



“A Big Conversation” Suggests

Big Questions* and *Big Answers

4 Questions

1. **Why Are We Here?**

2. **Where Are We?**

Situational Assessment

3. **Where Do We Want to Go?**

Vision

4. **How Do We Get There?**

Strategy



Big Question #1:

“Why Are We Here”?



Helping Plastics Realize its Promise to be a Vital Part of the Circular Economy



**Material
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Delivering resource efficiency solutions



Dr. Mike Biddle

Founder and Board Member, MBA Polymers

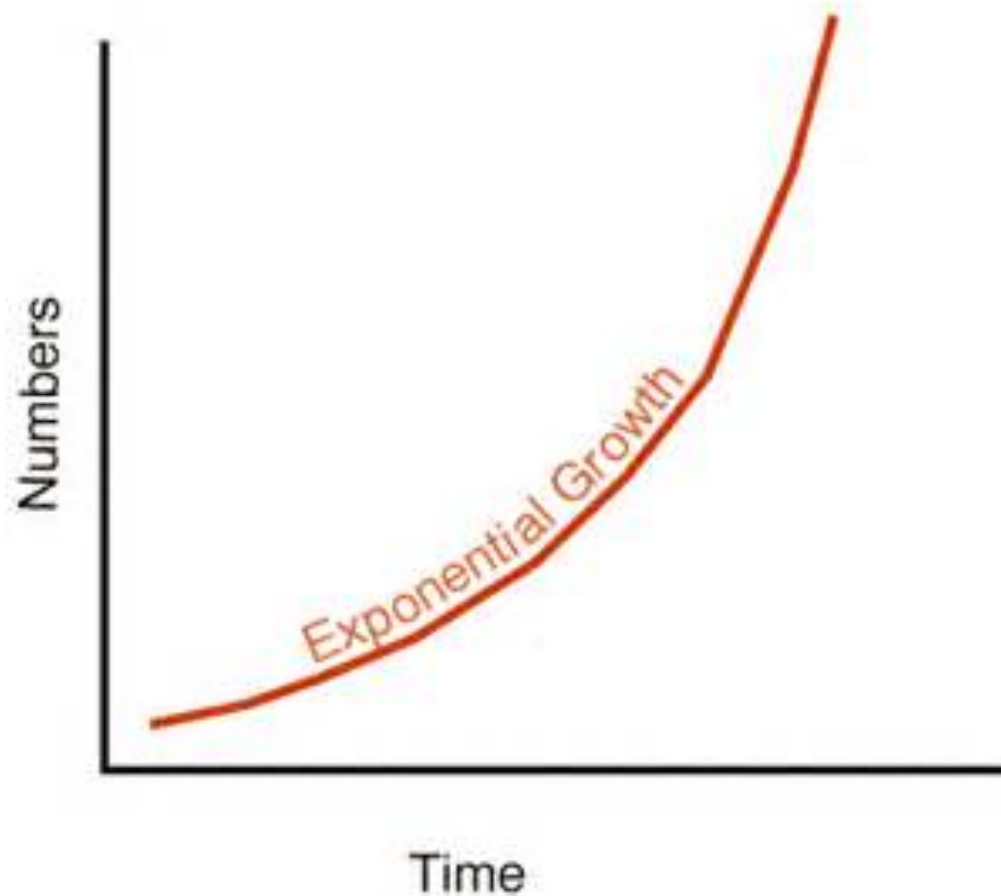
CEO, Material Solutions

Managing Director, Evok Innovations

Because sustainability matters.

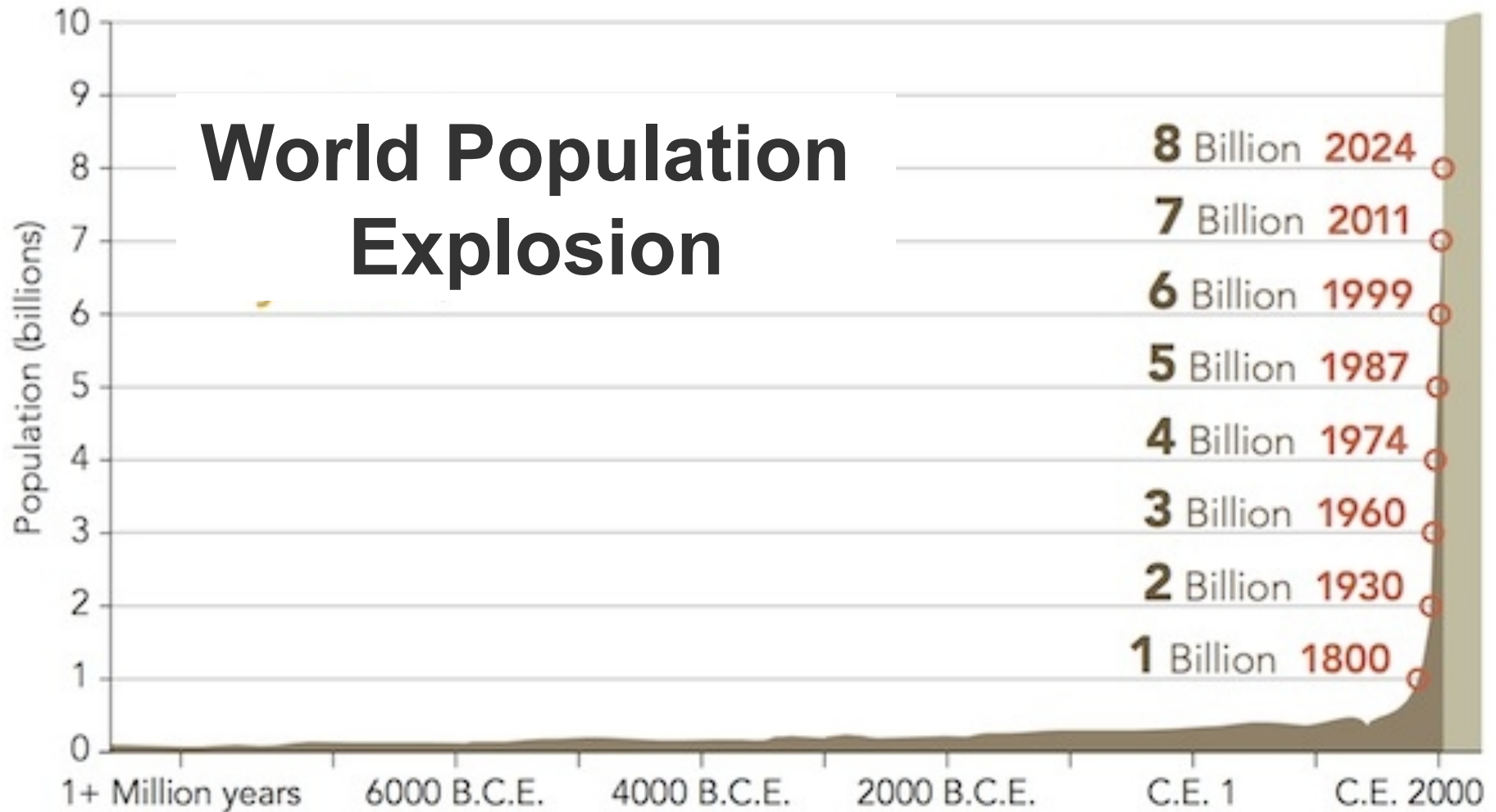
1. Why Am I Here?

$$x(t) = x_0 \cdot e^{kt} = x_0 \cdot e^{t/\tau} = x_0 \cdot 2^{t/T} = x_0 \cdot \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)^{t/p},$$



