollution has grown to be a significant global problem. The sustainability of the environment has been threatened by the buildup of plastic garbage in the ecosystem.

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recovered through chemical recycling hydrogen, syngas, carbon-based materials, liquid oils with high heating values, and polymers. The procedures used for chemical plastic recycling are shown in Table 2. Although chemical recycling is thought to be a promising strategy for the efficient management of plastic wastes, there are still a number of issues that need to be resolved. More research is needed on the tolerance, recovery, and reusability of catalysts in large-scale systems. Also, the harsh conditions required in these chemical reactions add to the environment's exposure to dangerous substances including sulphur, carbon, and other volatile gases. As a result of exposure to heat, moisture, and UV light in the environment, plastic wastes degrade abiotically, releasing extremely hazardous substances such as persistent organic pollutants from the plastic surfaces and chemical additives seeping out of the plastic wastes. Furthermore, there is growing worry over the abiotic decomposition of plastic wastes into micro- or nanoplastics, which are easily absorbed by water bodies and pose a threat to human health as well as marine life.

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None

Conflict of Interest

None

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