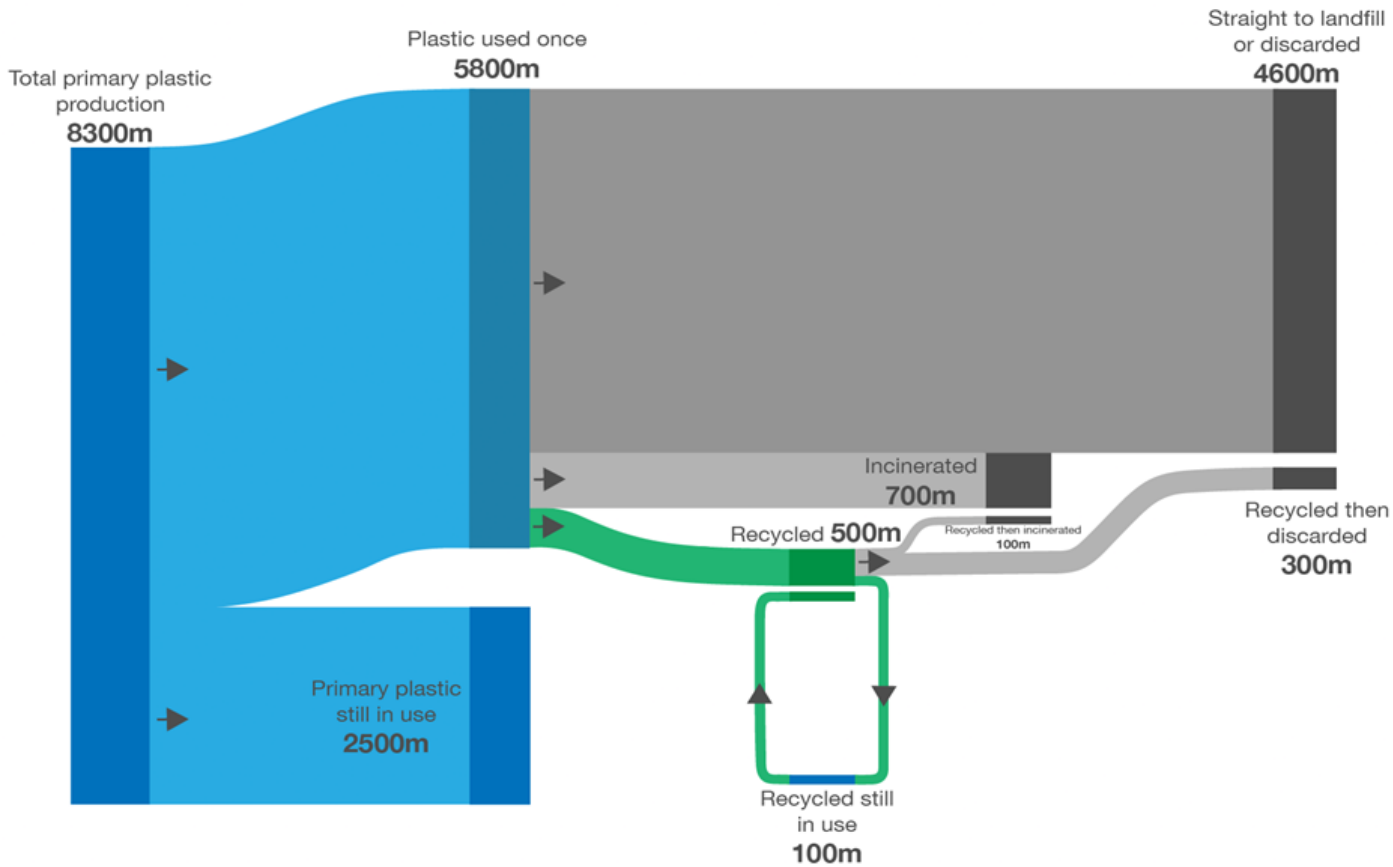
Global plastic production and its fate (1950-2015)

Global production of polymer resins, synthetic fibres and additives, and its journey through to its ultimate fate (still in use, recycled, incinerated or discarded).
Figures below represent the cumulative mass of plastics over the period 1950-2015, measured in million tonnes.

Balance of plastic production and fate (m = million tonnes)

8300m produced → 4900m discarded + 800m incinerated + 2600m still in use (100m of recycled plastic)



Source: based on Geyer et al. (2017). Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made.
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