

CHEMICAL RECYCLING OF PLASTIC DRY FINES

BACKGROUND

5 [0001] Waste materials, especially non-biodegradable waste materials, can negatively impact the environment when disposed of in landfills after a single use. Thus, from an environmental standpoint, it is desirable to recycle as much waste material as possible. However, there still exist streams of low value waste that are nearly impossible or economically unfeasible to recycle with conventional recycling technologies. In addition, some conventional recycling processes produce waste streams that are themselves not economically feasible to recover or recycle, resulting in additional waste streams that must be disposed of or otherwise handled. For example, PET reclaimer facilities and/or manufacturers of PET articles can produce significant amounts of waste plastics that are undesirable or unusable by consumers and mechanical recycling facilities. In particular, such facilities can produce quantities of PET-containing dry fines that are undesirable or unusable to mechanical recycling facilities in their collected form, but may contain some amount of otherwise desirable or usable PET and/or other plastics. However, the dry fines are typically disposed of in landfills and/or incinerators.

10 [0002] Thus, a need exists for a large-scale facility capable of chemically recycling a variety of plastic-containing waste materials recovered from such sources, particularly otherwise undesirable or unusable PET-containing dry fines from PET reclaimer facilities and/or manufacturers of PET articles, in an economically viable manner.

SUMMARY

15 [0003] In one aspect, the present technology concerns a method of recycling a plastic waste. Generally, the method comprises: (a) feeding a quantity of PET-containing dry fines separated from the plastic waste to a chemical recycling facility; and (b) depolymerizing in the chemical recycling facility at least a portion of the PET-containing dry fines.

[0004] In one aspect, the present technology concerns the use of PET-containing dry fines as a feedstock to a chemical recycling facility.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 **[0005]** FIG. 1 is a block flow diagram illustrating the main steps of a process and facility for chemically recycling waste plastic according to embodiments of the present technology;

[0006] FIG. 2 is a block flow diagram illustrating a separation process and zone for separating mixed plastic waste according to embodiments of the present technology;

10 **[0007]** FIG. 3 is a block flow diagram illustrating the main steps of a process and facility for PET solvolysis according to embodiments of the present technology;

[0008] FIG. 4 is a block flow diagram illustrating typical rPET products and co-products derived from a PET reclaimer facility;

15 **[0009]** FIG. 5 is a block flow diagram illustrating the main steps of a PET reclaimer process, and the resulting products and co-products produced therefrom;

[0010] FIG. 6 is a block flow diagram illustrating an exemplary liquification zone of the chemical recycling facility shown in FIG. 1 according to embodiments of the present technology;

20 **[0011]** FIG. 7 is a block flow diagram illustrating the main steps of a pyrolysis process and facility for converting waste plastic into a pyrolyzed product streams according to embodiments of the present technology;

25 **[0012]** FIG. 8A is a block flow diagram illustrating the main steps of an integrated pyrolysis process and facility and a cracking process and facility according to embodiments of the present technology;

[0013] FIG. 8B is a schematic diagram of a cracking furnace according to embodiments of the present technology;

30 **[0014]** FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a POx reactor according to embodiments of the present technology; and

[0015] FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating various definitions of the term “separation efficiency” as used herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

5 **[0016]** We have discovered new methods and systems for using one or more PET-containing materials from various sources as a feedstock to a chemical recycling facility, and in particular a solvolysis facility. More particularly, we have discovered that PET-containing materials used as feedstock for chemical recycling or solvolysis may include PET-containing dry
10 fines that may be derived, for example, from PET reclaimer facilities and/or manufacturers of PET articles. While these purge materials are generally considered undesirable or unusable by mechanical recycling facilities, they can contain some amount of recoverable and useful plastics, such as PET. The methods and systems described herein are capable of using such PET-
15 containing dry fines as a feedstock source in chemical recycling facilities and processes.

[0017] When a numerical sequence is indicated, it is to be understood that each number is modified the same as the first number or last number in the numerical sequence or in the sentence, e.g. each number is “at least,” or “up to” or “not more than” as the case may be; and each number is in an “or”
20 relationship. For example, “at least 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 75 wt.%...” means the same as “at least 10 wt.%, or at least 20 wt.%, or at least 30 wt.%, or at least 40 wt.%, or at least 50 wt.%, or at least 75 wt.%,” etc.; and “not more than 90 wt.%, 85, 70, 60...” means the same as “not more than 90 wt.%, or not more
25 than 85 wt.%, or not more than 70 wt.%....” etc.; and “at least 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%, 6%, 7%, 8%, 9% or 10% by weight...” means the same as “at least 1 wt.%, or at least 2 wt.%, or at least 3 wt.% ...” etc.; and “at least 5, 10, 15, 20 and/or not more than 99, 95, 90 weight percent” means the same as “at least 5 wt.%,
or at least 10 wt.%, or at least 15 wt.% or at least 20 wt.% and/or not more than
30 99 wt.%, or not more than 95 wt.%, or not more than 90 weight percent...” etc.

[0018] All concentrations or amounts are by weight unless otherwise stated.

Overall Chemical Recycling Facility

[0019] Turning now to FIG. 1, the main steps of a process for chemically recycling waste plastic in a chemical recycling facility 10 are shown. It should be understood that FIG. 1 depicts one exemplary embodiment of the present technology. Certain features depicted in FIG. 1 may be omitted and/or additional features described elsewhere herein may be added to the system depicted in FIG. 1.

[0020] As shown in FIG. 1, these steps generally include a pre-processing step/facility 20, and at least one (or at least two or more) of a solvolysis step/facility 30, a partial oxidation (POX) gasification step/facility 50, a pyrolysis step/facility 60, a cracking step/facility 70, and an energy recovery step/facility 80. Optionally, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, these steps may also include one or more other steps, such as, direct sale or use, landfilling, separation, and solidification, one or more of which is represented in FIG. 1 by block 90. Although shown as including all of these steps or facilities, it should be understood that a chemical recycling process and facility according to one or more embodiments of the present technology can include at least two, three, four, five, or all of these steps/facilities in various combinations for the chemical recycling of plastic waste and, in particular, mixed plastic waste. Chemical recycling processes and facilities as described herein may be used to convert waste plastic to recycle content products or chemical intermediates used to form a variety of end use materials. The waste plastic fed to the chemical recycling facility/process can be mixed plastic waste (MPW), pre-sorted waste plastic, and/or pre-processed waste plastic.

[0021] As used herein, the term “chemical recycling” refers to a waste plastic recycling process that includes a step of chemically converting waste plastic polymers into lower molecular weight polymers, oligomers, monomers, and/or non-polymeric molecules (e.g., hydrogen and carbon monoxide) that are useful by themselves and/or are useful as feedstocks to another chemical production process or processes. A “chemical recycling facility,” is a facility for producing a recycle content product via chemical recycling of waste plastic. As used

herein, the terms “recycle content” and “r-content” mean being or comprising a composition that is directly and/or indirectly derived from waste plastic.

[0022] As used herein, the term “directly derived” means having at least one physical component originating from waste plastic, while “indirectly derived” means having an assigned recycle content that i) is attributable to waste plastic, but ii) that is not based on having a physical component originating from waste plastic.

[0023] Chemical recycling facilities are not mechanical recycling facilities. As used herein, the terms “mechanical recycling” and “physical recycling” refer to a recycling process that includes a step of melting waste plastic and forming the molten plastic into a new intermediate product (e.g., pellets or sheets) and/or a new end product (e.g., bottles). Generally, mechanical recycling does not substantially change the chemical structure of the plastic being recycled. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the chemical recycling facilities described herein may be configured to receive and process waste streams from and/or that are not typically processable by a mechanical recycling facility.

[0024] Although described herein as being part of a single chemical recycling facility, it should be understood that one or more of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility 50, and the energy recovery facility 80, or any of the other facility 90 such as solidification or separation, may be located in a different geographical location and/or be operated by a different commercial entity. Each of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, or any other facility 90s may be operated by the same entity, while, in other cases, one or more of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility 50, a solidification facility, the energy recovery facility 80, and one or more other facility 90 such as separation or solidification, may be operated by a different commercial entity.

[0025] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility 10 may be a commercial-scale facility capable of processing significant volumes of mixed plastic waste. As used herein, the term “commercial scale facility” refers to a facility having an average annual feed rate of at least 500 pounds per hour, averaged over one year. The average feed rate to the chemical recycling facility (or to any one of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any other facility 90) can be at least 750, at least 1,000, at least 1,500, at least 2,000, at least 2,500, at least 3,000, at least 3,500, at least 4,000, at least 4,500, at least 5,000, at least 5,500, at least 6,000, at least 6,500, at least 7,500, at least 10,000, at least 12,500, at least 15,000, at least 17,500, at least 20,000, at least 22,500, at least 25,000, at least 27,500, at least 30,000 or at least 32,500 pounds per hour and/or not more than 1,000,000, not more than 750,000, not more than 500,000, not more than 450,000, not more than 400,000, not more than 350,000, not more than 300,000, not more than 250,000, not more than 200,000, not more than 150,000, not more than 100,000, not more than 75,000, not more than 50,000, or not more than 40,000 pounds per hour. When a facility includes two or more feed streams, the average annual feed rate is determined based on the combined weight of the feed streams.

[0026] Additionally, it should be understood that each of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any other facility 90 may include multiple units operating in series or parallel. For example, the pyrolysis facility 60 may include multiple pyrolysis reactors/units operating in parallel and each receiving a feed comprising waste plastic. When a facility is made up of multiple individual units, the average annual feed rate to the facility is calculated as the sum of the average annual feed rates to all of the common types of units within that facility.

[0027] Additionally, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility 10 (or any one of

the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any other facility 90) may be operated in a continuous manner. Additionally, or in the alternative, at least a portion of the chemical recycling facility 10 (or any of the preprocessing facility 20, the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any other facility 90) may be operated in a batch or semi-batch manner. In some cases, the facility may include a plurality of tanks between portions of a single facility or between two or more different facilities to manage inventory and ensure consistent flow rates into each facility or portion thereof.

[0028] In addition, two or more of the facilities shown in FIG. 1 may also be co-located with one another. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, or all of the facilities may be co-located. As used herein, the term “co-located” refers to facilities in which at least a portion of the process streams and/or supporting equipment or services are shared between the two facilities. When two or more of the facilities shown in FIG. 1 are co-located, the facilities may meet at least one of the following criteria (i) through (v): (i) the facilities share at least one non-residential utility service; (ii) the facilities share at least one service group; (iii) the facilities are owned and/or operated by parties that share at least one property boundary; (iv) the facilities are connected by at least one conduit configured to carry at least one process material (e.g., solid, liquid and/or gas fed to, used by, or generated in a facility) from one facility to another; and (v) the facilities are within 40, within 35, within 30, within 20, within 15, within 12, within 10, within 8, within 5, within 2, or within 1 mile of one another, measured from their geographical center. At least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, or all of the above statements (i) through (v) may be true.

[0029] Regarding (i), examples of suitable utility services include, but are not limited to, steam systems (co-generation and distribution systems), cooling water systems, heat transfer fluid systems, plant or instrument air systems,

nitrogen systems, hydrogen systems, non-residential electrical generation and distribution, including distribution above 8000V, non-residential wastewater/sewer systems, storage facilities, transport lines, flare systems, and combinations thereof.

5 **[0030]** Regarding (ii), examples of service groups and facilities include, but are not limited to, emergency services personnel (fire and/or medical), a third-party vendor, a state or local government oversight group, and combinations thereof. Government oversight groups can include, for example, regulatory or environmental agencies, as well as municipal and taxation agencies at the city,
10 county, and state level.

[0031] Regarding (iii), the boundary may be, for example, a fence line, a property line, a gate, or common boundaries with at least one boundary of a third-party owned land or facility.

[0032] Regarding (iv), the conduit may be a fluid conduit that carries a gas,
15 a liquid, a solid/liquid mixture (e.g., slurry), a solid/gas mixture (e.g., pneumatic conveyance), a solid/liquid/gas mixture, or a solid (e.g., belt conveyance). In some cases, two units may share one or more conduits selected from the above list. Fluid conduits may be used to transport process streams or utilities between the two units. For example, an outlet of one facility (e.g., the solvolysis
20 facility 30) may be fluidly connected via a conduit with an inlet of another facility (e.g., the POX gasification facility 50). In some cases, an interim storage system for the materials being transported within the conduit between the outlet of one facility and the inlet of another facility may be provided. The interim storage system may comprise, for example, one or more tanks, vessels (open
25 or closed), buildings, or containers that are configured to store the material carried by the conduit. In some cases, the interim storage between the outlet of one facility and the inlet of another can be not more than 90, not more than 75, not more than 60, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not
30 more than 2 days or not more than 1 day.

Waste Plastic

[0033] Turning again to FIG. 1, a stream 100 of waste plastic, which can be mixed plastic waste (MPW), may be introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10. As used herein, the terms “waste plastic” and “plastic waste” refer to used, scrap, and/or discarded plastic materials, such as plastic materials typically sent to a landfill. Other examples of waste plastic (or plastic waste) include used, scrap, and/or discarded plastic materials typically sent to an incinerator. The waste plastic stream 100 fed to the chemical recycling facility 10 may include unprocessed or partially processed waste plastic. As used herein, the term “unprocessed waste plastic” means waste plastic that has not be subjected to any automated or mechanized sorting, washing, or comminuting. Examples of unprocessed waste plastic include waste plastic collected from household curbside plastic recycling bins or shared community plastic recycling containers. As used herein, the term “partially processed waste plastic” means waste plastic that has been subjected to at least one automated or mechanized sorting, washing, or comminuting step or process. Partially processed waste plastics may originate from, for example, municipal recycling facilities (MRFs) or reclaimers. When partially processed waste plastic is provided to the chemical recycling facility 10, one or more preprocessing steps may be skipped. Waste plastic may comprise at least one of post-industrial (or pre-consumer) plastic and/or post-consumer plastic.

[0034] As used herein, the terms “mixed plastic waste” and “MPW” refer to a mixture of at least two types of waste plastics including, but not limited to the following plastic types: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), one or more polyolefins (PO), and polyvinylchloride (PVC). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, MPW includes at least two distinct types of plastic, with each type of plastic being present in an amount of at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, or at least 20 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic in the MPW.

[0035] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, MPW comprises at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least

50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent PET and/or at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, or at least 20 weight percent PO, based on the total weight of plastic in the MPW. In one embodiment or more embodiments, MPW may also include minor amounts of one or more types of plastic components other than PET and PO (and optionally PVC) that total less than 50, less than 45, less than 40, less than 35, less than 30, less than 25, less than 20, less than 15, less than 10, less than 5, less than 2, or less than 1 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic in the MPW.

[0036] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the MPW comprises at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent PET, based on the total weight of the stream. Alternatively, or in addition, the MPW comprises not more than 99.9, not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 92, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, or not more than 5 weight percent PET, based on the total weight of the stream.

[0037] The MPW stream can include non-PET components in an amount of at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, or at least 35 and/or not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, or not more than 7 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. Non-PET components can be present in an amount between 0.1 and 50 weight percent, 1 and 20 weight percent, or 2 and 10 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. Examples of such non-PET components can include, but are not limited to, ferrous and non-

ferrous metals, inerts (such as rocks, glass, sand, etc.), plastic inerts (such as titanium dioxide, silicon dioxide, etc.), olefins, adhesives, compatibilizers, biosludge, cellulosic materials (such as cardboard, paper, etc.), and combinations thereof.

5 **[0038]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, all or a portion of the MPW can originate from a municipal source or comprise municipal waste. The municipal waste portion of the MPW can include, for example, PET in an amount of from 45 to 95 weight percent, 50 to 90 weight percent, or 55 to 85 weight percent, based on the total weight
10 of the municipal waste stream (or portion of the stream).

[0039] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, all or a portion of the MPW can originate from a municipal recycling facility (MRF) and may include, for example, PET in an amount of from 65 to 99.9 weight percent, 70 to 99 weight percent, or 80 to 97 weight percent, based
15 on the total weight of the stream. The non-PET components in such streams may include, for example, other plastics in an amount of at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, or at least 10 weight percent and/or not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 12, or not more than 10 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or such
20 may be present in an amount in the range of from 1 to 22 weight percent, 2 to 15 weight percent, or 5 to 12 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the non-PET components can include other plastics in an amount in the range of from 2 to 35 weight percent, 5 to 30 weight percent, or 10 to 25 weight
25 percent, based on the total weight of the stream, particularly when, for example, the MPW includes colored sorted plastics.

[0040] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, all or a portion of the MPW can originate from a reclaimer facility and may include, for example, PET in an amount of from 85 to 99.9 weight percent, 90 to 99.9 weight percent, or 95 to 99 weight percent, based on the total weight
30 of the stream. The non-PET components in such streams may include, for example, other plastics in an amount of at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least

7, or at least 10 weight percent and/or not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 12, or not more than 10 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or such may be present in an amount in the range of from 1 to 22 weight percent, 2 to 15 weight percent, or 5 to 12 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[0041] As used herein, the term “plastic” may include any organic synthetic polymers that are solid at 25°C and 1 atmosphere of pressure. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the polymers may have a number average molecular weight (M_n) of at least 75, or at least 100, or at least 125, or at least 150, or at least 300, or at least 500, or at least 1000, or at least 5,000, or at least 10,000, or at least 20,000, or at least 30,000, or at least 50,000 or at least 70,000 or at least 90,000 or at least 100,000 or at least 130,000 Daltons. The weight average molecular weight (M_w) of the polymers can be at least 300, or at least 500, or at least 1000, or at least 5,000, or at least 10,000, or at least 20,000, or at least 30,000 or at least 50,000, or at least 70,000, or at least 90,000, or at least 100,000, or at least 130,000, or at least 150,000, or at least 300,000 Daltons.

[0042] Examples of suitable plastics can include, but are not limited to, aromatic and aliphatic polyesters, polyolefins, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene, polytetrafluoroethylene, acrylobutadienestyrene (ABS), cellulose, epoxides, polyamides, phenolic resins, polyacetal, polycarbonates, polyphenylene-based alloys, poly(methyl methacrylate), styrene-containing polymers, polyurethane, vinyl-based polymers, styrene acrylonitrile, thermoplastic elastomers other than tires, and urea containing polymers and melamines.

[0043] Examples of polyesters can include those having repeating aromatic or cyclic units such as those containing a repeating terephthalate, isophthalate, or naphthalate units such as PET, modified PET, and PEN, or those containing repeating furanate repeating units. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is also an example of a suitable polyester. As used herein, “PET” or “polyethylene terephthalate” refers to a homopolymer of polyethylene terephthalate, or to a polyethylene terephthalate modified with one or more acid and/or glycol

modifiers and/or containing residues or moieties of other than ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid, such as isophthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, diethylene glycol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol (TMCD), cyclohexanedimethanol (CHDM), propylene glycol, isosorbide, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-propane diol, and/or neopentyl glycol (NPG).

[0044] Also included within the definition of the terms “PET” and “polyethylene terephthalate” are polyesters having repeating terephthalate units (whether or not they contain repeating ethylene glycol-based units) and one or more residues or moieties of a glycol including, for example, TMCD, CHDM, propylene glycol, or NPG, isosorbide, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-propane diol, and/or diethylene glycol, or combinations thereof. Examples of polymers with repeat terephthalate units can include, but are not limited to, polypropylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, and copolyesters thereof. Examples of aliphatic polyesters can include, but are not limited to, polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid, polycaprolactones, and polyethylene adipates. The polymer may comprise mixed aliphatic-aromatic copolyesters including, for example, mixed terephthalates/adipates.

[0045] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may comprise at least one type of plastic that has repeat terephthalate units with such a plastic being present in an amount of at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, or at least 30 and/or not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be present in the range of from 1 to 45 weight percent, 2 to 40 weight percent, or 5 to 40 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. Similar amounts of copolyesters having multiple cyclohexane dimethanol moieties, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol moieties, or combinations thereof may also be present.

[0046] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may comprise at least one type of plastic that has repeat terephthalate units with such a plastic being present in an amount of at

least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, or at least 90 and/or not more than 99.9, not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 95, not more than 90, or not more than 85 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be present in the range of from 30 to 99.9 weight percent, 50 to 99.9 weight percent, or 75 to 99 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[0047] In an embodiment of in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may comprise terephthalate repeat units in an amount of at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, or at least 45 and/or not more than 75, not more than 72, not more than 70, not more than 60, or not more than 65 weight percent, based on the total weight of the plastic in the waste plastic stream, or it may include terephthalate repeat units in an amount in the range of from 1 to 75 weight percent, 5 to 70 weight percent, or 25 to 75 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[0048] Examples of specific polyolefins may include low density polyethylene (LDPE), high density polyethylene (HDPE), atactic polypropylene, isotactic polypropylene, syndiotactic polypropylene, crosslinked polyethylene, amorphous polyolefins, and the copolymers of any one of the aforementioned polyolefins. The waste plastic may include polymers including linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), polymethylpentene, polybutene-1, and copolymers thereof. The waste plastic may comprise flashspun high density polyethylene.

[0049] The waste plastic may include thermoplastic polymers, thermosetting polymers, or combinations thereof. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic can include at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, or at least 30 and/or not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent of one or more thermosetting polymers, based on the total weight of

the stream, or it can be present in an amount of 0.1 to 45 weight percent, 1 to 40 weight percent, 2 to 35 weight percent, or 2 to 20 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

5 **[0050]** Alternatively, or in addition, the waste plastic may include at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, or at least 30 and/or not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent of cellulose materials, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be present in an amount in the range of from 0.1 to 45 weight percent, 1 to 40 weight percent, 10 or 2 to 15 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. Examples of cellulose materials may include cellulose acetate, cellulose diacetate, cellulose triacetate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, as well as regenerated cellulose such as viscose. Additionally, the cellulose 15 materials can include cellulose derivatives having an acyl degree of substitution of less than 3, not more than 2.9, not more than 2.8, not more than 2.7, or not more than 2.6 and/or at least 1.7, at least 1.8, or at least 1.9, or from 1.8 to 2.8, or 1.7 to 2.9, or 1.9 to 2.9.

20 **[0051]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may comprise STYROFOAM or expanded polystyrene.

25 **[0052]** The waste plastic may originate from one or more of several sources. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may originate from plastic bottles, diapers, eyeglass frames, films, packaging materials, carpet (residential, commercial, and/or automotive), 25 textiles (clothing and other fabrics) and combinations thereof.

30 **[0053]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) fed to the chemical recycling facility may include one or more plastics having or obtained from plastics having a resin ID code numbered 1-7 with the chasing arrow triangle established by the SPI. The waste plastic may include one or more plastics that are not generally mechanically recycled. Such plastics can include, but are not limited to, plastics

with the resin ID code 3 (polyvinyl chloride), resin ID code 5 (polypropylene), resin ID code 6 (polystyrene), and/or resin ID code 7 (other). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, plastics having at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, or at least 5 of the resin ID codes 3-7 or 3, 5, 6, 7, or a combination thereof may be present in the waste plastic in an amount of at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 12, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, or at least 40 and/or not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of all plastics, or it could be in an amount of 0.1 to 90 weight percent, 1 to 75 weight percent, or 2 to 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastics.

[0054] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, or at least 35 and/or not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, or not more than 5 weight percent of the total plastic components in the waste plastic fed to the chemical recycling facility may comprise plastics not having a resin ID code 3, 5, 6, and/or 7 (e.g., where a plastic is not classified). At least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, or at least 35 and/or not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, or not more than 5 weight percent of the total plastic components in the waste plastic fed to the chemical recycling facility may comprise plastics not having a resin ID code 4-7, or it can be in the range of 0.1 to 60 weight percent, 1 to 55 weight percent, or 2 to 45 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic components.

[0055] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) fed to the chemical recycling facility may

comprise plastic that is not classified as resin ID codes 3-7 or ID codes 3, 5, 6, or 7. The total amount of plastic not classified as resin ID code 3-7 or ID codes 3, 5, 6, or 7 plastics in the waste plastic can be at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, or at least 75 and/or not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic in the waste plastic stream, or it can be in the range of from 0.1 to 95 weight percent, 0.5 to 90 weight percent, or 1 to 80 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic in the waste plastic stream.

[0056] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises plastics having or obtained from plastics having at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of at least one, at least two, at least three, or at least four different kinds of resin ID codes.

[0057] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises multi-component polymers. As used herein, the term “multi-component polymers” refers to articles and/or particulates comprising at least one synthetic or natural polymer combined with, attached to, or otherwise physically and/or chemically associated with at least one other polymer and/or non-polymer solid. The polymer can be a synthetic polymer or plastic, such as PET, olefins, and/or nylons. The non-polymer solid can be a metal, such as aluminum, or other non-plastic solids as described herein. The multi-component polymers can include metalized plastics.

[0058] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises multi-component plastics in the form of multi-layer polymers. As used herein, the term “multi-layer polymers” refers to multi-component polymers comprising PET and at least one other polymer

and/or non-polymer solid physically and/or chemically associated together in two or more physically distinct layers. A polymer or plastic is considered a multi-layered polymer even though a transition zone may exist between two layers, such as may be present in adhesively adhered layers or co-extruded layers. An adhesive between two layers is not deemed to be a layer. The multi-layer polymers may comprise a layer comprising PET and a one or more additional layers at least one of which is a synthetic or natural polymer that is different from PET, or a polymer which has no ethylene terephthalate repeating units, or a polymer which has no alkylene terephthalate repeating units (a “non-PET polymer layer”), or other non-polymer solid.

[0059] Examples of non-PET polymer layers include nylons, polylactic acid, polyolefins, polycarbonates, ethylene vinyl alcohol, polyvinyl alcohol, and/or other plastics or plastic films associated with PET-containing articles and/or particulates, and natural polymers such as whey proteins. The multi-layer polymers may include metal layers, such as aluminum, provided that at least one additional polymer layer is present other than the PET layer. The layers may be adhered with adhesive bonding or other means, physically adjacent (i.e., articles pressed against the film), tackified (i.e., the plastics heated and stuck together), co-extruded plastic films, or otherwise attached to the PET-containing articles. The multi-layer polymers may comprise PET films associated with articles containing other plastics in the same or similar manner. The MPW may comprise multi-component polymers in the form of PET and at least one other plastic, such as polyolefins (e.g., polypropylene) and/or other synthetic or natural polymers, combined in a single physical phase. For example, the MPW comprises a heterogenous mixture comprising a compatibilizer, PET, and at least one other synthetic or natural polymer plastic (e.g., non-PET plastic) combined in a single physical phase. As used herein, the term “compatibilizer” refers to an agent capable of combining at least two otherwise immiscible polymers together in a physical mixture (i.e., blend).

[0060] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, or not more than 0.1 weight

percent nylons, on a dry plastic basis. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises from 0.01 to 20, from 0.05 to 10, from 0.1 to 5, or from 1 to 2 weight percent nylons, on a dry plastic basis.

5 **[0061]** In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises not more than 40, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent multi-component plastics, on a dry plastic basis. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises
10 from 0.1 to 40, from 1 to 20, or from 2 to 10 weight percent multi-component plastics, on a dry plastic basis. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises not more than 40, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent multi-layer plastics, on a dry plastic basis. In one
15 embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW comprises from 0.1 to 40, from 1 to 20, or from 2 to 10 weight percent multi-layer plastics, on a dry plastic basis.

[0062] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW feedstock to the chemical recycling facility 10 in stream
20 100 comprises not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 12, not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of biowaste materials, with the total weight of the MPW feedstock taken as 100 weight percent on a dry basis. The MPW feedstock comprises from 0.01 to 20, from
25 0.1 to 10, from 0.2 to 5, or from 0.5 to 1 weight percent of biowaste materials, with the total weight of the MPW feedstock taken as 100 weight percent on a dry basis. As used herein, the term "biowaste" refers to material derived from living organisms or of organic origin. Exemplary biowaste materials include, but are not limited to, cotton, wood, saw dust, food scraps, animals and animal
30 parts, plants and plant parts, and manure.

[0063] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW feedstock comprises not more than 20, not more than

15, not more than 12, not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of manufactured cellulose products, with the total weight of the MPW feedstock taken as 100 weight percent on a dry basis. The MPW feedstock comprises from 0.01 to 20, from 0.1 to 10, from 0.2 to 5, or from 0.5 to 1 weight percent of manufactured cellulose products, with the total weight of the MPW feedstock taken as 100 weight percent on a dry basis. As used herein, the term “manufactured cellulose products” refers to nonnatural (i.e., manmade or machine-made) articles, and scraps thereof, comprising cellulosic fibers. Exemplary manufactured cellulose products include, but are not limited to, paper and cardboard.

[0064] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) fed to the chemical recycling facility can include at least 0.001, at least 0.01, at least 0.05, at least 0.1, or at least 0.25 weight percent and/or not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.75, or not more than 0.5 weight percent of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) based on the total weight of plastics in the waste plastic feed.

[0065] Additionally, or in the alternative, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) fed to the chemical recycling facility can include at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 2, at least 4, or at least 6 weight percent and/or not more than 25, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2.5 weight percent of non-plastic solids. Non-plastic solids may include inert filler materials (e.g., calcium carbonate, hydrous aluminum silicate, alumina trihydrate, calcium sulfate), rocks, glass, and/or additives (e.g., thixotropes, pigments and colorants, fire retardants, suppressants, UV inhibitors & stabilizers, conductive metal or carbon, release agents such as zinc stearate, waxes, and silicones).

[0066] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the MPW may comprise at least 0.01, at least 0.1, at least 0.5, or at least 1 and/or not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2.5 weight percent of liquids, based on the total weight of the MPW stream or composition. The amount of

liquids in the MPW can be in the range of from 0.01 to 25 weight percent, from 0.5 to 10 weight percent, or 1 to 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the MPW stream 100.