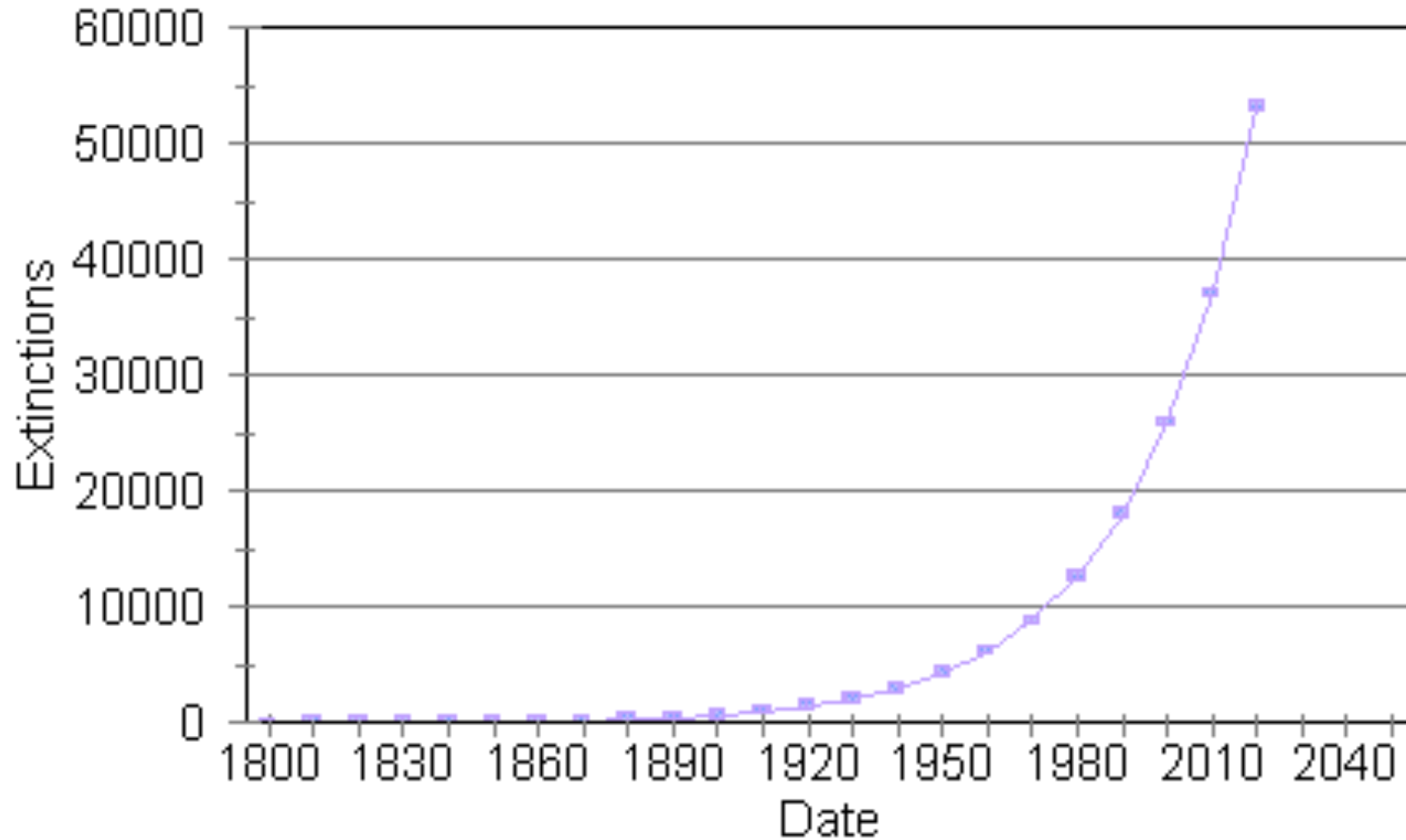
It's getting a wee bit crowded

Historic and Projected Population Growth

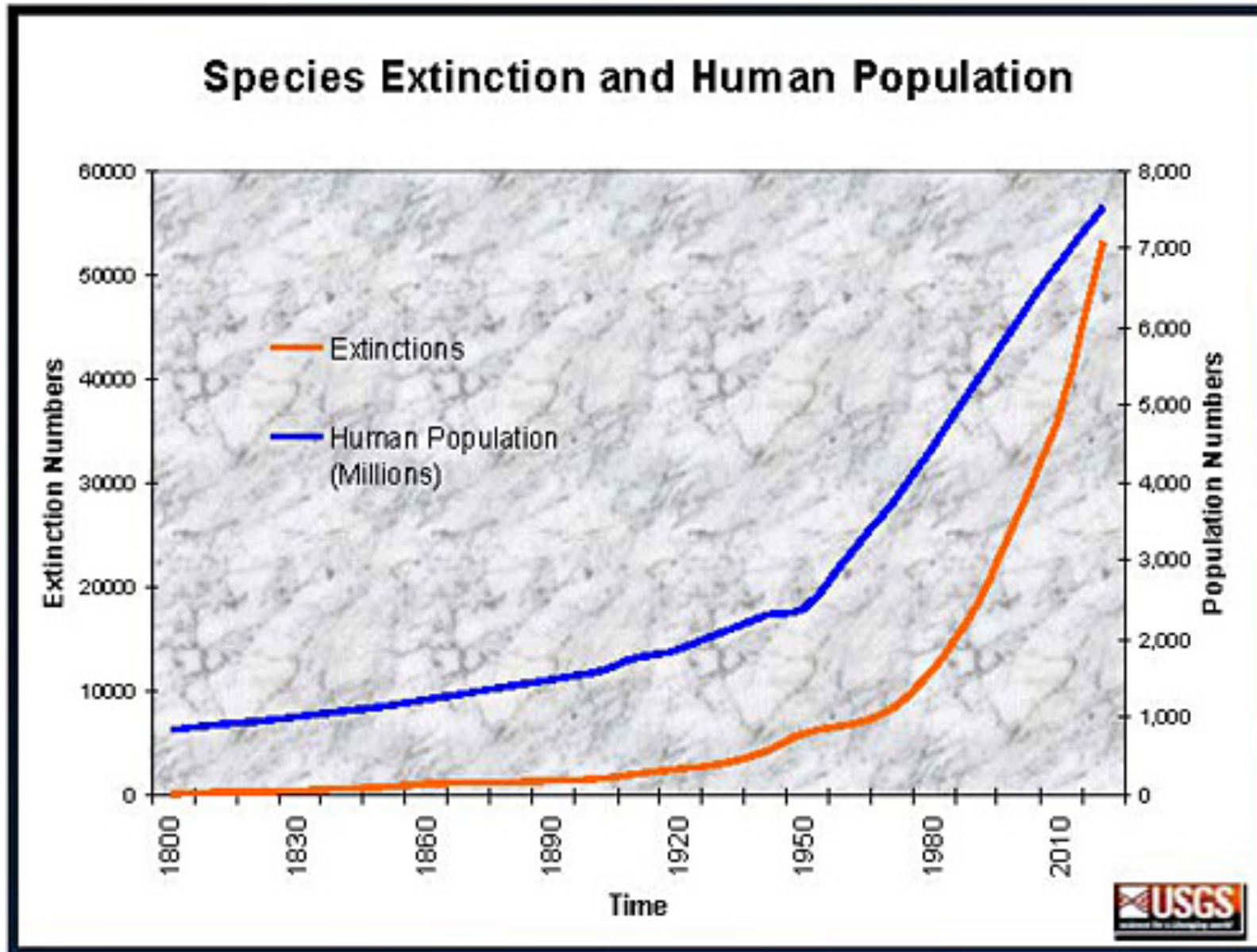


Especially for other inhabitants

Species Extinctions Since 1800



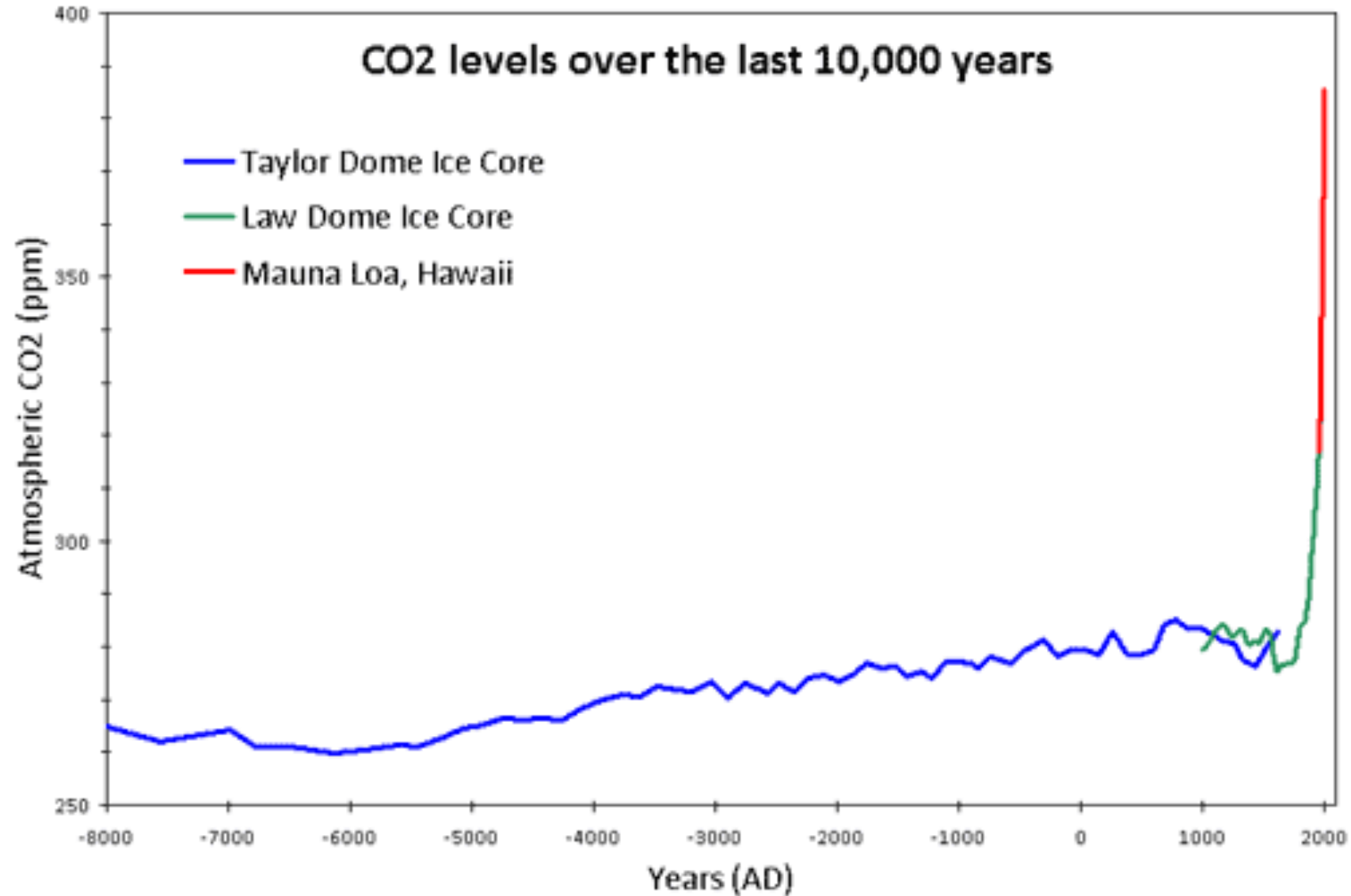
