



Zero Pellet Loss

We take care

Brussels, 12 June 2013

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

What is Marine Litter?

- Waste materials in marine and coastal environments
- Caused by human activities on the open sea and on land
- Materials gradually accumulate and cluster
- Identified as a major societal challenge



Photo: Lindsey Hoshaw

Where does it come from?

- Land-based (garbage and other solid waste)
- Marine-based (shipping activities and discarded fishing gear)



Where is it found?

Often found far away from the point where it was used or even disposed

- In the world's oceans, seas and waterways
- On coastlines, seabed and beaches



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Why is it so serious?

- Plastics do not easily biodegrade and they accumulate
- Animals become trapped in ocean waste
- Pellets and fragments block digestive tracts of sea life
- Plastic products break down due to the impact of light, salt-water, wave
- Plastic micro-waste is eaten by sea animals; the effects are unknown



How does Marine Litter affect us?

- Easy-answer, critics blame "plastics" in general
- Plastics receive negative publicity and poor image
- Negative public opinion influences decision makers; resulting in negative legislation



What is the industry doing?

The “Declaration for Solutions on Marine Litter”

- Launched at the 5th Int. Marine Debris Conference (UNEP & NOAA, March 2011)
- Signatories: 58 associations (incl. PlasticsEurope) from 34 countries
- Six-points plan for industry action
- 140+ projects planned, underway or completed
- Industry works with a broad range of stakeholders

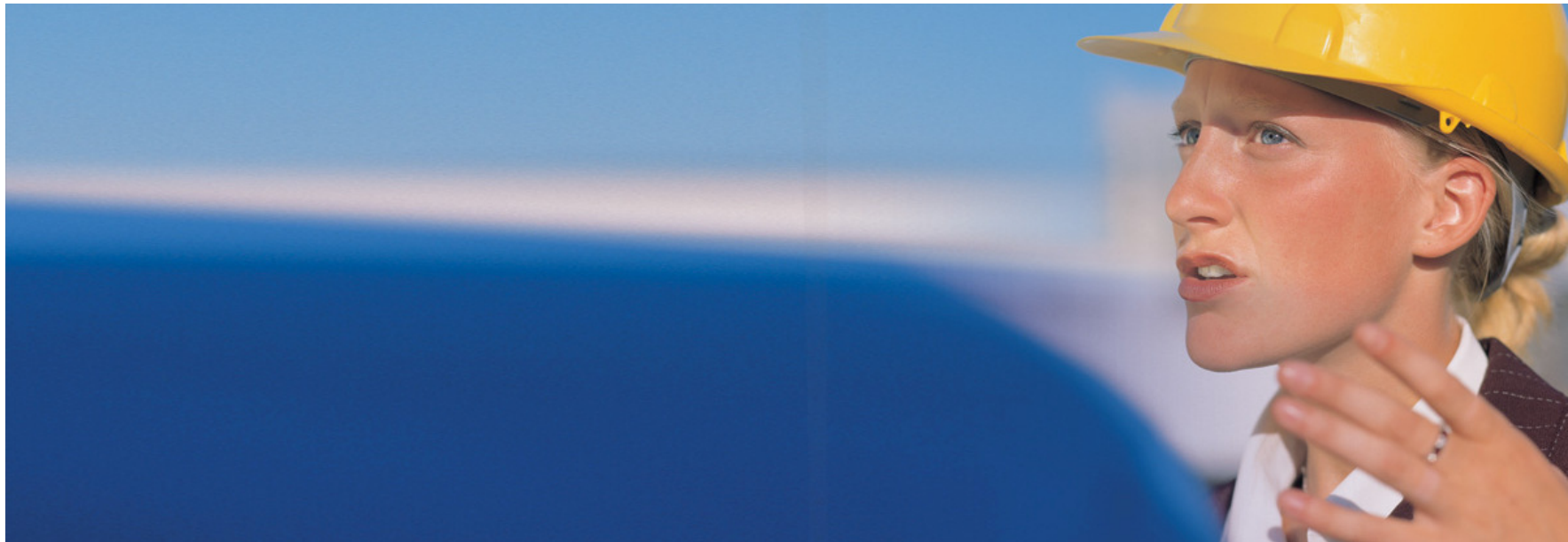


www.marinelittersolutions.com

What can we do?