5 **[0067]** In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned
embodiments, the MPW may comprise at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at
least 50, or at least 55 and/or not more than 65, not more than 60, not more
than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more
than 35 weight percent of liquids, based on the total weight of the waste plastic.
The liquids in the waste plastic can be in the range of from 35 to 65 weight
10 percent, 40 to 60 weight percent, or 45 to 55 weight percent, based on the total
weight of the waste plastic.

15 **[0068]** In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned
embodiments, the amount of textiles (including textile fibers) in the MPW stream
in line 100 can be at least 0.1 weight percent, or at least 0.5 weight percent, or
at least 1 weight percent, or at least 2 weight percent, or at least 5 weight
percent, or at least 8 weight percent, or at least 10 weight percent, or at least
15 weight percent, or at least 20 weight percent material obtained from textiles
or textile fibers, based on the weight of the MPW. The amount of textiles
(including textile fibers) in the MPW in stream 100 is not more than 50, not more
20 than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than
10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not
more than 0.5, not more than 0.1, not more than 0.05, not more than 0.01, or
not more than 0.001 weight percent, based on the weight of the MPW stream
100. The amount of textiles in the MPW stream 100 can be in the range of from
25 0.1 to 50 weight percent, 5 to 40 weight percent, or 10 to 30 weight percent,
based on the total weight of the MPW stream 100.

30 **[0069]** The MPW introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10 may
contain recycle textiles. Textiles may contain natural and/or synthetic fibers,
rovings, yarns, nonwoven webs, cloth, fabrics and products made from or
containing any of the aforementioned items. Textiles can be woven, knitted,
knotted, stitched, tufted, may include pressed fibers such as in felting,
embroidered, laced, crocheted, braided, or may include nonwoven webs and

materials. Textiles can include fabrics, and fibers separated from a textile or other product containing fibers, scrap or off-spec fibers or yarns or fabrics, or any other source of loose fibers and yarns. A textile can also include staple fibers, continuous fibers, threads, tow bands, twisted and/or spun yarns, gray fabrics made from yarns, finished fabrics produced by wet processing gray fabrics, and garments made from the finished fabrics or any other fabrics. Textiles include apparels, interior furnishings, and industrial types of textiles. Textiles can include post-industrial textiles (pre-consumer) or post-consumer textiles or both.

[0070] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, textiles can include apparel, which can generally be defined as things humans wear or made for the body. Such textiles can include sports coats, suits, trousers and casual or work pants, shirts, socks, sportswear, dresses, intimate apparel, outerwear such as rain jackets, cold temperature jackets and coats, sweaters, protective clothing, uniforms, and accessories such as scarves, hats, and gloves. Examples of textiles in the interior furnishing category include furniture upholstery and slipcovers, carpets and rugs, curtains, bedding such as sheets, pillow covers, duvets, comforters, mattress covers; linens, tablecloths, towels, washcloths, and blankets. Examples of industrial textiles include transportation (auto, airplane, train, bus) seats, floor mats, trunk liners, and headliners; outdoor furniture and cushions, tents, backpacks, luggage, ropes, conveyor belts, calendar roll felts, polishing cloths, rags, soil erosion fabrics and geotextiles, agricultural mats and screens, personal protective equipment, bullet proof vests, medical bandages, sutures, tapes, and the like.

[0071] The nonwoven webs that are classified as textiles do not include the category of wet laid nonwoven webs and articles made therefrom. While a variety of articles having the same function can be made from a dry or wet laid process, an article made from a dry laid nonwoven web is classified as a textile. Examples of suitable articles that may be formed from dry laid nonwoven webs as described herein can include those for personal, consumer, industrial, food service, medical, and other end uses. Specific examples can include, but are

not limited to, baby wipes, flushable wipes, disposable diapers, training pants, feminine hygiene products such as sanitary napkins and tampons, adult incontinence pads, underwear, or briefs, and pet training pads. Other examples include a variety of different dry or wet wipes, including those for consumer (such as personal care or household) and industrial (such as food service, health care, or specialty) use. Nonwoven webs can also be used as padding for pillows, mattresses, and upholstery, and batting for quilts and comforters. In the medical and industrial fields, nonwoven webs of the present invention may be used for consumer, medical, and industrial face masks, protective clothing, caps, and shoe covers, disposable sheets, surgical gowns, drapes, bandages, and medical dressings.

[0072] Additionally, nonwoven webs as described herein may be used for environmental fabrics such as geotextiles and tarps, oil and chemical absorbent pads, as well as building materials such as acoustic or thermal insulation, tents, lumber and soil covers and sheeting. Nonwoven webs may also be used for other consumer end use applications, such as for, carpet backing, packaging for consumer, industrial, and agricultural goods, thermal or acoustic insulation, and in various types of apparel.

[0073] The dry laid nonwoven webs as described herein may also be used for a variety of filtration applications, including transportation (e.g., automotive or aeronautical), commercial, residential, industrial, or other specialty applications. Examples can include filter elements for consumer or industrial air or liquid filters (e.g., gasoline, oil, water), including nanofiber webs used for microfiltration, as well as end uses like tea bags, coffee filters, and dryer sheets. Further, nonwoven webs as described herein may be used to form a variety of components for use in automobiles, including, but not limited to, brake pads, trunk liners, carpet tufting, and under padding.

[0074] The textiles can include single type or multiple type of natural fibers and/or single type or multiple type of synthetic fibers. Examples of textile fiber combinations include all natural, all synthetic, two or more type of natural fibers, two or more types of synthetic fibers, one type of natural fiber and one type of synthetic fiber, one type of natural fibers and two or more types of synthetic

fibers, two or more types of natural fibers and one type of synthetic fibers, and two or more types of natural fibers and two or more types of synthetic fibers.

[0075] Natural fibers include those that are plant derived or animal derived.

Natural fibers can be cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin. Examples of plant derived natural fibers include hardwood pulp, softwood pulp, and wood flour; and other plant fibers including those in wheat straw, rice straw, abaca, coir, cotton, flax, hemp, jute, bagasse, kapok, papyrus, ramie, rattan, vine, kenaf, abaca, henequen, sisal, soy, cereal straw, bamboo, reeds, esparto grass, bagasse, Sabai grass, milkweed floss fibers, pineapple leaf fibers, switch grass, lignin-containing plants, and the like. Examples of animal derived fibers include wool, silk, mohair, cashmere, goat hair, horsehair, avian fibers, camel hair, angora wool, and alpaca wool.

[0076] Synthetic fibers are those fibers that are, at least in part, synthesized

or derivatized through chemical reactions, or regenerated, and include, but are not limited to, rayon, viscose, mercerized fibers or other types of regenerated cellulose (conversion of natural cellulose to a soluble cellulosic derivative and subsequent regeneration) such as lyocell (also known as TENCEL™), Cupro, Modal, acetates such as polyvinyl acetate, polyamides including nylon, polyesters such as PET, olefinic polymers such as polypropylene and polyethylene, polycarbonates, poly sulfates, poly sulfones, polyethers such as polyether-urea known as Spandex or elastane, polyacrylates, acrylonitrile copolymers, polyvinylchloride (PVC), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, sulfopolyester fibers, and combinations thereof.

[0077] Prior to entering the chemical recycling facility, the textiles can be

size reduced via chopping, shredding, harrowing, confrication, pulverizing, or cutting to make size reduced textiles. The textiles can also be densified (e.g., pelletized) prior to entering the chemical recycling facility. Examples of processes that densify include extrusion (e.g., into pellets), molding (e.g., into briquettes), and agglomerating (e.g., through externally applied heat, heat generated by frictional forces, or by adding one or more adherents, which can be non-virgin polymers themselves). Alternatively, or in addition, the textiles can be in any of the forms mentioned herein and may be exposed to one or

more of the previously mentioned steps in the pre-processing facility 20 prior to being processed in the remaining facilities of the chemical recycling facility 10 shown in FIG. 1.

5 **[0078]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and one or more polyolefins (PO) in combination make up at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) fed to the chemical recycling facility in stream 100 of FIG. 1. Polyvinylchloride (PVC) can make up at least 10 0.001, at least 0.01, at least 0.05, at least 0.1, at least 0.25, or at least 0.5 weight percent and/or not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.75, or not more than 0.5 weight percent of the waste plastic, based on the total weight of the plastic in the waste plastic introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10.

15 **[0079]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic can comprise at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of PET, based on the total weight of the plastic in the waste plastic introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10.

20 **[0080]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic can comprise at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40 and/or not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent 25 PO, based on the total weight of the plastic in the waste plastic, or PO can be present in an amount in the range of from 5 to 75 weight percent, 10 to 60 weight percent, or 20 to 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of plastic 30 in the waste plastic introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10.

Waste Plastic Sources

[0081] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) introduced into the chemical recycling facility may be provided from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, municipal recycling facilities (MRFs) or reclaimer facilities or other mechanical or chemical sorting or separation facilities, manufacturers or mills or commercial production facilities or retailers or dealers or wholesalers in possession of post-industrial and pre-consumer recyclables, directly from households/businesses (i.e., unprocessed recyclables), landfills, collection centers, convenience centers, or on docks or ships or warehouses thereon. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the source of waste plastic (e.g. MPW) does not include deposit state return facilities, whereby consumers can deposit specific recyclable articles (e.g., plastic containers, bottles, etc.) to receive a monetary refund from the state. However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the source of waste plastic (e.g. MPW) can include deposit state return facilities, whereby consumers can deposit specific recyclable articles (e.g., plastic containers, bottles, etc.) to receive a monetary refund from the state. Such return facilities are commonly found, for example, in grocery stores.

[0082] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic may be provided as a waste stream from another processing facility, for example a municipal recycling facility (MRF) or reclaimer facility, or as a plastic-containing mixture comprising waste plastic sorted by a consumer and left for collection at a curbside, or at a central convenience station. In one or more of such embodiments, the waste plastic comprises one or more MRF products or co-products, reclaimer co-products, sorted plastic-containing mixtures, and/or PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility comprising at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent PET and/or not more than 99.9, not more than 99, not more than 98, not more than 97, not more than 96, or not more than 95 weight percent PET, on a dry plastics basis, or it can be in the range of from 10 to 99.9 weight percent, 20 to

99 weight percent, 30 to 95 weight percent, or 40 to 90 weight percent PET, on a dry plastics basis. In one or more of such embodiments, the waste plastic comprises a quantity of a PET-containing reclaimer coproduct or plastic-containing mixture comprising at least 1, at least 10, at least 30, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent and/or not more than 99.9, not more than 99, or not more than 90 weight percent PET, on a dry plastic basis, or it can be in the range of from 1 to 99.9 weight percent, 1 to 99 weight percent, or 10 to 90 weight percent PET, on a dry plastic basis.

[0083] As noted above, exemplary sources of plastic waste introduced to the chemical recycling facility may include PET-containing reclaimer co-products (e.g., from a PET reclaimer facility), PET-containing municipal recycling facility (MRF) products or co-products, sorted plastic-containing mixtures, and/or PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility. Thus, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the present technology is directed to methods of recycling plastic waste comprising feeding at least a portion of one or more PET-containing materials including reclaimer co-products, PET-containing MRF products or co-products, sorted plastic-containing mixtures, and/or PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility to a chemical recycling facility, wherein at least a portion of the co-products can be used as feedstocks for chemical recycling processes, such as depolymerization, as described in greater detail below. The chemical recycling facility may comprise a solvolysis facility, including but not limited to an alcoholysis facility, a methanolysis facility, a glycolysis facility, and/or a hydrolysis facility.

[0084] The one or more PET-containing materials may be fed directly to a solvolysis facility within said chemical recycling facility or may be subject to one or more preprocessing steps before being fed to the solvolysis facility. For example, as shown in FIG. 1, a plastic waste stream 100 from one or more plastic waste sources may be introduced to a pre-processing facility 20 within chemical recycling facility 10, which may be configured to produce a PET-enriched stream 112 and a PET-depleted stream 114. The PET-enriched

stream 112 from pre-processing facility 20 may be introduced to solvolysis facility 30. Additionally, or alternatively, a plastic waste stream 100a from one or more plastic waste sources may be introduced directly to the solvolysis facility 30 (i.e., without being introduced to pre-processing facility 20). Whether
5 subjected to pre-processing or fed directly, a quantity of PET-containing materials from the one or more of waste plastic sources is ultimately fed to the solvolysis facility 30.

[0085] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the one or more PET-containing materials are fed
10 directly to a dissolver within the solvolysis facility 30, wherein the one or more PET-containing materials are mixed with solvent 212 and at least partially liquified (see FIG. 3). In one or more such embodiments, and particularly when fed directly to the dissolver, at least a portion of the one or more PET containing materials may comprise less than 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 2, or 1 weight percent nylon,
15 polycarbonate, crosslinking agents (e.g., TMA), carpet glue, high filler content materials, acetates, spandex, latex, styrene butadiene rubber, non-reactive materials (i.e., materials that do not react in the solvolysis reactor, or that do not react to a degree so as to form a substantial reaction product) including non-reactive metal oxides (such as titanium dioxide, silicon dioxide, and
20 alumina), calcium carbonate, talc, silica, glass, glass beads, reactive metal oxides (which may methylate or glycolate in the reactor), and/or materials that form azeotropes with water, methanol, and/or ethylene glycol. A caustic component, such as a hydroxide solution or other caustic solution as defined herein, may be added to the solvolysis facility, for example to the solvolysis
25 reactor and/or solvolysis reactor exit.

[0086] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the one or more PET-containing materials may be liquified, for example by melting and/or one or more other liquification
30 processes described herein, and fed subsequently fed to a reaction 210 within the solvolysis facility 30 (see FIG. 3). In such embodiments, at least a portion of the one or more PET-containing materials may be fed to a melt extruder, which is used as the feed system to the solvolysis facility reactor.

[0087] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the one or more PET-containing materials described above may be the only plastic-containing feedstock for the solvolysis facility 30 (i.e., no PET-enriched stream 112 from the preprocessing facility 20 described herein is fed with the one or more PET-containing materials to the solvolysis facility 30). However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the one or more PET-containing materials may be fed along with one or more other plastic-containing feedstocks (e.g. the PET-enriched stream 112 from the preprocessing facility 20 described herein) to the solvolysis facility 30. The one or more PET-containing materials may comprise at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent of the plastic-containing feedstock to the solvolysis facility 30.

[0088] As described above, the one or more PET-containing materials may be subject to one or more preprocessing steps before being fed to the solvolysis facility 30. The preprocessing steps may include feeding the one or more PET-containing materials to the preprocessing facility 20 described herein and/or may include performing one or more of the processes described in the Preprocessing section herein. In one or more embodiments, the preprocessing comprises any one or more of the following: (i) separating at least a portion of the PET from the PET-containing materials using one or more density separation processes (e.g., sink-float or centrifugal force); and/or (ii) drying the PET-containing materials; and/or (iii) densifying (such as pelletizing) at least a portion of the PET-containing materials.

[0089] The one or more PET-containing materials may be provided to the chemical recycling facility 10 in a variety of transport methods and in a variety of forms. For example, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-containing materials may be transported to the chemical recycling facility by truck, railroad, and/or conveyance in the form of whole articles, particulates, bound bales, unbound articles, containers, and/or piles. For example, the PET-containing materials can be provided to the chemical recycling facility 10 directly from a reclaimer

facility and/or MRF facility using a conveyance system interconnecting the chemical recycling facility 10 to the reclaimer and/or municipal recycling facility.

5 [0090] The compositions of the one or more PET-containing materials will vary depending on the particular source of the materials, as described in greater detail below. However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the portion of PET-containing material may comprise at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The portion of PET-containing material may comprise not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 4, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent halogens on a dry basis. The portion of PET-containing material may comprise not more than 90, not more than 80, not more than 70, not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis.

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Sorted Plastic-Containing Mixtures

[0091] As more municipalities are encouraging or mandating recycling of various materials, including plastics, there is a growing supply of PET-containing sorted plastic-containing mixtures. As used herein, the term “sorted plastic-containing mixture” refers to a quantity of mixed plastic waste sorted by a consumer and left for collection at a curbside or at a central convenience station, and may comprise clear and/or colored plastic articles, or sorted by a trash collector or municipality. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the sorted plastic-containing mixtures does not include waste plastic from deposit state return facilities, as described above. However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the sorted plastic-containing mixture may include waste plastic from deposit state return facilities. The sorted plastic-containing mixture typically requires further processing and/or purification before the plastic materials are useable for mechanical recycling processes, although this need not always be the case.

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PET-Containing MRF Products and/or Co-Products

[0092] The sorted plastic-containing mixture may be collected by sanitation providers and taken to a municipal recycling facility (also known as a materials recovery facility or MRF) in which at least some attempt is made to sort the mixture into quantities of like materials. Often, at least some initial aspects of this sorting are performed manually. In other aspects, machines including optical sorters, magnetic sorters, and eddy current sorters are used to conduct a more refined culling of the various materials present in the plastic-containing mixture. For example, colored plastics can be separated from clear plastics. Generally, “clear plastics” are considered to be plastics that appear to have no color to the casual human observer and are generally transparent to light in the visible spectrum. “Colored plastic” is generally considered to be any plastic that is not clear plastic. Glass, paper, and metals can also be separated from the plastics.

[0093] PET-containing plastics can be separated from other types of plastic to form a quantity of PET-enriched plastic material. The other separated materials mentioned above and/or any other material from the MRF (i.e., other than the PET-enriched product) may be recovered as MRF co-product. However, one or more of the MRF co-products will generally comprise some amount of PET. The MRF products and/or co-products may be in the form of whole articles, particulates (e.g., comminuted, pelletized, fiber plastic particulates), bound bales (e.g., whole articles compressed and strapped), unbound articles (i.e., not in bales or packaged), containers (e.g., box, sack, trailer, railroad car, loader bucket), piles (e.g., on a concrete slab in a building), and/or loose materials conveyed physically (e.g., particulates on a conveyor belt) or pneumatically (e.g., particulates mixed with air in a convey pipe).

PET-Containing Reclaimer Co-Products

[0094] Reclaimer facilities, and in particular PET reclaimers, generally operate by receiving plastic waste, for example from a MRF, and producing r-PET comprising at least 99 or at least 99.9 percent by weight PET, which is used by mechanical recycling facilities to create r-PET products. The reclaimer

facilities produce the r-PET by subjecting the plastic waste to a variety of processes that separate PET from non-plastic components and plastic materials other than PET. However, these separation processes are usually less than 100% efficient and typically result in some amount of PET being present in the co-products. The reclaimer facilities may also include processes that produce high purity PET (at least 99 or at least 99.9 weight percent) reclaimer co-products but in a form that is undesirable to mechanical recycling facilities. As used herein, the term "reclaimer co-product" refers to any material separated or recovered by the reclaimer facility that is not recovered as a clear rPET product, including colored rPET. The reclaimer co-products described above and below are generally considered to be waste products and may typically be sent to landfills and/or incinerators.

PET-Containing Waste Plastic from a Plastic Article Manufacturing Facility

[0095] Another source of PET-containing waste plastic includes plastic article manufacturing facilities. These facilities may produce, for example, plastic bottles, plastic containers, plastic caps, plastic lids, plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic films, and a variety of standard and customized plastic goods. A variety of manufacturing methods may be used, including but not limited to, casting, rotational molding, injection molding, blow molding, thermoforming (vacuum forming), extrusion, and 3D printing. These processes may produce waste plastic due to errors in the process or as an inherent result of the process. For example, the waste plastic may comprise portions of defective plastic articles having deformities, surface imperfections, and/or brittle parts. The waste plastic may also include other products of molding processes, for example intermediate molded products, such as bottle preforms or sheets. The waste plastic may also be scrap plastic removed from plastic articles during the manufacturing process, such as edge trim from film or sheet plastic. These waste plastics may generally comprise some amount of (or even predominantly) PET. The waste plastic may also be removed or expelled from the manufacturing apparatus used to create plastic articles as a part of a manufacturing start up or winding down process.

PET-Reclaimer Facility

[0096] As noted above, the one or more PET-containing materials used as feedstock for the chemical recycling facility, and particularly to a solvolysis facility, may include one or more co-products from a reclaimer facility, and particularly a PET reclaimer facility. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the portion of PET-containing materials may comprise at least two PET-containing reclaimer co-products.

[0097] FIG. 4 shows a schematic of an exemplary reclaimer facility 800 illustrating typical rPET products and co-products derived from the reclaimer facility 800. As shown, a plastic feed 802, for example from a MRF, may be fed to a reclaimer zone 810. Reclaimer zone 810 generally comprises various separation processes (described below) that produce a substantially pure r-PET plastic stream 812 comprising at least 99, or at least 99.9 weight percent PET on a dry plastic basis. Reclaimer zone 810 may also produce one or more reclaimer co-products, including wet fines 803, colored plastic 804, eddy current reject 805, flake sorter reject 806, and/or dry fines 807.

[0098] The r-PET plastic stream 812 may comprise a quantity of rPET plastic flake, which can be recovered as an rPET flake stream 814. Additionally or alternatively, at least a portion of the r-PET plastic stream 812 may be fed to a densification (e.g., pelletization) zone 820. Densification zone 820 generally comprises various processes (described below) that convert the rPET flake from stream 812 into desirable rPET pellets 818. Densification zone 820 may also produce one or more reclaimer co-products, including PET purge materials 815, wet fines 816, and/or dry fines 817.

[0099] FIG. 5 shows a schematic of an exemplary reclaimer facility 800 illustrating some specific processing steps that are carried out within the reclaimer facility 800 and the resulting products and co-products produced therefrom. While the processing steps are shown and described below in a particular order, it should be understood that other reclaimer facilities may perform one or more of the processing steps in a different order than shown in

the figures and described herein and/or omit processing steps shown and described and/or include additional processing steps not shown or described.

[00100] As shown in FIG. 5, a quantity of baled plastic 801 may be provided to the reclaimer facility 800 from a MRF facility, and fed to a dewiring device 830 and/or debaler 832 to produce a quantity of loose plastic waste material. The dewiring device 830 may be used to avoid injury risks related to manual dewiring. The debaler 832 generally comprises one or more wide blades that contact and break-up the dewired bales into the loose plastic waste material. The loose plastic waste can then be conveyed 834, for example by a belt or pneumatic conveyor, to a heavy removal process 836. The heavy removal 836 may use gravity and/or a pneumatic conveyor to cause “heavier” components (e.g., densities greater than 2 g/cc) to drop out of the conveyed stream. Such heavier components can include metals, rocks, sand, and the like. However, some amount of PET and/or other plastic materials may also be intentionally or unintentionally removed along with the heavier components, and thus the metals, plastics and other components removed at this stage may be recovered as a heavies-containing (e.g., metal-containing) reclaimer co-product 837.

[00101] The plastic waste with the heavier components removed can then be passed to a friction washer 838, where food or other substances stuck to the plastic waste is washed away with a water stream and/or by contacting the plastic waste with bumpers to remove the food or material from the plastic. In this and other steps that include a water wash or rinse step, the water stream 839 generated can be filtered 840, either separately or together with water streams from other steps described herein. The filter 840 will be occasionally cleaned, and the removed solids may include PET. Additionally or in the alternate, the filtrate may comprise some amount of PET and/or other plastic materials. Either or both of the solids and/or PET-containing filtrate from the filtration process may be in the form of wet fines 841, which can be recovered as a reclaimer co-product. As used herein, the terms “filtration” and “filtering” and “filter(ed)” refer to processes and/or apparatuses for performing solid/liquid separation, which includes, but is not limited to, the use of media, centrifugal separation, and/or settling.

[00102] After friction washer 838, the plastic waste can then be subjected to one or more near infrared (NIR), optical, and/or manual sorting steps to remove colored plastics and/or other plastic and non-plastic materials that are not recognized by the sorter (manual or mechanical) as a PET-containing plastic material. As shown, the process includes two NIR sorters 842, 844 and manual sorting steps 846, 848 resulting in four streams of colored plastic mixtures 843, 845, 847, 849 as reclaimer co-products. The NIR and optical sorters will typically reject anything that the sensors do not recognize entirely as clear PET material. This reject may include PET bottles with labels and/or colored caps. However, certain NIR and/or optical sorters may not have the capacity to “see” and reject black colored plastics, such as clam shell containers with carbon black portions. Thus, often black colored plastics do not get rejected by these sorters. Additionally, the air blowers are located downstream of the sensors, and some amount of clear PET material may also be rejected along with the colored PET material. The manual sorters will typically “pull” or reject any material that is not obviously a clear PET bottle or material, as well as PET bottles with liners or other known problematic components for the downstream reclaimer processes. Thus, the colored plastic mixtures derived from these processes typically comprise some amount of PET and/or other plastic materials in the form of a colored plastic-containing mixture, which may be recovered as a reclaimer co-product.

[00103] After NIR, optical, and/or manual sorting steps, the plastic waste may then be passed to an optional eddy current separator 850 to remove any metals remaining with the waste plastic and protect downstream processes from damage. An eddy current separator uses an electrical field at the end of a conveyor belt to repel conductive, non-ferrous metals, such as aluminum, and does not affect non-conductive materials such as plastic. When the stream of plastic waste nears the end of the conveyor belt, the eddy current alters the natural, gravity-induced trajectory of the non-ferrous metal and ejects the non-ferrous metal from the stream along a different trajectory than the non-conductive materials. A divider plate sits between the pathways defined by the two trajectories, which allows the ejected and non-ejected components to be

separated. During the separation, some amount of plastic articles and/or plastic flake may come into contact with the non-ferrous metal components and be unintentionally ejected along the incorrect trajectory. Thus, the separated non-ferrous metals may comprise some amount of PET and/or other plastic materials, which may be recovered as a metal-containing reclaimer co-product 851. Additionally, the eddy current separator may be coupled with a grinder 852 (upstream or downstream of the eddy current separator 850), which may produce plastic fines that can also be recovered as a reclaimer co-product.

[00104] After the optional eddy current separator 850 and/or grinder 852, the plastic waste can then be passed to a density separation stage 854, such as a sink-float separation stage, which will generally separate components that are less dense than PET (e.g., polyolefins) from the plastic waste, and a mechanical dewatering process 856. As noted above, the waste water from such processes is filtered 840, 860, and the solids and/or filtrate may be recovered as wet fines 841, 861, or other reclaimer co-product (such as polyolefins stream 859).

[00105] The plastic waste can then be passed to another NIR 862 and/or optical sorter, which again will typically reject anything that the sensors do not recognize entirely as clear PET. The plastic waste at this stage has typically undergone a size reduction process, such as grinding, and thus the rejected material is generally in the form of plastic flake (defined below). This processes is intended to remove PVC, for example from labels, and other plastic materials that have a similar density to PET and were not removed during density separation. However, similar to the previous NIR and optical sorters, the rejected flake may include some amount of PET and may be recovered as a flake reject reclaimer co-product 863.

[00106] At this point, the plastic waste will typically have a high PET content (e.g., at least 99 or at least 99.9 weight percent) and can be dried 864 and prepared for packaging 870 as an rPET flake product 814. When a dryer 864 is used, some amount of dry fines (defined below) may be separated from the flake product in the dryer 864 or in a downstream conveyor 866 and/or dust collector 868. Although the dry fines also typically have a high PET content,

they are not desirable as rPET feedstock for mechanical recycling facilities. However, the dry fines may be recovered as a dry fines reclaimer co-product 865, 869. It should be understood that dryers and dust collectors may be used elsewhere upstream or downstream in the reclaimer facility, and the dry fines recovered from these locations may also be recovered as a reclaimer co-product.

[00107] Some reclaimer facilities will also include a densifying process to convert the rPET flake into desirable rPET pellets. As used herein, “densifying” refers to a process of condensing and pelletizing, agglomerating, or partial melting a quantity of plastic particles having a D90 particle size of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to form solid particulates (e.g., pellets) having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to 2.54 cm (1 inch). The densifying process generally comprises an extruder 880, wherein the rPET flake is melted and passed through an extrusion barrel. A pelletizer 882 then operates to form the extruded rPET into pellets (typically having a D90 of not more than 2.54 cm (1 inch)). The pellets are then rinsed (which may result in recoverable PET-containing wet fines), dried (which may result in recoverable PET-containing dry fines) and packaged 890 for shipment to the mechanical recycling facilities as an rPET pellets product 892. However, when the extruder is turned off, some amount of melted rPET is purged and allowed to solidify, for example into chunks of PET material, without being converted to pellets. This purge material may be recovered as a PET purge material reclaimer co-product 881. Additionally, the pelletization is typically performed in water, and the filtrate and/or solids from the filtered water stream may be recovered as a reclaimer co-product (e.g., wet fines 883). Finally, the dryers 884 and conveyors 886, 888, used in the pellet packaging process will typically be equipped with dust collectors, and the dry fines may also be recovered as dry fines reclaimer co-products 885, 887, 889.

[00108] The compositions of the reclaimer co-products and processing steps within the chemical recycling facility are described in greater detail below. However, it should be understood that the descriptions below may also describe the compositions and processing of the other PET-containing materials (i.e., the PET-containing MRF products or co-products, sorted plastic-containing

mixtures, and/or PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility) within the scope of the present technology.

Wet Fines

5 **[00109]** As described above, reclaimer wet fines may be separated from the plastic waste and recovered, for example as filtrate and/or solids from a filtration process. As used herein, “reclaimer wet fines” refers to a stream or batch of PET-containing plastic particles separated from a waste plastic within a reclaimer facility and having a water content, when first isolated from the waste plastic within the reclaimer facility, of at least 2% by weight based upon the total weight of the reclaimer wet fines, and the plastic particles have a D90 of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of reclaimer wet fines is fed to the chemical recycling facility, and at least a portion of the quantity of reclaimer wet fines is depolymerized therein.