Might these be related in some way?



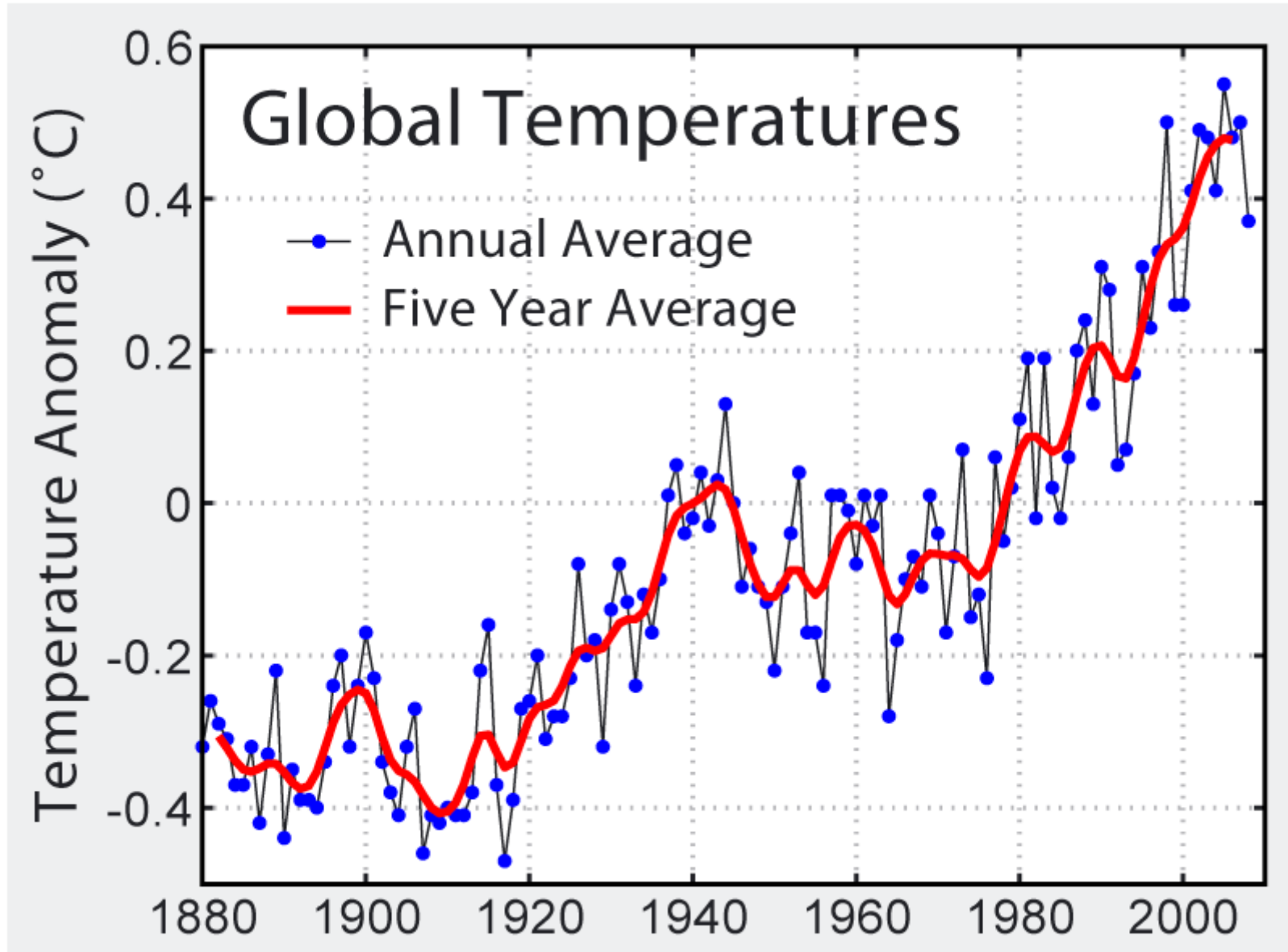
HABITAT LOSS + CLIMATE CHANGE
POINT TO 6TH GREAT EXTINCTION...
- STUDY



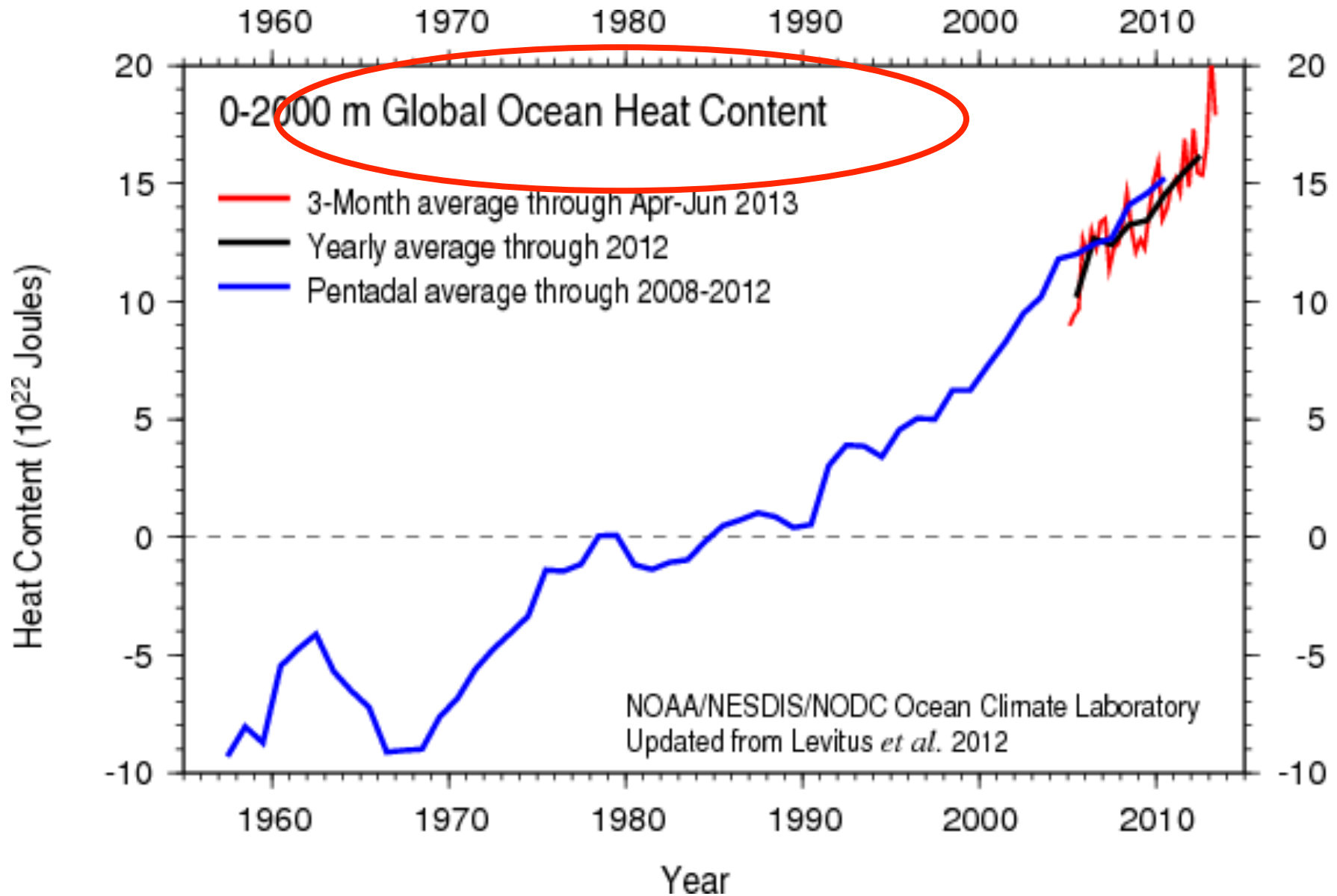
**But at least we have a blanket,
*Albeit rather invisible – especially to certain US Politicians***



