

Eastman’s molecular recycling project in Port-Jérôme-sur-Seine, Normandy, France

Key facts and figures

In January 2022, Eastman announced plans to invest \$1 billion in a material-to-material molecular recycling facility in Port-Jérôme-sur-Seine, Normandy, France. The facility would use Eastman’s polyester renewal technology (PRT) to recycle hard-to-recycle plastic waste that currently has no recycling solution and is often incinerated or landfilled.

However, securing French feedstock took longer than expected, and inflationary pressures and unique greenfield site aspects

have required longer schedules. Consequently, the project has evolved to a **two-phased approach**, allowing for a progressive scaling-up of the facility’s capacity. This has resulted in changes to key figures such as project timeline, cost, treatment capacity, and human resources. The first phase is scheduled to be completed in 2026, with the plant reaching full capacity after the second phase, currently planned for 2030.

Key facts and figures



200,000+ tonnes of waste processed/year.



350 direct jobs



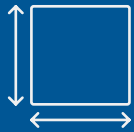
Phase I of plant start-up in **2026**



1,500 indirect jobs in recycling, energy and infrastructure



\$1 billion of investment for phase I



40-hectare plot on the industrial zone of Port-Jérôme

Feedstock and plant capacity

As of April 2023, Eastman has secured 70% of the feedstock it would need to reach full capacity for the first phase of the plant. Eastman’s objective is to secure 80% of the feedstock for phase one by the end of 2023. At full capacity, after both ramp-up phases, the plant would be able to treat more than 200,000 tons of polyester-rich waste, compared to the 160,000 tons initially announced.

	Phase I (tonnes)	Phase II (tonnes)	Total (tonnes)
Total waste input*	140,000+	140,000+	280,000+
Hard-to-recycle polyester waste treated by the plant	110,000+	110,000+	200,000+
rPET and specialty output	100,000+	100,000+	200,000+

*Non-polyester waste inputs separated in the preparation step are planned to be processed by mechanical and or chemical recycling.

Human resources

Eastman’s plant in Normandy would create employment for approximately 350 people and lead to 1,500 indirect jobs in recycling, energy and infrastructure. Operators and engineers would be recruited in advance to take into account a training period. Hiring efforts are expected to ramp up beginning in 2025.



The plant would employ about **30% engineers and technicians** and **70% operators and support functions**.

Energy plant

To provide Eastman’s recycling facility with the energy it would need at the different stages of its process, Eastman intends to partner with Veolia, who would build an energy plant on the Eastman plot in Port Jérôme. This energy plant would produce steam, heat and electricity and be fueled by a mix of biomass (recycled wood) and refuse-derived fuel (RDF).

Energy plant — Phase I <i>Operated by Veolia</i>		
Energy plant	Two 50-MW boilers	Cogen unit
Fuel	200,000 tonnes/year	Mix of biomass and RDF