



# Covestro

We will be fully circular

Chemical recycling technologies for PC

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# Forward-looking statements

This presentation may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Covestro AG.

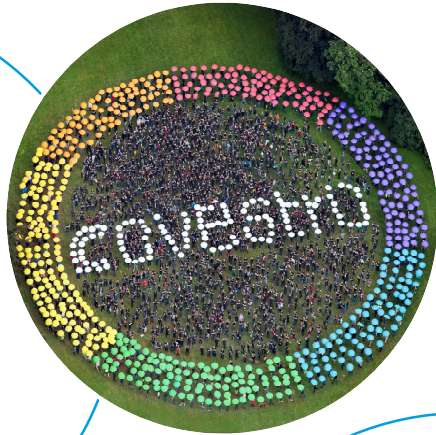
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# Covestro – leading in the world of plastics

## Strong

- €10.7 bn in sales
- 16,500 employees<sup>1</sup>



## Useful

- Plastics, pre-products and solutions
- For many industries



## Global

- 33 production sites globally
- Close to customers and partners



## Innovative

- 1,200+ employees in research and development
- 80 years of ideas and inventions



# Our purpose – for a brighter world

“We want to make the world a brighter place”



Preserving  
the  
environment

Advancing  
society

Creating  
value

# Our vision – promote circular economy

## Circular economy enables a climate neutral future

- Circular economy is the key to resource conservation, climate and environmental protection
- Plastics are a driving force for implementing circular economy



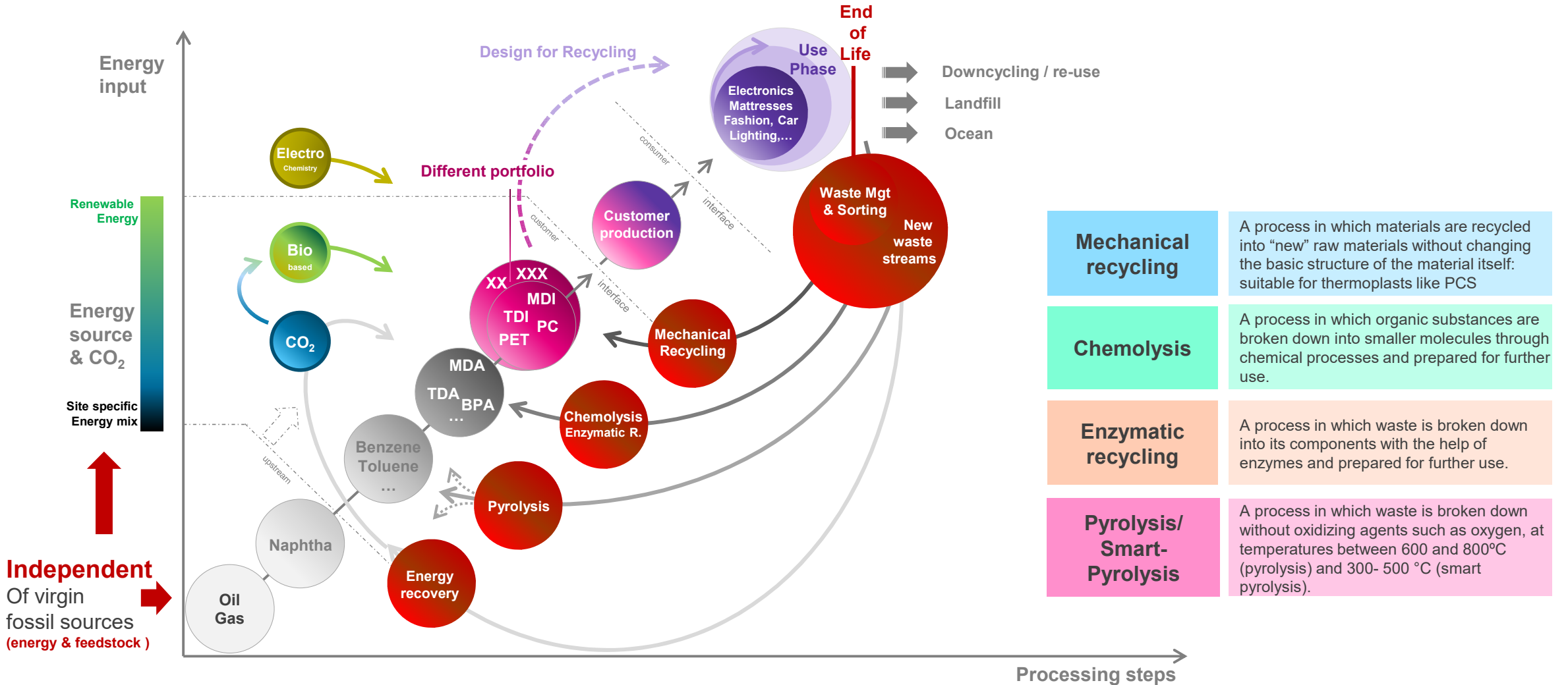
## We want to become fully circular

- We want to contribute to make circular economy the global guiding principle ...
- ... and anchor it across the whole company

