

A River of Plastics

North Carolina Neuse River Basin

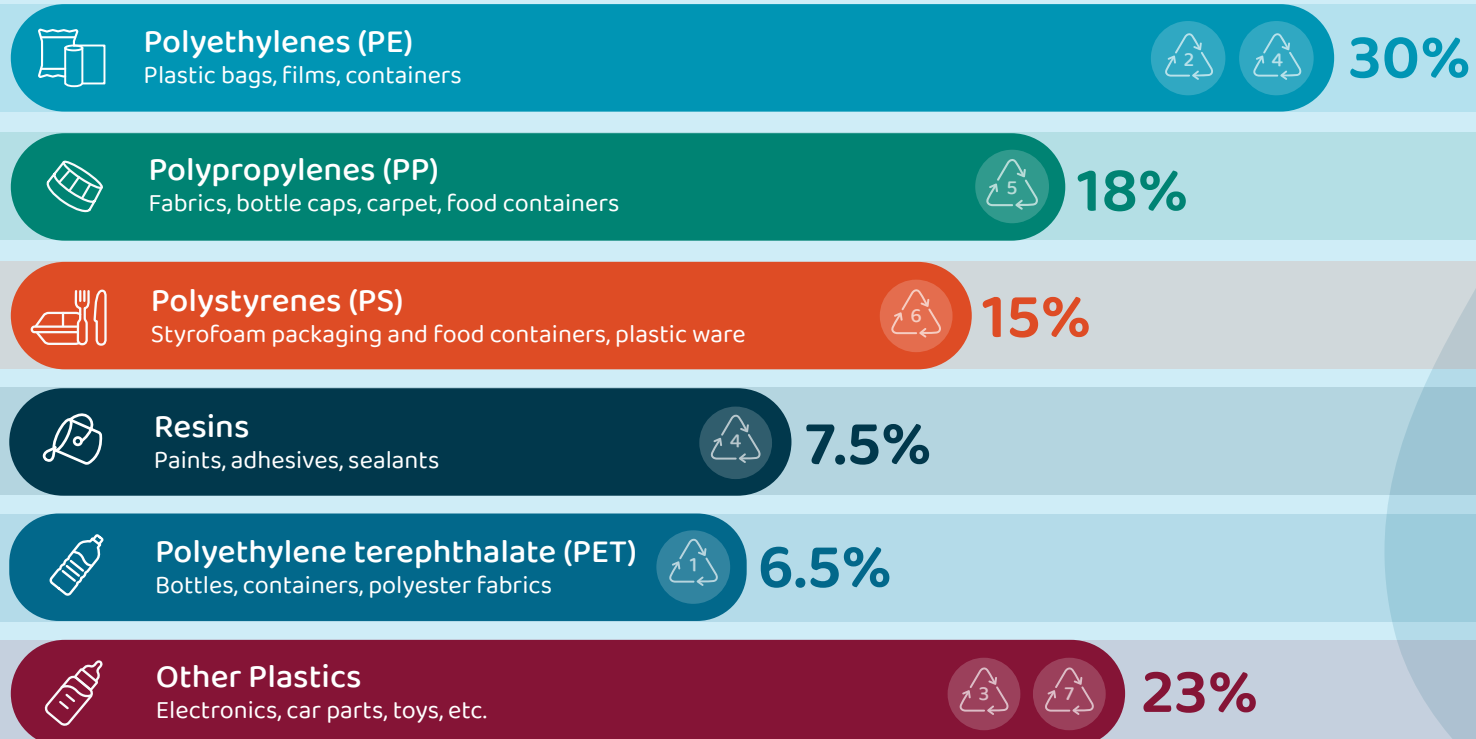
Rivers supply the majority of plastics that reach our coastal waters. Wildlife and aquatic animals can ingest plastic debris or become entangled. Litter on streets, sidewalks, and ditches washes through storm drains into our waterways when it rains. Plastic litter breaks down into smaller and smaller components — **microplastics** — which accumulate in fish, crabs, and oysters. Preventing and removing litter helps keep plastic out of our rivers, sounds, and food.

Microplastics

- Small particles less than 5 millimeters
- Pervasive in our streams, rivers, estuaries and the ocean



Most common microplastic types found in the Neuse River Basin:



Macroplastics

- Plastic particles larger than 5 millimeters

Approximately 92% of the litter that washes into the creeks that drain into the Neuse River is plastic.

