

Optimal approaches to plastic waste management

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Abstract

The current state of plastic waste is critical due to its detrimental effects on ecosystems and life. Increasing numbers necessitate treatment to mitigate the pervasive negative effects. This research describes various alternatives to plastic refuse management by reviewing the relevant literature. Consider that there are a variety of procedures for managing plastic waste. The 3R principle (Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle) was implemented in the management of plastic say no. At present, recycling serves as a viable alternative for managing the escalating volume of plastic waste, whereas reuse and reduction are anticipated to result in a decrease in plastic waste. Plastic materials and products of the thermoplastic variety, which can be remelted at a predetermined temperature to form additional products, are amenable to waste plastic. PET (polyethene terephthalate), HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene), LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene), and PP (Polypropylene) are all recyclable plastics. Plastic waste is recycled via a chemical process known as thermal cracking or pyrolysis. Plastics that undergo pyrolysis are capable of being converted into combustible oil. This approach simultaneously resolves two challenges: the management of plastic refuse processing and the satisfaction of energy demands that are progressively diminishing.

Introduction

A rise in population gives rise to a multitude of adverse consequences, the most severe of which are as follows: heightened energy consumption leading to the depletion of non-renewable energy reserves; unwise management of the expanding use of natural resources, resulting in a decline in both quantity and quality; and there are numerous instances of waste-induced environmental pollution resulting from human activities. Population issues are further complicated by the swift and ever-changing progression of human society, which necessitates immediate and immediate satisfaction of necessities. Practical assistance is necessary. Plastic is a viable alternative due to its extended lifespan of several years and its resistance to rapid decomposition. Plastic requires between one hundred and five hundred years to thoroughly decompose [1]. The Marine Conservancy has released an estimation of the decomposition time for various types of plastics frequently encountered on beaches. Specifically, it states that foamed plastic cups (e.g., Styrofoam cups) require fifty years, plastic drinking containers four hundred years, disposable diapers 450 years, plastic bottles 450 years, and fishing lines 600 years. An annual increase in plastic production is being attributed to the need to satisfy human necessities. Increased production of plastics According to Geyer et al. (2017) [2], plastic production in 2015 encompassed a wide range of industries, including transportation (27 million tons), consumer & institutional products (42 million tons), packaging (146 million tons), and building and construction (65 million tons).

59 million tons are attributed to other sectors, industrial apparatus (3 million tons), and electrical/electronic (18 million tons). The quantity in question contributes to the production of plastic refuse. Product longevity and the utilization of polymer plastics are additional factors that impact the existence of plastic waste. For instance, plastic used in packaging typically has a service life of no more than six months. This stands in contrast to the building and construction industry, where plastic has an average useful life of 35 years. As a result, packaging constitutes the primary source of plastic waste, comprising approximately 50% of the worldwide aggregate.

In 2015, approximately 372 million tons of primary plastic production out of a total of 407 million tons were disposed of as waste. Other sectors generate 42 million tons of waste, while packaging generates 141 million tons, building and construction generates 13 million tons, textiles generate 38 million tons, consumer and institutional products generate 37 million tons, transportation generates 17 million tons, electrical and electronic generate 13 million tons, and industrial machinery generates 1 million tons [2].

Plastic decomposition requires a significantly longer period of time than the accumulation of plastic refuse, which negatively impacts health and the environment and can even result in the demise of organisms due to plastic contamination. The issue of plastic waste is increasingly emerging as a significant global concern for nations. Plastic waste has already reached hazardous proportions due to the ecological disruptions and mortality it induces. A significant amount of plastic waste is released into the ocean, leading to various detrimental consequences. These include harming and killing marine life, disrupting the distribution of food chains that primarily originate from the sea, causing health issues due to plastic contamination, altering ecosystems, causing damage to coral reefs, and diminishing the economic value of marine resources [3].

Additionally, plastic waste contributes significantly to pollution in Indonesia. As documented on sains.kompas.com, Greenpeace Indonesia conducted an audit of plastic waste on three Indonesian beaches—Kuk Cituis (Tangerang), Pandansari (Yogyakarta), and Mertasari (Yogyakarta), as well as Bali—in observance of World Clean-up Day, which occurred on September 15, 2018.