15 **[00110]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines comprises a water content of at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, or at least 50 weight percent. The quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines may comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, or at least 50 weight percent of plastic particles having a D90 of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch). The quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines may comprise at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent PET on a dry basis (i.e., excluding the moisture content).

25 **[00111]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the water content from said quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines may be removed before depolymerizing. The water content may be removed by passive drying (e.g., sitting in storage) or use of a dryer or other active drying process. In one or more embodiments, at least a portion of the plastic particles from the PET-containing reclaimer wet fines may be densified (e.g., agglomerated or pelletized) to form a quantity of

densified PET-containing particles having a D90 of 0.32 cm (1/8 inches) to 2.54 (1 inch) before depolymerizing. The quantity of densified PET-containing particles may be liquified (e.g., dissolved or melted) to form a liquified plastic material before depolymerizing. One or more of water removal, densifying, and/or liquifying may be performed within the chemical recycling facility or before feeding the quantity of wet fines to the chemical recycling facility.

[00112] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines (including the quantity of densified PET-containing particles and/or the liquidified plastic material) may be fed to a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility wherein the depolymerizing occurs. The quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines (including the quantity of densified PET-containing particles and/or the liquidified plastic material) may comprise at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines (including the quantity of densified PET-containing particles and/or the liquidified plastic material) may comprise not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 4, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent halogens on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing reclaimer wet fines (including the quantity of densified PET-containing particles and/or the liquidified plastic material) may comprise not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis.

Colored Plastic-Containing Mixture

[00113] As described above, colored plastic-containing mixtures may be separated from the plastic waste in a PET reclaimer and recovered. Additionally or alternatively, colored plastic-containing mixtures can be separated in a MRF facility and similarly recovered. As used herein, the term “colored plastic-containing mixture” refers to: (a) a plastic-containing material identified by a reclaimer or MRF as a colored plastic or identified by a reclaimer or MRF as non-clear rPET; or (b) any plastic-containing material separated by a reclaimer or MRF other than dry fines, wet fines, reclaimer clear rPET product,

rocks, biomass, metal, or fiber. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of a PET-containing reclaimer colored plastic-containing mixture and/or MRF colored plastic-containing mixture is fed to the chemical recycling facility, and at least a portion of the quantity of the PET-containing reclaimer colored plastic-containing mixture and/or MRF colored plastic-containing mixture is depolymerized therein.

[00114] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture comprises at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, at least 80, or at least 90 and/or not more than 99.9 or not more than 99 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise from 1 to 99.9 or 50 to 99 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, at least 80, at least 90, at least 95, at least 99, or at least 99.9 weight percent non-clear PET (e.g., green PET) on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 4, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent halogens on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise at least 1, at least 2, at least 4, at least 6, or at least 8 weight percent and/or not more than 90, not more than 80, not more than 70, not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, or not more than 10 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise from 1 to 90, from 2 to 70, from 4 to 50, from 6 to 30, or from 8 to 10 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent non-clear PET and/or other colored plastic material on a dry plastic basis. The quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent PVC, nylon, and/or copolyesters on a dry basis.

[00115] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may be fed directly to a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility without being fed to a preprocessing and/or separation facility or undergoing a preprocessing and/or separation process within or separate from the chemical recycling facility. However, at least a portion of the quantity of colored plastic-containing mixture may be fed to at least one density separation stage before the depolymerizing, thereby producing a PET-enriched stream that is fed into a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility. The at least one density separation stage may comprise at least two density separation stages.

PET and Metal-Containing Reclaimer Co-product

[00116] As described above, metal components may be separated from the plastic waste in a reclaimer facility, for example in a heavy removal process and/or eddy current separator, and these metal components may include some amount of PET material and be recovered as PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product. As used herein, the term “PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product” refers to materials from a magnetic separator, an eddy current separator, or other metal separator in a PET reclaimer facility that are not recovered as rPET product. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product may be fed to the chemical recycling facility, and at least a portion of the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product is depolymerized therein.

[00117] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product comprises at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 weight percent metals on a dry basis. However, the metal content that is fed to the solvolysis facility for depolymerization may be limited. Thus, at least a portion, at least 90 weight percent, at least 95 weight percent, at least 99 weight percent, or at least 99.9 weight percent of the metals may be separated and removed from the plastics before depolymerizing, as described below. The separation

or removal may be done as a continuous separation process (e.g., a solid/liquid separator) and/or as a batch separation process (e.g., purge process) and may be performed in the preprocessing facility and/or the solvolysis facility (such as the front end of the solvolysis facility). Whether a separation step is used or not, the feedstock to the solvolysis facility and/or depolymerization processes may be not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 4, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent metals on a dry basis. The metals may include one type of metal or more than one type of metal and may include ferrous and/or non-ferrous metals. The metals may comprise one or more non-ferrous metals such as aluminum, copper, lead, nickel, tin, titanium, zinc, and/or alloys thereof. The metals may comprise one or more ferrous metals such as iron, steel, stainless steel, carbon steel, austenitic, martensitic, duplex stainless steels, ferritic stainless steel, and/or alloys thereof. The quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, or at least 80 weight percent PET on a dry basis.

[00118] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product comprises plastic flakes and at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 weight percent metals on a dry basis. As used herein, the term “plastic flakes” refers to plastic particles having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inches) to 2.54 cm (1 inch). At least a portion of the plastic flakes can be separated from the metals before depolymerizing. This separation may occur within the chemical recycling facility, for example in the preprocessing facility and/or solvolysis facility, or before the PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product is fed to the chemical recycling facility. The separating may comprise feeding at least a portion of the quantity of reclaimer co-product into at least one density separation stage to separate at least a portion of the plastic flakes from the metals. The separated portion of plastic flakes may be fed into a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility. The metals, which may have a portion of plastic flake separated therefrom, may be fed into a partial oxidation (POX) gasifier.

[00119] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product does not undergo separation prior to being fed to the chemical recycling facility. For example, both the metals and the plastic flake may be fed to the solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility, and the metal may be removed by a solid/liquid separator (e.g., filter) and/or purge in the solvolysis facility. Additionally, the metals may be fed into a POX gasifier without having the portion of plastic flake separated therefrom.

[00120] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product comprises plastic articles and at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 weight percent metals on a dry basis. As used herein, the term “plastic articles” refers to baled or unbaled plastic materials having a D90 particle size of greater than 2.54 cm (1 inch). The plastic articles may be in the form of compressed bales. The plastic articles may be processed, for example by debaling, grinding, chopping, shredding, and/or pulverizing, to produce a debaled quantity of plastic articles and metals and/or to reduce the size of the plastic articles to form plastic particulate solids having a D90 particle size of less than 2.54 cm (1 inch).

[00121] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids can be separated from the metals before depolymerizing. This separation may occur within the chemical recycling facility, for example in the preprocessing facility and/or solvolysis facility, or before the PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product is fed to the chemical recycling facility. The separating may comprise feeding at least a portion of the plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids into at least one density separation stage to separate at least a portion of the plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids from the metals. The separated portion of plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids may be fed into a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility. The metals, which have a portion of plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids separated therefrom, may be fed into a partial oxidation (POX) gasifier.

[00122] Similar to the plastic flake, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, both the metals and the plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids may be fed to the solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility, and the metal may be removed by a filter and/or
5 purge in the solvolysis hydrolysis facility. Additionally, the metals may be fed into a POX gasifier without having the portion of plastic articles and/or plastic particulate solids separated therefrom.

[00123] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product
10 comprises plastic fines and at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 weight percent metals on a dry basis. As used herein, the term “plastic fines” refers to plastic particulates having a D90 particle size of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch). At least a portion of the plastic fines may be densified (e.g., agglomerated or pelletized) to produce densified PET-containing particles
15 before depolymerizing. The densification may occur within the chemical recycling facility or before the PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product is fed to the chemical recycling facility. The densified PET-containing particles may have a D90 particle size of 1 to 10 mm, 2 to 8 mm, or 3 to 5 mm. The densification may occur without separating the all or a portion of the metals in
20 the reclaimer product, and thus the densified PET-containing particles may comprise at least a portion of the metals. The densified PET-containing particles may be fed directly to a solvolysis facility within said chemical recycling facility (i.e., without undergoing a preprocessing or separation process within the chemical recycling facility or separate from the chemical recycling facility).

[00124] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the metals separated from the plastic material of the PET and metal-
25 containing reclaimer co-product (i.e., the metals separated from the plastic flake, plastic articles, and/or plastic fines using any one or more of the preprocessing or separation methods described in this section or elsewhere in the application) may be recovered in a metal-containing stream, for example
30 with a portion of the plastic flake, plastic articles, and/or plastic fines or other

plastic materials, and fed to a pyrolysis facility, and in one or more embodiments to a pyrolysis reactor within the pyrolysis facility.

Reclaimer Flake Reject

5 **[00125]** As described above, PET and PVC-containing reclaimer flake reject may be separated from the plastic waste in a PET reclaimer and recovered. As used herein, “reclaimer flake reject” refers to a waste mixture of plastic, comprising at least PET and at least 0.1 weight percent PVC on a dry basis, from a reclaimer facility and having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to
10 2.54 cm (1 inch). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of PET and PVC-containing flake reject is fed to a chemical recycling facility, and at least a portion of the quantity of PET and PVC-containing flake reject is depolymerized therein.

15 **[00126]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of reclaimer flake reject is enriched in PVC and depleted in polyolefins relative to the plastic waste. The quantity of reclaimer flake reject may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, or at least 80 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of reclaimer flake reject may comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 weight
20 percent of PVC on a dry basis. The quantity of reclaimer flake reject may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, or at least 5 weight percent and/or not more than 20, not more than 15, or not more than 10 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis. The quantity of reclaimer flake reject may comprise from 0.1 to 20, from 1 to 15, or from 5 to 10 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis.

25 **[00127]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the quantity of reclaimer flake reject may be fed into at least one density separation stage before depolymerizing, in which a PET-enriched stream and a polyolefin-enriched stream can be produced from a waste plastic stream comprising the flake reject. In an embodiment or in
30 combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the portion of the quantity of reclaimer flake reject may be the only plastic material in the waste plastic stream fed to the at least one density separation stage. However, in other

embodiments, the portion of the quantity of reclaimer flake reject may be mixed with one or more other plastic materials in the waste plastic stream fed to the at least one density separation stage. The PET-enriched stream may be fed into a solvolysis facility. The polyolefin-enriched stream may be fed into a partial oxidation (POX) gasifier. The polyolefin-enriched stream may be fed into a pyrolysis facility, and may be fed to a pyrolysis reactor within the pyrolysis facility. Additionally, or alternatively, the polyolefin-enriched stream may be fed into an energy recovery facility.

[00128] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the quantity of PET and PVC-containing reclaimer flake reject may be fed into a mechanical dewatering apparatus before depolymerizing. The portion of the quantity of reclaimer flake reject may then be fed into a thermal dryer after the mechanical dewatering apparatus.

[00129] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the quantity of PET and PVC-containing reclaimer flake reject may be fed directly to a solvolysis facility within said chemical recycling facility (i.e., without undergoing a preprocessing or separation process within the chemical recycling facility or separate from the chemical recycling facility).

Solidified Purge Material

[00130] As described above, solidified purge material may be derived from unusable or undesirable liquified plastic material, for example from a PET (rPET) reclaimer facility, PET articles manufacturer (molder), and/or polymer manufacturing facility, that is allowed to solidify and can be recovered. As used herein, the term “solidified purge material” refers to a plastic waste removed from any molten polymer processing apparatus or portion thereof while the apparatus is not producing an intended product (e.g., pellets, bottles, and other plastic articles), including but not limited to an extruder, filter, pelletizer, reactor, conduit, and the like, that was molten within the molten polymer processing apparatus but was permitted to solidify outside of said apparatus. The solidified material may be generally un-shaped and/or non-pelletized, and may be in the

form of solid plastic chunks (e.g., plastic chunks removed from an extruder barrel that have not passed through the extruder die). The solidified plastic material may also include intermediate molded products. The solidified plastic material may include clear and/or colored plastics. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material is fed to a chemical recycling facility, and at least a portion of the quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material is depolymerized therein.

[00131] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material comprises at least 90, at least 95, at least 99 or at least 99.9 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, or at least 80 weight percent co-polyesters on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may comprise at least 95, at least 98, at least 99, or at least 99.9 weight percent of materials that are solid at the processing temperature of the molten polymer processing apparatus (e.g., glass, metals, and other fillers). The quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may comprise not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, or not more than 1 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may comprise not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 weight percent PVC on a dry basis.

[00132] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may be fed directly into a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility (i.e., without undergoing a preprocessing or separation process within the chemical recycling facility or separate from the chemical recycling facility). At least a portion of the quantity of PET-containing solidified purge material may be reduced in size, for example by a mechanical size reduction process. The mechanical size reduction process may comprise shredding (e.g., using a plastic shredder), chopping, grinding, guillotine,

dropping, and/or smashing the portion of the solidified purge material, to form a quantity of plastic particulate solids before depolymerizing.

5 **[00133]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the resulting plastic particulate solids may have a D90 particle size of less than 15.24 cm (6 inches), not more than 12.7 cm (5 inches), not more than 10.16 cm (4 inches), not more than 7.62 cm (3 inches), not more than 5.08 cm (2 inches), or not more than 2.54 cm (1 inch). When a shredder is used, the solidified purge material may result in plastic particulate solids having a D90 particle size of less than 5.08 cm (2 inches), or less than 2.54 cm (1 inch). In
10 the size reduction processes described above, or in collection of the purge material, a quantity of dry fines, strings, strands, and/or fibrous materials may be produced from the solidified purge materials and recovered. For example, when a shredder is used, the process may produce a quantity of plastic fines. However, the use of a grinder can be avoided, and thus the process can
15 produce less than 10%, less than 5%, less than 2%, or less than 1% plastic fines. The quantity of these recovered materials may be densified into plastic particles having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inches) to 2.54 cm (1 inch) before depolymerizing. For example, a screener can be used to recover large particulates (over 2.54 cm (1 inch)) and fines (less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch)).
20 The large particles can be recycled back to the shredder. The fines can be densified as described above.

Dry Fines

25 **[00134]** As described above, dry fines may be produced from the processing (e.g., conveying, drying, densification, extruding, packaging, centrifugation processes, and/or grinding) and/or conveyance of plastic materials, which can be collected in a dryer or dust collector and recovered. As used herein, the term “dry fines” refers to waste plastic particles from a PET reclaimer facility and/or a manufacturer of PET articles, having an average particle size of less
30 than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) and a moisture content of less than 2% by weight. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a quantity of PET-containing dry fines is fed to a chemical recycling facility, and

at least a portion of the quantity of PET-containing dry fines is depolymerized therein.

5 **[00135]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the quantity of PET-containing dry fines comprises at least 90, at least 95, at least 99, or at least 99.9 weight percent PET on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing dry fines may comprise at least 0.1, at least 1, at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 60, or at least 80 weight percent co-polyesters on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing dry fines may comprise not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, or not more than 1 weight percent polyolefins on a dry basis. The quantity of PET-containing dry fines may comprise not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 weight percent PVC on a dry basis.

15 **[00136]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the quantity of PET-containing dry fines is fed directly to the chemical recycling facility (i.e., without undergoing a preprocessing or separation process within the chemical recycling facility or separate from the chemical recycling facility). This may be accomplished using a conveyance system interconnecting the chemical recycling facility to a PET reclaimer facility, a manufacturer of PET articles, and/or polymer manufacturing facility. The dry fines may also be delivered in sacks or bags.

20 **[00137]** Dry fines may pose some risk of explosion. While the dry fines do not generally arrive in an explosive state, conveying the dry fines causes separation and air exposure, making the dry fines potentially explosive. Explosive concentrations can also exist in storage piles. Thus, the dry fines may be screened to remove and recover dry fines having a particle size of less than 1000 μm , less than 800 μm , less than 600 μm , or less than 420 μm . At least a portion of the PET-containing dry fines recovered in the screening above or other processes may be densified (e.g., agglomerated or pelletized) to produce densified PET-containing particles before depolymerizing, thereby reducing or eliminating the explosive risk. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the

densified plastic particles have a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inches) to 2.54 cm (1 inch). In one or more embodiments, the densified plastic particles may be fed into a solvolysis facility within the chemical recycling facility.

5 *Delivery of Waste Plastic*

10 **[00138]** The chemical recycling facility 10 may also include infrastructure for receiving waste plastic (e.g., PET-containing reclaimer co-products, PET-containing municipal recycling facility (MRF) products or co-products, sorted plastic-containing mixtures, PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility, and/or other MPW) as described herein to facilitate delivery of the waste plastic by any suitable type of vehicle including, for example, trains, trucks, and/or ships. Such infrastructure may include facilities to assist with offloading the waste plastic from the vehicle, as well as storage facilities and one or more conveyance systems for transporting the waste plastic from the offloading zone to the downstream processing zones. Such conveyance systems may include, for example, pneumatic conveyors, belt conveyors, bucket conveyors, vibrating conveyors, screw conveyors, cart-on-track conveyors, tow conveyors, trolley conveyors, front-end loaders, trucks, and chain conveyors.

20 **[00139]** The waste (e.g., PET-containing reclaimer co-products, PET-containing municipal recycling facility (MRF) products or co-products, sorted plastic-containing mixtures, PET-containing waste plastic from a plastic article manufacturing facility, and/or other MPW) introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10 may be in several forms including, but not limited to, whole articles, particulates (e.g., comminuted, pelletized, fiber plastic particulates), bound bales (e.g., whole articles compressed and strapped), unbound articles (i.e., not in bales or packaged), containers (e.g., box, sack, trailer, railroad car, loader bucket), piles (e.g., on a concrete slab in a building), solid/liquid slurries (e.g., pumped slurry of plastics in water), and/or loose materials conveyed physically (e.g., particulates on a conveyor belt) or pneumatically (e.g., particulates mixed with air and/or inert gas in a convey pipe).

[00140] As used herein, the term “waste plastic particulates” refers to waste plastic having a D90 of less than 1 inch. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic particulates can be MPW particulates. A waste plastic or MPW particulate can include, for example, comminuted plastic particles that have been shredded or chopped, or plastic pellets. When whole or nearly whole articles are introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10 (or preprocessing facility 20), one or more comminuting or pelletizing steps may be used therein to form waste plastic particulates (e.g., MPW particulates). Alternatively, or in addition, at least a portion of the waste plastic introduced into the chemical recycling facility 10 (or preprocessing facility 20) may already be in the form of particulates.

[00141] The general configuration and operation of each of the facilities that may be present in the chemical recycling facility shown in FIG. 1 will now be described in further detail below, beginning with the preprocessing facility. Optionally, although not shown in FIG. 1, at least one of the streams from the chemical recycling facility may be sent to an industrial landfill or other similar type of processing or disposal facility.

Preprocessing

[00142] As shown in FIG. 1, the unprocessed and/or partially processed waste plastic, such as mixed plastic waste (MPW), may first be introduced into a preprocessing facility 20 via stream 100. In preprocessing facility 20 the stream may undergo one or more processing steps to prepare it for chemical recycling. As used herein, the term “preprocessing” refers to preparing waste plastic for chemical recycling using one or more of the following steps: (i) comminuting; (ii) particulating; (iii) washing; (iv) drying; and (v) separation. As used herein, the term “preprocessing facility” refers to a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out the preprocessing of waste plastic. Preprocessing facilities as described herein may employ any suitable method for carrying out the preparation of waste plastic for chemical recycling using one or more of these steps, which are described in further detail below.

Comminuting & Particulating

[00143] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) may be provided in bales of unsorted or presorted plastic, or in other large, aggregated forms. The bales or aggregated plastics undergo an initial process in which they are broken apart. Plastic bales can be sent to a debaler machine that comprises, for example, one or more rotating shafts equipped with teeth or blades configured to break the bales apart, and in some instances shred, the plastics from which the bales are comprised. In one or more other embodiments, the bales or aggregated plastics can be sent to a guillotine machine where they are chopped into smaller sized pieces of plastic. The debaled and/or guillotined plastic solids can then be subjected to a sorting process in which various non-plastic, heavy materials, such as glass, metal, and rocks, are removed. This sorting process can be performed manually or by a machine. Sorting machines may rely upon optical sensors, magnets, eddy currents, pneumatic lifts or conveyors that separate based on drag coefficient, or sieves to identify and remove the heavy materials.

[00144] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic feedstock comprises plastic solids having a D90 that is greater than one inch, greater than 0.75 inch, or greater than 0.5 inch, such as used containers. Alternatively, or in addition, the waste plastic feedstock may also comprise a plurality of plastic solids that, at one time, had at least one dimension of greater than one inch, but the solids may have been compacted, pressed, or otherwise aggregated into a larger unit, such as a bale. In such embodiments wherein at least a portion, or all, of the plastic solids have at least one dimension greater than one inch, greater than 0.75 inch, or 0.5 inch, the feedstock may be subjected to a mechanical size reduction operation, such as grinding/granulating, shredding, guillotining, chopping, or other comminuting process to provide MPW particles having a reduced size. Such mechanical size reduction operations can include a size reduction step other than crushing, compacting, or forming plastic into bales.

[00145] In one or more other embodiments, the waste plastic may already have undergone some initial separation and/or size-reduction process. In particular, the waste plastic may be in the form of particles or flakes and provided in some kind of container, such as a sack or box. Depending upon the composition of these plastic solids and what kind of preprocessing they may have been subjected to, the plastic feedstock may bypass the debaler, guillotine, and/or heavies removal station and proceed directly to the granulating equipment for further size reduction.

[00146] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the debaled or broken apart plastic solids may be sent to comminution or granulating equipment in which the plastic solids are ground, shredded, or otherwise reduced in size. The plastic materials can be made into particles having a D90 particle size of less than 1 inch, less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. In one or more other embodiments, the D90 particle size of the plastic materials exiting the granulating equipment is from $\frac{1}{16}$ inch to 1 inch, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch, or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Washing & Drying

[00147] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the unprocessed or partially processed waste plastic provided to the chemical recycling facility may comprise various organic contaminants or residues that may be associated with the previous use of the waste plastic. For example, the waste plastic may comprise food or beverage soils, especially if the plastic material was used in food or beverage packaging. Accordingly, the waste plastic may also contain microorganism contaminants and/or compounds produced by the microorganisms. Exemplary microorganisms that may be present on the surfaces of the plastic solids making up the waste plastic include *E. coli*, *salmonella*, *C. difficile*, *S. aureus*, *L. monocytogenes*, *S. epidermidis*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *P. fluorescens*.

[00148] Various microorganisms can produce compounds that cause malodors. Exemplary odor-causing compounds include hydrogen sulfide, dimethyl sulfide, methanethiol, putrescine, cadaverine, trimethylamine,

ammonia, acetaldehyde, acetic acid, propanoic acid, and/or butyric acid. Thus, it can be appreciated that the waste plastic could present odor nuisance concerns. Therefore, the waste plastic may be stored within an enclosed space, such as a shipping container, enclosed railcar, or enclosed trailer until it can be processed further. In certain embodiments, the unprocessed or partially processed waste plastic, once it reaches the site where processing (e.g., comminuting, washing, and sorting) of the waste plastic is to occur, can be stored with the enclosed spaces for no more than one week, no more than 5 days, no more than 3 days, no more than 2 days, or no more than 1 day.

[00149] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the preprocessing facility 20 may also include equipment for or the step of treating the waste plastic with a chemical composition that possesses antimicrobial characteristics, thereby forming treated particulate plastic solids. In some embodiments, this may include treating the waste plastic with sodium hydroxide, high pH salt solutions (e.g., potassium carbonate), or other antimicrobial composition.

[00150] Additionally, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) may optionally be washed to remove inorganic, non-plastic solids such as dirt, glass, fillers and other non-plastic solid materials, and/or to remove biological components such as bacteria and/or food. The resulting washed waste plastic may also be dried to a moisture content of not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, or not more than 0.25 weight percent water (or liquid), based on the total weight of the waste plastic. The drying can be done in any suitable manner, including by the addition of heat and/or air flow, mechanical drying (e.g., centrifugal), or by permitting evaporation of the liquid to occur over a specified time.

Separation

[00151] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the preprocessing facility 20 or step of the chemical recycling process or facility 10 may include at least one separation step or zone. The separation

step or zone may be configured to separate the waste plastic stream into two or more streams enriched in certain types of plastics. Such separation is particularly advantageous when the waste plastic fed to the preprocessing facility 20 is MPW.

5 **[00152]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the separation zone 22 (see FIG. 2) of the preprocessing facility 20 may separate the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) into a PET-enriched stream 112 and a PET-depleted stream 114 as shown in FIG. 2. As used herein, the term “enriched” means having a concentration (on an undiluted dry weight basis) of a specific component that is greater than the concentration of that component in a reference material or stream. As used herein, the term “depleted” means having a concentration (on an undiluted dry weight basis) of a specific component that is less than the concentration of that component in a reference material or stream. As used herein, all weight percentages are given
10
15 on an undiluted dry weight basis, unless otherwise noted.

[00153] When the enriched or depleted component is a solid, concentrations are on an undiluted dry solids weight basis; when the enriched or depleted component is a liquid, concentrations are on an undiluted dry liquid weight basis; and when the enriched or depleted component is a gas, concentrations are on an undiluted dry gas weight basis. In addition, enriched and depleted can be expressed in mass balance terms, rather than as a concentration. As such, a stream enriched in a specific component can have a mass of the component that is greater than the mass of the component in a reference stream (e.g., feed stream or other product stream), while a stream depleted in a specific component can have a mass of the component that is less than the mass of the component in a reference stream (e.g., feed stream or other product stream).
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[00154] Referring again to FIG. 2, the PET-enriched stream 112 of waste plastic withdrawn from the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22) may have a higher concentration or mass of PET than the concentration or mass of PET in the waste plastic feed stream 100 introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22). Similarly, the PET-depleted stream 114
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withdrawn from the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22) may be PET-depleted and have a lower concentration or mass of PET than the concentration or mass of PET in the waste plastic introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22). The PET-depleted stream 114 may also be PO-enriched and have a higher concentration or mass of PO than the concentration or mass of PO in the waste plastic (e.g., MPW) stream introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22).

[00155] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, when a MPW stream 100 is fed to the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22), the PET-enriched stream may be enriched in concentration or mass of PET relative to the concentration or mass of PET in the MPW stream, or the PET-depleted stream, or both, on an undiluted solids dry weight basis. For example, if the PET-enriched stream is diluted with liquid or other solids after separation, the enrichment would be on the basis of a concentration in the undiluted PET-enriched stream, and on a dry basis. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the PET-enriched stream 112 has a percent PET enrichment relative to the MPW feed stream (Feed-Based % PET Enrichment), the PET-depleted product stream 114 (Product-Based % PET Enrichment), or both that is at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 80, at least 100, at least 125, at least 150, at least 175, at least 200, at least 225, at least 250, at least 300, at least 350, at least 400, at least 500, at least 600, at least 700, at least 800, at least 900, or at least 1000% as determined by the formula:

$$\text{Feed - Based \%PET Enrichment} = \frac{PETe - PETm}{PETm} \times 100$$

and

$$\text{Product - Based \%PET Enrichment} = \frac{PETe - PETd}{PETd} \times 100$$

where PETe is the concentration of PET in the PET-enriched product stream 112 on an undiluted dry weight basis;

PETm is the concentration of PET in the MPW feed stream 100 on a dry weight basis; and

PETd is the concentration of PET in the PET-depleted product stream 114 on a dry weight basis.

[00156] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, when a stream comprising MPW 100 is fed to the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22), the PET-enriched stream is also enriched in halogens, such as fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), bromine (Br), iodine (I), and astatine (At), and/or halogen-containing compounds, such as PVC, relative to the concentration or mass of halogens in the MPW feed stream 100, or the PET-depleted product stream 114, or both. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the PET-enriched stream 112 has a percent PVC enrichment relative to the MPW feed stream 100 (Feed-Based % PVC Enrichment), the PET-depleted product stream (Product-Based % PVC Enrichment), or both that is at least 1, at least 3, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 80, at least 100, at least 125, at least 150, at least 175, at least 200, at least 225, at least 250, at least 300, at least 350, at least 400, or at least 500 % as determined by the formula:

$$\text{Feed} - \text{Based \%PVC Enrichment} = \frac{PVCE - PVCm}{PVCm} \times 100$$

and

$$\text{Product} - \text{Based \%PVC Enrichment} = \frac{PVCE - PVCd}{PVCd} \times 100$$

where PVCE is the concentration of PVC in the PET-enriched product stream 112 on an undiluted dry weight basis;

PVCm is the concentration of PVC in the MPW feed stream 100 on an undiluted dry weight basis; and

where PVCd is the concentration of PVC in the PET-depleted product stream 114 on an undiluted dry weight basis.