Invisible, but rather warm



And fish are getting even warmer



2. Where Are We?

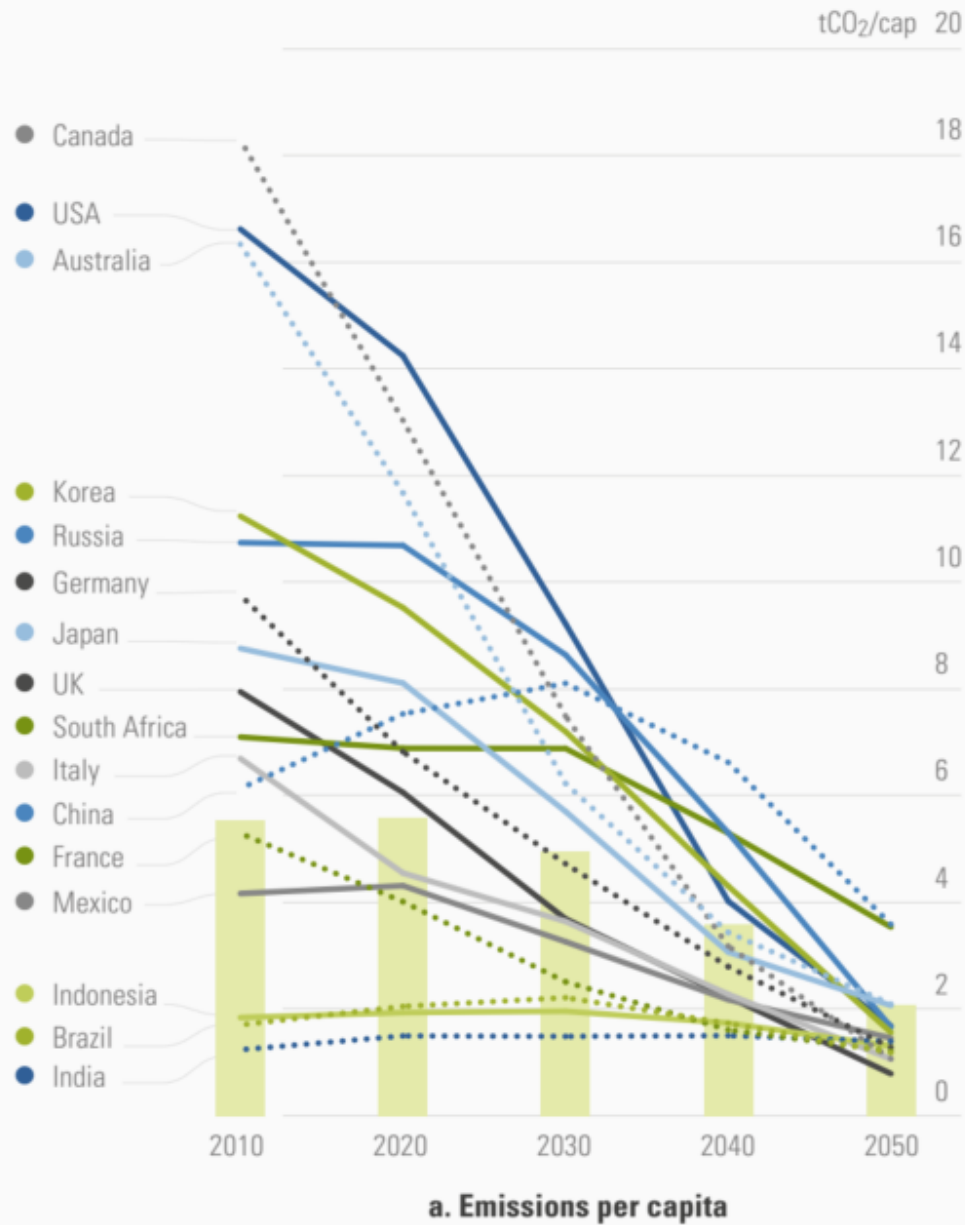
Climate

In Deep

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2014 findings that to ensure a better-than-even chance of remaining below a 2°C temperature rise, global **annual emissions will need to be reduced 42%–57% by 2050** (relative to 2010), and **73%–107% by 2100**. This will entail, more than any other factor, the profound transformation of energy systems through steeply reducing carbon intensity in all sectors of the economy. We call this transition “deep decarbonization” and our products, **Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDPs)**.



Figure 4. (L) Energy-related CO2 emissions per capita for DDPP countries, (R) Energy-related CO2 emissions per unit of GDP for DDPP countries 2010 to 2050, indexed to 2010.



Likely getting even hotter

“Despite the global community’s best intentions to keep global warming below a 2°C increase above pre-industrial climate, higher levels of warming are increasingly likely. Scientists agree that countries’ **current United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change emission pledges and commitments would most likely result in 3.5 to 4°C warming.**”

What if we go over?


Public Disclosure Authorized

4 Turn Down the Heat

Why a 4°C Warmer World
Must be Avoided

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THE WORLD BANK

2. Where Are We?

Resources

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McKinsey & Company



ARE BUSINESSES SLEEPWALKING INTO A **RESOURCE CRUNCH?**

When businesses think that they will need to make significant changes in their business operations to combat resource scarcity

“Meeting global demand for energy, materials, water, and food is an economic imperative”

US military:

“Resource Scarcity could increase wars, conflict”

Are You Ready for the Resource Revolution?

3 billion more middle-class consumers
expected to be in the global
economy by 2030