They discovered 10,594 used plastic packaging items representing 797 distinct brands. As an example, other waste products consist of 594 food and beverage brands, 90 brands of body care products, 86 brands of domestic necessities, and 27 cigarette butts. Annual waste generation in Indonesia amounts to 65 million kilograms. 16%, or 10.4 million tons, consists of plastic waste. In contrast, of the 10.4 million tons, approximately 1.2 million tons were burnt, or 12%, and nearly 1 million tons were recycled, or 9%. In other words, 79% of plastic waste, or 8.2 million tons, winds up in landfills and public areas such as beaches. Indonesia generated 64 million tons of plastic waste annually, of which 3.2 million tons were dumped into the ocean. Additionally, 10 billion plastic bags are discarded annually, which is equivalent to 85,000 tons of plastic bags. Additionally, the management of plastic waste remains an urgent concern.

Review of literature

Plastic is a substance created through the polymerization process of carbon and hydrogen, where multiple small molecules are combined to produce larger ones. Plastic is a durable and rigid substance. Fragile, lightweight, resistant to corrosion, easily dyed and molded, and possessing good thermal and electrical insulation properties. The range of values is from 4 to 7, inclusive. The inherent characteristics of plastic result in its widespread utilization across many daily activities, leading to a substantial generation of garbage [1], [8]–[10].

Karuniastuti (2003) categorizes plastics into the following primary types: 1) PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate); 2) HDPE (High Density Polyethylene); 3) V (Polyvinyl Chloride); 4) LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene); 5) PP (Polypropylene); 6) PS (Polystyrene); 7) additional varieties. Plastics can be classified into two distinct categories: thermoplastics and thermosets. Thermoplastics are a type of plastic that can be melted and molded when exposed to a specific temperature. Thermoplastics are frequently employed in the production of packaging bottles and may be recycled. In contrast, thermosets are a sort of plastic that cannot be melted again once heated. This particular type of plastic is utilized as a raw material for manufacturing plastic bags. The references are numbered as [6] and [11]. Plastic possesses several advantages compared to other materials, such as its strength, lightness, flexibility, resistance to corrosion, durability, ease of coloring and shaping, and its ability to insulate against heat and electricity. Nonetheless, discarded plastic poses a threat to the ecosystem due to its slow decomposition rate and potential to diminish soil fertility. Improperly disposed plastic garbage can obstruct drainage channels, gutters, and

rivers, leading to flooding. Incinerated plastic waste has the ability to eliminate toxic compounds that pose a threat to human well-being.

Experimental Procedures

This research is being conducted as a qualitative descriptive study. The data utilized in this study were obtained from published sources. The study utilizes trash plastics collected from several locations inside the city. Data and information obtained from prior research, report documents, and internet publications pertaining to the discussed issue. Data is gathered and organized into a qualitative table to generate comprehensive knowledge about the subject being examined. Moreover, the analysis of Findings and Analysis Several measures have been implemented to mitigate the accumulation of plastic garbage that is steadily increasing.

Result and Discussion

An ongoing initiative known as 3R, which stands for Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, is currently underway. Surono and Ismanto (2016) proposed that reuse refers to the repetitive utilization of plastic goods. Reduce refers to the act of decreasing the acquisition or utilization of plastic goods, particularly those that are throwaway. Recycling refers to the process of physically or chemically treating plastic objects in order to obtain a higher selling value. According to this definition, the terms "reuse" and "reduce" pertain to the way humans behave when using plastic in order to decrease the quantity of plastic used. On the other hand, "recycling" refers to the process of transforming plastic into other items that hold economic worth. Reuse refers to the repetitive utilization of plastic products, whereas reducing pertains to the act of minimizing the usage of plastic items, particularly those that are disposable. In order to complete this phase, it is important to highlight the negative consequences associated with the utilization of plastics. Acquiring knowledge regarding the utilization and consequences of plastic garbage enables individuals to make informed decisions when selecting materials that are more ecologically sustainable. Sorting rubbish aids in the process of recycling. The purpose is to assess the quality level of recycled materials, which categorizes recycling into four types: primary recycling, secondary recycling, tertiary recycling, and quaternary recycling. Primary recycling involves the process of transforming plastic waste into a product that closely matches the quality of the original product. This recycling process specifically targets uncontaminated plastic trash that is composed of a single type of plastic. Secondary recycling refers to the process of recycling that results in a product that is similar to the original product, but with a lower quality. The consolidated information is presented to draw conclusions on the subject.

