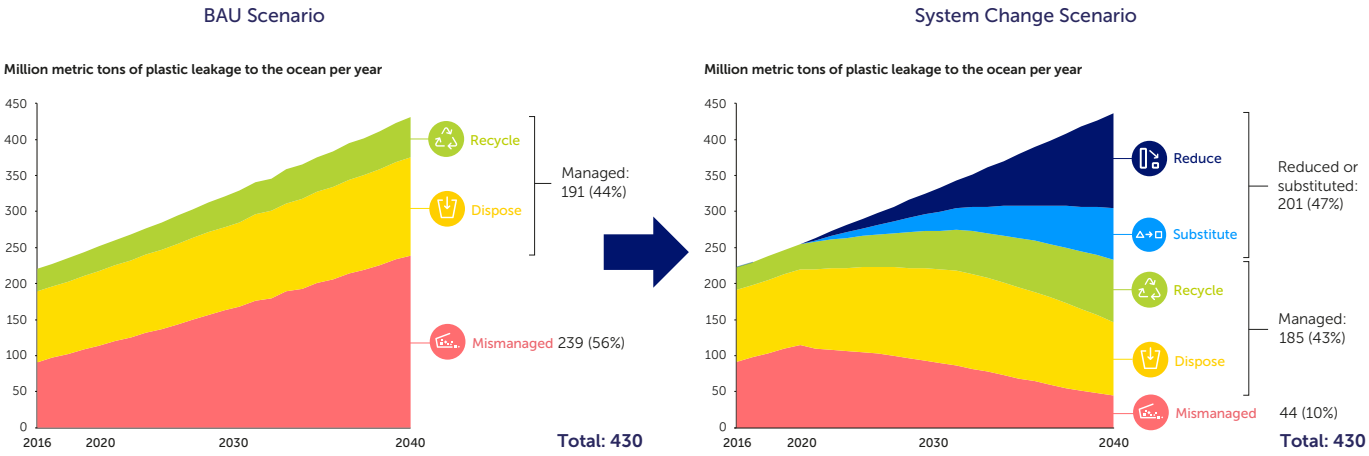
Figure 15: Plastic fate in Business-as-Usual versus System Change Scenario: a "wedges" analysis

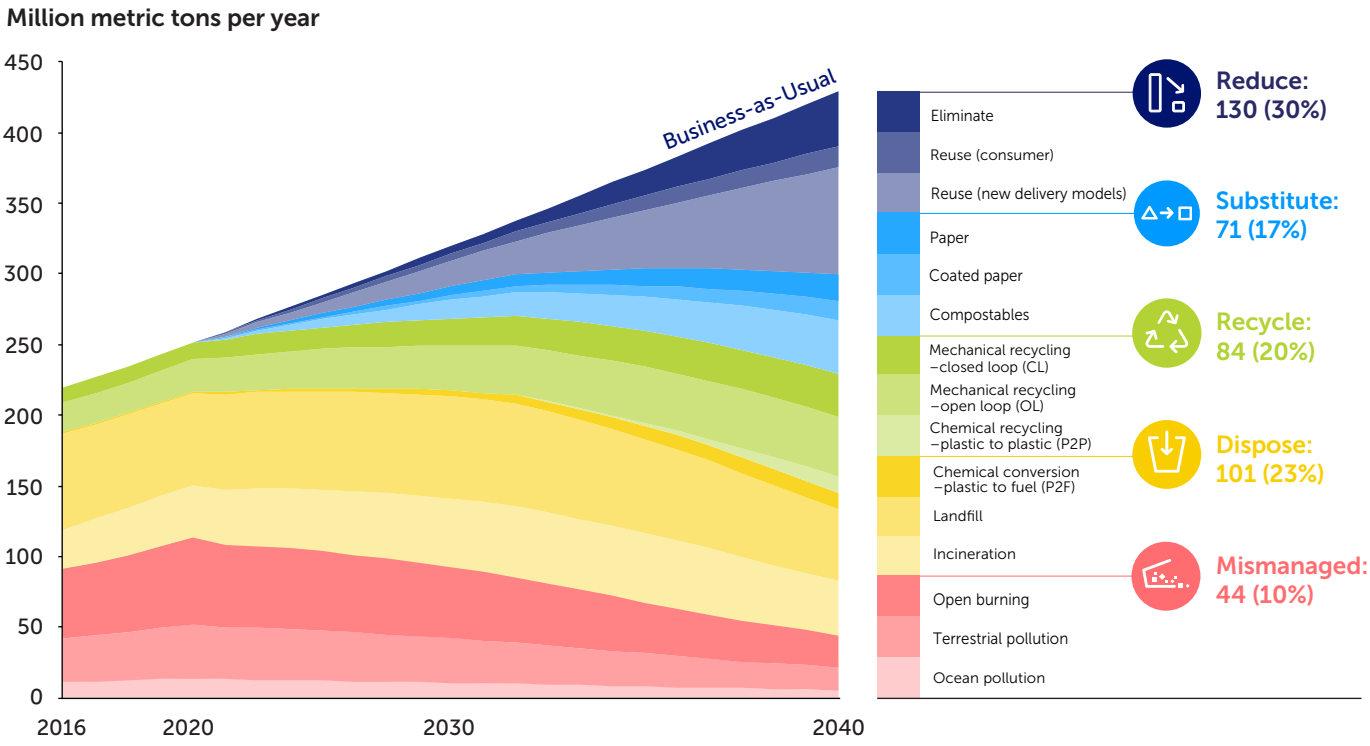
Mismanaged waste could be reduced from 56 per cent under Business-as-Usual to 10 per cent under the System Change Scenario



This figure compares the mass of plastic in each "wedge" under BAU, left, with the amount of plastic in each "wedge" under System Change Scenario, right, over time. Reduced "wedge" refers to plastic utility that can be fulfilled without generating any plastic waste (details in System Intervention 1). Substituted "wedge" refers to plastic utility that can be fulfilled with alternative materials (details in System Intervention 2). This figure shows that mismanaged waste can be reduced from 239 million metric tons under BAU to 44 million metric tons under the System Change Scenario, a reduction of about 80 per cent (82 ±13 per cent). This is the same level of reduction to annual plastic leakage mass by 2040 if the System Change Scenario is implemented.

Figure 16: Plastic fate in the System Change Scenario: a "wedges" analysis

There is a credible path to significantly reduce plastic leakage to the ocean, and it requires all solutions to be implemented concurrently, ambitiously, and starting immediately



This "wedges" figure shows the share of treatment options for the plastic that enters the system over time under the System Change Scenario. Any plastic that enters the system has a single fate, or a single "wedge." The Reduce wedge represents plastic utility that has been fulfilled without using physical plastic. The Substitute wedge reflects plastic utility that has been fulfilled by alternative materials such as paper or compostable materials. The Recycle wedge accounts for the plastic that is recycled in the system, either mechanically or chemically. The Dispose wedge includes plastic that cannot be reduced, substituted, or recycled but is managed in a way that ensures that it does not leak into the environment. All other plastic is considered Mismanaged. The numbers include macroplastic and microplastic.