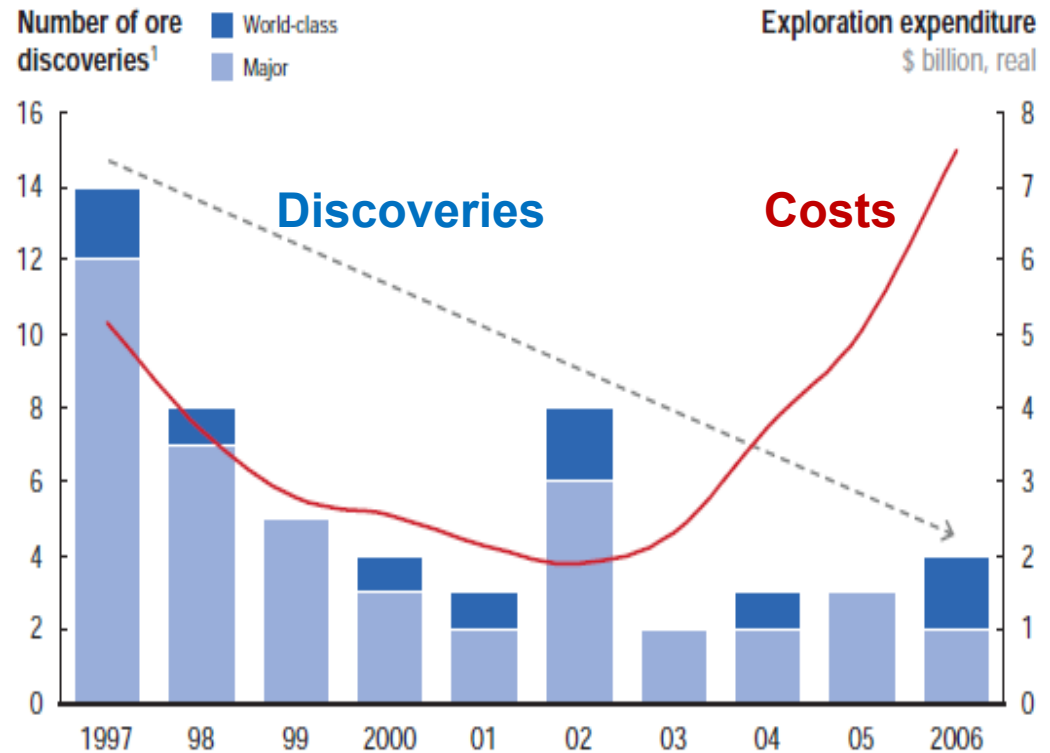
At least \$1 trillion

more investment in the resource system needed
each year to meet future resource demands

Financial and Environmental Consequences



Replenishing reserves of materials is increasingly difficult and expensive

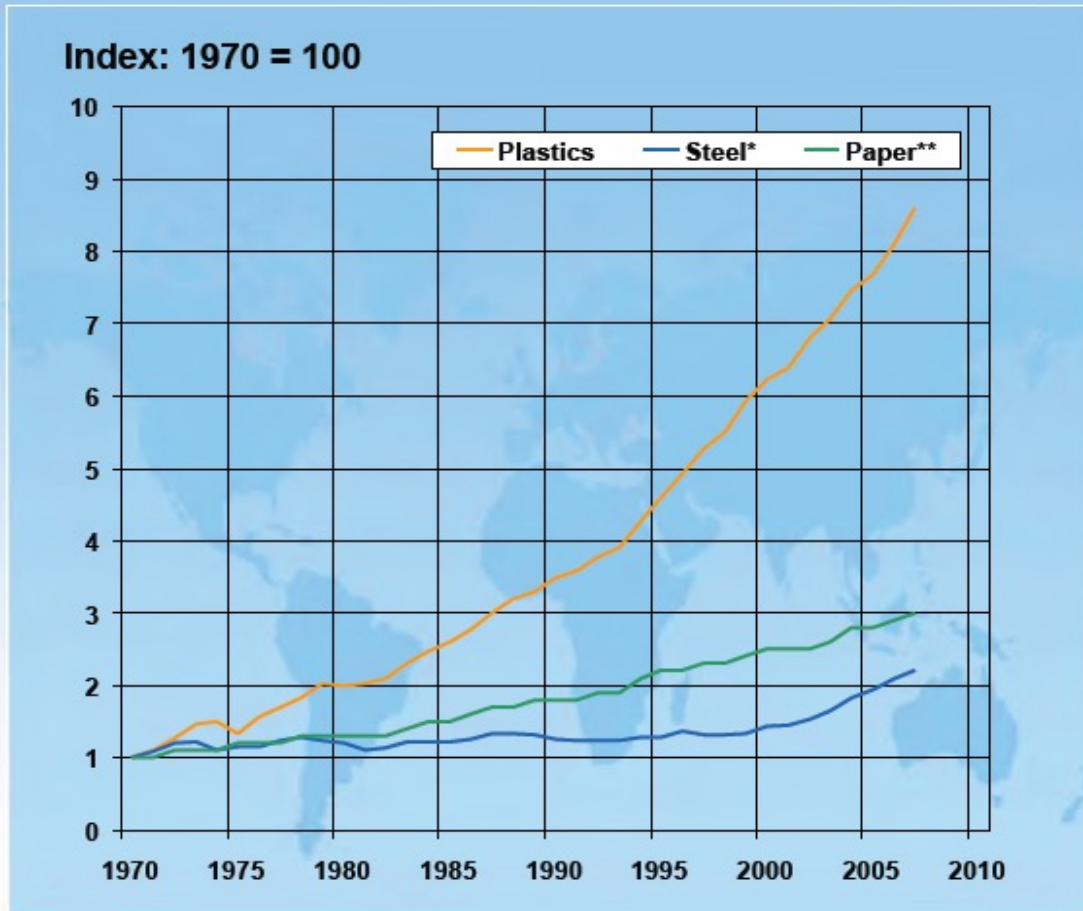


1 All metal and mining materials; latest data available to 2006.
SOURCE: BHP Billiton; USGS; MEG Minerals 2009

Steel Supply Gap Filled by Recycling



Plastics have Grown Faster than most Materials



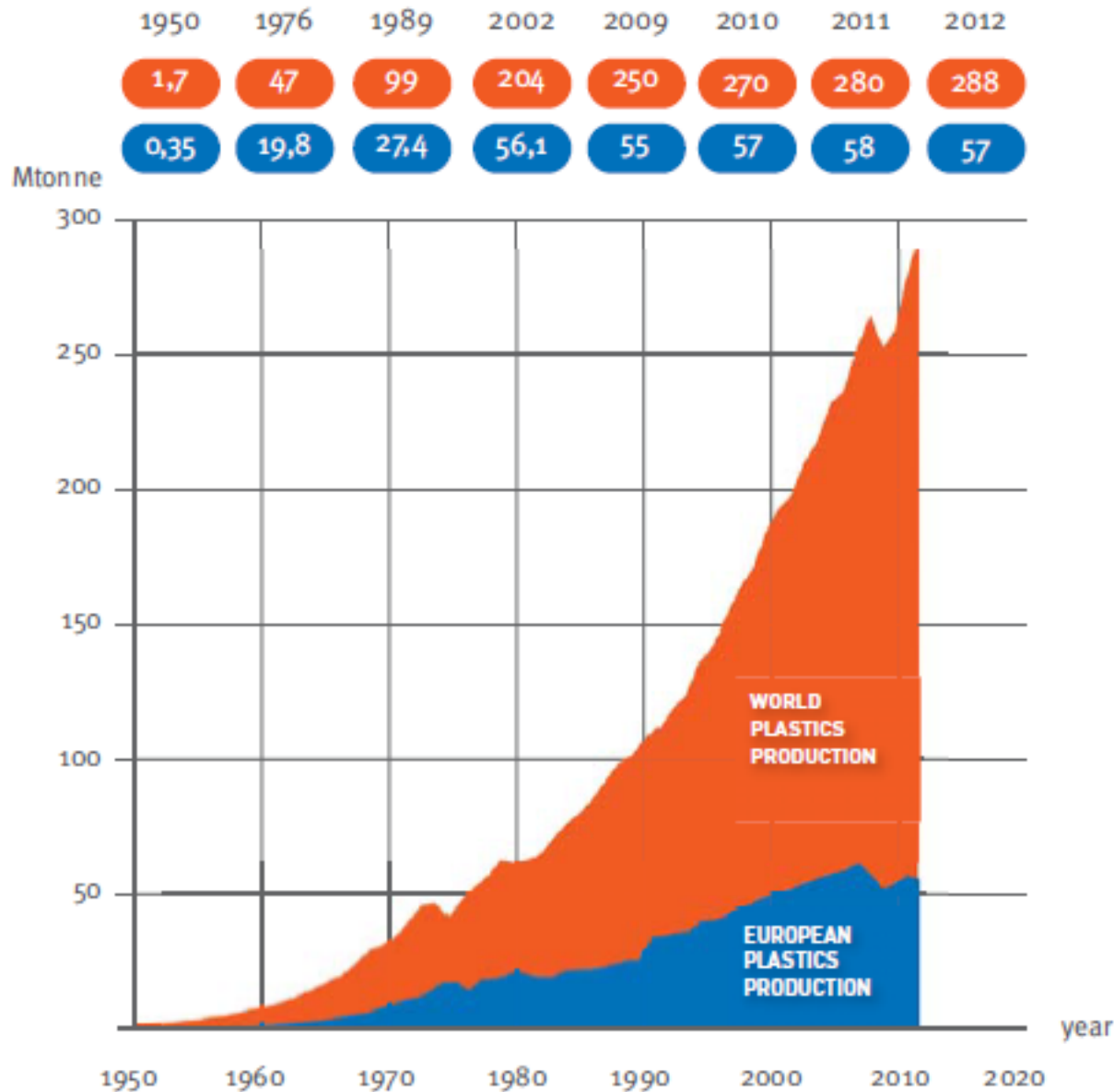
- **Plastics** have outgrown competing materials such as steel and paper
- **Compound Annual Growth Rates (CAGR):**
Plastics 6%
Steel 2%
Paper 3%