[00157] In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, when a MPW stream 100 is fed to the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22), the PET-depleted stream 114 is enriched in polyolefins relative to the concentration or mass of polyolefins in the MPW feed stream

100, the PET-enriched product stream 112, or both, on an undiluted solids dry basis. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the PET-depleted stream 114 has a percent polyolefin enrichment relative to the MPW feed stream 100 (Feed-Based % PO Enrichment), or relative to the PET-enriched product stream 112 (Product-Based % PO Enrichment), or both that is at least 10, at least 20, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 80, at least 100, at least 125, at least 150, at least 175, at least 200, at least 225, at least 250, at least 300, at least 350, at least 400, at least 500, at least 600, at least 700, at least 800, at least 900, or at least 1000% as determined by the formula:

$$\text{Feed - Based \%PO Enrichment} = \frac{POd - POm}{POm} \times 100$$

and

$$\text{Product - Based \%PO Enrichment} = \frac{POd - POe}{POe} \times 100$$

where POd is the concentration of polyolefins in the PET-depleted product stream 114 on an undiluted dry weight basis;

POm is the concentration of PO in the MPW feed stream 100 on a dry weight basis; and

POe is the concentration of PO in the PET-enriched product stream 112 on a dry weight basis.

[00158] In one embodiment or in combination with any other embodiments, when a MPW stream 100 is fed to the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22), the PET-depleted stream 114 is also depleted in halogens, such as fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), bromine (Br), iodine (I), and astatine (At), and/or halogen-containing compounds, such as PVC, relative to the concentration or mass of halogens in the MPW stream 100, the PET-enriched stream 112, or both. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the PET-depleted stream 114 has a percent PVC depletion, relative to the MPW feed stream 100 (Feed-Based % PVC Depletion) or the PET-enriched product stream 112 (Product-Based % PVC Depletion) that is at

least 1, at least 3, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, or at least 90% as determined by the formula:

$$5 \quad \text{Feed} - \text{Based \%PVC Depletion} = \frac{PVCm - PVCd}{PVCm} \times 100$$

and

$$\text{Product} - \text{Based \% PVC Depletion} = \frac{PVCE - PVCd}{PVCE} \times 100$$

where PVCm is the concentration of PVC in the MPW feed stream 100 on an undiluted dry weight basis;

10 PVCd is the concentration of PVC in the PET-depleted product stream 114 on an undiluted dry weight basis; and

PVCE is the concentration of PVC in the PET-enriched product stream 112 on an undiluted dry weight basis.

15 **[00159]** The PET-depleted stream 114 is depleted in PET relative to the concentration or mass of PET in the MPW stream 100, the PET-enriched stream 112, or both. In one embodiment or in combination with any of the mentioned embodiments, the PET-depleted stream 114 has a percent PET depletion, relative to the MPW feed stream 100 (Feed-Base % PET Depletion) or the PET-enriched product stream 112 (Product-Based % PET Depletion) that

20 is at least 1, at least 3, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, or at least 90% as determined by the formula:

$$\text{Feed} - \text{Based \%PET Depletion} = \frac{PETm - PETd}{PETm} \times 100$$

25 and

$$\text{Product} - \text{Based \%PET Depletion} = \frac{PETe - PETd}{PETe} \times 100$$

where PETm is the concentration of PET in the MPW feed stream 100 on an undiluted dry weight basis;

PET_d is the concentration of PET in the PET-depleted product stream 114 on an undiluted dry weight basis; and

PET_e is the concentration of PET in the PET-enriched product stream 112 on an undiluted dry weight basis.

5 **[00160]** The percentage enrichment or depletion in any of the above embodiments can be an average over 1 week, or over 3 days, or over 1 day, and the measurements can be conducted to reasonably correlate the samples taken at the exits of the process to MPW bulk from which the sample of MPW is taking into account the residence time of the MPW to flow from entry to exit.
10 For example, if the average residence time of the MPW is 2 minutes, then the outlet sample would be taken two minutes after the input sample, so that the samples correlate to one another.

15 **[00161]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-enriched stream exiting the separation zone 22 or the preprocessing facility 20 may include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 97, at least 99, at least 99.5, or at least 99.9 weight percent PET, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-enriched stream 112. The PET-enriched stream 112 may also be enriched in PVC and can include, for
20 example, at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 5 and/or not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 5, not more than 3 weight percent of halogens, including PVC, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-enriched stream, or it can be in the range of 0.1 to 10 weight percent, 0.5 to 8 weight percent, or 1 to 5 weight percent, based on
25 the total weight of plastic in the PET-enriched stream. The PET-enriched stream may include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 99, or at least 99.5 weight percent of the total amount of PET introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22).

30 **[00162]** The PET-enriched stream 112 may also be depleted in PO and/or heavier plastics such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyamide (PA 12, PA 46, PA 66), polyacrylamide (PARA), polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polycarbonate

polybutylene terephthalate blends (PC/PBT), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyimide (PI), polycarbonate (PC), polyethersulfone (PESU), polyether ether ketone (PEEK), polyamide imide (PAI), polyethylenimine (PEI), polysulfone (PSU), polyoxymethylene (POM), polyglycolides (poly(glycolic acid), PGA),
5 polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), thermoplastic styrenic elastomers (TPS), amorphous thermoplastic polyimide (TPI), liquid crystal polymer (LCP), glass fiber-reinforced PET, chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polyphthalamide (PPA), polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF),
10 fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polymonochlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE), and perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), any of which may include carbon, glass, and/or mineral fillers, and which have a density higher than PET and PVC.

[00163] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-enriched stream 112 may comprise not more than 45, not more
15 than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5 weight percent PO, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-enriched stream 112. The PET-enriched stream 112 may comprise not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 3,
20 not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of the total amount of PO introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 (or separation zone 22). The PET-enriched stream 112 may comprise not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1
25 weight percent of components other than PET, based on the total weight of the PET-enriched stream 112.

[00164] Additionally, or in the alternative, the PET-enriched stream 112 can include not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, or not more than
30 0.1 weight percent of adhesives on a dry basis. Typical adhesives include carpet glue, latex, styrene butadiene rubber, and the like. Additionally, the PET-enriched stream 112 can include not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, or not more than 0.1 weight percent

plastic fillers and solid additives on a dry basis. Exemplary fillers and additives include silicon dioxide, calcium carbonate, talc, silica, glass, glass beads, alumina, and other solid inerts, which do not chemically react with the plastics or other components in the processes described herein.

5 **[00165]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-depleted (or PO-enriched) stream 114 exiting the separation zone 22 or the preprocessing facility 20 may include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 97, at least 99, or at least 99.5 weight percent PO, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-depleted (or PO-enriched) stream 114. The PET-depleted (or PO-enriched stream) may be depleted in PVC and can include, for example, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, not more than 0.1, not more than 0.05, or not more than 0.01 weight percent of halogens, including chlorine in PVC, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-depleted (or PO-enriched) stream. The PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream may include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 99, or at least 99.9 weight percent of the total amount of PO introduced into the preprocessing facility 20 or separation facility 22.

20 **[00166]** The PO-enriched stream 114 may also be depleted in PET and/or other plastics, including PVC. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-depleted (or PO-enriched stream) may comprise not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5 weight percent PET, based on the total weight of plastic in the PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream. The PO-enriched (or PET-depleted) stream 114 may comprise not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of the total amount of PET introduced into the preprocessing facility.

30 **[00167]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream 114 may also

comprise not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1 weight percent of components other than PO, based on the total weight of PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream 114. The PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream 114 comprises not more than 4, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, or not more than 0.1 weight percent of adhesives, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00168] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream 114 may have a melt viscosity of at least 1, at least 5, at least 50, at least 100, at least 200, at least 300, at least 400, at least 500, at least 600, at least 700, at least 800, at least 900, at least 1000, at least 1500, at least 2000, at least 2500, at least 3000, at least 3500, at least 4000, at least 4500, at least 5000, at least 5500, at least 6000, at least 6500, at least 7000, at least 7500, at least 8000, at least 8500, at least 9000, at least 9500, or at least 10,000 poise, measured using a Brookfield R/S rheometer with V80-40 vane spindle operating at a shear rate of 10 rad/s and a temperature of 350°C. Alternatively, or in addition, the PET-depleted or PO-enriched stream may have a melt viscosity of not more than 25,000, not more than 24,000, not more than 23,000, not more than 22,000, not more than 21,000, not more than 20,000, not more than 19,000, not more than 18,000, or not more than 17,000 poise, (measured at 10 rad/s and 350°C). Or the stream may have a melt viscosity in the range of from 1 to 25,000 poise, 500 to 22,000 poise, or 1000 to 17,000 poise (measured at 10 rad/s and 350°C).

[00169] Any suitable type of separation device, system, or facility may be employed to separate the waste plastic into two or more streams enriched in certain types of plastics such as, for example, the PET-enriched stream 112 and the PO-enriched stream 114. Examples of suitable types of separation include mechanical separation and density separation, which may include sink-float separation and/or centrifugal density separation. As used herein, the term “sink-float separation” refers to a density separation process where the separation of materials is primarily caused by floating or sinking in a selected

liquid medium, while the term “centrifugal density separation” refers to a density separation process where the separation of materials is primarily caused by centrifugal forces. In general, the term “density separation process” refers to a process for separating materials based, at least in part, upon the respective densities of the materials into at least a higher-density output and a lower-density output and includes both sink-float separation and centrifugal density separation.

[00170] When sink-float separation is used, the liquid medium can comprise water. Salts, saccharides, and/or other additives can be added to the liquid medium, for example to increase the density of the liquid medium and adjust the target separation density of the sink-float separation stage. The liquid medium can comprise a concentrated salt solution. In one or more such embodiments, the salt is sodium chloride. In one or more other embodiments, however, the salt is a non-halogenated salt, such as acetates, carbonates, citrates, nitrates, nitrites, phosphates, and/or sulfates. The liquid medium can comprise a concentrated salt solution comprising sodium bromide, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, sodium hydroxide, sodium iodide, sodium nitrate, sodium thiosulfate, potassium acetate, potassium bromide, potassium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, potassium iodide, calcium chloride, cesium chloride, iron chloride, strontium chloride, zinc chloride, manganese sulfate, magnesium sulfate, zinc sulfate, and/or silver nitrate. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the salt is a caustic component. The salt may comprise sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and/or potassium carbonate. The concentrated salt solution may have a pH of greater than 7, greater than 8, greater than 9, or greater than 10.

[00171] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the liquid medium can comprise a saccharide, such as sucrose. The liquid medium can comprise carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dichlorobenzene, dimethyl sulfate, and/or trichloro ethylene. The particular components and concentrations of the liquid medium may be selected depending on the desired target separation density of the separation stage. The centrifugal density

separation process may also utilize a liquid medium as described above to improve separation efficiency at the target separation density.

5 **[00172]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the waste plastic separation methods comprise at least two density separation stages. In certain such embodiments, the methods generally comprise introducing waste plastic particulates into the first density separation stage and feeding an output from the first density separation stage into the second density separation stage. The density separation stages can be any system or unit operation that performs a density separation process, as defined
10 herein. At least one of the density separation stages comprises a centrifugal force separation stage or a sink-float separation stage. Each of the first and second density separation stages comprises a centrifugal force separation stage and/or a sink-float separation stage.

15 **[00173]** To produce a PET-enriched material stream, one of the density separation stages may comprise a low-density separation stage and the other generally comprises a high-density separation stage. As defined herein, the low-density separation stage has a target separation density less than the target separation density of the high-density separation stage. The low-density separation stage has a target separation density less than the density of PET,
20 and the high-density separation stage has a target separation density greater than the density of PET.

25 **[00174]** As used herein, the term “target separation density” refers to a density above which materials subjected to a density separation process are preferentially separated into the higher-density output and below which materials are separated in the lower-density output. The target separation density specifies a density value, wherein it is intended that all plastics and other solid materials having a density higher than the value are separated into the higher-density output and all plastics and other solid materials having a density lower than the value are separated into the lower-density output.
30 However, the actual separation efficiency of the materials in a density separation process may depend on various factors, including residence time and relative closeness of the density of a particular material to the target density

separation value, as well as factors related to the form of the particulate such as, for example, area-to-mass ratio, degree of sphericity, and porosity.

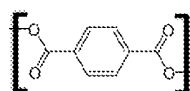
[00175] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the low-density separation stage has a target separation density that is
5 less than 1.35, less than 1.34, less than 1.33, less than 1.32, less than 1.31, or less than 1.30 g/cc and/or at least 1.25, at least 1.26, at least 1.27, at least 1.28, or at least 1.29 g/cc. The high-density separation stage has a target separation density that is at least 0.01, at least 0.025, at least 0.05, at least 0.075, at least
10 0.1, at least 0.15, or at least 0.2 g/cc greater than the target separation density of the low-density separation stage. The target separation density of the high-density separation stage is at least 1.31, at least 1.32, at least 1.33, at least 1.34, at least 1.35, at least 1.36, at least 1.37, at least 1.38, at least 1.39, or at least 1.40 g/cc and/or not more than 1.45, not more than 1.44, not more than
15 1.43, not more than 1.42, or not more than 1.41 g/cc. The target separation density of the low-density separation stage is in the range of 1.25 to 1.35 g/cc and the target separation density of said high-density separation stage is in the range of 1.35 to 1.45 g/cc.

[00176] Referring again to FIG. 1, both the PET-enriched stream 112 and the PO-enriched stream 114 may be introduced into one or more downstream
20 processing facilities (or undergo one or more downstream processing steps) within the chemical recycling facility 10. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the PET-enriched stream 112 may be introduced into a solvolysis facility 30, while at least a portion of the PO-enriched stream 114 may be directly or indirectly introduced
25 into one or more of a pyrolysis facility 60, a cracking facility 70, a partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility 50, an energy recovery facility 80, or other facility 90, such as a solidification or separation facility. Additional details of each step and type of facility, as well as the general integration of each of these steps or facilities with one or more of the others according to one or more
30 embodiments of the present technology are discussed in further detail below.

Solvolysis

[00177] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of a PET-enriched stream 112 from the preprocessing facility 20 may be introduced into a solvolysis facility 30. As used herein, the term “solvolysis” or “ester solvolysis” refers to a reaction by which an ester-containing feed is chemically decomposed in the presence of a solvent to form a principal carboxyl product and a principal glycol product. A “solvolysis facility” is a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out solvolysis of waste plastic and feedstocks derived therefrom.

[00178] When the ester being subjected to solvolysis comprises PET, the solvolysis performed in the solvolysis facility may be PET solvolysis. As used herein, the term “PET solvolysis” refers to a reaction by which a polyester terephthalate-containing feed is chemically decomposed in the presence of a solvent to form a principal terephthalyl product and a principal glycol product. As used herein, the term “principal terephthalyl” refers to the main or key terephthalyl product being recovered from the solvolysis facility. As used herein, the term “principal glycol” refers to the main glycol product being recovered from the solvolysis facility. As used herein, the term “glycol” refers to a component comprising two or more -OH functional groups per molecule. As used herein, the term “terephthalyl” refers to a molecule including the following group:



[00179] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the principal terephthalyl product comprises a terephthalyl, such as terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate (or oligomers thereof), while the principal glycol comprises a glycol, such as ethylene glycol and/or diethylene glycol. The main steps of a PET solvolysis facility 30 according to one or more embodiments of the present technology are generally shown in FIG. 3.

[00180] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the principal solvent used in solvolysis comprises a chemical compound

having at least one -OH group. Examples of suitable solvents can include, but are not limited to, (i) water (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “hydrolysis”), (ii) alcohols (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “alcoholysis”), such as methanol (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “methanolysis”) or ethanol (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “ethanolysis”), (iii) glycols such as ethylene glycol or diethylene glycol (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “glycolysis”), or (iv) ammonia (in which case the solvolysis may be referred to as “ammonolysis”).

[00181] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvolysis solvent can include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least or at least 99 weight percent of the principal solvent, based on the total weight of the solvent stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvent may comprise not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of other solvents or components, based on the total weight of the solvent stream.

[00182] When the solvolysis facility utilizes a glycol, such as ethylene glycol, as the principal solvent, the facility may be referred to as a glycolysis facility. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility of FIG. 1 may comprise a glycolysis facility. In a glycolysis facility, PET can be chemically decomposed to form ethylene glycol (EG) as the principal glycol and dimethyl terephthalate (DMT) as the principal terephthalyl. When the PET comprises waste plastic, both the EG and DMT formed in the solvolysis facility may comprise recycle content ethylene glycol (r-EG) and recycle content dimethyl terephthalate (r-DMT). When formed by glycolysis, the EG and DMT can be present in a single product stream.

[00183] When a solvolysis facility utilizes methanol as the principal solvent, the facility may be referred to as a methanolysis facility. The chemical recycling facility of FIG. 1 may include a methanolysis facility. In a methanolysis facility,

an example of which is schematically depicted in FIG. 3, PET can be chemically decomposed to form ethylene glycol (EG) as the principal glycol and dimethyl terephthalate (DMT) as the principal terephthalyl. When the PET comprises waste plastic, both the EG and DMT formed in the solvolysis facility may
5 comprise recycle content ethylene glycol (r-EG) and recycle content dimethyl terephthalate (r-DMT).

[00184] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the stream of recycle content glycol 154 (r-glycol) withdrawn from the solvolysis facility 30 may comprise at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least
10 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of the principal glycol formed in the solvolysis facility. It may also include not more than 99.9, not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, or not more than 75 weight percent of the principal glycol (such as EG), and/or may include at least 0.5, at
15 least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 12, at least 15, at least 20, or at least 25 weight percent and/or not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, or not more than 15 weight percent of components other than the principal glycol, based on the total weight of the stream, or these may be present in
20 amounts in the range of from 0.5 to 45 weight percent, 1 to 40 weight percent, or 2 to 15 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. The r-glycol may be present in the stream 154 in an amount in the range of from 45 to 99.9 weight percent, 55 to 99.9 weight percent, or 80 to 99.9 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream 154.

[00185] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the stream of recycle content principal terephthalyl (r-terephthalyl) 158 withdrawn from the solvolysis facility may comprise at least 45, at least 50, at
25 least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of the principal terephthalyl (such as DMT) formed in the solvolysis facility 30. It may also include not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, or not
30 more than 75 weight percent of the principal terephthalyl, or the principal

terephthalyl may be present in an amount of 45 to 99 weight percent, 50 to 90 weight percent, or 55 to 90 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. Additionally, or in the alternative, the stream can include at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 12, at least 15, at least 20, or at least 25 weight percent and/or not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, or not more than 15 weight percent of components other than the principal terephthalyl, based on the total weight of the stream. The r-terephthalyl (or terephthalyl) may be present in the stream 154 in an amount in the range of from 45 to 99.9 weight percent, 55 to 99.9 weight percent, or 80 to 99.9 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream 154.

[00186] In addition to providing a recycle content principal glycol stream, a recycle content principal terephthalyl stream, the solvolysis facility may also provide one or more solvolysis coproduct streams, shown as stream 110 in FIG. 1, which may also be withdrawn from one or more locations within the solvolysis facility. As used herein, the term “coproduct” or “solvolysis coproduct” refers to any compound from a solvolysis facility that is not the principal carboxyl (terephthalyl) product of the solvolysis facility, the principal glycol product of the solvolysis facility, or the principal solvent fed to the solvolysis facility. Solvolysis coproduct streams can comprise at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of one or more solvolysis coproducts, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00187] Solvolysis coproducts can comprise a heavy organic solvolysis coproduct stream or a light organic solvolysis coproduct stream. As used herein, the term “heavy organic solvolysis coproduct” refers to a solvolysis coproduct with a boiling point higher than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl product of the solvolysis facility, while the term “light organics solvolysis coproduct” refers to a solvolysis coproduct with a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl product of the solvolysis facility.

[00188] When the solvolysis facility is a methanolysis facility, one or more methanolysis coproducts may be withdrawn from the facility. As used herein, the term “methanolysis coproduct” refers to any compound from a methanolysis facility that is not DMT, EG, or methanol. Methanolysis coproduct streams can
5 comprise at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of one or more solvolysis coproducts, based on the total weight of the stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, methanolysis coproduct streams can comprise a heavy
10 organic methanolysis coproduct or light organic methanolysis coproduct. As used herein, the term “heavy organic methanolysis coproduct” refers to a methanolysis coproduct with a boiling point greater than DMT, while the term “light methanolysis coproduct” refers to a methanolysis coproduct with a boiling point less than DMT.

[00189] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvolysis facility may produce at least one heavy organic solvolysis coproduct stream. The heavy organic solvolysis coproduct stream may include
15 at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of organic compounds having a boiling point higher than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (such as DMT) produced from the solvolysis facility 30,
20 based on the total weight of organics in the stream.

[00190] Additionally, or in the alternative, the solvolysis facility may produce at least one light organics solvolysis coproduct stream. The light organics
25 solvolysis coproduct stream may include at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of organic compounds having a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (such as DMT) produced from the solvolysis facility 30, based on the total weight of organics
30 in the stream.

[00191] Turning again to FIG. 3, in operation, streams of mixed plastic waste and solvent introduced (separately or together) into the solvolysis facility may

first be passed through an optional non-PET separation zone 208, wherein at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of the total weight of components other than PET are separated out. The non-PET components may have a boiling point lower than PET and may be removed from the zone 208 as a vapor. Alternatively, or in addition, at least a portion of the non-PET components may have a slightly higher or lower density than PET and may be separated out by forming a two-phase liquid stream, then removing one or both non-PET phases. Finally, in some embodiments, the non-PET components may be separated out as solids from a PET-containing liquid phase.

[00192] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 percent of the non-PET components separated from the PET-containing stream comprise polyolefins such as polyethylene and/or polypropylene. As indicated generally by the dashed lines in FIG. 3, all or a part of the non-PET separation zone 208 may be upstream of the reaction zone 210, while all or a part of the non-PET separation zone 208 may be downstream of the reaction zone 210. Separation techniques such as extraction, solid/liquid separation, decanting, cyclone or centrifugal separation, manual removal, magnetic removal, eddy current removal, chemical degradation, vaporization and degassing, distillation, and combinations thereof may be used to separate the non-PET components from the PET-containing stream in the non-PET separation zone 208.

[00193] As shown in FIG. 3, the PET-containing stream 138 exiting the non-PET separation zone 208 may comprise not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, or not more than 0.5 weight percent of components other than the PET (or its oligomeric and monomeric degradation products) and solvent, based on the total weight of the PET-containing stream. The PET-containing stream 138 exiting the non-PET separation zone 208 may comprise not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of other types of plastics (such as

polyolefins). The PET-containing stream 138 exiting the non-PET separation zone 208 may include not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent of the total amount of non-PET components introduced into the non-PET separation zone 208.

[00194] The non-PET components may be removed from the solvolysis (or methanolysis) facility 30 as generally shown in FIG. 3 as a polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140. The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream (or decanter olefin coproduct stream) 140 may comprise at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 92, at least 95, at least 97, at least 99, or at least 99.5 weight percent of polyolefin, based on the total weight of the coproduct stream 140.

[00195] The polyolefin present in the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream may comprise predominantly polyethylene, predominantly polypropylene, or a combination of polyethylene and polypropylene. The polyolefin in the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream comprises at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 92, at least 94, at least 95, at least 97, at least 98, or at least 99 weight percent of polyethylene, based on the total weight of the polyolefin in the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140. Alternatively, the polyolefin in the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream comprises at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 92, at least 94, at least 95, at least 97, at least 98, or at least 99 weight percent of polypropylene, based on the total weight of the polyolefin in the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140.

[00196] The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream comprises not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.75, not more than 0.50, not more than 0.25, not more than 0.10, or not more than 0.05 weight percent of PET, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140. Additionally, the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream comprises at least 0.01, at least 0.05, at least 0.10, at least 0.50, at least 1, or at least 1.5 and/or not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not

more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent of components other than polyolefin, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140.

5 **[00197]** Overall, the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 comprises at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of organic compounds, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140. The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 can include at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 and/or not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of inorganic components, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140.

15 **[00198]** The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream can comprise at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 1.5, at least 2, at least 2.5, at least 3, at least 3.5, at least 4, at least 4.5, at least 5, at least 8, at least 10, at least 12, at least 15, at least 18, at least 20, at least 22, or at least 25 weight percent and/or not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 2 weight percent of one or more non-reactive solids, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140. Non-reactive solids refer to solid components that do not chemically react with PET. Examples of non-reactive solids include, but are not limited to, sand, dirt, glass, plastic fillers, and combinations thereof.

25 **[00199]** The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 comprises at least 100, at least 250, at least 500, at least 750, at least 1000, at least 1500, at least 2000, at least 2500, at least 5000, at least 7500 ppm by weight or at least 1, at least 1.5, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, or at least 25 weight percent) and/or not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more

than 1 weight percent of one or more fillers, based on the total weight of the polyolefin-coproduct stream 140. The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 can include fillers in an amount of 100 ppm to 50 weight percent, 500 ppm to 10 weight percent, or 1000 ppm to 5 weight percent.

5 **[00200]** Examples of fillers can include, but are not limited to, thixotropic agents such as fumes silica and clay (kaolin), pigments, colorants, fire retardants such as alumina trihydrate, bromine, chlorine, borate, and phosphorous, suppressants such as wax based materials, UV inhibitors or stabilizers, conductive additives such as metal particles, carbon particles, or
10 conductive fibers, release agents such as zinc stearate, waxes, and silicones, calcium carbonate, and calcium sulfate.

15 **[00201]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 can have a density of at least 0.75, at least 0.80, at least 0.85, at least 0.90, at least 0.95, at least 0.99 and/or not more than 1.5, not more than 1.4, not more than 1.3, not more than 1.2, not more than 1.1, not more than 1.05, or not more than 1.01 g/cm³,
20 measured at a temperature of 25°C. The density can be from 0.80 to 1.4, from 0.90 to 1.2, or 0.95 to 1.1 g/cm³. When removed from the non-PET separation zone 208, the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 may have a
25 temperature of at least 200, at least 205, at least 210, at least 215, at least 220, at least 225, at least 230, or at least 235°C and/or not more than 350, not more than 340, not more than 335, not more than 330, not more than 325, not more than 320, not more than 315, not more than 310, not more than 305, or not more than 300°C. The polyolefin-containing coproduct stream 140 can
30 comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components boiling higher than the principal terephthalyl or DMT, based on the total weight of the stream.

35 **[00202]** As discussed in further detail herein, all or a portion of the polyolefin-containing coproduct stream may be introduced into one or more downstream chemical recycling facilities alone or in combination with one or more other coproduct streams, streams resulting from one or more of the other

downstream chemical recycling facilities, and/or streams of waste plastic, including mixed plastic waste that is unprocessed, partially processed, and/or processed.

5 **[00203]** Turning again to FIG. 3, the PET-containing stream 138 (which comprises dissolved PET as well as its degradation products) exiting the non-PET separation zone 208 (upstream of the reaction zone 210) may then be transferred to a reaction zone 210, wherein at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 percent of the decomposition of the PET introduced into the reaction zone
10 occurs. In some embodiments, the reaction medium within reaction zone 210 may be agitated or stirred and one or more temperature control devices (such as heat exchangers) may be employed to maintain a target reaction temperature. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the target reaction temperature in the reaction zone 210 can
15 be at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, or at least 85 °C and/or not more than 350, not more than 345, not more than 340, not more than 335, not more than 330, not more than 325, not more than 320, not more than 315, not more than 310, not more than 300, or not more than 295°C.

20 **[00204]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvolysis process can be a low-pressure solvolysis process and the pressure in the solvolysis reactor (or reaction zone) 210 can be within 5, within 10, within 15, within 20, within 25, within 30, within 35, within 40, within 45, or within 50 psi of atmospheric, or it may be within 55, within 75, within 90, within
25 100, within 125, within 150, within 200, or within 250 psi of atmospheric. The pressure in the solvolysis reactor (or reaction zone) 210 can be within 0.35, within 0.70, within 1, within 1.4, within 1.75, within 2, within 2.5, within 2.75, within 3, within 3.5, within 3.75, within 5, or within 6.25 bar gauge (bar) and/or not more than 6.9, not more than 8.6, or not more than 10.35 bar of
30 atmospheric. The pressure in the solvolysis reactor (or reaction zone) 210 can be at least 100 psig (6.7 barg), at least 150 psig (10.3 barg), at least 200 psig (13.8 barg), at least 250 psig (17.2 barg), at least 300 psig (20.7 barg), at least

350 psig (24.1 barg), at least 400 psig (27.5 barg) and/or not more than 725 psig (50 barg), not more than 650 psig (44.7 barg), not more than 600 psig (41.3 barg), not more than 550 psig (37.8 barg), not more than 500 psig (34.5 barg), not more than 450 psig (31 barg), not more than 400 psig (27.6 barg), or not more than 350 psig (24.1 barg).

[00205] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvolysis process carried out in reaction zone 210 or facility 30 can be a high-pressure solvolysis process and the pressure in the solvolysis reactor can be at least 50 barg (725 psig), at least 70 barg (1015 psig), at least 75 barg (1088 psig), at least 80 barg (1161 psig), at least 85 barg (1233 psig), at least 90 barg (1307 psig), at least 95 barg (1378 psig), at least 100 barg (1451 psig), at least 110 barg (1596 psig), at least 120 barg (1741 psig), or at least 125 barg (1814 psig) and/or not more than 150 barg (2177 barg), not more than 145 barg (2104 psig), not more than 140 barg (2032 psig), not more than 135 barg (1959 psig), not more than 130 barg (1886 psig), or not more than 125 barg (1814 psig).

[00206] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the average residence time of the reaction medium in the reaction zone 210 can be at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 15 minutes and/or not more than 12, not more than 11, not more than 10, not more than 9, not more than 8, not more than 7, not more than 6, not more than 5, or not more than 4 hours. At least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 percent of the total weight of PET introduced into the solvolysis or methanolysis facility 30 can be decomposed upon leaving the reaction zone 210 in the reactor effluent stream 144.

