The business risks of plastic pollution and opportunities of plastics disclosure and action

11 million metric tons of plastic leaked into the ocean in 2016. This is projected to triple by 2040.

The linear ‘take-make-waste’ model of plastic use means that billions of dollars of economic value are ‘thrown away’ after a single, short use.

US$80-120 billion is lost following a short one-use cycle, which equates to 95% of aggregate plastic packaging value.
As You Sow has launched the Plastic Solutions Investor Alliance, a coalition of investors worth $1 trillion of assets, that will engage publicly traded consumer goods companies on plastic waste and pollution.

UNPRI have produced engagement guidance for investors, focussed on four sectors in the plastic packaging value chain.

Asia
China & Singapore have announced ambitious plans to reduce the production, sale, and use of single-use plastic products and increase recycling.

North America
Several US states have imposed fees, taxes, or bans on plastic bags.

Europe
The EU aims to reduce the volume and impact of single-use plastic products on the environment through a range of measures.

Brand risk
The Minderoo Foundation has called out the largest petrochemical companies for their production of polymers bound for single-use plastic.

Anti-plastic campaigns
Michael Bloomberg has launched a campaign to block the planned construction of plastic plants across the US.

Consumer concern
News articles about microplastics being found in food products may discourage consumer demand.

Reuse models
Converting 20% of plastic packaging into reuse models is a US$10 billion business opportunity that benefits customers.

Disruptive materials
The emergence of disruptive, innovative materials may replace traditional plastics, such as bioplastics, algae, fungi and pineapple leaves.

New investments
Collaborative action and whole system change will improve recycling rates and material quality, leading to innovation, investment, and creating jobs and prosperity.

For more information visit cdp.net/plastics