Worldwide Yearly Consumption:

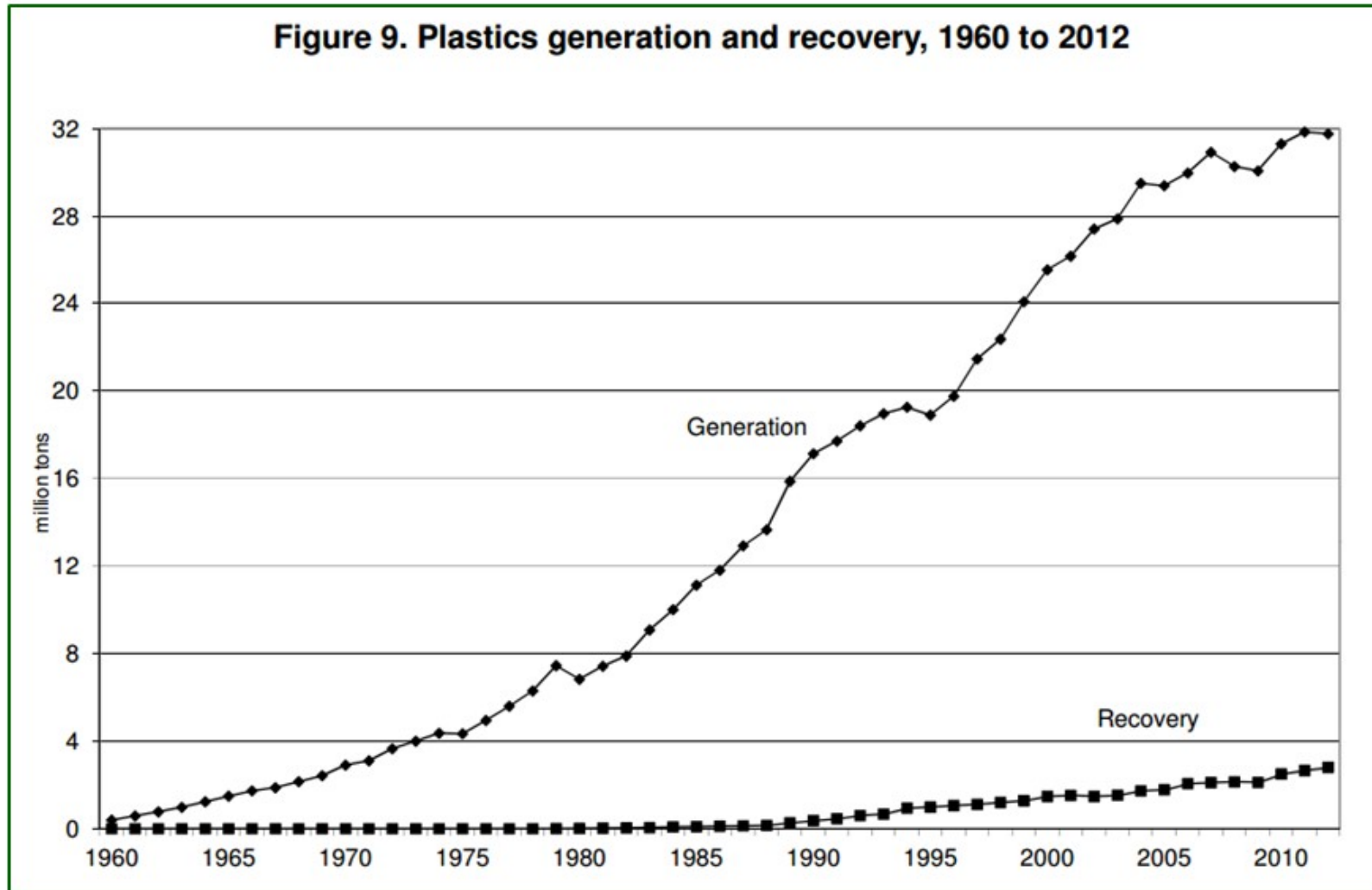
- **> 600 Billion Pounds**
- **280 Million Metric Tons**

Source: *Stahl-Zentrum/International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI)
**Verband Deutscher Papierfabriken e.V. (VDP)

World plastics production grows



**This part of the
World Plays an
extremely
important role
in getting it
right**



Most “Difficult” Plastic Streams are often sent to China for Recycling

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This overloaded trailer of scrap plastics—the driver claims it held 120 mt—came from a source nearly 600 miles away that generates three such loads per month.

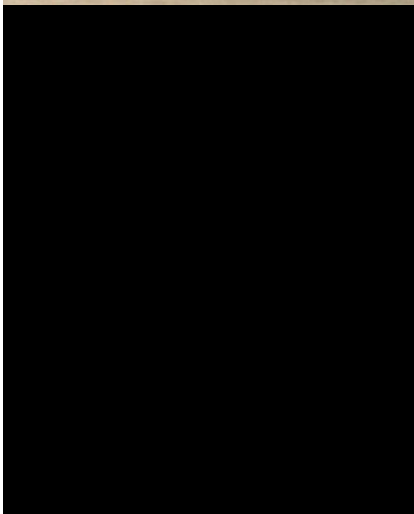
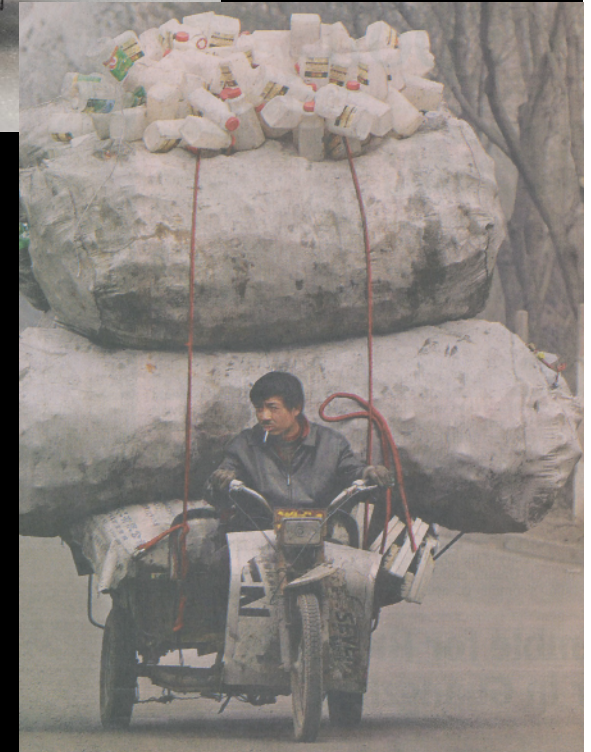


Photos from Scrap Magazine

Despite the large volume of people, trucks, and emaciated stray dogs, the boulevard is entirely barren. It's a dead zone.



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Often the recyclers in developing countries are concentrating the plastics waste near streams

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Photos: Basel Action Network

Often the recyclers in developing countries are concentrating the plastics waste near streams

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Photo from Basel Action Network (BAN), www.ban.org



Photo from www.foxnews.com

Rivers are “self-cleaning”

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“OMG! How Could They Do This?”

Photo: “Trashed”, the movie



Photo: China Whisper, Peter



**NIMBY
Environmental Arbitrage**



Photo: The Hindu, Photo: M. Govarthan

2a. Is THIS What We Want for Recycling?

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From Wang Jiuliang Documentary "Plastic China"



© Wang Jiuliang

2a. Is THIS Really Low Cost Recycling?

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From Wang Jiuliang Documentary "Plastic China"





Campaign Against The Plastic Plague

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We Hate Plastics



Plastic: The Ocean's Deadliest Predator



PLASTIC IS RUBBISH
why we boycott plastic....

TORONTO'S "WE'RE DROWNING IN PLASTIC" CAMPAIGN URGES PEOPLE TO DRINK TAP WATER INSTEAD OF BOTTLED.