[00207] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a reactor purge stream 142 may be removed from the reaction zone 210 and at least a portion may be passed to one or more downstream facilities within the chemical recycling facility 10 as a reactor purge coproduct stream 142. The reactor purge coproduct stream 142 may have a boiling point higher

than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (or DMT in the case of methanolysis) produced from the solvolysis facility 30.

5 **[00208]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 comprises at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the principal terephthalyl, based on the total weight of the stream 142. When the solvolysis facility is a methanolysis facility, the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 may comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of DMT, based on the total weight of the stream 142.

15 **[00209]** In addition, the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 may include at least 100 ppm and not more than 25 weight percent of one or more non-terephthalyl solids, based on the total weight of the stream 142. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the total amount of non-terephthalyl solids in the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 can be at least 150, at least 200, at least 250, at least 300, at least 350, at least 400, at least 500, at least 600, at least 700, at least 800, at least 900, at least 1000, at least 1500, at least 2000, at least 2500, at least 3000, at least 3500, at least 4000, at least 4500, at least 5000, at least 5500, at least 6000, at least 7000, at least 8000, at least 9000, at least 10,000, or at least 12,500 ppm and/or not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20, not more than 18, not more than 15, not more than 12, not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

25 **[00210]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 has a total solids content of at least 100, at least 250, at least 500, at least 750, at least 1000, at least 1500, at least 2000, at least 2500, at least 3000, at least 3500, at least 4000, at least 4500, at least 5000, at least 5500, at least 6000, at least 6500,

at least 7000, at least 7500, at least 8000, at least 8500, at least 9000, at least 9500 ppm by weight or at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 8, at least 10, or at least 12 weight percent and/or not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20, not more than 17, not more than 15, not more than 12, not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 6, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent or not more than 7500, not more than 5000, or not more than 2500 ppm by weight, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00211] Examples of solids can include, but are not limited to, non-volatile catalyst compounds. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the reactor purge coproduct stream can include at least 100, at least 250, at least 500, at least 750, at least 1000, at least 1500, at least 2000, at least 2500, at least 3000, at least 3500, at least 4000, at least 4500, at least 5000, at least 7500, at least 10,000, or at least 12,500 ppm and/or not more than 60,000, not more than 50,000, not more than 40,000, not more than 35,000, not more than 30,000, not more than 25,000, not more than 20,000, not more than 15,000, or not more than 10,000 ppm of non-volatile catalyst metals.

[00212] Examples of suitable non-volatile catalyst metals can include, but are not limited to, titanium, zinc, manganese, lithium, magnesium, sodium, methoxide, alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, tin, residual esterification or ester exchange catalysts, residual polycondensation catalysts, aluminum, depolymerization catalysts, and combinations thereof. As discussed in further detail herein, all or a portion of the reactor purge coproduct stream 142 may be introduced into one or more downstream chemical recycling facilities alone or in combination with one or more other coproduct streams, streams resulting from one or more of the other downstream chemical recycling facilities, and/or streams of waste plastic, including mixed plastic waste that is unprocessed, partially processed, and/or processed.

[00213] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, as generally shown in FIG. 3, the effluent stream 144 from the reaction zone 210 in a solvolysis facility 30 may optionally be sent through a non-PET separation zone 208 located downstream of the reactor, as discussed

previously. The resulting effluent stream 144 from the reactor or, when present, the non-PET separation zone 208, may be passed through a product separation zone 220, wherein at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the heavy organic materials are separated from the feed stream 144 to form streams of predominantly light organic materials 146 and heavy organic materials 148. Any suitable method of separating such streams can be used and may include, for example, distillation, extraction, decanting, crystallization, membrane separation, solid/liquid separation such as, for example, filtration (e.g., a belt filter), and combinations thereof.

[00214] As shown in FIG. 3, the heavy organic stream 148 withdrawn from the product separation zone 220, which may include for example at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of heavy organic components, based on the total weight of the stream, may be introduced into a heavy organics separation zone 240. In the heavy organics separation zone 240, a primary terephthalyl product stream 158 may be separated from a terephthalyl bottoms or “sludge” coproduct stream 160. Such separation may be accomplished by, for example, distillation, extraction, decantation, membrane separation, melt crystallization, zone refining, and combinations thereof. The result is a stream 158 comprising at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the principal terephthalyl (or DMT), based on the total weight of the stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion or all of the primary terephthalyl can comprise recycle content terephthalyl (r-terephthalyl), such as recycle content DMT (r-DMT).

[00215] Also withdrawn from the heavy organics separation zone 240 is a terephthalyl bottoms coproduct stream (also called “terephthalyl column bottoms coproduct stream” or “terephthalyl sludge coproduct stream” or “terephthalyl dregs coproduct stream”) coproduct stream 160 may also be removed from the heavy organics separation zone 240. When the solvolysis facility is a methanolysis facility, the stream can be referred to as a DMT

bottoms coproduct stream, a DMT column bottoms coproduct stream, a DMT sludge coproduct stream, or a DMT dregs stream.

[00216] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, this coproduct stream can include, for example, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 92, at least 95, at least 97, at least 98, at least 99, or at least 99.5 weight percent of oligomers comprising moieties of the polyester undergoing solvolysis, based on the total weight of the composition such as, for example, PET oligomers. As used herein, the terms “polyester moieties” or “moieties of polyester,” refer to portions or residues of a polyester, or reaction products of the polyester portions or residues. These oligomers can have a number average chain length of at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, or at least 8 monomer units (acid + glycol) and/or not more than 30, not more than 27, not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20, not more than 17, not more than 15, not more than 12, or not more than 10 monomer units (acid + glycol) and may include moieties of the polyester being processed (e.g., PET).

[00217] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the terephthalyl column bottoms (or the DMT column bottoms) coproduct stream 160 may comprise oligomers and at least one substituted terephthalyl component. As used herein, the term “substituted terephthalyl” refers to a terephthalyl component having at least one substituted atom or group. The terephthalyl column bottoms coproduct stream 160 can include at least 1, at least 100, at least 500 parts per billion by weight, or at least 1, at least 50, at least 1000, at least 2500, at least 5000, at least 7500, or at least 10,000 parts per million by weight, or at least 1, at least 2, or at least 5 weight percent and/or not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, not more than 0.1, not more than 0.05, or not more than 0.01 weight percent of substituted terephthalyl components, based on the total weight of the terephthalyl column bottoms coproduct stream 160.

[00218] As discussed in further detail herein, all or a portion of the terephthalyl column bottoms coproduct stream 160 may be introduced into one

or more downstream chemical recycling facilities alone or in combination with one or more other coproduct streams, streams resulting from one or more of the other downstream chemical recycling facilities, and/or streams of waste plastic, including mixed plastic waste that is unprocessed, partially processed, and/or processed.

[00219] Referring again to FIG. 3, the predominantly light organics stream 146 from the product separation zone 220 may be introduced into a light organics separation zone 230. In the light organics separation zone 230, the stream 146 may be separated to remove the principal solvent (e.g., methanol in methanolysis) and to separate out the principal glycol (e.g., ethylene glycol in methanolysis) from an organic coproduct (or coproducts) lighter than and heavier than the principal glycol.

[00220] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a solvent stream 150 withdrawn from the light organics separation zone 230 can include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the principal solvent, based on the total weight of the stream 150. When the solvolysis facility 30 is a methanolysis facility, this stream 150 may comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of methanol, based on the total weight of the stream. All or a portion of the stream may be recycled back to one or more locations within the solvolysis facility for further use.

[00221] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least one light organics solvolysis coproduct stream 152 (also referred to as a “light organics” stream) can also be withdrawn from the light organics separation zone 230 and may include at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components with a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (or DMT) that are not the principal glycol (or ethylene glycol) or the principal solvent (or methanol). Additionally, or in the alternative, the coproduct stream can

comprise not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1 weight percent of components with a boiling point higher than the boiling point of DMT and the stream 152 itself can have a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (or DMT).

[00222] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a light organics solvolysis coproduct stream 152 may be produced in the solvolysis facility that comprises the principal solvent (e.g., methanol). For example, the light organics coproduct stream 152 can include at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, or at least 55 weight percent and/or not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, or not more than 30 weight percent of the principal solvent.

[00223] In addition, this coproduct stream 152 may also include acetaldehyde in an amount of at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 50, at least 100, at least 250, at least 500, at least 750, or at least 1000 ppm and/or not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, not more than 0.1, or not more than 0.05 weight percent, based on the total weight of the coproduct stream, or the acetaldehyde can be present in an amount of 1 ppm to 50 weight percent, 50 ppm to 0.5 weight percent, or 100 ppm to 0.05 weight percent, based on the total weight of the coproduct stream.

[00224] Further, the light organics coproduct stream 152 may also include para-dioxane (or p-dioxane) in amount of at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 50, at least 100, at least 250, at least 500, at least 750, or at least 1000

ppm and/or not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, not more than 0.1, or not more than 0.05 weight percent, based on the total weight of the coproduct stream, or the p-dioxane can be present in an amount of 1 ppm to 50 weight percent, 50 ppm to 0.5 weight percent, or 100 ppm to 0.05 weight percent, based on the total weight of the coproduct stream.

[00225] This light organics coproduct stream 152 may further include at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran (THF), methyl acetate, silicates, 2,5-methyl dioxolane, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-3-pentenal, 2,2,4-trimethyl-3-pentenol, 2,2,4-trimethylpentane, 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone (DIPK), isobutyl isobutyrate, methyl formate, n-butanol, acetic acid, dibutyl ether, heptane, dibutyl terephthalate, dimethyl phthalate, dimethyl 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylate, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-methyl-1,3-dioxolane, 1,1-dimethoxy-2-butene, 1,1-dimethoxyethane, 1,3-propanediol, 2,5-dimethyl-1,3,5-hexadiene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene, alpha-methyl styrene, diethylene glycol methyl ether, diethylene glycol formal, dimethoxydimethyl silane, dimethyl ether, diisopropyl ketone, EG benzoate, hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane, hexamethyldisiloxane, methoxytrimethylsilane, methyl 4-ethylbenzoate, methyl caprylate, methyl glycolate, methyl lactate, methyl laurate, methyl methoxyethyl terephthalic acid, methyl nonanoate, methyl oleate, methyl palmitate, methyl stearate, methyl-4-acetyl benzoate, octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, styrene, trimethylsilanol, 1,1-dimethoxy-2-butene, 4-methyl morpholine, 1,3,3-trimethoxypropane, methyl myristate, dimethyl adipate, n-methyl-caprolactam, dimethyl azelate, neopentyl glycol, and combinations thereof.

[00226] As discussed in further detail herein, all or a portion of the light organics coproduct stream or streams may be introduced into one or more downstream chemical recycling facilities alone or in combination with one or more other coproduct streams, streams resulting from one or more of the other

downstream chemical recycling facilities, and/or streams of waste plastic, including mixed plastic waste (unprocessed, partially processed, or processed).

[00227] Additionally, a stream predominantly comprising the principal glycol 154 may also be withdrawn from the light organics separation zone 230. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the stream of principal glycol 154 (such as ethylene glycol) can include at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the principal glycol, based on the total weight of the stream 154. The principal glycol stream 154 may also include recycle content, such that the principal glycol product stream 154 has a recycle content of at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. The principal glycol (or ethylene glycol) can comprise r-glycol (or r-ethylene glycol).

[00228] As shown in FIG. 3, a glycol-containing column bottoms coproduct stream 156 may also be withdrawn from the light organics separation zone 230. The terms “glycol column bottoms” or “glycol column sludge” (or, more particularly, EG column bottoms or EG column sludge in methanolysis) refers to components that have a boiling point (or azeotrope) higher than the boiling point of the principal glycol but lower than the principal terephthalyl.

[00229] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 can comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components with a boiling point higher than the boiling point of the principal glycol (e.g., ethylene glycol) and lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl. The glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 can comprise not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1 weight percent of components with a boiling point lower than the boiling point of the principal glycol (e.g., ethylene glycol). The glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156

can have a boiling point higher than the boiling point of the principal glycol (e.g., EG) and lower than the boiling point of the principal terephthalyl (e.g., DMT).

[00230] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the glycol bottoms coproduct stream 156 can comprise the principal glycol and at least one other glycol. For example, the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 can comprise at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 5, or at least 8 and/or not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 12, or not more than 10 weight percent of the primary glycol (or ethylene glycol), based on the total weight of the coproduct stream 156. The principal glycol (or ethylene glycol) may be present as itself (in a free state) or as a moiety in another compound.

[00231] Examples of other possible principal glycols (depending on the PET or other polymer being processed) may include, but are not limited to, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, 1,4-cyclohexane-dimethanol, propane-1,3-diol, butane-1,4-diol, pentane-1,5-diol, hexane-1,6-diol, neopentyl glycol, 3-methylpentanediol-(2,4), 2-methylpentanediol-(1,4), 2,2,4-trimethylpentanediol-(1,3), 2-ethylhexanediol-(1,3), 2,2-diethylpropane-diol-(1,3), hexanediol-(1,3), 1,4-di-(hydroxyethoxy)-benzene, 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxycyclohexyl)-propane, 2,4-dihydroxy-1,1,3,3-tetramethyl-cyclobutane, 2,2,4,4-tetramethylcyclobutanediol, 2,2-bis-(3-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxypropoxyphenyl)-propane, isosorbide, hydroquinone, BDS-(2,2-(sulfonylbis)4,1-phenyleneoxy))bis(ethanol), and combinations thereof. The other glycol may not be or comprise ethylene glycol. Moieties of these glycols may also be present in any oligomers of polyester in this or other coproduct streams. Additionally, other non-terephthalyl and/or non-glycol components may also be present in these streams. Examples of such components include, isophthalates and other acid residues that boil higher than the principal terephthalyl.

[00232] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the glycol other than the principal glycol (or ethylene glycol in the case of methanolysis) can be present in the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 in an amount of at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at

least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, or at least 75 and/or not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of glycols in the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156.

[00233] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the weight ratio of the at least one glycol other than the principal glycol to the principal glycol in the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 is at least 0.5:1, at least 0.55:1, at least 0.65:1, at least 0.70:1, at least 0.75:1, at least 0.80:1, at least 0.85:1, at least 0.90:1, at least 0.95:1, at least 0.97:1, at least 0.99:1, at least 1:1, at least 1.05:1, at least 1.1:1, at least 1.15:1, at least 1.2:1, at least or at least 1.25:1. Additionally, or in the alternative, the weight ratio of the at least one glycol other than the principal glycol to the principal glycol in the glycol column bottoms coproduct stream 156 is not more than 5:1, not more than 4.5:1, not more than 4:1, not more than 3.5:1, not more than 3:1, not more than 2.5:1, not more than 2:1, not more than 1.5:1, not more than 1.25:1, or not more than 1:1, or in the range of from 0.5:1 to 5:1, from 0.70:1 to 3:1, or 0.80:1 to 2.5:1.

[00234] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvolysis facility 30 may produce two or more coproduct streams, which can include two or more heavy organic coproduct streams, two or more light organic coproduct streams, or combinations of light and heavy organic coproduct streams. All or a portion of one or more of the solvolysis coproduct stream or streams (shown as stream 110 in FIG. 1) may be introduced into at least one of the downstream processing facilities including, for example, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any of the other optional facilities mentioned previously.

[00235] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, two or more (or portions of two or more) solvolysis coproduct streams

may be introduced into the same downstream processing facility, while, in other cases, two or more (or portions of two or more) solvolysis coproduct streams may be introduced into different downstream processing facilities. In some embodiments, at least 90, at least 95, at least 97, at least 99 weight percent, or all, of a single coproduct stream may be introduced into one downstream facility, while, in other embodiments, the stream may be divided amongst two or more downstream facilities, such that not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, or not more than 30 weight percent of a single coproduct stream may be introduced into one of the downstream processing facilities.

[00236] Referring again to FIG. 1, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of at least one solvolysis coproduct stream 110 may be combined with at least a portion of the PO-enriched plastic stream 114 withdrawn from the pre-processing facility 20 as shown in FIG. 1. The amount of a single coproduct stream 110 (or all coproduct streams when two or more are combined) in the combined stream with the PO-enriched plastic may vary and can be, for example, at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, or at least 50 and/or not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, or not more than 40 weight percent, based on the total weight of the combined stream. As shown in FIG. 1, the combined stream may then be introduced into one or more locations of the chemical recycling facility, including, for example into a POX gasification facility 50, a pyrolysis facility 60, a cracker facility 70, and/or an energy generation facility 80.

Liquification/Dehalogenation

[00237] As shown in FIG. 1, the PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114 (with or without being combined with a solvolysis coproduct stream 110) may optionally be introduced into a liquification zone or step prior to being introduced into one or more of the downstream processing facilities. As used herein, the

term "liquification" zone or step refers to a chemical processing zone or step in which at least a portion of the incoming plastic is liquefied. The step of liquefying plastic can include chemical liquification, physical liquification, or combinations thereof. Exemplary methods of liquefying the polymer introduced into the liquification zone can include (i) heating/melting; (ii) dissolving in a solvent; (iii) depolymerizing; (iv) plasticizing, and combinations thereof. Additionally, one or more of options (i) through (iv) may also be accompanied by the addition of a blending or liquification agent to help facilitate the liquification (reduction of viscosity) of the polymer material. As such, a variety of rheology modification agents (e.g., solvents, depolymerization agents, plasticizers, and blending agents) can be used to enhance the flow and/or dispersibility of the liquified waste plastic.

[00238] When added to the liquification zone 40, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of the plastic (usually waste plastic) undergoes a reduction in viscosity. In some cases, the reduction in viscosity can be facilitated by heating (e.g., addition of steam directly or indirectly contacting the plastic), while, in other cases, it can be facilitated by combining the plastic with a solvent capable of dissolving it. Examples of suitable solvents can include, but are not limited to, alcohols such as methanol or ethanol, glycols such as ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, cyclohexanedimethanol, glycerin, pyrolysis oil, motor oil, and water. As shown in FIG. 1, the solvent stream 141 can be added directly to the liquification zone 40, or it can be combined with one or more streams fed to the liquification zone 40 (not shown in FIG. 1).

[00239] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solvent can comprise a stream withdrawn from one or more other facilities within the chemical recycling facility. For example, the solvent can comprise a stream withdrawn from at least one of the solvolysis facility 30, the pyrolysis facility 60, and the cracking facility 70. The solvent can be or comprise at least one of the solvolysis coproducts described herein or can be or comprise pyrolysis oil.

[00240] In some cases, the plastic can be depolymerized such that, for example, the number average chain length of the plastic is reduced by contact with a depolymerization agent. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least one of the previously-listed solvents may be used as a depolymerization agent, while, in one or more other embodiments, the depolymerization agent can include an organic acid (e.g., acetic acid, citric acid, butyric acid, formic acid, lactic acid, oleic acid, oxalic, stearic acid, tartaric acid, and/or uric acid) or inorganic acid such as sulfuric acid (for polyolefin). The depolymerization agent may reduce the melting point and/or viscosity of the polymer by reducing its number average chain length.

[00241] Alternatively, or additionally, a plasticizer can be used in the liquification zone to reduce the viscosity of the plastic. Plasticizers for polyethylene include, for example, dioctyl phthalate, dioctyl terephthalate, glyceryl tribenzoate, polyethylene glycol having molecular weight of up to 8,000 Daltons, sunflower oil, paraffin wax having molecular weight from 400 to 1,000 Daltons, paraffinic oil, mineral oil, glycerin, EPDM, and EVA. Plasticizers for polypropylene include, for example, dioctyl sebacate, paraffinic oil, isooctyl tallate, plasticizing oil (Drakeol 34), naphthenic and aromatic processing oils, and glycerin. Plasticizers for polyesters include, for example, polyalkylene ethers (e.g., polyethylene glycol, polytetramethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol or their mixtures) having molecular weight in the range from 400 to 1500 Daltons, glyceryl monostearate, octyl epoxy soyate, epoxidized soybean oil, epoxy tallate, epoxidized linseed oil, polyhydroxyalkanoate, glycols (e.g., ethylene glycol, pentamethylene glycol, hexamethylene glycol, etc.), phthalates, terephthalates, trimellitate, and polyethylene glycol di-(2-ethylhexoate). When used, the plasticizer may be present in an amount of at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, or at least 5 weight percent and/or not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be in a range of from 0.1 to 10 weight percent, 0.5 to 8 weight percent, or 1 to 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00242] Further, one or more of the methods of liquifying the waste plastic stream can also include adding at least one blending agent to the plastic before, during, or after the liquification process. Such blending agents may include for example, emulsifiers and/or surfactants, and may serve to more fully blend the liquified plastic into a single phase, particularly when differences in densities between the plastic components of a mixed plastic stream result in multiple liquid or semi-liquid phases. When used, the blending agent may be present in an amount of at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, or at least 5 weight percent and/or not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be in a range of from 0.1 to 10 weight percent, 0.5 to 8 weight percent, or 1 to 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00243] When combined with the PO-enriched plastic stream 114 as generally shown in FIG. 1, the solvolysis coproduct stream (which can include one or more solvolysis coproducts described herein) may be added before introduction of the PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114 into the liquification zone 40 (as shown by line 113) and/or after removal of the liquified plastic stream from the liquification zone 40 (as shown by line 115). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion or all of one or more coproduct streams may also be introduced directly into the liquification zone, as shown in FIG. 1. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114 can bypass the liquification zone 40 altogether in line 117 and may optionally combined with at least one solvolysis coproduct stream 110 as also shown in FIG. 1.

[00244] Additionally, as shown in FIG. 1, a portion of the pyrolysis oil stream 143 withdrawn from the pyrolysis facility 60 can be combined with the PO-enriched plastic stream 114 to form a liquified plastic. Although shown as being introduced directly into the liquification zone 40, all or a portion of the pyrolysis oil stream 143 may be combined with the PO-enriched plastic stream 114 prior to introduction into the liquification zone 40, or after the PO-enriched plastic

stream 114 exits the liquification zone 40. When used, the pyrolysis oil can be added at one or more locations described herein, alone or in combination with one or more other solvent streams.

[00245] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feed stream to one or more of the downstream chemical recycling facilities from the liquification zone 40 can comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of one or more solvolysis coproduct streams, based on the total weight of the feed stream introduced into the downstream processing facility or facilities. For example, the feed streams 116, 118, 120, and 122 to each of the POX facility 50, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the energy recovery facility 80, and/or any other facility 90 of the chemical recycling facility 10 may include PO-enriched waste plastic and an amount of one or more solvolysis coproducts described herein.

[00246] Additionally, or in the alternative, the feed stream to the pyrolysis facility 60, the POX facility 50, the cracking facility 70, the energy recovery facility 80, and/or any other facility 90 can comprise not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of one or more solvolysis coproduct streams, based on the total weight of the feed stream introduced into the downstream processing facility or facilities.

[00247] Alternatively, or in addition, the liquified (or reduced viscosity) plastic stream withdrawn from the liquification zone 40 can include at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent and/or not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not

more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of PO, based on the total weight of the stream, or the amount of PO can be in the range of from 1 to 95 weight percent, 5 to 90 weight percent, or 10 to 85 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00248] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the liquified plastic stream exiting the liquification zone 40 can have a viscosity of less than 3,000, less than 2,500, less than 2,000, less than 1,500, less than 1,000, less than 800, less than 750, less than 700, less than 650, less than 600, less than 550, less than 500, less than 450, less than 400, less than 350, less than 300, less than 250, less than 150, less than 100, less than 75, less than 50, less than 25, less than 10, less than 5, or less than 1 poise, measured using a Brookfield R/S rheometer with V80-40 vane spindle operating at a shear rate of 10 rad/s and a temperature of 350°C. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the viscosity (measured at 350°C and 10 rad/s and expressed in poise) of the liquified plastic stream exiting the liquification zone is not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 75, not more than 50, not more than 25, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 percent of the viscosity of the PO-enriched stream introduced into the liquification zone.

[00249] FIG. 6 shows the basic components in a liquification system that may be used as the liquification zone 40 in the chemical recycling facility illustrated in FIG. 1. It should be understood that FIG. 6 depicts one exemplary embodiment of a liquification system. Certain features depicted in FIG. 6 may be omitted and/or additional features described elsewhere herein may be added to the system depicted in FIG. 6.

[00250] As shown in FIG. 6, a waste plastic feed, such as the PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114, may be derived from a waste plastic source, such as the preprocessing facility 20 discussed herein. The waste plastic feed, such as the PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114, may be introduced into the

liquification zone 40, which FIG. 6 depicts as containing at least one melt tank 310, at least one circulation loop pump 312, at least one external heat exchanger 340, at least one stripping column 330, and at least one disengagement vessel 320. These various exemplary components and their functionality in the liquification zone 40 are discussed in greater detail below.

[00251] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, and as shown in FIG. 6, the liquification zone 40 includes a melt tank 310 and a heater. The melt tank 310 receives the waste plastic feed, such as PO-enriched waste plastic stream 114, and the heater heats the waste plastic.

In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the melt tank 310 can include one or more continuously stirred tanks. When one or more rheology modification agents (e.g., solvents, depolymerization agents, plasticizers, and blending agents) are used in the liquification zone, such rheology modification agents can be added to and/or mixed with the PO-enriched plastic in or prior to the melt tank 310.

[00252] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein (not shown in FIG. 6), the heater of the liquification zone 40 can take the form of internal heat exchange coils located in the melt tank 310, a jacketing on the outside of the melt tank 310, a heat tracing on the outside of the melt tank 310, and/or electrical heating elements on the outside of the melt tank 310. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 6, the heater of the liquification zone 40 can include an external heat exchanger 340 that receives a stream of liquified plastic 171 from the melt tank 310, heats it, and returns at least a portion of the heated liquified plastic stream 173 to the melt tank 310.

[00253] As shown in FIG. 6, when an external heat exchanger 340 is used to provide heat for the liquification zone 40, a circulation loop can be employed to continuously add heat to the PO-enriched material. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the circulation loop includes the melt tank 310, the external heat exchanger 340, conduits, shown as line 171, connecting the melt tank and the external heat exchanger, and a pump 151 for circulating liquified waste plastic in the circulation loop. When a circulation loop is employed, the liquified PO-enriched material produced can

be continuously withdrawn from the liquification zone 40 as a fraction of the circulating PO-enriched stream via conduit 161 shown in FIG. 6.

[00254] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the liquification zone 40 may optionally contain equipment for removing halogens from the PO-enriched material. When the PO-enriched material is heated in the liquification zone 40, halogen enriched gases can evolve. By disengaging the evolved halogen-enriched gasses from the liquified PO-enriched material, the concentration of halogens in the PO-enriched material can be reduced.

[00255] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, dehalogenation can be promoted by sparging a stripping gas (e.g., steam) into the liquified PO-enriched material either in the melt tank 310 or at another location in the circulation loop. As shown in FIG. 6, a stripper 330 and a disengagement vessel 320 can be provided in the circulation loop downstream of the external heat exchanger 340 and upstream of the melt tank 310. As shown in FIG. 6, the stripper 330 can receive the heated liquified plastic stream 173 from the external heat exchanger 340 and provide for the sparging of a stripping gas 153 into the liquified plastic. Sparging of a stripping gas 153 into the liquified plastic can create a two-phase medium in the stripper 330.

[00256] This two-phase medium introduced into the disengagement vessel 320 via stream 175 can then be flowed (e.g., by gravity) through the disengagement vessel 320, where a halogen-enriched gaseous phase is disengaged from a halogen-depleted liquid phase and removed from the disengagement vessel 320 via stream 162. Alternatively, a portion of the heated liquefied plastic 173 from the external heat exchanger 340 may bypass the stripper 330 and be introduced directly into the disengagement vessel 320. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a first portion of the halogen-depleted liquid phase discharged from an outlet of the disengagement vessel can be returned to the melt tank 310 in line 159, while a second portion of the halogen-depleted liquid phase can be discharged from the liquification zone as the dehalogenated, liquified, PO-enriched product stream 161. The disengaged halogen-enriched gaseous stream from the

disengagement vessel 162 and from the melt tank 310 in line 164 can be removed from the liquification zone 40 for further processing and/or disposal.

5 **[00257]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the dehalogenated liquified waste plastic stream 161 exiting the liquification zone 40 can have a halogen content of less than 500, less than 400, less than 300, less than 200, less than 100, less than 50, less than 10, less than 5, less than 2, less than 1, less than 0.5, or less than 0.1 ppmw. The halogen content of the liquified plastic stream 161 exiting the liquification zone 40 is not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 75, not more than 50, 10 not more than 25, not more than 10, or not more than 5 percent by weight of the halogen content of the PO-enriched stream introduced into the liquification zone.

15 **[00258]** As shown in FIG. 6, at least a portion of the dehalogenated liquified waste plastic stream 161 may be introduced into a downstream POX gasifier at a POX gasification facility 50 to produce a syngas composition and/or a downstream pyrolysis reactor at a pyrolysis facility 60 to produce pyrolysis vapors (i.e., pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil) and pyrolysis residue. Alternatively, or in addition, at least a portion of the dehalogenated liquified waste plastic stream 161 may be introduced into an energy recovery facility 80 and/or one or 20 more other facilities 90, such as a separation or solidification facility.

25 **[00259]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility 10 may not include a liquification zone 40. Alternatively, the chemical recycling facility may include a liquification zone 40 but may not include any type of dehalogenation zone or equipment.

30 **[00260]** Referring again to FIG. 1, at least a portion of a PO-enriched plastic stream 114 from the preprocessing facility 20 and/or from liquification zone 40 (alone or in combination with one or more solvolysis coproduct streams 110) may be introduced into one or more of the downstream processing facilities including, for example, the pyrolysis facility 60, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, the energy recovery facility 80, and any of the other optional facilities 90 as discussed in detail below.