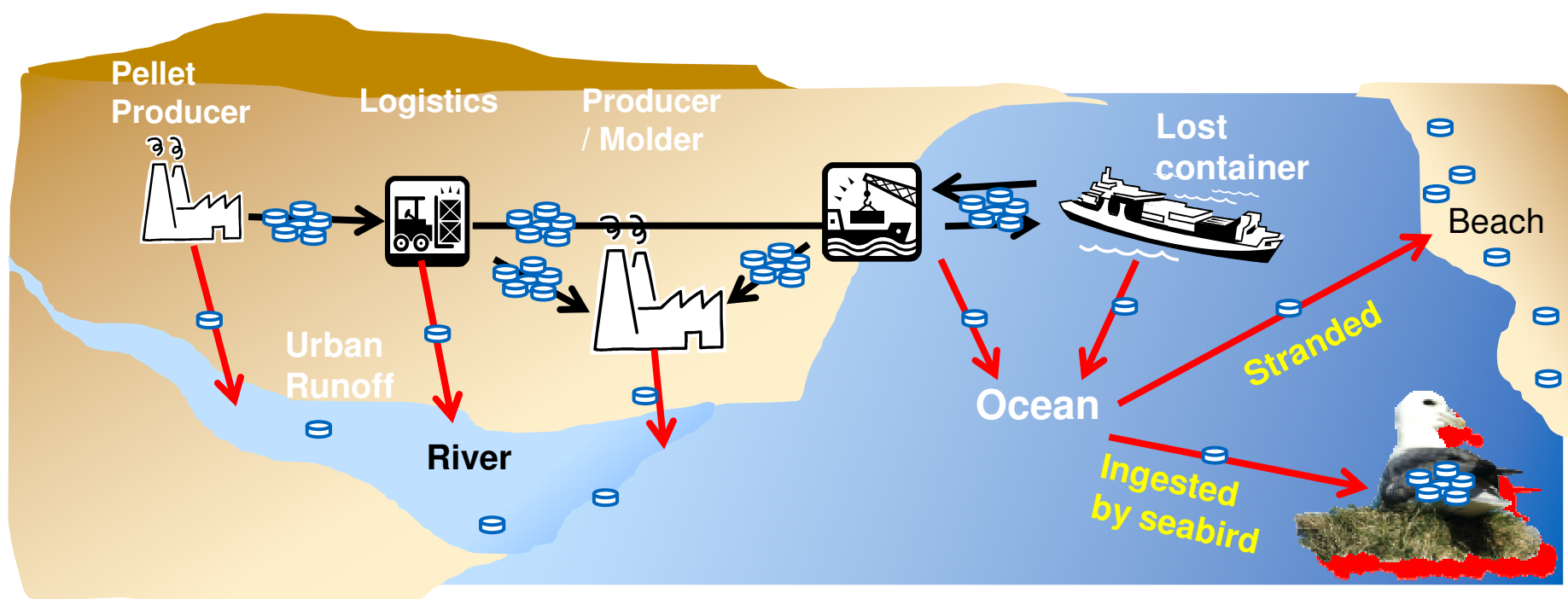
“We don’t dump waste plastics into the sea or on beaches, and the industry is working with authorities globally to help change those behaviors.”

- “What more can **we** do?”



What can we do?

- The one key area we can directly control is: **pellet loss**
- Polymer producers and processors, transporters and bulk terminal operators – all have a role to play
- Be in control of the pellets path from supplier to customer



Based on a graphic by International Pellet Watch: <http://www.tuat.ac.jp/~gaia/ipw/en/what.html>

What can we do?