Recycling refers to the process of converting plastic trash into chemicals or fuel. Quarter recycling is a method used to extract the energy stored in plastic debris.

It is necessary to categorize plastic garbage in a similar manner to ensure that its quality closely resembles that of the original. Product designed for primary recycling. The management and disposal of plastic trash is tailored to its specific nature. Plastics can be classified into two distinct categories: thermosetting and thermoplastics. Thermosetting plastics are solid materials that cannot be melted again through heating, while thermoplastics are plastic products or materials that can be melted again by heating to a certain temperature in order to generate other desirable products. Among the two categories, it is observed that thermoplastics are the sort of plastic that may be recycled. Out of the entire amount of plastics utilized, 80% are classified as thermoplastics, while the remaining 20% are categorized as thermosetting plastics. Recyclable plastics are categorized using numerical codes to aid in distinguishing between plastics that can be recycled and those that cannot. There are seven plastic product codes:



The meaning of each code number above is described as follows: 1) PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) is a type of plastic that may be recycled. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) material is the most often recycled type of plastic. It is commonly utilized for single-use transparent plastic bottles. Recycling can be done on several forms of plastic such as plastic bottles, soda pop bottles, and mouthwash bottles.

Ensure to inspect the plastic material of yogurt pots before recycling, as certain types may be composed of polystyrene. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be repurposed into polyester fabrics and used as filling for feathers, carpets, and pillow patches. 2) HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) is a type of plastic that may be recycled. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) is capable of undergoing the process of recycling. HDPE is commonly used in hard colored bottles and tubs. HDPE plastic is commonly used for milk bottles, plastic bottle caps, bleach/detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, margarine containers, and ice cream containers. HDPE can be recycled into detergent pens and bottles. 3) PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) is a type of plastic that cannot be recycled. PVC is not recyclable under typical conditions. PVC is commonly found in cling films, blister packs, hoses, table covers, plastic pipes, and plastic outdoor furniture. 4) LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene) is a type of plastic that may be recycled. Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) is capable of being recycled. This plastic is a rigid and pliable material commonly seen in bread wrappers, frozen food packaging, and broken bottles, such as the hand cream jar. LDPE is repurposed into garbage bins. 5) PP (Polypropylene) is a type of plastic that may be recycled. Polypropylene (PP) is recyclable. This sort of plastic is commonly found in various items such as packing tapes, plastic straws, disposable containers, soy sauce bottles, plastic travel gear, and bags used for carrying things. Polypropylene can be repurposed into brooms, brushes, garden rakes, and plastic trays. On the other hand, Polystyrene (PS) is a type of plastic that cannot be recycled. Polystyrene is not recyclable under typical circumstances. There are two categories of polystyrene: hard, brittle plastic and expanded polystyrene. Hard polystyrene is commonly found in items such as CD casings, plastic forks, and yogurt bottles. It is important to check the type of plastic before recycling, as some of these items may be made from recycled plastics. On the other hand, expanded polystyrene is a lightweight plastic used for various purposes including packaging materials like wrapping, meat trays, bean packaging, and styrofoam. It is also used for insulation. Lastly, there is a category of non-recyclable plastic known as "Other".

Most plastics cannot be recycled under typical circumstances. It classifies all other types of plastics, including bioplastics, composite plastics (such as dry wrapping), plastic-coated wrapping paper, and polycarbonate (which includes BPA).