Pyrolysis

[00261] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility 10 generally depicted in FIG. 1 may comprise a pyrolysis facility. As used herein the term “pyrolysis” refers to the thermal decomposition of one or more organic materials at elevated temperatures in an inert (*i.e.*, substantially oxygen free) atmosphere. A “pyrolysis facility” is a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out pyrolysis of waste plastic and feedstocks derived therefrom.

[00262] FIG. 7 depicts an exemplary pyrolysis facility 60 for converting a waste plastic stream 116, such as the liquefied waste plastic from a liquification zone, into a pyrolysis gas, a pyrolysis oil, and a pyrolysis residue. It should be understood that FIG. 7 depicts one exemplary embodiment of the present technology. Thus, certain features depicted in FIG. 7 may be omitted and/or additional features described elsewhere herein may be added to the system depicted in FIG. 7.

[00263] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a feed stream 116 to the pyrolysis facility 60 may comprise at least one of (i) at least one solvolysis coproduct stream as described previously, and (ii) a PO-enriched stream of waste plastic. One or more of these streams may be introduced into the pyrolysis facility 60 continuously or one or more of these streams may be introduced intermittently. When multiple types of feed streams are present, each may be introduced separately, or all or a portion of the streams may be combined so that the combined stream may be introduced into the pyrolysis facility 60. The combining, when performed, may take place in a continuous or batch manner. The feed introduced into the pyrolysis facility 60 can be in the form of liquified plastic (*e.g.*, liquified, melted, plasticized, depolymerized, or combinations thereof), plastic pellets or particulates, or a slurry thereof.

[00264] In general, and as depicted in FIG. 7, the pyrolysis facility 60 includes a pyrolysis reactor 510 and a separator 520 for separating the product stream

from the reactor. Although not depicted in FIG. 7, the separator 520 of the pyrolysis facility 60 can include various types of equipment including, but not limited to a filter system, a multistage separator, a condenser, and/or a quench tower.

5 **[00265]** While in the pyrolysis reactor 510, at least a portion of the feed may be subjected to a pyrolysis reaction that produces a pyrolysis effluent comprising a pyrolysis oil, a pyrolysis gas, and a pyrolysis residue. As used herein, the term “pyrolysis gas” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is gaseous at 25°C at 1 atm. As used herein, the terms “pyrolysis oil” or
10 “pyoil” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is liquid at 25°C and 1 atm. As used herein, the term “pyrolysis residue” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is not pyrolysis gas or pyrolysis oil and that comprises predominantly pyrolysis char and pyrolysis heavy waxes. As used herein, the term “pyrolysis char” refers to a carbon-containing composition
15 obtained from pyrolysis that is solid at 200°C and 1 atm. As used herein, the term “pyrolysis heavy waxes,” refers to C₂₀+ hydrocarbons obtained from pyrolysis that are not pyrolysis char, pyrolysis gas, or pyrolysis oil. The pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil may exit the pyrolysis reactor 500 as a pyrolysis vapor stream 170.

20 **[00266]** Pyrolysis is a process that involves the chemical and thermal decomposition of the introduced feed. Although all pyrolysis processes may be generally characterized by a reaction environment that is substantially free of oxygen, pyrolysis processes may be further defined, for example, by the pyrolysis reaction temperature within the reactor, the residence time in the
25 pyrolysis reactor, the reactor type, the pressure within the pyrolysis reactor, and the presence or absence of pyrolysis catalysts.

30 **[00267]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis reactor 510 can be, for example, a film reactor, a screw extruder, a tubular reactor, a tank, a stirred tank reactor, a riser reactor, a fixed bed reactor, a fluidized bed reactor, a rotary kiln, a vacuum reactor, a microwave reactor, or an autoclave. The pyrolysis reactor 510 comprises a film reactor, such as a falling film reactor or an up-flow film reactor.

[00268] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis reaction can involve heating and converting the feedstock in an atmosphere that is substantially free of oxygen or in an atmosphere that contains less oxygen relative to ambient air. For example, the atmosphere within the pyrolysis reactor 510 may comprise not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, or not more than 0.5 percent of oxygen gas based on the interior volume of the reactor 510.

[00269] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a lift gas and/or a feed gas may be used to introduce the feedstock into the pyrolysis reactor 510 and/or facilitate various reactions within the pyrolysis reactor 510. For instance, the lift gas and/or the feed gas may comprise, consist essentially of, or consist of nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and/or steam. The lift gas and/or feed gas may be added with the waste plastic stream 116 prior to introduction into the pyrolysis reactor 510 and/or may be added directly to the pyrolysis reactor 510. The lift gas and/or feed gas can include steam and/or a reducing gas such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and combinations thereof.

[00270] Furthermore, the temperature in the pyrolysis reactor 510 can be adjusted so as to facilitate the production of certain end products. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis temperature in the pyrolysis reactor 510 can be at least 325°C, at least 350°C, at least 375°C, at least 400°C, at least 425°C, at least 450°C, at least 475°C, at least 500°C, at least 525°C, at least 550°C, at least 575°C, at least 600°C, at least 625°C, at least 650°C, at least 675°C, at least 700°C, at least 725°C, at least 750°C, at least 775°C, or at least 800°C.

[00271] Additionally or alternatively, the pyrolysis temperature in the pyrolysis reactor can be not more than 1,100°C, not more than 1,050°C, not more than 1,000°C, not more than 950°C, not more than 900°C, not more than 850°C, not more than 800°C, not more than 750°C, not more than 700°C, not more than 650°C, not more than 600°C, not more than 550°C, not more than 525°C, not more than 500°C, not more than 475°C, not more than 450°C, not more than 425°C, or not more than 400°C. More particularly, , the pyrolysis temperature in the pyrolysis reactor can range from 325 to 1,100°C, 350 to 900°C, 350 to

700°C, 350 to 550°C, 350 to 475°C, 425 to 1,100°C, 425 to 800°C, 500 to 1,100°C, 500 to 800°C, 600 to 1,100°C, 600 to 800°C, 650 to 1,000°C, or 650 to 800°C.

[00272] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the residence times of the feedstocks within the pyrolysis reactor can be at least 0.1, at least 0.2, at least 0.3, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 1.2, at least 1.3, at least 2, at least 3, or at least 4 seconds. Alternatively, the residence times of the feedstocks within the pyrolysis reactor can be at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 45, at least 60, at least 75, or at least 90 minutes. Additionally, or alternatively, the residence times of the feedstocks within the pyrolysis reactor can be less than 6, less than 5, less than 4, less than 3, less than 2, less than 1, or less than 0.5 hours. Furthermore, the residence times of the feedstocks within the pyrolysis reactor can be less than 100, less than 90, less than 80, less than 70, less than 60, less than 50, less than 40, less than 30, less than 20, less than 10, less than 9, less than 8, less than 7, less than 6, less than 5, less than 4, less than 3, less than 2, or less than 1 seconds. More particularly, the residence times of the feedstocks within the pyrolysis reactor can range from 0.1 to 10 seconds, 0.5 to 10 seconds, 30 minutes to 4 hours, or 30 minutes to 3 hours, or 1 hour to 3 hours, or 1 hour to 2 hours.

[00273] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pressure within the pyrolysis reactor can be maintained at a pressure of at least 0.1, at least 0.2, or at least 0.3 bar and/or not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 8, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1.5, or not more than 1.1 bar. The pressure within the pyrolysis reactor can be maintained at atmospheric pressure or within the range of 0.1 to 100 bar, or 0.1 to 60 bar, or 0.1 to 30 bar, or 0.1 to 10 bar, or 1.5 bar, 0.2 to 1.5 bar, or 0.3 to 1.1 bar. The pressure within the pyrolysis reactor can be at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, or at least 70 bar and/or not more than 100, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than

85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, or not more than 60 bar. As used herein, the term “bar” refers to gauge pressure, unless otherwise noted.

5 **[00274]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a pyrolysis catalyst may be introduced into the feed stream 116 prior to introduction into the pyrolysis reactor 510 and/or introduced directly into the pyrolysis reactor 510. The catalyst can be homogenous or heterogeneous and may include, for example, certain types of zeolites and other mesostructured catalysts. In some embodiments, the pyrolysis reaction may not be catalyzed
10 (e.g., carried out in the absence of a pyrolysis catalyst), but may include a non-catalytic, heat-retaining inert additive, such as sand, in the reactor 510 in order to facilitate the heat transfer. Such catalyst-free pyrolysis processes may be referred to as “thermal pyrolysis.”

15 **[00275]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis reaction in the pyrolysis reactor 510 may occur in the substantial absence of a pyrolysis catalyst, at a temperature in the range of 350 to 600°C, at a pressure ranging from 0.1 to 100 bar, and at a residence time of 0.2 seconds to 4 hours, or 0.5 hours to 3 hours.

20 **[00276]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, or at least 75 weight percent of the pyrolysis oil, which may be in the form of vapors in the pyrolysis effluent upon exiting the heated reactor;
25 however, these vapors may be subsequently condensed into the resulting pyrolysis oil. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more
30 than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, or not more than 25 weight percent of the pyrolysis oil, which may be in the form of vapors in the pyrolysis effluent upon exiting the heated reactor. The pyrolysis effluent

or pyrolysis vapors may comprise in the range of 20 to 99 weight percent, 25 to 80 weight percent, 30 to 85 weight percent, 30 to 80 weight percent, 30 to 75 weight percent, 30 to 70 weight percent, or 30 to 65 weight percent of the pyrolysis oil, based on the total weight of the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors.

[00277] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, or at least 80 weight percent of the pyrolysis gas. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, or not more than 45 weight percent of the pyrolysis gas. The pyrolysis effluent may comprise 1 to 90 weight percent, 10 to 85 weight percent, 15 to 85 weight percent, 20 to 80 weight percent, 25 to 80 weight percent, 30 to 75 weight percent, or 35 to 75 weight percent of the pyrolysis gas, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00278] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, or at least 10 weight percent of the pyrolysis residue. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis effluent may comprise not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 9, not more than 8, not more than 7, not more than 6, or not more than 5 weight percent of the pyrolysis residue. The pyrolysis effluent may comprise in the range of 0.1 to 25 weight percent, 1 to 15 weight percent, 1 to 8 weight percent, or 1 to 5 weight percent of the pyrolysis residue, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00279] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis effluent or pyrolysis vapors may comprise not more than

15, not more than 14, not more than 13, not more than 12, not more than 11, not more than 10, not more than 9, not more than 8, not more than 7, not more than 6, not more than 5, not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, or not more than 0.5 weight percent of free water. As used herein,
5 “free water” refers to water previously added (as liquid or steam) to the pyrolysis unit and water generated in the pyrolysis unit.

[00280] The pyrolysis system described herein may produce a pyrolysis effluent that can be separated into a pyrolysis oil stream 174, a pyrolysis gas stream 172, and a pyrolysis residue stream 176, each of which may be directly
10 used in various downstream applications based on their formulations. The various characteristics and properties of the pyrolysis oil, pyrolysis gas, and pyrolysis residue are described below. It should be noted that, while all of the following characteristics and properties may be listed separately, it is envisioned that each of the following characteristics and/or properties of the
15 pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, and/or pyrolysis residue are not mutually exclusive and may be combined and present in any combination.

[00281] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis oil may predominantly comprise hydrocarbons having from 4 to 30 carbon atoms per molecule (e.g., C4 to C30 hydrocarbons). As used
20 herein, the term “Cx” or “Cx hydrocarbon,” refers to a hydrocarbon compound including “x” total carbons per molecule, and encompasses all olefins, paraffins, aromatics, heterocyclic, and isomers having that number of carbon atoms. For example, each of normal, iso, and tert-butane and butene and butadiene molecules would fall under the general description “C4.” The pyrolysis oil may
25 have a C4-C30 hydrocarbon content of at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent based on the total weight of the pyrolysis oil stream 174.

[00282] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis oil can predominantly comprise C5 to C25 hydrocarbons,
30 C5 to C22 hydrocarbons, or C5 to C20 hydrocarbons. For example, the pyrolysis oil may comprise at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of C5

to C25 hydrocarbons, C5 to C22 hydrocarbons, or C5 to C20 hydrocarbons, based on the total weight of the pyrolysis oil. The pyrolysis oil may have a C5-C12 hydrocarbon content of at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, or at least 55 weight percent based on the total weight of the pyrolysis oil. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis oil may have a C5-C12 hydrocarbon content of not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, or not more than 50 weight percent. The pyrolysis oil may have a C5-C12 hydrocarbon content in the range of 10 to 95 weight percent, 20 to 80 weight percent, or 35 to 80 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00283] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis oil may also include various amounts of olefins and aromatics depending on reactor conditions and whether or not a catalyst is employed. The pyrolysis oil comprises at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, or at least 40 weight percent of olefins and/or aromatics based on the total weight of the pyrolysis oil. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis oil may include not more than 90, not more than 80, not more than 70, not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, or not more than 1 weight percent of olefins and/or aromatics. As used herein, the term "aromatics" refers to the total amount (in weight) of any compounds containing an aromatic moiety, such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and styrene.

[00284] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis oil may have a paraffin (e.g., linear or branch alkanes) content of at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, or at least 65 weight percent based on the total weight of the pyrolysis oil. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis oil may have a paraffin content of not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 95, not more than 93, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than

70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, or not more than 30 weight percent. The pyrolysis oil may have a paraffin content in the range of 25 to 90 weight percent, 35 to 90 weight percent, or 50 to 80 weight percent.

5 **[00285]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis oil may have a mid-boiling point of at least 75°C, at least 80°C, at least 85°C, at least 90°C, at least 95°C, at least 100°C, at least 105°C, at least 110°C, or at least 115°C and/or not more than 250°C, not more than 245°C, not more than 240°C, not more than 235°C, not more
10 than 230°C, not more than 225°C, not more than 220°C, not more than 215°C, not more than 210°C, not more than 205°C, not more than 200°C, not more than 195°C, not more than 190°C, not more than 185°C, not more than 180°C, not more than 175°C, not more than 170°C, not more than 165°C, not more than 160°C, not more than 155°C, not more than 150°C, not more than 145°C,
15 not more than 140°C, not more than 135°C, not more than 130°C, not more than 125°C, or not more than 120°C, as measured according to ASTM D-5399. The pyrolysis oil may have a mid-boiling point in the range of 75 to 250°C, 90 to 225°C, or 115 to 190°C. As used herein, “mid-boiling point” refers to the median boiling point temperature of the pyrolysis oil, where 50 percent by
20 volume of the pyrolysis oil boils above the mid-boiling point and 50 percent by volume boils below the mid-boiling point.

[00286] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the boiling point range of the pyrolysis oil may be such that at least 90 percent of the pyrolysis oil boils off at a temperature of 250°C, of
25 280°C, of 290°C, of 300°C, or of 310°C, as measured according to ASTM D-5399.

[00287] Turning to the pyrolysis gas, the pyrolysis gas can have a methane content of at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at
30 least 14, or at least 15 and/or not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, or not more than 20 weight percent based on the total weight of the pyrolysis gas. In an

embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis gas can have a methane content in the range of 1 to 50 weight percent, 5 to 50 weight percent, or 15 to 45 weight percent.

5 **[00288]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis gas can have a C3 and/or C4 hydrocarbon content (including all hydrocarbons having 3 or 4 carbon atoms per molecule) of at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, or at least 60 and/or not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, or not more than 65 weight percent based on the total weight of the pyrolysis gas. The pyrolysis gas can have a C3 hydrocarbon content, a C4 hydrocarbon content, or combined C3 and C4 hydrocarbon content in the range of 10 to 90 weight percent, 25 to 90 weight percent, or 25 to 80 weight percent.

15 **[00289]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis gas can make up at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, or at least 50 weight percent of the total effluent from the pyrolysis reactor and the pyrolysis gas can have a combined ethylene and propylene content of at least 25, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, or at least 75 percent by total weight of the pyrolysis gas.

20 **[00290]** Turning to the pyrolysis residue, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis residue comprises at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, or at least 85 weight percent of C20+ hydrocarbons based on the total weight of the pyrolysis residue. As used herein, "C20+ hydrocarbon" refers to hydrocarbon compounds containing at least 20 total carbons per molecule, and encompasses all olefins, paraffins, and isomers having that number of carbon atoms.

30 **[00291]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the pyrolysis residue comprises at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least

40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent of carbon-containing solids based on the total weight of the pyrolysis residue. Additionally, or alternatively, the pyrolysis residue comprises not more than 99, not more than 90, not more than 80, not more than 70, not more than 60, not more than 50, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 20, not more than 10, not more than 9, not more than 8, not more than 7, not more than 6, not more than 5, or not more than 4 weight percent of carbon-containing solids. As used herein, "carbon-containing solids" refer to carbon-containing compositions that are derived from pyrolysis and are solid at 25°C and 1 atm. The carbon-containing solids comprise at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 weight percent of carbon based on the total weight of the carbon-containing solids.

[00292] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, and pyrolysis residue may be routed to one or more of the other chemical processing facilities, including, for example, the energy recovery facility 80, the partial oxidation facility 50, one or more of the other facilities 90 discussed previously, and the cracking facility 70. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the pyrolysis gas stream 172 and/or at least a portion of the pyrolysis oil (pyoil) stream 174 can be introduced into the energy recovery facility 80, the cracking facility 70, the POX gasification facility 50, and combinations thereof, while the pyrolysis residue stream 176 may be introduced into the POX gasification facility 50 and/or the energy recovery facility 80. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the pyrolysis gas stream 172, pyrolysis oil stream 174, and/or pyrolysis residue stream 176 may be routed to one or more separation facilities (not shown in FIG. 1) to thereby form more purified streams of the pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, and/or pyrolysis residue, which may then be routed to the energy recovery facility 80, the cracking facility 70, and/or the POX gasification facility 50. Additionally, or alternatively, all or a portion of the pyrolysis oil stream 176 can be combined with the PO-enriched waste plastic

stream 114 to provide a liquified plastic stream fed to one or more of the downstream facilities as discussed herein.

Cracking

5 **[00293]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of one or more streams from the pyrolysis facility 60, or from one or more of the other facilities shown in FIG. 1, may be introduced into a cracking facility 70. As used herein, the term “cracking” refers to breaking down complex organic molecules into simpler molecules by the breaking of
10 carbon-carbon bonds. A “cracking facility” is a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out cracking of a feedstock derived from waste plastic. A cracking facility can include one or more cracker furnaces, as well as a downstream separation zone including equipment used to process the effluent of the cracker furnace(s). As used herein, the terms
15 “cracker” and “cracking” are used interchangeably.

[00294] Turning now to FIG. 8a, a cracking facility 70 configured according to one or more embodiments of the present technology is shown. In general, the cracker facility 70 includes a cracker furnace 720 and a separation zone 740 downstream of the cracker furnace 720 for separating the furnace effluent into
20 various end products, such as a recycle content olefin (r-olefin) stream 130. As shown in FIG. 8a, at least a portion of the pyrolysis gas stream 172 and/or pyrolysis oil stream 174 from a pyrolysis facility 60 can be sent to the cracking facility 70. The pyrolysis oil stream 174 may be introduced into the inlet of the cracker furnace 720, while the pyrolysis gas stream 172 can be introduced into
25 a location upstream or downstream of the furnace 720. As also shown in FIG. 8a, a stream of paraffin 132 (e.g., ethane and/or propane) may be withdrawn from the separation zone and may include recycle-content paraffin (r-paraffin). All or a portion of the paraffin may be recycled via stream 134 to the inlet of cracker furnace 720 as also shown in FIG. 8a. When used, the pyrolysis oil stream, pyrolysis gas stream 172, and recycled paraffin stream 174 may
30 optionally be combined with a stream of cracker feed 136 to form the feed stream 119 to the cracking facility 720.

[00295] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a feed stream 119 to the cracking facility 70 may comprise at least one of (i) one or more solvolysis coproduct streams 110 as described previously, (ii) a PO-enriched stream of waste plastic 114, and (iii) a pyrolysis stream (e.g., pyrolysis gas 172 and/or pyrolysis oil 174). One or more of these streams may be introduced into the cracking facility 70 continuously or one or more of these streams may be introduced intermittently. When multiple types of feed streams are present, each may be introduced separately or all, or a portion of, the streams may be combined so that the combined stream may be introduced into the cracking facility 70. The combining, when performed, may take place in a continuous or batch manner. The feed stream or streams introduced into the cracking facility 70 can be in the form of a predominantly gas stream, a predominantly liquid stream, or combinations thereof.

[00296] As shown in FIG. 8a, a stream of pyrolysis gas 172 and/or pyrolysis oil 174 may be introduced into a cracker facility 70 along with or as the cracker feed stream 136. In some embodiments, the cracker feed stream 119 can comprise at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, or pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil combined, based on the total weight of the stream 119. Alternatively, or in addition, the cracker feed stream 119 can comprise not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, or not more than 20 weight percent of pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, or a combination of pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil, based on the total weight of the stream 119, or it can include these components in an amount in the range of from 1 to 95 weight percent, 5 to 90 weight percent, or 10 to 85 percent, based on the total weight of the stream 119.

[00297] In some embodiments, the cracker feed stream 119 can include at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35,

at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent and/or not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, or not more than 20 weight percent of a hydrocarbon feed other than pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil, based on the total weight of the cracker feed stream 119, or it can include a hydrocarbon feed other than pyrolysis gas and pyrolysis oil in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent, 10 to 90 weight percent, or 15 to 85 weight percent, based on the total weight of the cracker feed stream 119.

[00298] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 may comprise a predominantly C2 to C4 hydrocarbon containing composition. As used herein, the term “predominantly C2 to C4 hydrocarbon,” refers to a stream or composition containing at least 50 weight percent of C2 to C4 hydrocarbon components. Examples of specific types of C2 to C4 hydrocarbon streams or compositions include propane, ethane, butane, and LPG. The cracker feed stream 119 may comprise at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, in each case wt.% based on the total weight of the feed, and/or not more than 100, or not more than 99, or not more than 95, or not more than 92, or not more than 90, or not more than 85, or not more than 80, or not more than 75, or not more than 70, or not more than 65, or not more than 60, in each case weight percent C2 to C4 hydrocarbons or linear alkanes, based on the total weight of the feed. The cracker feed stream 119 can comprise predominantly propane, predominantly ethane, predominantly butane, or a combination of two or more of these components.

[00299] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 may comprise a predominantly C5 to C22 hydrocarbon containing composition. As used herein, “predominantly C5 to C22 hydrocarbon” refers to a stream or composition comprising at least 50

weight percent of C5 to C22 hydrocarbon components. Examples include gasoline, naphtha, middle distillates, diesel, kerosene.

5 **[00300]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 may comprise at least 20, or at least 25, or at least 30, or at least 35, or at least 40, or at least 45, or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, in each case wt.% and/or not more than 100, or not more than 99, or not more than 95, or not more than 92, or not more than 90, or not more than 85, or not more than 80, or not more than 75, or not more than 70, or not more than 65, or not more than 60, in each case weight percent C5 to C22, or C5 to C20 hydrocarbons, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can include C5 to C22 in an amount in the range of from 20 to 100 weight percent, 25 to 95 weight percent, or 30 to 85 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

15 **[00301]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 may have a C15 and heavier (C15+) content of at least 0.5, or at least 1, or at least 2, or at least 5, in each case weight percent and/or not more than 40, or not more than 35, or not more than 30, or not more than 25, or not more than 20, or not more than 18, or not more than 15, or not more than 12, or not more than 10, or not more than 5, or not more than 3, in each case weight percent, based on the total weight of the feed, or it can be in the range of from 0.5 to 40 weight percent, 1 to 35 weight percent, or 2 to 30 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

25 **[00302]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feed to the cracker furnace can comprise vacuum gas oil (VGO), hydrogenated vacuum gas oil (HVGO), or atmospheric gas oil (AGO). The cracker feed stream 119 can comprise at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, or at least 90 and/or not more than 99, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, or not more than 50 weight

percent of at least one gas oil, based on the total weight of the stream, or it can be present in an amount in the range of from 5 to 99 weight percent, 10 to 90 weight percent, or 15 to 85 weight percent, or 5 to 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream 119.

5 **[00303]** As shown in FIG. 8a, the cracker feed stream 119 is introduced into a cracker furnace 720. Turning now to FIG. 8b, a schematic diagram of a cracker furnace 720 suitable for use in a chemical recycling facility and/or cracker facility as described herein is shown. As shown in FIG. 8b, the cracking furnace 720 can include a convection section 746, a radiant section 748, and a cross-over section 750 located between the convection 746 and radiant sections 748. The convection section 746 is the portion of the furnace that receives heat from hot flue gases and includes a bank of tubes or coils 752 through which a cracker stream passes. In the convection section 746, the cracker stream is heated by convection from the hot flue gasses passing therethrough. Although shown in FIG. 8b as including horizontally-oriented convection section tubes 752a and vertically-oriented radiant section tubes 752b, it should be understood that the tubes can be configured in any suitable configuration. For example, the convection section tubes 752a may be vertical. The radiant section tubes 752b may be horizontal. Additionally, 10 although shown as a single tube, the cracker furnace 720 may comprise one or more tubes or coils that may include at least one split, bend, U, elbow, or combinations thereof. When multiple tubes or coils are present, such may be arranged in parallel and/or in series.

15 **[00304]** The radiant section 748 is the section of the furnace 720 into which heat is transferred into the heater tubes primarily by radiation from the high-temperature gas. The radiant section 748 also includes a plurality of burners 756 for introducing heat into the lower portion of the furnace 720. The furnace 720 includes a fire box 754 which surrounds and houses the tubes 752b within the radiant section 748 and into which the burners 756 are oriented. The cross-over section 750 includes piping for connecting the convection 746 and radiant 25 sections and may transfer the heated cracker stream from one section to the other within or external to the interior of the furnace 720.

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[00305] As hot combustion gases ascend upwardly through the furnace stack, the gases may pass through the convection section 746, wherein at least a portion of the waste heat may be recovered and used to heat the cracker stream passing through the convection section 746. The cracking furnace 720 may have a single convection (preheat) section and a single radiant section, while, in other embodiments, the furnace may include two or more radiant sections sharing a common convection section. At least one induced draft (I.D.) fan 760 near the stack may control the flow of hot flue gas and heating profile through the furnace 720, and one or more heat exchangers 761 may be used to cool the furnace effluent. A liquid quench (not shown) may be used in addition to, or alternatively with, the exchanger 761 (e.g., transfer line heat exchanger or TLE) on the outlet of the furnace shown in FIG. 8b for cooling the cracked olefin-containing effluent 125.

[00306] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker facility 70 may comprise a single cracking furnace, or it can have at least 2, or at least 3, or at least 4, or at least 5, or at least 6, or at least 7, or at least 8 or more cracking furnaces operated in parallel. Any one or each furnace(s) may be gas cracker, or a liquid cracker, or a split furnace. The furnace can be a gas cracker receiving a cracker feed stream containing at least 50 wt.%, or at least 75 wt.%, or at least 85 wt.% or at least 90 wt.% ethane, propane, LPG, or a combination thereof through the furnace, or through at least one coil in a furnace, or through at least one tube in the furnace, based on the weight of all cracker feed to the furnace.

[00307] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracking furnace 720 can be a liquid or naphtha cracker receiving a cracker feed stream containing at least 50 wt.%, or at least 75 wt.%, or at least 85 wt.% liquid (when measured at 25°C and 1 atm) hydrocarbons having a carbon number from C5-C22.

[00308] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 can be cracked in a gas furnace. A gas furnace is a furnace having at least one coil which receives (or operated to receive or configured to receive), at the inlet of the coil at the entrance to the

convection zone, a predominately vapor-phase feed (more than 50% of the weight of the feed is vapor) ("gas coil"). The gas coil can receive a predominately C2-C4 feedstock, or a predominately a C2-C3 feedstock, to the inlet of the coil in the convection section, or alternatively, having at least one coil receiving more than 50 wt.% ethane and/or more than 50% propane and/or more than 50% LPG, or in any one of these cases at least 60 wt.%, or at least 70 wt.%, or at least 80 wt.%, based on the weight of the cracker feed to the coil, or alternatively based on the weight of the cracker feed to the convection zone.

[00309] The gas furnace may have more than one gas coil. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least 25% of the coils, or at least 50% of the coils, or at least 60% of the coils, or all the coils in the convection zone or within a convection box of the furnace are gas coils. The gas coil receives, at the inlet of the coil at the entrance to the convection zone, a vapor-phase feed in which at least 60 wt.%, or at least 70 wt.%, or at least 80 wt.%, or at least 90 wt.%, or at least 95 wt.%, or at least 97 wt.%, or at least 98 wt.%, or at least 99 wt.%, or at least 99.5 wt.%, or at least 99.9 wt.% of feed is vapor.

[00310] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feed stream can be cracked in a split furnace. A split furnace is a type of gas furnace. A split furnace contains at least one gas coil and at least one liquid coil within the same furnace, or within the same convection zone, or within the same convection box. A liquid coil is a coil which receives, at the inlet of coil at the entrance to the convection zone, a predominately liquid phase feed (more than 50% of the weight of the feed is liquid) ("liquid coil").

[00311] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 can be cracked in a thermal gas cracker.

[00312] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the cracker feed stream 119 can be cracked in a thermal steam gas cracker in the presence of steam. Steam cracking refers to the high-temperature cracking (decomposition) of hydrocarbons in the presence of steam. When present, steam may be introduced via line 121 shown in FIG. 8b.