Anti-Plastic Bottle Week



BAN THE BOTTLE

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10 to end your relationship
WAYS relationship

Dear Plastic,
It's over. ~~It's not~~
~~you~~ It's you. I
deserve way better.
XOXO

WITH
PLASTIC

www.bodyunburdened.com

The image is a graphic with a wood-grain background. At the top, it says '10 to end your relationship' with 'WAYS' in a smaller font below '10'. Below this is a white sticky note with handwritten text: 'Dear Plastic, It's over. It's not you. It's you. I deserve way better. XOXO'. At the bottom, it says 'WITH PLASTIC' in large letters, and the website 'www.bodyunburdened.com' is at the very bottom.

GO PLASTIC-FREE!
20 SIMPLE EVERYDAY TIPS TO LOWER YOUR PLASTIC CONSUMPTION

PLASTIC SUCKS!

NTR nontoxicrevolution.org **kabntr**

The image shows a pile of discarded plastic bottle caps and bottle necks. Below the pile is a red banner with the text 'GO PLASTIC-FREE!' and '20 SIMPLE EVERYDAY TIPS TO LOWER YOUR PLASTIC CONSUMPTION'. To the left of the banner is a black starburst with the text 'PLASTIC SUCKS!'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'NTR' (Nontoxic Revolution) and the website 'nontoxicrevolution.org', along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and the handle 'kabntr'.

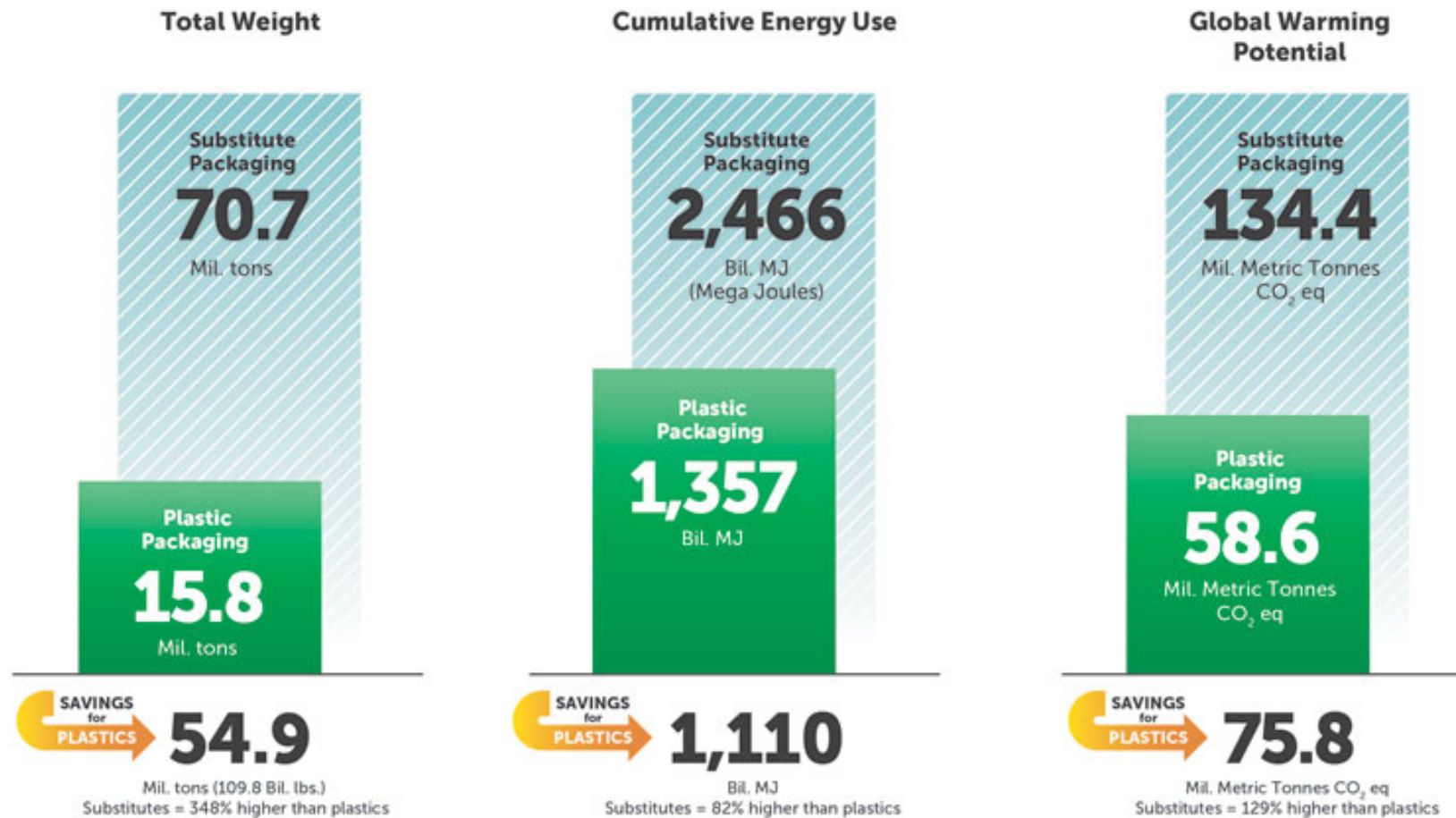
Would ENDING our relationship with Plastic be a GOOD thing?

Resource efficiency of plastics in the automotive sector
Fender case study: plastics versus traditional materials



What about packaging?

Common Plastics Packaging Helps Reduce Package Weight, Energy Use and GHG Emissions in U.S.



Source: "Impact of Plastics Packaging on Life Cycle Energy Consumption & Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the United States and Canada," Franklin Associates 2014. Study based on 2010 data. This study measures energy use and GHG emissions and is not an ISO 14044 life cycle assessment.

2. Summary: Where Are We?

Plastics have become ubiquitous in our lives –

for sound economic and environmental reasons

Increasing demand on resources is likely to drive up most resource costs in the long term

Recycling of plastics lags behind other major materials

Plastic waste, particularly in our oceans, has become an **emotional catalyst** for anti-plastics sentiment

The public has become increasingly unclear about the role of plastics in their lives

3. Where Do We Want to Go with Plastics?

The Public once again considers Plastics to be:

One of the 'Coolest' Materials on the Planet

We continue to enjoy plastics' ability to deliver products and function in a resource efficient manner

We better manage plastics at end of use

4. How Do We Get There?

Responsible Waste Management

We Must First Start Looking at Waste Differently

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How Do We Get There?

Responsible Waste Management

Resource

- **Collect and aggregate more**
- **Biodegradable plastics for products not likely to be collected**
- **Recycle more**
- **Energy recovery/WTF for what can't be recycled**

Why is Recycling so important?

- **80-90% energy savings** compared to virgin
- **2-4 tons of CO₂ savings** per ton of virgin replaced
- Recycling keeps plastics out of **harmful places**
- Recycling can be a **good business**
- **Social License**: It's part of the expected social contract with communities and consumers/citizens if we want to keep using plastics

How Do We Do a Better Job?