# How can we move from a linear to a circular economy?



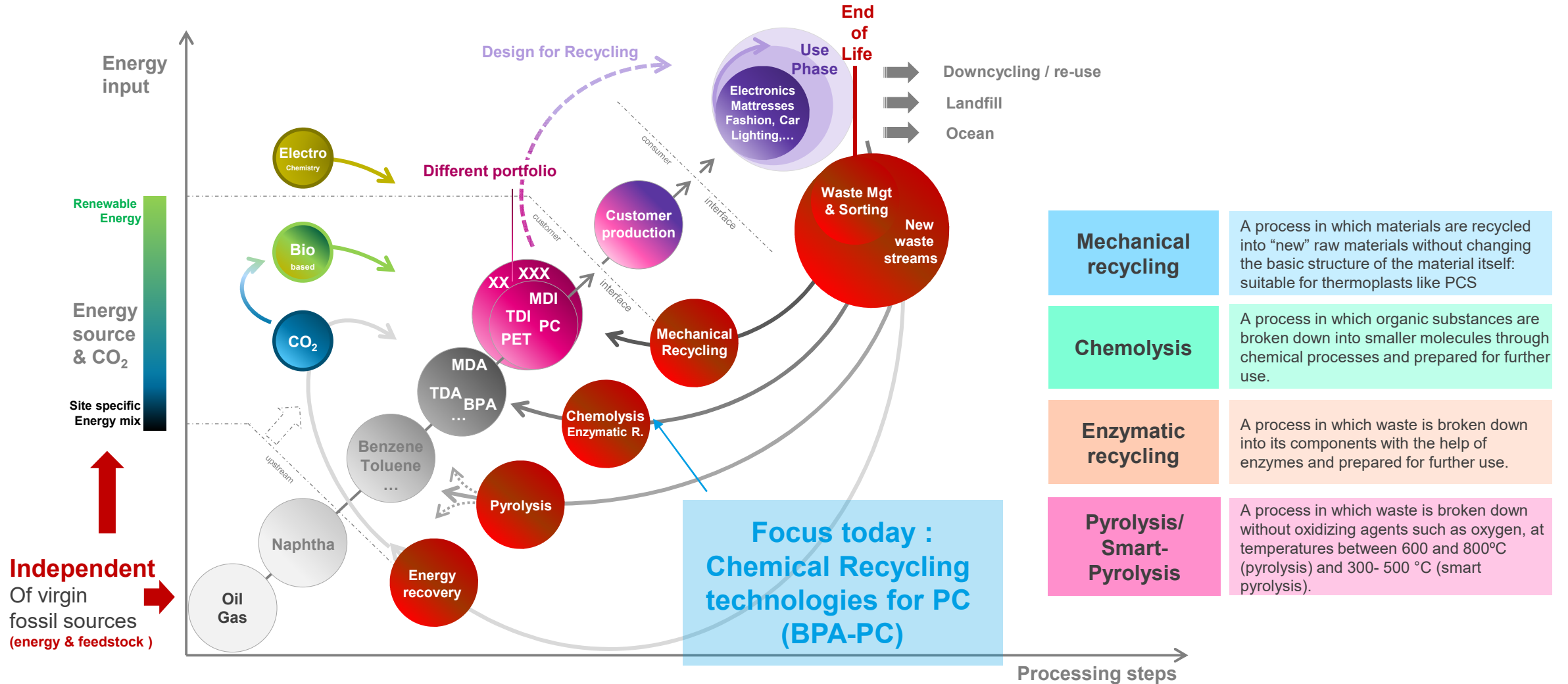
Using recycling technologies, bio-based materials and C1-chemistry



# How can we move from a linear to a circular economy?



Using recycling technologies, bio-based materials and C1-chemistry



# Segment Polycarbonates

## Product

Polycarbonate is a high-tech material – very robust, break-proof and light-weight. It can be flexibly shaped and is available in all colors.

It is an excellent substitute for traditional material such as glass or metal.

This allows for a wide variety of application possibilities ranging from vehicles to electronic devices as well as lenses or large roofs.

Covestro develops and produces the granules for polycarbonate parts.

## Facts and figures

€3.0

sales in bn  
(rounded)

28%

share of  
group sales

Polycarbonates were first developed by the predecessor company of Covestro in 1953.

