

The contribution of biobased polyethylene to a net-zero circular economy.

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Abstract

Committed since its foundation in 2002 to follow the principles of sustainable development, Braskem has been producing Polyethylene derived from sugarcane-based ethanol for the past 12 years. With a capacity that will reach 260kt/y in 2023, this project made the company not only a pioneer but also a leader in the production of biopolymers globally. In 2022, Braskem has publicly announced its ambition to reach 1 million tons per year of biobased PE & EVA capacity by 2030.

Together with such an ambitious growth plan, comes the responsibility to ensure maximum transparency and sustainable practices throughout the value chain. Therefore, this lecture will focus on presenting how Braskem ensures the continuous improvement of the sustainable credentials of biobased PE, highlighting the responsible ethanol sourcing framework that was developed in partnership with PROFOREST, a non-profit specialized in the field of responsible sourcing.

Furthermore, in 2022 we have hired IMAFLORA, another NGO focused in social and environmental certifications, to help us with the continuous improvement of Braskem's responsible sourcing requirements. All these efforts demonstrate Braskem's commitment, together with its supplying partners, to zero deforestation and continuously improving sustainable practices from field to mill, going even beyond what is required by legislation.