“We've changed how we handle pellets - it's better now”

- That's positive - but the problem builds over time.
- The production has tripled over the last 20 years.
- The amount of pellets found in the environment shows a very slow but not a significant decline. It is nearly constant.
- We need to further improve containment and handling



Source: J.A. van Franeker, Wageningen IMARES

What can we do?

“Sure, we have some pellets lying around – but they're not going anywhere”

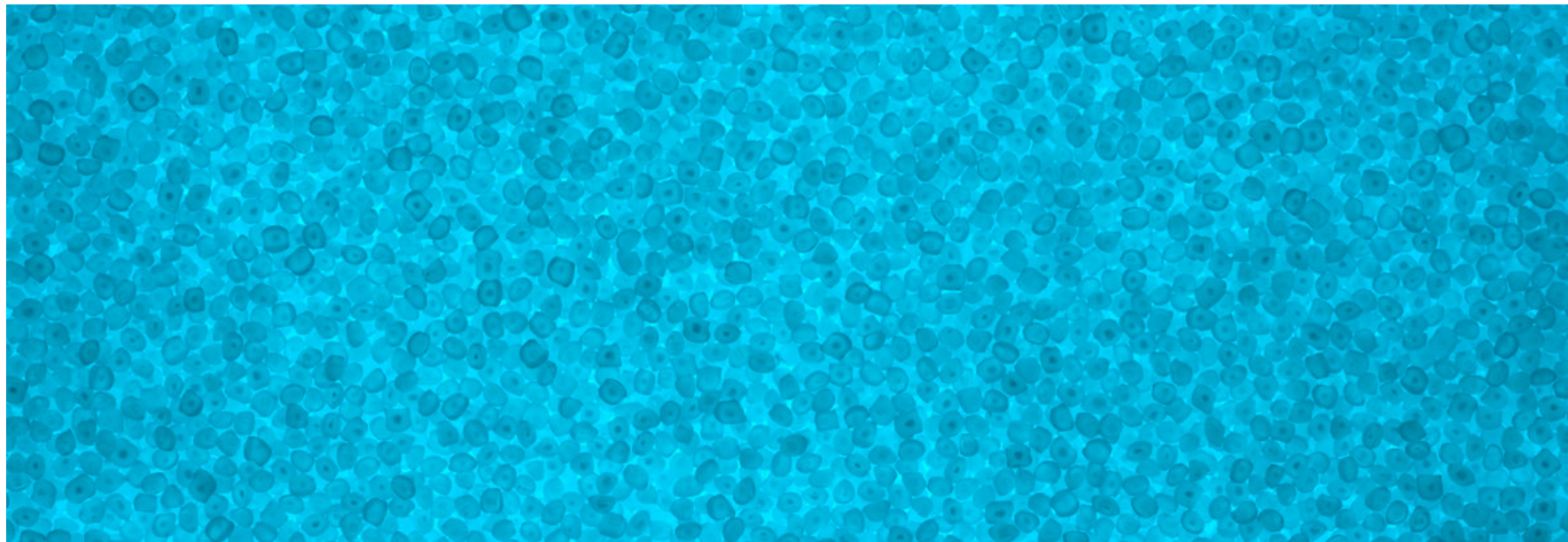
- They may sit for a while, but eventually some get into drains, streams and onto riverbanks
- Then they find their way to the sea and beaches
- And are then eaten by animals mistaking it for food



What can we do?

"We're not talking about many pellets"

- Perhaps not, but it all makes a difference
- 1 kg of polymer is around 50,000 pellets – which can spread over a huge area
- A few pellets here - a handful there - they all add up based on the thousands of times resin is handled per day



What can we do?