[00313] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, when two or more streams from the chemical recycling facility 10 shown in FIG. 1 are combined with another of the streams from the facility 10 to form the cracker feed stream 119, such a combination may occur upstream of, or within, the cracking furnace 720. Alternatively, the different feed streams may be introduced separately into the furnace 720, and may pass through a portion, or all, of the furnace 720 simultaneously while being isolated from one another by feeding into separate tubes within the same furnace 720 (e.g., a split furnace). Alternatively, at least a portion of the stream or streams from the chemical recycling facility may be introduced into the cracker facility at a location downstream of the cracker furnace, but upstream of one or more pieces of equipment in the separation facility.

[00314] The heated cracker stream 119 then passes through the cracking furnace 720, wherein the hydrocarbon components therein are thermally cracked to form lighter hydrocarbons, including olefins such as ethylene, propylene, and/or butadiene. The residence time of the cracker stream the furnace 720 can be at least 0.15, or at least 0.2, or at least 0.25, or at least 0.3, or at least 0.35, or at least 0.4, or at least 0.45, in each case seconds and/or not more than 2, or not more than 1.75, or not more than 1.5, or not more than 1.25, or not more than 1, or not more than 0.9, or not more than 0.8, or not more than 0.75, or not more than 0.7, or not more than 0.65, or not more than 0.6, or not more than 0.5, in each case seconds, or it can be in the range of from 0.15 to 2 seconds, 0.20 to 1.75 seconds, or 0.25 to 1.5 seconds.

[00315] The temperature of the cracked olefin-containing effluent 125 withdrawn from the furnace outlet can be at least 640, or at least 650, or at least 660, or at least 670, or at least 680, or at least 690, or at least 700, or at least 720, or at least 730, or at least 740, or at least 750, or at least 760, or at least 770, or at least 780, or at least 790, or at least 800, or at least 810, or at least 820, in each case °C and/or not more than 1000, or not more than 990, or not more than 980, or not more than 970, or not more than 960, or not more than 950, or not more than 940, or not more than 930, or not more than 920, or not more than 910, or not more than 900, or not more than 890, or not more than

880, or not more than 875, or not more than 870, or not more than 860, or not more than 850, or not more than 840, or not more than 830, in each case °C, in the range of from 730 to 900°C, 750 to 875°C, or 750 to 850°C.

5 **[00316]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the yield of olefin – ethylene, propylene, butadiene, or combinations thereof – can be at least 15, or at least 20, or at least 25, or at least 30, or at least 35, or at least 40, or at least 45, or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, in each case percent. As used herein, the term “yield” refers to the mass of product produced
10 from the mass of feedstock/mass of feedstock x 100%. The olefin-containing effluent stream comprises at least 30, or at least 40, or at least 50, or at least 60, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 99, in each case weight percent of ethylene, propylene, or ethylene and propylene, based on the total weight of the effluent
15 stream.

[00317] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the olefin-containing effluent stream 125 can comprise at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least
20 80, at least 85, or at least 90 weight percent of C2 to C4 olefins. The stream 125 may comprise predominantly ethylene, predominantly propylene, or predominantly ethylene and propylene, based on the total weight of the olefin-containing effluent stream 125. The weight ratio of ethylene-to-propylene in the olefin-containing effluent stream 125 can be at least 0.2:1, at least 0.3:1, at least 0.4:1, at least 0.5:1, at least 0.6:1, at least 0.7:1, at least 0.8:1, at least
25 0.9:1, at least 1:1, at least 1.1:1, at least 1.2:1, at least 1.3:1, at least 1.4:1, at least 1.5:1, at least 1.6:1, at least 1.7:1, at least 1.8:1, at least 1.9:1, or at least 2:1 and/or not more than 3:1, not more than 2.9:1, not more than 2.8:1, not more than 2.7:1, not more than 2.5:1, not more than 2.3:1, not more than 2.2:1,
30 not more than 2.1:1, not more than 2:1, not more than 1.7:1, not more than 1.5:1, or not more than 1.25:1.

[00318] Turning again to FIG. 8a, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, when introduced into the cracker facility 70, the pyrolysis gas 172 may be introduced into the inlet of the cracker furnace 720, or all or a portion of the pyrolysis gas may be introduced downstream of the furnace outlet, at a location upstream of or within the separation zone 740 of the cracker facility 70. When introduced into or upstream of the separation zone 740, the pyrolysis gas can be introduced upstream of the last stage of compression, or prior to the inlet of at least one fractionation column in the fractionation section of the separation zone 740.

[00319] Prior to entering the cracker facility 70, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a stream of raw pyrolysis gas from a pyrolysis facility may undergo one or more separation steps to remove one or more components from the stream. Examples of such components can include, but are not limited to, halogens, aldehydes, oxygenated compounds, nitrogen-containing compounds, sulfur-containing compounds, carbon dioxide, water, vaporized metals, and combinations thereof. The pyrolysis gas stream 172 introduced into the cracker facility 70 comprises at least 0.1, at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 1.5, at least 2, at least 2.5, at least 3, at least 3.5, at least 4, at least 4.5, or at least 5 and/or not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 3, not more than 2, or not more than 1 weight percent of one or more aldehyde components, based on the total weight of the pyrolysis gas stream 172.

[00320] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the total ethylene content of the pyrolysis gas stream 172 can be at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, or at least 30 weight percent and/or not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream 172. Alternatively, or in addition, the total propylene content of the pyrolysis gas stream 172 can be at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 7, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, or at least 30 weight percent and/or not more than 60, not more than

55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, or not more than 35 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream 172. The combined amount of ethylene and propylene in the pyrolysis gas stream 172 can be at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, or at least 45 weight percent and/or not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, or not more than 45 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream.

[00321] Upon exiting the cracker furnace outlet, the olefin-containing effluent stream 125 may be cooled rapidly (e.g., quenched) in order to prevent production of large amounts of undesirable by-products and to minimize fouling in downstream equipment. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the temperature of the olefin-containing effluent from the furnace can be reduced by 35 to 485°C, 35 to 375°C, or 90 to 550°C to a temperature of 500 to 760°C during the quench or cooling step.

[00322] The resulting cooled effluent stream can be then separated in a vapor-liquid separator, and the vapor can be compressed in a gas compressor having, for example, between 1 and 5 compression stages with optional inter-stage cooling and liquid removal. The pressure of the gas stream at the outlet of the first set of compression stages is in the range of from 7 to 20 bar gauge (barg), 8.5 to 18 barg, or 9.5 to 14 barg. The resulting compressed stream is then treated for removal of acid gases, including halogens, CO, CO₂, and H₂S by contact with an acid gas removal agent. Examples of acid gas removal agents can include, but are not limited to, caustic and various types of amines. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a single contactor may be used, while, in other embodiments, a dual column absorber-stripper configuration may be employed.

[00323] The treated compressed olefin-containing stream may then be further compressed in another compressor, optionally with inter-stage cooling and liquid separation. The resulting compressed stream, which has a pressure in the range of 20 to 50 barg, 25 to 45 barg, or 30 to 40 barg. Any suitable moisture removal method can be used including, for example, molecular sieves

or other similar process. The resulting stream may then be passed to the fractionation section, wherein the olefins and other components may be separated in to various high-purity product or intermediate streams. In some embodiments, all or a portion of the pyrolysis gas may be introduced prior to and/or after one or more stages of the second compressor. Similarly, the pressure of the pyrolysis gas is within 20, within 50, within 100, or within 150 psi of the pressure of the stream with which it is being combined.

[00324] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a feed stream from the quench section may be introduced into at least one column within a fractionation section of the separation zone. As used herein, the term “fractionation” refers to the general process of separating two or more materials having different boiling points. Examples of equipment and processes that utilize fractionation include, but are not limited to, distillation, rectification, stripping, and vapor-liquid separation (single stage).

[00325] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the fractionation section of the cracker facility may include one or more of a demethanizer, a deethanizer, a depropanizer, an ethylene splitter, a propylene splitter, a debutanizer, and combinations thereof. As used herein, the term “demethanizer,” refers to a column whose light key component is methane. Similarly, “deethanizer,” and “depropanizer,” refer to columns with ethane and propane as the light key component, respectively.

[00326] Any suitable arrangement of columns may be used so that the fractionation section provides at least one olefin product stream and at least one paraffin stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the fractionation section can provide at least two olefin streams, such as ethylene and propylene, and at least two paraffin streams, such as ethane and propane, as well as additional streams including, for example, methane and lighter components and butane and heavier components.

[00327] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the olefin stream withdrawn from the fractionation section can comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least

80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent and/or not more than 100, not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, or not more than 80 weight percent of olefins, based on the total weight of the olefin stream. The olefins can be predominantly ethylene or predominantly propylene. The olefin stream can comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent and/or not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, or not more than 65 weight percent of ethylene, based on the total weight of olefins in the olefin stream. The olefin stream may comprise at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, or at least 60 weight percent and/or not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, or not more than 45 weight percent of ethylene, based on the total weight of the olefin stream, or it can be present in an amount in the range of from 20 to 80 weight percent, 25 to 75 weight percent, or 30 to 70 weight percent, based on the total weight of the olefin stream.

[00328] Alternatively, or in addition, the olefin stream can comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent and/or not more than 99, not more than 97, not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 85, not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, or not more than 65 weight percent of propylene, based on the total weight of olefins in the olefin stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the olefin stream may comprise at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, or at least 60 weight percent and/or not more than 80, not more than 75, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, or not more than 45 weight percent of propylene, based on the total weight of the olefin stream, or it can be present in an amount in the range of from 20 to 80 weight percent, 25 to 75

weight percent, or 30 to 70 weight percent, based on the total weight of the olefin stream.

5 **[00329]** As the compressed stream passes through the fractionation section, it passed through a demethanizer column, wherein the methane and lighter (CO, CO₂, H₂) components are separated from the ethane and heavier components. The demethanizer can be operated at a temperature of at least -145, or at least -142, or at least -140, or at least -135, in each case °C and/or not more than -120, not more than -125, not more than -130, not more than -135°C. The bottoms stream from the demethanizer column includes at least
10 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95 or at least 99, in each case percent of the total amount of ethane and heavier components.

15 **[00330]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, all or a portion of the stream introduced into the fractionation section can be introduced into a deethanizer column, wherein the C₂ and lighter components are separated from the C₃ and heavier components by fractional distillation. The deethanizer can be operated with an overhead temperature of at least -35, or at least -30, or at least -25, or at least -20, in each case °C and/or not more than -5, not more than -10, not more than -15, not more than -20°C,
20 and an overhead pressure of at least 3, or at least 5, or at least 7, or at least 8, or at least 10, in each case barg and/or not more than 20, or not more than 18, or not more than 17, or not more than 15, or not more than 14, or not more than 13, in each case barg. The deethanizer column recovers at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or
25 at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 99, in each case percent of the total amount of C₂ and lighter components introduced into the column in the overhead stream. The overhead stream removed from the deethanizer column comprises at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, in each
30 case weight percent of ethane and ethylene, based on the total weight of the overhead stream.

[00331] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the C2 and lighter overhead stream from a deethanizer can be further separated in an ethane-ethylene fractionator column (ethylene fractionator or ethylene splitter). In the ethane-ethylene fractionator column, an ethylene and lighter component stream can be withdrawn from the overhead of the column or as a side stream from the top half of the column, while the ethane and any residual heavier components are removed in the bottoms stream. The ethylene fractionator may be operated at an overhead temperature of at least -45, or at least -40, or at least -35, or at least -30, or at least -25, or at least -20, in each case °C and/or not more than -15, or not more than -20, or not more than -25, in each case °C, and an overhead pressure of at least 10, or at least 12, or at least 15, in each case barg and/or not more than 25, not more than 22, not more than 20 barg. The overhead stream, which may be enriched in ethylene, can include at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 98, or at least 99, in each case weight percent ethylene, based on the total weight of the stream and may be sent to downstream processing unit for further processing, storage, or sale.

[00332] The bottoms stream from the ethane-ethylene fractionator may include at least 40, or at least 45, or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 98, in each case weight percent ethane, based on the total weight of the bottoms stream. All or a portion of the recovered ethane may be recycled to the inlet of the cracker furnace as additional feedstock, alone or in combination with the pyrolysis oil and/or pyrolysis gas, as discussed previously.

[00333] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the compressed stream may be separated in a depropanizer, wherein C3 and lighter components are removed as an overhead vapor stream, while C4 and heavier components exit the column in the liquid bottoms. The depropanizer can be operated with an overhead temperature of at least 20, or at least 35, or at least 40, in each case °C and/or not more than 70, 65, 60, 55°C, and an overhead pressure of at least 10, or at least 12, or at least 15, in each case barg and/or not more than 20, or

not more than 17, or not more than 15, in each case barg. The depropanizer column recovers at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 99, in each case percent of the total amount of C3 and lighter components introduced into the column in the overhead stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the overhead stream removed from the depropanizer column comprises at least or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 98, in each case weight percent of propane and propylene, based on the total weight of the overhead stream.

[00334] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the overhead stream from the depropanizer may be introduced into a propane-propylene fractionator (propylene fractionator or propylene splitter), wherein the propylene and any lighter components are removed in the overhead stream and the propane and any heavier components exit the column in the bottoms stream. The propylene fractionator may be operated at an overhead temperature of at least 20, or at least 25, or at least 30, or at least 35, in each case °C and/or not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40°C, and an overhead pressure of at least 12, or at least 15, or at least 17, or at least 20, in each case barg and/or not more than 20, or not more than 17, or not more than 15, or not more than 12, in each case barg. The overhead stream, which is enriched in propylene, can include at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 98, or at least 99, in each case weight percent propylene, based on the total weight of the stream and may be sent to downstream processing unit for further processing, storage, or sale.

[00335] The bottoms stream from the propane-propylene fractionator may include at least 40, or at least 45, or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 98, in each case weight percent propane, based on the total weight of the bottoms stream. All or a portion of the recovered

propane may be recycled to the cracker furnace as additional feedstock, alone or in combination with pyrolysis oil and/or pyrolysis gas, as discussed previously.

5 **[00336]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the compressed stream may be sent to a debutanizer column for separating C4 and lighter components, including butenes, butanes and butadienes, from C5 and heavier (C5+) components. The debutanizer can be operated with an overhead temperature of at least 20, or at least 25, or at least 30, or at least 35, or at least 40, in each case °C and/or
10 not more than 60, or not more than 65, or not more than 60, or not more than 55, or not more than 50, in each case °C and an overhead pressure of at least 2, or at least 3, or at least 4, or at least 5, in each case barg and/or not more than 8, or not more than 6, or not more than 4, or not more than 2, in each case barg. The debutanizer column recovers at least 60, or at least 65, or at least
15 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, or at least 97, or at least 99, in each case percent of the total amount of C4 and lighter components introduced into the column in the overhead stream.

[00337] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the overhead stream removed from the debutanizer column comprises
20 at least 30, or at least 35, or at least 40, or at least 45, or at least 50, or at least 55, or at least 60, or at least 65, or at least 70, or at least 75, or at least 80, or at least 85, or at least 90, or at least 95, in each case weight percent of butadiene, based on the total weight of the overhead stream. The bottoms stream from the debutanizer includes mainly C5 and heavier components, in
25 an amount of at least 50, or at least 60, or at least 70, or at least 80, or at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream. The debutanizer bottoms stream may be sent for further separation, processing, storage, sale or use. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the overhead stream from the debutanizer, or the C4s, can
30 be subjected to any conventional separation methods such as extraction or distillation processes to recover a more concentrated stream of butadiene.

[00338] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of one or more of the above streams may be introduced into one or more of the facilities shown in FIG. 1, while, in other embodiments, all or a portion of the streams withdrawn from the separation zone of the cracking facility may be routed to further separation and/or storage, transportation, sale, and/or use.

Partial Oxidation (POX) Gasification

[00339] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility may also comprise a partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility. As used herein, the term “partial oxidation” refers to high temperature conversion of a carbon-containing feed into syngas (carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide), where the conversion is carried out in the presence of a sub-stoichiometric amount of oxygen. The conversion can be of a hydrocarbon-containing feed and can be carried out with an amount of oxygen that is less than the stoichiometric amount of oxygen needed for complete oxidation of the feed – i.e., all carbon oxidized to carbon dioxide and all hydrogen oxidized to water. The reactions occurring within a partial oxidation (POX) gasifier include conversion of a carbon-containing feed into syngas, and specific examples include, but are not limited to partial oxidation, water gas shift, water gas – primary reactions, Boudouard, oxidation, methanation, hydrogen reforming, steam reforming, and carbon dioxide reforming. The feed to POX gasification can include solids, liquids, and/or gases. A “partial oxidation facility” or “POX gasification facility” is a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out POX gasification of waste plastic and feedstocks derived therefrom.

[00340] In the POX gasification facility, the feed stream may be converted to syngas in the presence of a sub-stoichiometric amount of oxygen. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feed stream to the POX gasification facility may comprise one or more of a PO-enriched waste plastic, at least one solvolysis coproduct stream, a pyrolysis stream (including pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, and/or pyrolysis residue), and at

least one stream from the cracking facility. One or more of these streams may be introduced into the POX gasification facility continuously or one or more of these streams may be introduced intermittently. When multiple types of feed streams are present, each may be introduced separately, or all or a portion of the streams may be combined so that the combined stream may be introduced into the POX gasification facility. The combining, when present, may take place in a continuous or batch manner. The feed stream can be in the form of a gas, a liquid or liquified plastic, solids (usually comminuted), or a slurry.

[00341] The POX gasification facility includes at least one POX gasification reactor. An exemplary POX gasification reactor 52 is shown in Fig. 9. The POX gasification unit may comprise a gas-fed, a liquid-fed, or a solid-fed reactor (or gasifier). In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the POX gasification facility may perform liquid-fed POX gasification. As used herein, "liquid-fed POX gasification" refers to a POX gasification process where the feed to the process comprises predominately (by weight) components that are liquid at 25°C and 1 atm. Additionally, or alternatively, POX gasification unit may perform gas-fed POX gasification. As used herein, "gas-fed POX gasification" refers to a POX gasification process where the feed to the process comprises predominately (by weight) components that are gaseous at 25°C and 1 atm.

[00342] Additionally, or alternatively, POX gasification unit may conduct solid-fed POX gasification. As used herein, "solid-fed POX gasification" refers to a POX gasification process where the feed to the process comprises predominately (by weight) components that are solid at 25°C and 1 atm.

[00343] Gas-fed, liquid-fed, and solid-fed POX gasification processes can be co-fed with lesser amounts of other components having a different phase at 25°C and 1 atm. Thus, gas-fed POX gasifiers can be co-fed with liquids and/or solids, but only in amounts that are less (by weight) than the amount of gasses fed to the gas-phase POX gasifier; liquid-fed POX gasifiers can be co-fed with gasses and/or solids, but only in amounts (by weight) less than the amount of liquids fed to the liquid-fed POX gasifier; and solid-fed POX gasifiers can be co-

fed with gasses and/or liquids, but only in amounts (by weight) less than the amount of solids fed to the solid-fed POX gasifier.

5 **[00344]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the total feed to a gas-fed POX gasifier can comprise at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components that are gaseous at 25°C and 1 atm; the total feed to a liquid-fed POX gasifier can comprise at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components that are liquid at 25°C and 1 atm; and the total
10 feed to a solid-fed POX gasifier can comprise at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of components that are solids at 25°C and 1 atm.

[00345] As generally shown in FIG. 9, the gasification feeds stream 116 may be introduced into a gasification reactor along with an oxidizing agent stream 180. The feedstock stream 116 and the oxidizing agent stream 180 may be
15 sprayed through an injector assembly into a pressurized gasification zone having, for example, a pressure, typically at least 500, at least 600, at least 800, or at least 1,000 psig, (or at least 35, at least 40, at least 55, or at least 70 barg).

[00346] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the oxidizing agent in stream 180 comprises an oxidizing gas that can
20 include air, oxygen-enriched air, or molecular oxygen (O₂). The oxidizing agent can comprise at least 25, at least 35, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, at least 95, at least 97, at least 99, or at least 99.5 mole percent of molecular oxygen based on the total moles of all components in the oxidizing agent stream 180 injected into the reaction (combustion) zone
25 of the gasification reactor 52. The particular amount of oxygen as supplied to the reaction zone can be sufficient to obtain near or maximum yields of carbon monoxide and hydrogen obtained from the gasification reaction relative to the components in the feed stream 116, considering the amount relative to the feed stream, and the amount of feed charged, the process conditions, and the
30 reactor design.

[00347] The oxidizing agent can include other oxidizing gases or liquids, in addition to or in place of air, oxygen-enriched air, and molecular oxygen.

Examples of such oxidizing liquids suitable for use as oxidizing agents include water (which can be added as a liquid or as steam) and ammonia. Examples of such oxidizing gases suitable for use as oxidizing agents include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

- 5 **[00348]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, an atomization enhancing fluid is fed to the gasification zone along with the feedstock and oxidizing agent. As used herein, the term “atomization enhancing fluid” refers to a liquid or gas operable to reduce viscosity to decrease dispersion energy, or increase energy available to assist dispersion.
- 10 The atomization enhancing fluid may be mixed with the plastic-containing feedstock before the feedstock is fed into the gasification zone or separately added to the gasification zone, for example to an injection assembly coupled with the gasification reactor. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the atomization enhancing fluid is water and/or
- 15 steam. However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, steam and/or water is not supplied to the gasification zone.
- 20 **[00349]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a gas stream enriched in carbon dioxide or nitrogen (e.g., greater than the molar quantity found in air, or at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, or at least 40 mole percent) is charged into the gasifier. These gases may serve as carrier gases to propel a feedstock to a gasification zone. Due to the pressure within the gasification zone, these carrier gases may be compressed to provide the motive force for introduction into the gasification zone. This gas stream may be compositionally the same as or different than the atomization enhancing
- 25 fluid. In one or more embodiments, this gas stream also functions as the atomization enhancing fluid.
- 30 **[00350]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, a gas stream enriched in hydrogen (H₂) (e.g., at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, or at least 90 mole percent) is charged into the gasifier. Hydrogen may be added to affect the partial oxidation reactions so as to control the resulting syngas composition.

[00351] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, no gas stream containing more than 0.01 or more than 0.02 mole percent of carbon dioxide is charged to the gasifier or gasification zone. Alternatively, no gas stream containing more than 77, more than 70, more than 50, more than 30, more than 10, more than 5, or more than 3 mole percent nitrogen is charged to the gasifier or gasification zone. Furthermore, a gaseous hydrogen stream more than 0.1, more than 0.5, more than 1, or more than 5 mole percent hydrogen is not charged to the gasifier or to the gasification zone. Moreover, a stream of methane gas containing more than 0.1, more than 0.5, more than 1, or more than 5 mole percent methane is not charged to the gasifier or to the gasification zone. In certain embodiments, the only gaseous stream introduced to the gasification zone is the oxidizing agent.

[00352] The gasification process can be a partial oxidation (POX) gasification reaction, as described previously. Generally, to enhance the production of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, the oxidation process involves partial, rather than complete, oxidization of the gasification feedstock and, therefore, may be operated in an oxygen-lean environment, relative to the amount needed to completely oxidize 100 percent of the carbon and hydrogen bonds. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the total oxygen requirements for the gasifier may be at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, or at least 20 percent in excess of the amount theoretically required to convert the carbon content of the gasification feedstock to carbon monoxide. In general, satisfactory operation may be obtained with a total oxygen supply of 10 to 80 percent in excess of the theoretical requirements. For example, examples of suitable amounts of oxygen per pound of carbon may be in the range of 0.4 to 3.0, 0.6 to 2.5, 0.9 to 2.5, or 1.2 to 2.5 pounds free oxygen per pound of carbon.

[00353] Mixing of the feedstock stream and the oxidizing agent may be accomplished entirely within the reaction zone by introducing the separate streams of feedstock and oxidizing agent so that they impinge upon each other within the reaction zone. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the oxidizing agent stream is introduced into

the reaction zone of the gasifier as high velocity to both exceed the rate of flame propagation and to improve mixing with the feedstock stream. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the oxidant may be injected into the gasification zone in the range of 25 to 500, 50 to 400, or 100 to 400 feet per second. These values would be the velocity of the gaseous oxidizing agent stream at the injector-gasification zone interface, or the injector tip velocity. Mixing of the feedstock stream and the oxidizing agent may also be accomplished outside of the reaction zone. For example, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feedstock, oxidizing agent, and/or atomization enhancing fluid can be combined in a conduit upstream of the gasification zone or in an injection assembly coupled with the gasification reactor.

[00354] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasification feedstock stream, the oxidizing agent, and/or the atomization enhancing fluid can optionally be preheated to a temperature of at least 200°C, at least 300°C, or at least 400°C. However, the gasification process employed does not require preheating the feedstock stream to efficiently gasify the feedstock and a pre-heat treatment step may result in lowering the energy efficiency of the process.

[00355] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the type of gasification technology employed may be a partial oxidation entrained flow gasifier that generates syngas. This technology is distinct from fixed bed (alternatively called moving bed) gasifiers and from fluidized bed gasifiers. An exemplary gasifier that may be used is depicted in U.S. Patent No 3,544,291, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference to the extent not inconsistent with the present disclosure. However, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, other types of gasification reactors may also be used within the scope of the present technology.

[00356] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasifier/gasification reactor can be non-catalytic, meaning that the gasifier/gasification reactor does not contain a catalyst bed and the gasification

process is non-catalytic, meaning that a catalyst is not introduced into the gasification zone as a discrete unbound catalyst. Furthermore, in an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasification process may not be a slagging gasification process; that is, operated under slagging conditions (well above the fusion temperature of ash) such that a molten slag is formed in the gasification zone and runs along and down the refractory walls.

[00357] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasification zone, and optionally all reaction zones in the gasifier/gasification reactor, may be operated at a temperature of at least 1000°C, at least 1100°C, at least 1200°C, at least 1250°C, or at least 1300°C and/or not more than 2500°C, not more than 2000°C, not more than 1800°C, or not more than 1600°C. The reaction temperature may be autogenous. Advantageously, the gasifier operating in steady state mode may be at an autogenous temperature and does not require application of external energy sources to heat the gasification zone.

[00358] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasifier is a predominately gas fed gasifier.

[00359] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasifier is a non-slagging gasifier or operated under conditions not to form a slag.

[00360] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasifier may not be under negative pressure during operations, but rather can be under positive pressure during operation.

[00361] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the gasifier may be operated at a pressure within the gasification zone (or combustion chamber) of at least 200 psig (1.38 MPa), 300 psig (2.06 MPa), 350 psig (2.41 MPa), 400 psig (2.76 MPa), 420 psig (2.89 MPa), 450 psig (3.10 MPa), 475 psig (3.27 MPa), 500 psig (3.44 MPa), 550 psig (3.79 MPa), 600 psig (4.13 MPa), 650 psig (4.48 MPa), 700 psig (4.82 MPa), 750 psig (5.17 MPa), 800 psig (5.51 MPa), 900 psig (6.2 MPa), 1000 psig (6.89 MPa), 1100 psig (7.58 MPa), or 1200 psig (8.2 MPa). Additionally or alternatively, the

gasifier may be operated at a pressure within the gasification zone (or combustion chamber) of not more than 1300 psig (8.96 MPa), 1250 psig (8.61 MPa), 1200 psig (8.27 MPa), 1150 psig (7.92 MPa), 1100 psig (7.58 MPa), 1050 psig (7.23 MPa), 1000 psig (6.89 MPa), 900 psig (6.2 MPa), 800 psig (5.51 MPa), or 750 psig (5.17 MPa).

[00362] Examples of suitable pressure ranges include 300 to 1000 psig (2.06 to 6.89 MPa), 300 to 750 psig (2.06 to 5.17 MPa), 350 to 1000 psig (2.41 to 6.89 MPa), 350 to 750 psig (2.06 to 5.17 MPa), 400 to 1000 psig (2.67 to 6.89 MPa), 420 to 900 psig (2.89 to 6.2 MPa), 450 to 900 psig (3.10 to 6.2 MPa), 475 to 900 psig (3.27 to 6.2 MPa), 500 to 900 psig (3.44 to 6.2 MPa), 550 to 900 psig (3.79 to 6.2 MPa), 600 to 900 psig (4.13 to 6.2 MPa), 650 to 900 psig (4.48 to 6.2 MPa), 400 to 800 psig (2.67 to 5.51 MPa), 420 to 800 psig (2.89 to 5.51 MPa), 450 to 800 psig (3.10 to 5.51 MPa), 475 to 800 psig (3.27 to 5.51 MPa), 500 to 800 psig (3.44 to 5.51 MPa), 550 to 800 psig (3.79 to 5.51 MPa), 600 to 800 psig (4.13 to 5.51 MPa), 650 to 800 psig (4.48 to 5.51 MPa), 400 to 750 psig (2.67 to 5.17 MPa), 420 to 750 psig (2.89 to 5.17 MPa), 450 to 750 psig (3.10 to 5.17 MPa), 475 to 750 psig (3.27 to 5.17 MPa), 500 to 750 psig (3.44 to 5.17 MPa), or 550 to 750 psig (3.79 to 5.17 MPa).

[00363] Generally, the average residence time of gases in the gasifier reactor can be very short to increase throughput. Since the gasifier may be operated at high temperature and pressure, substantially complete conversion of the feedstock to gases can occur in a very short time frame. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the average residence time of the gases in the gasifier can be not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, or not more than 7 seconds.