Let's learn from other materials

**Let's learn from best practices of
existing plastics recyclers**

Evolution of Steel Recycling Technology

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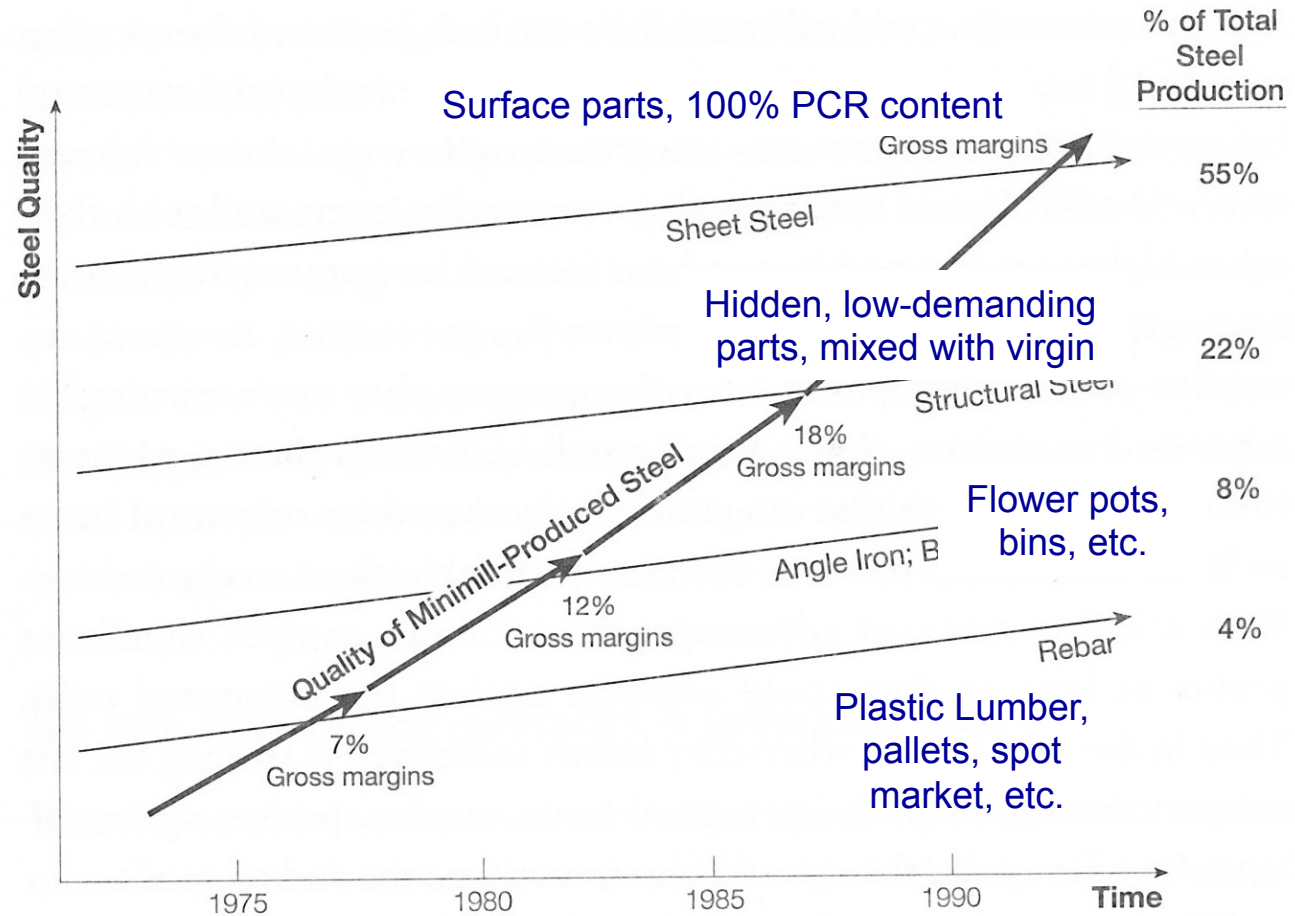


Evolution of Steel Recycling Technology

The Up-Market Migration of Steel Minimills

Recycled Plastic is Following Similar Path to that followed by Recycled Steel

From: "The Innovator's Solution", Clayton M. Christensen and Michael E. Raynor, Harvard Business School Press, Boston, MA 2003, pg. 37.



Source: American Iron and Steel Institute; interviews with company executives. Note that the tonnage percentages do not sum to 100 percent because there are other specialty categories of steel.

theguardian

What plastic can learn from steel in a circular economy

Virgin metal companies said steel recycling would never get very far.

It did. So can plastic follow in its footsteps?

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/jan/29/plastic-industry-recycling-learn-from-steel-circular-economy>

Sponsored by: **PHILIPS**

Thursday 29 January 2015 09.24 EST

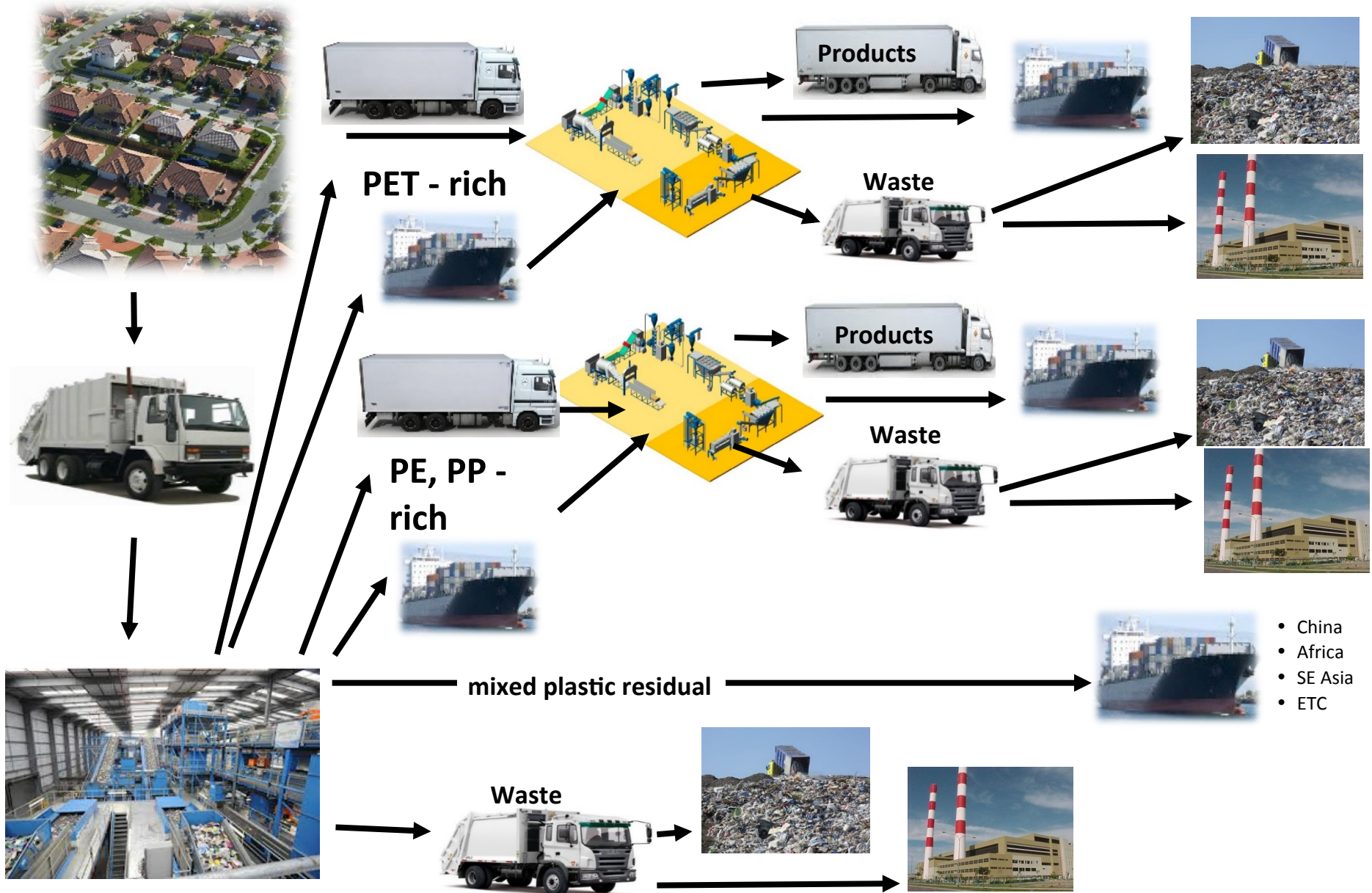
Mike Biddle is the founder and director of MBA Polymers, and the founder and principal of Material Solutions

Evolution of Household Waste Recycling

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Evolution to Single Stream and MRFs



The Future will be “less touches”



**TOUCH IT
ONCE
AND
MOVE
ON**

The Future will be more Efficient and more financially attractive

Therefore plastics will be more Sustainable



Residual
to Fuels



Robust Recycling

Mixed plastics separations & recycling facilities

Reduces handling and transport costs throughout the supply chain

Lowers CapEx and OpEx costs at MRFs

Larger volumes from each source

Access to a **wider** customer base

Enables the business to **scale**

Robust Recycling

Economies of Scale

Lower **CapEx**

Lower **OpEx**

Access to larger **customers/markets**

Inbound and outbound **transportation** more efficient

***Why should we believe
this will work?***

Additional Resources



Plastics Recycling **TED** talk:
<http://on.ted.com/j07ad>



CNN: *The Garbage Man*:

http://ht.cdn.turner.com/cnn/big/business/2014/08/14/spc-make-create-innovate-plastic-man.cnn_512x288_550k.mp4



3 minute **BIG SHFT** video: <http://tinyurl.com/cpee3vw>

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mbiddle@mbapolymers.com

www.mbapolymers.com



Popular Science: *"THE GARBAGE MAN"*

<http://www.popsci.com/article/science/garbage-man>

Recycling Today, Sept. 2014 on what's next for
Plastics Recycling:

<http://www.recyclingtoday.com/rt0914-michael-biddle-q-a.aspx>