The plastics that can be recycled based on the given description include PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate), HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene), LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene), and PP (Polypropylene). There are multiple techniques available for plastic recycling. The ongoing research involves the conversion of polymers into fuel oil. The process of transforming plastic trash into oil. The reason for this is that plastic is derived from petroleum, and hence it has the ability to revert back to its original form. Furthermore, plastic possesses a substantial heating value that is comparable to that of fossil fuels like gasoline and diesel.

This study concludes that pyrolysis is a recycling process that has the ability to turn plastic waste into liquid fuels, hence creating economic value. Pyrolysis has the potential to generate a maximum of 81% oil, gas, and charcoal [12]. The oil that is generated consists of paraffin, isoparaffin, and olefin compounds.

Naphthenes and aromatics are components that make it suitable for use as fuel. Hence, pyrolysis oil is viable for usage as a sole fuel source and as a replacement material. Various parameters exert an influence on the pyrolysis process, including the plastic's kind, temperature, and duration, as well as the utilization and type of catalysts. To generate a substantial amount of high-quality liquid fuel, it is advisable to employ a catalyst. Catalysts enhance the rate of the pyrolysis process without necessitating an increase in time and temperature, resulting in improved cost-effectiveness.

The maximum yield of 76.09% was achieved by processing polypropylene plastic waste (PP) into fuel oil using the catalytic cracking method. This was done at a temperature of 450°C and a catalyst/plastic ratio of 1.5% using synthetic catalysts. The product has a heating value of 45.56 MJ/kg. The GC-MS analysis results indicate that the product area consists of fuels such as gasoline (60.46%), kerosene, and diesel fuel (7.48%). The user's text is "[9]." Research has shown that plastic trash can be used as a substitute for renewable fuels. It has been found that 0.2 kg of plastic waste can create 10 ml of fuel oil. Additionally, by adding waste cooking oil, the fuel production can be increased by 1 ml. This process also takes a relatively short

amount of time. Plastic trash can be converted into gasoline by a process called cracking [13-19]. Several relevant research have examined the efficacy of utilizing gasoline derived from plastic trash as a potential substitute for diesel fuel. In addition, the production of activated carbon is an additional stage in the treatment of polyethylene plastic waste. Regarding the execution, it is anticipated that financial support will be provided to manufacture top-notch equipment, which may then be distributed in waste-intensive regions, such as Kuta Beach [20]. Utilizing plastic trash as a source material for producing alternative fuels demonstrates that the density of pyrolysis oil is 0.8 g/ml [21-23]. The duration required to completely incinerate an object is precisely 4.02 minutes. Utilizing pyrolysis oil as a fuel source, cooking water reaches a temperature of 750C within a 4-minute duration. During this process, approximately 12.6 ml of water evaporates. This method of cooking employs plastic waste as an alternative energy source. According to the test results, at a temperature of 4000C, the proportions of oil, gas, and solids produced were 52%, 15%, and 33%, respectively [8]. A higher quantity of oil is generated compared to the amount produced at a reactor temperature of 2000C. At a temperature of 2000C, the quantities of oil, gas, and solids generated are 30%, 10%, and 60% respectively. The mean ignition time for a gasoline-powered generator is 9.25 minutes, accounting for different levels of loading. The maximum duration for the ignition of the generator is 11.09 minutes while using a combination of gasoline and pyrolysis oil at a temperature of 3000C. The least efficient duration is 9.02 minutes when the generator is fueled only by 100% pyrolysis oil.

Conclusions

According to the given description, the researchers deduce that there are multiple stages involved in managing plastic trash. The principle of 3R (Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle) is consistently employed to manage plastic trash. Recycling is currently considered as a viable option for managing the growing volume of plastic trash, while reusing and reducing are anticipated to decrease the quantity of plastic garbage. Waste plastic is typically composed of thermoplastic materials, which are types of polymers that can be melted and reshaped by heating them to a specified temperature. Recyclable plastic products encompass PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate), HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene), LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene), and PP (Polypropylene). Plastic waste recycling is achieved by a chemical process known as thermal cracking or pyrolysis. Pyrolysis is a technique that can transform plastic into fuel oil. This technology offers a solution to two simultaneous problems: the efficient management of plastic trash and the growing demand for energy in the face of diminishing resources.

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