[00364] To avoid fouling downstream equipment from the gasifier, and the piping in-between, the resulting raw syngas stream 127 may have a low or no tar content. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the syngas stream discharged from the gasifier may comprise not more than 4, not more than 3, not more than 2, not more than 1, not more than 0.5, not more than 0.2, not more than 0.1, or not more than 0.01 weight percent of tar based on the weight of all condensable solids in the

syngas stream. For purposes of measurement, condensable solids are those compounds and elements that condense at a temperature of 15°C and 1 atm. Examples of tar products include naphthalenes, cresols, xyenols, anthracenes, phenanthrenes, phenols, benzene, toluene, pyridine, catechols, biphenyls, benzofurans, benzaldehydes, acenaphthylenes, fluorenes, naphthofurans, benzantracenes, pyrenes, acephenanthrylenes, benzopyrenes, and other high molecular weight aromatic polynuclear compounds. The tar content can be determined by GC-MSD.

[00365] Generally, the raw syngas stream 127 discharged from the gasification vessel includes such gases as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide and can include other gases such as methane, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrogen depending on the fuel source and reaction conditions.

[00366] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the raw syngas stream 127 (the stream discharged from the gasifier and before any further treatment by way of scrubbing, shift, or acid gas removal) can have the following composition in mole percent on a dry basis and based on the moles of all gases (elements or compounds in gaseous state at 25°C and 1 atm) in the raw syngas stream 127:

- a hydrogen content in the range of 32 to 50 percent, or at least 33, at least 34, or at least 35 and/or not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 41, not more than 40, or not more than 39 percent, or it can be in the range of 33 to 50 percent, 34 to 45 percent, or 35 to 41 percent, on a dry volume basis;

- a carbon monoxide content of at least 40, at least 41, at least 42, or at least 43 and/or not more than 55, not more than 54, not more than 53, or not more than 52 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream, or in the range of from 40 to 55 weight percent, 41 to 54 weight percent, or 42 to 53 weight percent, based on the total weight of the stream on a dry basis;

- a carbon dioxide content of at least 1%, at least 1.5%, at least 2%, at least 3%, at least 4%, at least 5%, at least 6%, or at least 7% by volume and/or not more than 25%, not more than 20%, not more than 15%, not more than

12%, not more than 11%, not more than 10%, not more than 9%, not more than 8%, or not more than 7% by volume on a dry basis;

- a methane content of not more than 5000, not more than 2500, not more than 2000, or not more than 1000 ppm by volume methane on a dry basis;

5 • a sulfur content of not more than 1000, not more than 100, not more than 10, or not more than 1 ppm by weight (ppmw);

- a soot content of at least 1000, or at least 5000 ppm and/or not more than 50,000, not more than 20,000, or not more than 15,000 ppmw;

10 • a halides content of not more than 1000, not more than 500, not more than 200, not more than 100, or not more than 50 ppmw;

- a mercury content of not more than 0.01, not more than 0.005, or not more than 0.001 ppmw;

- an arsine content of not more than 0.1 ppm, not more than 0.05, or not more than 0.01 ppmw;

15 • a nitrogen content of not more than 10,000, not more than 3000, not more than 1000, or not more than 100 ppmw nitrogen;

- an antimony content of at least 10 ppmw, at least 20 ppmw, at least 30 ppmw, at least 40 ppmw, or at least 50 ppmw, and/or not more than 200 ppmw, not more than 180 ppmw, not more than 160 ppmw, not more than 150 ppmw, or not more than 130 ppmw; and/or

20 • a titanium content of at least 10 ppmw, at least 25 ppmw, at least 50 ppmw, at least 100 ppmw, at least 250 ppmw, at least 500 ppmw, or at least 1000 ppmw, and/or not more than 40,000 ppmw, not more than 30,000 ppmw, not more than 20,000 ppmw, not more than 15,000 ppmw, not more than 10,000 ppmw, not more than 7,500 ppmw, or not more than 5,000 ppmw.

25 **[00367]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the syngas comprises a molar hydrogen/carbon monoxide ratio of 0.7 to 2, 0.7 to 1.5, 0.8 to 1.2, 0.85 to 1.1, or 0.9 to 1.05.

30 **[00368]** The gas components can be determined by Flame Ionization Detector Gas Chromatography (FID-GC) and Thermal Conductivity Detector

Gas Chromatography (TCD-GC) or any other method recognized for analyzing the components of a gas stream.

[00369] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the recycle content syngas can have a recycle content of at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, or at least 99 weight percent, based on the total weight of the syngas stream.

Energy Recovery

[00370] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility may also comprise an energy recovery facility. As used herein, an “energy recovery facility” is a facility that generates energy (i.e., thermal energy) from a feedstock via chemical conversion (e.g., combustion) of the feedstock. At least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, or at least 35 percent of the total energy generated from combustion can be recovered and used in one or more other processes and/or facilities.

[00371] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the feed stream introduced into the energy recovery facility 80 (FIG. 1) may comprise one or more of at least a portion of a PO-enriched waste plastic, at least one solvolysis coproduct stream, at least a portion of one or more of pyrolysis gas, pyrolysis oil, and pyrolysis residue, and/or one or more other streams from within the chemical recycling facility. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, one or more of these streams may be introduced into the energy recovery facility continuously or one or more of these streams may be introduced intermittently. When multiple types of feed streams are present, each may be introduced separately, or all or a portion of the streams may be combined so that the combined stream may be introduced into the energy recovery facility. The combining, when present, may take place in a continuous or batch manner. The feed stream may include

solids, a melt, a predominantly liquid stream, a slurry, a predominantly gas stream, or combinations thereof.

5 **[00372]** Any type of energy recovery facility may be used. In some embodiments, the energy recovery facility may comprise at least one furnace or incinerator. The incinerator may be gas-fed, liquid-fed, or solid-fed, or may be configured to accept a gas, liquid, or solid. The incinerator or furnace may be configured to thermally combust at least a portion of the hydrocarbon components in the feed stream with an oxidizing agent. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the oxidizing agent
10 comprises at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, or at least 25 and/or not more than 95, not more than 90, not more than 80, not more than 70, not more than 65, not more than 60, not more than 55, not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 35, not more than 30, or not more than 25 mole percent oxygen, based on the total moles of oxidizing agent.
15 Other components of the oxidizing agent can include, for example, nitrogen, or carbon dioxide. In other embodiments, the oxidizing agent comprises air.

[00373] In the energy recovery facility, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of the feed introduced therein can be combusted to form energy and combustion gases such as water, carbon
20 monoxide, carbon dioxide, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the feed may be treated to remove compounds such as sulfur and/or nitrogen-containing compounds, to minimize the amount of nitrogen and sulfur oxides in the combustion gases.

[00374] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the energy generated may be used to directly or indirectly heat a process stream. For example, at least a portion of the energy may be used to heat water to form steam, or to heat steam and form superheated steam. At least a portion of the energy generated may be used to heat a stream of heat transfer medium (such as, for example, THERMINOL®),
25 which itself, when warmed, may be used to transfer heat to one or more process streams. At least a portion of the energy may be used to directly heat a process stream.
30

5 **[00375]** In some embodiments, the process stream heated with at least a portion of the energy from the energy recovery facility may be a process stream from one or more of the facilities discussed herein, including, for example, at least one of a solvolysis facility, a pyrolysis facility, a cracker facility, a POX gasification facility, a solidification facility. The energy recovery facility 80 may be in a separate geographical area or in its own separate facility, while, in one or more other embodiments, at least a portion of the energy recovery facility 80 may be located in or near one of the other facilities. For example, an energy recovery facility 80 within a chemical recycling facility 10 as shown in FIG. 1 may include an energy recovery furnace in the solvolysis facility and another energy recovery furnace in a POX gasification facility.

Other Processing Facilities

15 **[00376]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical processing facility 10 generally shown in FIG. 1 may include at least one other type of downstream chemical recycling facility and/or one or more other systems or facilities for processing one or more of the chemical recycling product or coproduct streams. Examples of suitable types of other facilities can include, but are not limited to, a solidification facility and a product separation facility. Additionally, at least a portion of one or more streams may be transported or sold to an end user or customer, and/or at least a portion of one or more streams may be sent to a landfill or other industrial disposal site.

25 *Solidification Facility*

30 **[00377]** In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the chemical recycling facility 10 may also comprise a solidification facility. As used herein, the term “solidification” refers to causing a non-solid material to become a solid material through a physical means (e.g., cooling) and/or chemical means (e.g., precipitation). A “solidification facility” is a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out solidification of a feedstock derived from waste plastic.

[00378] A feed stream introduced into the solidification facility may originate from one or more locations within the chemical recycling facility 10. For example, the feed stream to the solidification facility may comprise at least one of one or more solvolysis coproduct streams, a stream from the pyrolysis facility including pyrolysis oil (pyoil) and/or pyrolysis residue, a predominantly liquid stream from one or more facilities, and combinations thereof. Definitions for pyrolysis oil and pyrolysis residue are provided herein. One or more of these streams may be introduced into the solidification facility continuously or one or more of these streams may be introduced intermittently. When multiple types of feed streams are present, each may be introduced separately, or all, or a portion, of the streams may be combined so that the combined stream may be introduced into the solidification facility. The combining, when performed, may take place in a continuous or batch manner.

[00379] The solidification facility may include a cooling zone for cooling and at least partially solidifying the feed stream, followed by an optional size reduction zone. Upon leaving the cooling zone, all or a portion of stream may be a solidified material. In some cases, the solidified material can be in the form of sheets, blocks, or chunks, or it may be in the form of flakes, tablets, pastilles, particles, pellets, micropellets, or a powder. When the feed stream is only partially solidified, the stream withdrawn from the cooling zone may comprise both a solid and a liquid phase. At least a portion of the solid phase may be removed and all or a portion of the liquid phase may be withdrawn from the solidification facility and introduced into another facility, optionally within the chemical recycling facility (such as, for example, the solvolysis facility).

[00380] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the solidification facility may also include a size reduction zone for reducing the size of the solid material and forming a plurality of particles. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, the size reduction may include comminuting, smashing, breaking, or grinding/granulating larger pieces or chunks of solidified material to form the particles. In other embodiments, at least a portion of the feed stream to the solidification facility may be at least partially cooled before being pelletized via

conventional pelletization devices. Regardless of how the particles are formed, the resulting solids can have an a D90 particle size of at least 50, at least 75, at least 100, at least 150, at least 250, at least 350, at least 450, at least 500, at least 750 microns, or at least 0.5, at least 1, at least 2, at least 5, or at least 10 mm and/or not more than 50, not more than 45, not more than 40, not more than 30, not more than 35, not more than 30, not more than 25, not more than 20, not more than 15, not more than 10, not more than 5, not more than 2, not more than 1 mm or not more than 750, not more than 500, not more than 250, or not more than 200 microns. The solids may comprise a powder. The solids may comprise pellets of any shape. The solids can have a recycle content of at least 1, at least 5, at least 10, at least 15, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent, based on the total weight of the solids.

[00381] The solids withdrawn from the solidification facility may be routed to one or more (or two or more) of the pyrolysis facility, the energy recovery facility, and/or the POX gasification facility. The solids can be in the form of solids or may be melted or otherwise at least partially liquified prior to or during transport. In some embodiments, the solids may be combined with a liquid to form a slurry and the slurry may be introduced into one or more chemical recycling facilities as described herein. Examples of suitable liquids can include, but are not limited to, water, alcohols, and combinations thereof. In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of the solids can be heated to at least partially melt or liquify the solids and the resulting melt can be introduced into one or more of facilities described above. Optionally, at least a portion of the solids may be sent to an industrial landfill (not shown).

Product Separation Facility

[00382] In an embodiment or in combination with any embodiment mentioned herein, at least a portion of one of the streams within the chemical recycling facility 10 shown in FIG. 1 may be separated in a product separation facility

(represented by numeral 90 in FIG. 1) to form a product stream suitable for further sale and/or use. For example, at least a portion of one or more of the solvolysis coproduct streams may be further processed in a separation zone to form one or more purified or refined product streams. Examples of suitable processes used in the separation zone can include, but are not limited to, distillation, extraction, decanting, stripping, rectification, and combinations thereof. The refined streams from the separation zone can include at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, or at least 95 weight percent of a desired component or components, based on the total weight of the refined product stream. Examples of desired components can include certain alcohols or glycols (e.g., ethylene glycol, methanol), alkanes (e.g., ethane, propane, and butane and heavier), and olefins (e.g., propylene, ethylene, and combinations).

[00383] Weight percentages expressed on the MPW are the weight of the MPW as fed to the first stage separation and prior to addition of any diluents/solutions such as salt or caustic solutions.

Definitions

[00384] It should be understood that the following is not intended to be an exclusive list of defined terms. Other definitions may be provided in the foregoing description, such as, for example, when accompanying the use of a defined term in context.

[00385] As used herein, the terms “a,” “an,” and “the” mean one or more.

[00386] As used herein, the term “and/or,” when used in a list of two or more items, means that any one of the listed items can be employed by itself or any combination of two or more of the listed items can be employed. For example, if a composition is described as containing components A, B, and/or C, the composition can contain A alone; B alone; C alone; A and B in combination; A and C in combination, B and C in combination; or A, B, and C in combination.

[00387] As used herein, the phrase “at least a portion” includes at least a portion and up to and including the entire amount or time period.

[00388] As used herein, the term “caustic” refers to any basic solution (e.g., strong bases, concentrated weak bases, etc.) that can be used in the technology as a cleaning agent, for killing pathogens, and/or reducing odors.

[00389] As used herein, the term “centrifugal density separation” refers to a density separation process where the separation of materials is primarily caused by centrifugal forces.

[00390] As used herein, the term “chemical recycling” refers to a waste plastic recycling process that includes a step of chemically converting waste plastic polymers into lower molecular weight polymers, oligomers, monomers, and/or non-polymeric molecules (e.g., hydrogen, carbon monoxide, methane, ethane, propane, ethylene, and propylene) that are useful by themselves and/or are useful as feedstocks to another chemical production process(es).

[00391] As used herein, the term “chemical recycling facility” refers to a facility for producing a recycle content product via chemical recycling of waste plastic. A chemical recycling facility can employ one or more of the following steps: (i) preprocessing, (ii) solvolysis, (iii) pyrolysis, (iv) cracking, and/or (v) POX gasification.

[00392] As used herein, the term “co-located” refers to the characteristic of at least two objects being situated on a common physical site, and/or within one mile of each other.

[00393] As used herein, the term “colored plastic-containing mixture” refers to: (a) a plastic-containing material identified by a reclaimer or MRF as a colored plastic or identified by a reclaimer or MRF as non-clear rPET; or (b) any plastic-containing material separated by a reclaimer or MRF other than dry fines, wet fines, reclaimer clear rPET product, rocks, biomass, metal, or fiber.

[00394] As used herein, the terms “comprising,” “comprises,” and “comprise” are open-ended transition terms used to transition from a subject recited before the term to one or more elements recited after the term, where the element or elements listed after the transition term are not necessarily the only elements that make up the subject.

[00395] As used herein, the term “conducting” refers to the transport of a material in a batchwise and/or continuous manner.

[00396] As used herein, the term “cracking” refers to breaking down complex organic molecules into simpler molecules by the breaking of carbon-carbon bonds.

5 **[00397]** As used herein, the term “D90” refers to a specified diameter where ninety percent of a distribution of particles has a smaller diameter than the specified diameter and ten percent has a larger diameter than the specified diameter. To ensure that a representative D90 value is obtained, the sample size of the particles should be at least one pound. To determine a D90 for particles in a continuous process, testing should be performed on at least 5
10 samples that are taken at equal time intervals over at least 24 hours. Testing for D90 is performed using high-speed photography and computer algorithms to generate a particle size distribution. One suitable particle size analyzer for determining D90 values is the Model CPA 4-1 Computerized Particle Analyzer from W.S Tyler of Mentor, Ohio.

15 **[00398]** As used herein, the term “diameter” means the maximum chord length of a particle (i.e., its largest dimension).

[00399] As used herein, “densifying” refers to a process of condensing and pelletizing, agglomerating, or partial melting a quantity of plastic particles having a D90 particle size of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to form solid
20 particulates (e.g., pellets) having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to 2.54 cm (1 inch).

[00400] As used herein, the term “density separation process” refers to a process for separating materials based, at least in part, upon the respective densities of the materials. Moreover, the terms “low-density separation stage”
25 and “high-density separation stage” refer to relative density separation processes, wherein the low-density separation has a target separation density less than the target separation density of the high-density separation stage.

[00401] As used herein, the term “depleted” refers to having a concentration (on a dry weight basis) of a specific component that is less than the
30 concentration of that component in a reference material or stream.

[00402] As used herein, the term “directly derived” refers to having at least one physical component originating from waste plastic.

[00403] As used herein, the term “dry fines” refers to waste plastic particles from a PET reclaimer facility and/or a manufacturer of PET articles, having an average particle size of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) and a moisture content of less than 2% by weight.

5 **[00404]** As used herein, the term “enriched” refers to having a concentration (on a dry weight basis) of a specific component that is greater than the concentration of that component in a reference material or stream.

[00405] As used herein, the terms “filtration” and “filtering” and “filter(ed)” refer to processes and/or apparatuses for performing solid/liquid separation, which includes, but is not limited to, the use of media, centrifugal separation, and/or settling.

[00406] As used herein, the term “halide” refers to a composition comprising a halogen atom bearing a negative charge (i.e., a halide ion).

15 **[00407]** As used herein, the term “halogen” or “halogens” refers to organic or inorganic compounds, ionic, or elemental species comprising at least one halogen atom.

[00408] As used herein, the terms “having,” “has,” and “have” have the same open-ended meaning as “comprising,” “comprises,” and “comprise” provided above.

20 **[00409]** As used herein, the term “heavy organic methanolysis coproduct” refers to a methanolysis coproduct with a boiling point greater than DMT.

[00410] As used herein, the term “heavy organic solvolysis coproduct” refers to a solvolysis coproduct with a boiling point greater than the principal terephthalyl product of the solvolysis facility.

25 **[00411]** As used herein, the terms “including,” “include,” and “included” have the same open-ended meaning as “comprising,” “comprises,” and “comprise” provided above.

[00412] As used herein, the term “indirectly derived” refers to having an assigned recycle content i) that is attributable to waste plastic, but ii) that is not based on having a physical component originating from waste plastic.

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[00413] As used herein, the term “isolated” refers to the characteristic of an object or objects being by itself or themselves and separate from other materials, in motion or static.

[00414] As used herein, the term “light organic methanolysis coproduct” refers to a methanolysis coproduct with a boiling point less than DMT.

[00415] As used herein, the term “light organics solvolysis coproduct” refers to a solvolysis coproduct with a boiling point less than the principal terephthalyl product of the solvolysis facility.

[00416] As used herein, the term “methanolysis coproduct” refers to any compound withdrawn from a methanolysis facility that is not dimethyl terephthalate (DMT), ethylene glycol (EG), or methanol.

[00417] As used herein, the terms “mixed plastic waste” and “MPW” refer to a mixture of at least two types of waste plastics including, but not limited to the following plastic types: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), one or more polyolefins (PO), and polyvinylchloride (PVC).

[00418] As used herein, the term “partial oxidation (POX)” or “POX” refers to high temperature conversion of a carbon-containing feed into syngas, (carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide), where the conversion is carried out in the presence of a less than stoichiometric amount of oxygen. The feed to POX gasification can include solids, liquids, and/or gases.

[00419] As used herein, the term “partial oxidation (POX) reaction” refers to all reactions occurring within a partial oxidation (POX) gasifier in the conversion of a carbon-containing feed into syngas, including but not limited to partial oxidation, water gas shift, water gas – primary reactions, Boudouard, oxidation, methanation, hydrogen reforming, steam reforming, and carbon dioxide reforming.

[00420] As used herein, “PET” means a homopolymer of polyethylene terephthalate, or polyethylene terephthalate modified with modifiers or containing residues or moieties of other than ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid, such as isophthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, diethylene glycol, TMCD (2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol), CHDM (cyclohexanedimethanol), propylene glycol, isosorbide, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-

propane diol, and/or NPG (neopentyl glycol), or polyesters having repeating terephthalate units (and whether or not they contain repeating ethylene glycol based units) and one or more residues or moieties of TMCD (2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol), CHDM (cyclohexanedimethanol), propylene glycol, or NPG (neopentyl glycol), isosorbide, isophthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-propane diol, and/or diethylene glycol, or combinations thereof.

[00421] As used herein, the term “overhead” refers to the physical location of a structure that is above a maximum elevation of quantity of particulate plastic solids within an enclosed structure.

[00422] As used herein, the term “PET and metal-containing reclaimer co-product” refers to materials from a magnetic separator, an eddy current separator, or other metal separator in a PET reclaimer facility that are not recovered as rPET product.

[00423] As used herein, the term “partial oxidation (POX) gasification facility” or “POX Facility” refers to a facility that includes all equipment, lines, and controls necessary to carry out POX gasification of waste plastic and feedstocks derived therefrom.

[00424] As used herein, the term “partially processed waste plastic” means waste plastic that has been subjected to at least one automated or mechanized sorting, washing, or comminuted step or process. Partially processed waste plastics may originate from, for example, municipal recycling facilities (MRFs) or reclaimers. When partially processed waste plastic is provided to the chemical recycling facility, one or more preprocessing steps may be skipped.

[00425] As used herein, the term “PET solvolysis” refers to a reaction by which a polyester terephthalate-containing plastic feed is chemically decomposed in the presence of a solvent to form a principal terephthalyl product and/or a principal glycol product.

[00426] As used herein, the term “physical recycling” (also known as “mechanical recycling”) refers to a waste plastic recycling process that includes a step of melting waste plastic and forming the molten plastic into a new intermediate product (e.g., pellets or sheets) and/or a new end product (e.g.,

bottles). Generally, physical recycling does not substantially change the chemical structure of the plastic, although some degradation is possible.

[00427] As used herein, the term “plastic articles” refers to baled or unbaled plastic materials having a D90 particle size of greater than 2.54 cm (1 inch).

5 **[00428]** As used herein, the term “plastic fines” refers to plastic particulates having a D90 particle size of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch).

[00429] As used herein, the term “plastic flakes” refers to plastic particles having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inches) to 2.54 cm (1 inch).

10 **[00430]** As used herein, the term “predominantly” means more than 50 percent by weight. For example, a predominantly propane stream, composition, feedstock, or product is a stream, composition, feedstock, or product that contains more than 50 weight percent propane.

[00431] As used herein, the term “preprocessing” refers to preparing waste plastic for chemical recycling using one or more of the following steps: (i) comminuting, (ii) particulating, (iii) washing, (iv) drying, and/or (v) separating.

15 **[00432]** As used herein, the term “pyrolysis” refers to thermal decomposition of one or more organic materials at elevated temperatures in an inert (i.e., substantially oxygen free) atmosphere.

[00433] As used herein, the term “pyrolysis char” refers to a carbon-containing composition obtained from pyrolysis that is solid at 200°C and 1 atm.

20 **[00434]** As used herein, the term “pyrolysis gas” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is gaseous at 25°C.

[00435] As used herein, the term “pyrolysis heavy waxes” refers to C₂₀+ hydrocarbons obtained from pyrolysis that are not pyrolysis char, pyrolysis gas, or pyrolysis oil.

25 **[00436]** As used herein, the terms “pyrolysis oil” or “pyoil” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is liquid at 25°C and 1 atm.

[00437] As used herein, the term “pyrolysis residue” refers to a composition obtained from pyrolysis that is not pyrolysis gas or pyrolysis oil and that comprises predominantly pyrolysis char and pyrolysis heavy waxes.

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[00438] As used herein, the term “reclaimer co-product” refers to any material separated or recovered by the reclaimer facility that is not recovered as a clear rPET product, including colored rPET.

5 **[00439]** As used herein, “reclaimer flake reject” refers to a waste mixture of plastic, comprising at least PET and at least 0.1 weight percent PVC on a dry basis, from a reclaimer facility and having a D90 particle size of 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) to 2.54 cm (1 inch).

10 **[00440]** As used herein, “reclaimer wet fines” refers to a stream or batch of PET-containing plastic particles separated from a waste plastic within a reclaimer facility and having a water content, when first isolated from the waste plastic within the reclaimer facility, of at least 2% by weight based upon the total weight of the reclaimer wet fines, and the plastic particles have a D90 of less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch).

15 **[00441]** As used herein, the term “recycle content” and “r-content” refer to being or comprising a composition that is directly and/or indirectly derived from waste plastic.

20 **[00442]** As used herein, the term “resin ID code” refers to the set of symbols and associated number (1 through 7) appearing on plastic products that identify the plastic resin out of which the product is made, developed originally in 1988 in the United States but since 2008 has been administered by ASTM International.

25 **[00443]** As used herein, the term “resin ID code 1” refers to plastic products made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Such plastic products may include soft drink bottles, mineral water bottles, juice containers, and cooking oil containers.

[00444] As used herein, the term “resin ID code 2” refers to plastic products made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Such plastic products may include milk jugs, cleaning agent and laundry detergent containers, shampoo bottles, and soap containers.

30 **[00445]** As used herein, the term “resin ID code 3” refers to plastic products made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Such plastic products may include fruit and sweets trays, plastic packing (bubble foil), and food wrap.

[00446] As used herein, the term “resin ID code 4” refers to plastic products made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE). Such plastic products may include shopping bags, light weight bottles, and sacks.

5 **[00447]** As used herein, the term “resin ID code 5” refers to plastic products made from polypropylene (PP). Such plastic products may include furniture, auto parts, industrial fibers, luggage, and toys.

[00448] As used herein, the term “resin ID code 6” refers to plastic products made from polystyrene (PS). Such plastic products may include toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewelry, CD cases, vending
10 cups, and clamshell containers.

[00449] As used herein, the term “resin ID code 7” refers to plastic products made from plastics other than those defined as resin ID codes 1-6, including but not limited to, acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, and fiberglass. Such plastic products may include bottles, headlight lenses, and safety glasses.

15 **[00450]** As used herein, the term “separation efficiency” refers to the degree of separation between at two or more phases or components as defined in FIG. 10.

[00451] As used herein, the term “sink-float density separation” refers to a density separation process where the separation of materials is primarily
20 caused by floating or sinking in a selected liquid medium.

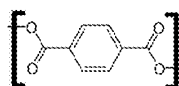
[00452] As used herein, the term “solidified purge material” refers to a plastic waste removed from any molten polymer processing apparatus or portion thereof while the apparatus is not producing an intended product (e.g., pellets, bottles, and other plastic articles), including but not limited to an extruder, filter,
25 pelletizer, reactor, conduit, and the like, that was molten within the molten polymer processing apparatus but was permitted to solidify outside of said apparatus.

[00453] As used herein, the term “solvolysis” or “ester solvolysis” refers to a reaction by which an ester-containing feed is chemically decomposed in the
30 presence of a solvent to form a principal carboxyl product and/or a principal glycol product. Examples of solvolysis include, hydrolysis, alcoholysis, and ammonolysis.

[00454] As used herein, the term “solvolysis coproduct” refers to any compound withdrawn from a solvolysis facility that is not the principal carboxyl (terephthaly) product of the solvolysis facility, the principal glycol product of the solvolysis facility, or the principal solvent fed to the solvolysis facility.

5 **[00455]** As used herein, the term “sorted plastic-containing mixture” refers to a quantity of mixed plastic waste sorted by a consumer and left for collection at a curbside or at a central convenience station, and may comprise clear and/or colored plastic articles, or sorted by a trash collector or municipality.

10 **[00456]** As used herein, the term “terephthaly” refers to a molecule including the following group:



[00457] As used herein, the term “principal terephthaly” refers to the main or key terephthaly product being recovered from the solvolysis facility.

15 **[00458]** As used herein, the term “glycol” refers to a component comprising two or more -OH functional groups per molecule.

[00459] As used herein, the term “principal glycol” refers to the main glycol product being recovered from the solvolysis facility.

20 **[00460]** As used herein, the term “target separation density” refers to a density above which materials subjected to a density separation process are preferentially separated into the higher-density output and below which materials are separated in the lower-density output.

25 **[00461]** As used herein, the terms “waste plastic” and “plastic waste” refer to used, scrap, and/or discarded plastic materials. The waste plastic fed to the chemical recycling facility may be unprocessed or partially processed.

30 **[00462]** As used herein, the term “unprocessed waste plastic” means waste plastic that has not be subjected to any automated or mechanized sorting, washing, or comminuting. Examples of unprocessed waste plastic include waste plastic collected from household curbside plastic recycling bins or shared community plastic recycling containers.

[00463] As used herein, the phrase “at least a portion” includes at least a portion and up to and including the entire amount or time period.

[00464] As used herein, the term “waste plastic particulates” refers to waste plastic having a D90 of less than 1 inch.

5 [00465] As used herein, the term “predominantly” means at least 50 weight percent of something, based on its total weight. For example, a composition comprising “predominantly” component A includes at least 50 weight percent of component A, based on the total weight of the composition.

[00466] As used herein, “downstream” means a target unit operation, vessel, or equipment that:

10 a. is in fluid (liquid or gas) communication, or in piping communication, with an outlet stream from the radiant section of a cracker furnace, optionally through one or more intermediate unit operations, vessels, or equipment, or

b. was in fluid (liquid or gas) communication, or in piping communication, with an outlet stream from the radiant section of a cracker furnace, optionally through one or more intermediate unit operations, vessels, or equipment, provided that the target unit operation, vessel, or equipment remains within the battery limits of the cracker facility (which includes the furnace and all associated downstream separation equipment).

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CLAIMS NOT LIMITED TO DISCLOSED EMBODIMENTS

20 [00467] The preferred forms of the invention described above are to be used as illustration only and should not be used in a limiting sense to interpret the scope of the present invention. Modifications to the exemplary embodiments, set forth above, could be readily made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

25 [00468] The inventors hereby state their intent to rely on the Doctrine of Equivalents to determine and assess the reasonably fair scope of the present invention as it pertains to any apparatus not materially departing from but outside the literal scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.