The global demand is likely to grow by around 4% annually.<sup>1</sup>

### Key customer industries:



## Sample applications



For trendy smartphones



For bright buildings



For light-weight cars



For safe medical products



# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC



General overview of different technologies described in literature / patents

## 1. Hydrolysis:



## 2. Alcoholysis:



## 3. Aminolysis:



## 4. Hydrogenolysis:



## 5. Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>:



# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC

## Hydrolysis technology in literature / patents



### 1. Hydrolysis:



#### PC hydrolysis reaction conditions :

- High temperatures: (> 200 deg C) *[ref: S.E. Hunter, P.E. Savage J. Org. Chem. 2004, 69, 14, 4724–4731]*
- Use of catalyst: such as (earth)alkali oxides or hydroxides  
*[ref: G. Grause, K. Sugawara, T. Mizoguchi and T. Yoshioka, Polym. Degrad. Stab., 2009, 94,1119-1124]*  
*[ref: F.-S. Liu, Z. Li, S.-T. Yu, X. Cui, C.X. Xie and X.P. Ge, J. Polym. Environ., 2009,17, 208-211]*
- Use of ionic liquids *[ref: X. Song, F Liu, L. Li, X. Yang, S. Yu, X. Ge, J. Hazard. Mater., 2013, 244-245, 204-208]*

#### Remarks:

- Often solvent needed to dissolve PC
- CO<sub>2</sub> is not chemically captured
- Side reactions of BPA possible under the above conditions

# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC

## Alcoholysis technology in literature / patents



### 2. Alcoholysis:



#### PC alcoholysis reaction conditions:

- Low(er) temperatures [ $< 200$  deg C] [ref: patents DE4220412A1, DE4312037A1]
- Use of catalyst such as NaOH, KOH [ref: patents DE4220412A1, DE4312037A1]  
or KF, NaF, LiCl, NaCl, LiBr, NaBr, KBr, NaI, KI [ref: C. Alberti and S. Enthaler, Asian J. Org. Chem. 2020, 9, 359–363]
- Use of ionic liquids [ref: F.-S. Liu, L. Li, S. Yu and X.P. Ge, J. Hazard. Mater., 2011, 189, 249-255]

#### Remarks:

- Often solvent needed to dissolve PC
- $\text{CO}_2$  can be captured as carbonate
- Different mono-alcohols can be used:  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  [ref: patents DE4220412A1, DE4312037A1]
- Di-alcohols, such as  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{O}_2$  could lead to the formation of cyclic carbonates

# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC

## Aminolysis technology in literature / patents



### 3. Aminolysis:



#### PC aminolysis reaction conditions:

- Low(er) temperatures [ $< 200$  deg C] [ref: USpatent 4885407]
- $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{NH}_3$  is a good depolymerization agent for PC [ref: USpatent 4885407]
- An extra catalyst can be added to improve reaction with some amines [ref: S. Hata, H. Goto, E. Yamato and A. Oku, Polymer, 2002, 43, 2109-2116]
- Use of ionic liquids [ref: F. Iannone et al., J Mol. Catal. A: Chem, 2017, 426,107-116]

#### Remarks:

- Solvent needed to dissolve PC
- $\text{CO}_2$  can be captured chemically (such as urea when using  $\text{NH}_3$ ) [ref: USpatent 4885407]

# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC

## Hydrogenolysis technology in literature / patents



### 4. Hydrogenolysis:



#### PC hydrogenolysis reaction conditions:

- Low(er) temperatures [ $< 200$  deg C], higher pressure 45 bar
- Metal catalyst needed such as a Ruthenium complex

[Ref: C. Alberti et al., *Chemistryselect*, 2019,4, 12268-12271]

[Ref: C. Alberti et al., *Chemistryselect*, 2019,4, 12268-12271]

#### Remarks:

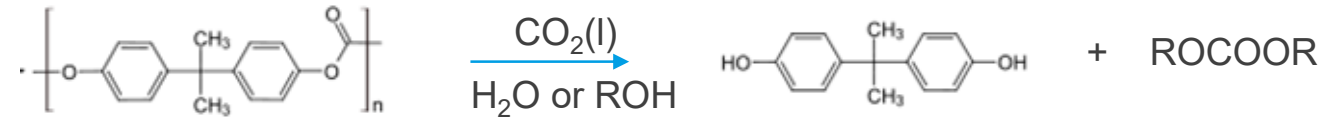
- Solvent needed
- Expensive catalyst
- Reduction reaction of PC by H<sub>2</sub> into BPA and methanol

# Chemical Recycling technologies for PC

## Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> technology in literature / patents



### 5. Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>:



#### PC supercritical reactions:

- High temperatures (> 200 degC) and pressures needed
- No extra catalyst needed

[ref: patent EP 1 439 158 A1]

[ref: patent EP 1 439 158 A1]

#### Remarks:

- Solvent needed when using water
- Alcohols used: CH<sub>3</sub>OH and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH forming dimethylcarbonate and diphenylcarbonate respectively
- Excess CO<sub>2</sub> needs to be compressed for re-usage

# Chemical Recycling technologies



## Challenges in chemical recycling of polycarbonates

1. A **clean PC** waste source is needed – impurities could influence the chemical recycling process
2. Non-pure PC types containing **additives, fillers** need **extra process** steps
3. Suitable **work-up** of depolymerized PC needed to retrieve **BPA** and other chemicals with **acceptable quality**
4. Extra **process** steps will **increase** investment and operational **costs**
5. The **global warming potential** of the PC recycling process should be evaluated



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**





# QUESTIONS ?