"Many companies in the supply chain already have audits and zero-loss programs in place"

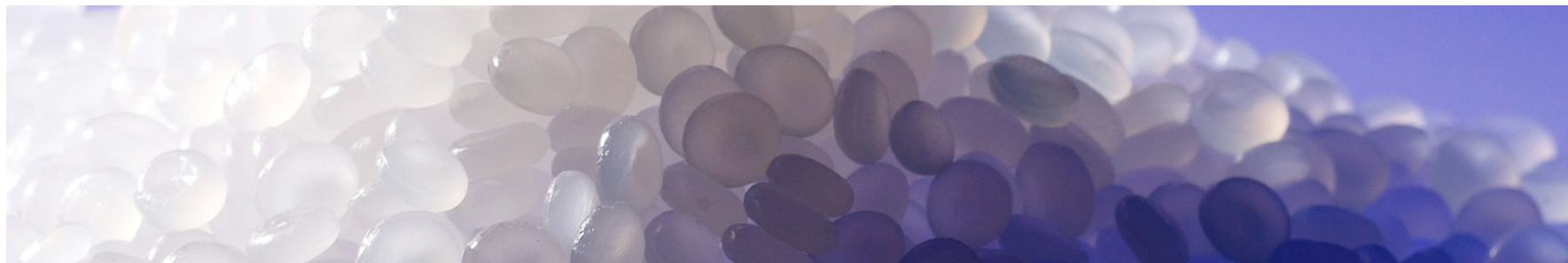
- It's the sum of the little things that count
- Improved housekeeping - Attention to detail
- Zero-pellet-loss containment and handling practices



What can we do?

Pellet handling measures include:

- Catch trays for use at loading points
- Strategic placement of pellet disposal containers on site
- Install screening in all storm drains
- Properly empty and seal bulk containers prior to shipment
- **Ensure the roof of the bulk truck is free of pellets after loading**
- Install central vacuum systems where practical
- Do not let loose pellets stand



What are the benefits of optimal pellet handling?

- Protects and preserves our environment
– particularly waterways and oceans
- Contributes to workplace safety
- Enhances industry commitment to product stewardship
- Reduces material waste



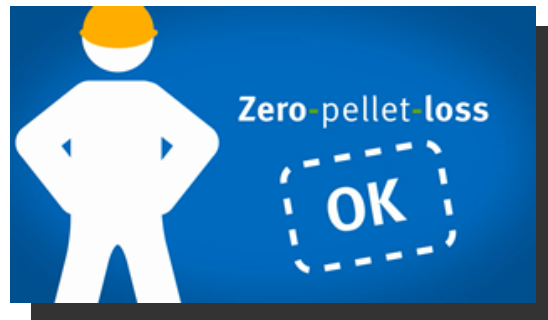
Throughout our Plastics Industry supply chain we should have **zero tolerance** for loose pellets

- anywhere, anytime.



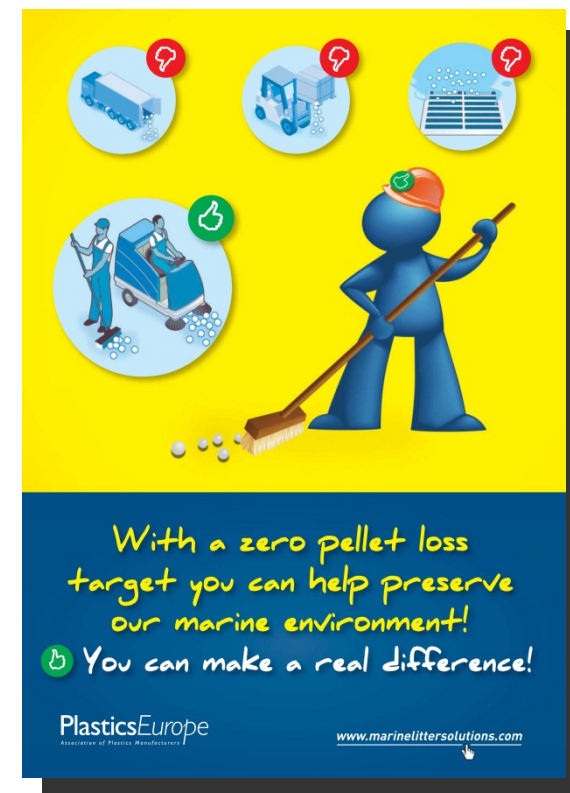
The Tool Kit

Animation



Presentation

2 x Posters





Plastics

The Material for the 21st Century