

## Controversies: Dow

- In December 2021, survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster pointed to Dow's refusal to clean-up the site contaminated by its subsidiary Union Carbide, and called out Dow for [discriminating against the Indian communities affected by its inaction](#). That same month, the Government of India told the parliament that [Dow Chemical had failed to appear before an Indian court](#) in connection with the disaster despite repeated summons since 2004. Attempts by two farmers to harvest and sell water chestnuts from Union Carbide's abandoned solar evaporation pond in Bhopal were thwarted by residents and activists who pointed out that the [pond was contaminated with toxins](#) from the ill-fated pesticide factory.
- In December 2021, a Reuters investigation exposed the [failure of a program to clean up the Ganges by the Dow-backed Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#). Even as the much touted clean-up flopped, AEPW members were dramatically increasing plastic production.
- In November 2021, [Dow Chemical was one of five major corporations whose cancer-causing air emissions](#) cover more populated square miles in the United States than the emissions from any other companies, according to an analysis by ProPublica, a public-interest independent journalism organisation.
- In September 2021, a company owning a property neighbouring an allegedly illegal landfill operated by Union Carbide between 1950s and 1980 filed a [complaint over water pollution](#) from the facility in Charleston, West Virginia.
- In August 2021, despite reductions in ethylene oxide emissions, the levels released by three Louisiana chemical facilities, including Dow subsidiary Union Carbide, continue to pose a [cancer risk level that is between 2 to 6 times higher than levels considered safe](#), according to the US EPA.
- In July 2021, a process upset at a Dow facility in La Porte, Texas caused a chemical spill that prompted the local fire department to issue an evacuation order for residents within 0.5 miles of the plant. The [leaked chemical — hydroxyethyl acetate](#) — can cause severe irritation to nose and throat, and burn human skin and eyes.
- In July 2021, Canadian environmental groups called out the top three plastic producers in Canada: NOVA Chemicals, Dow and Imperial Oil for putting their profits before sustainability. The [companies are suing the Canadian government to stop federal action that will list plastic manufactured items as "toxic."](#)

- In June 2021, lobby groups representing companies like Dow and BASF worked to defeat regulation targeting microplastic-borne toxic and persistent chemicals capable of transboundary travel through ocean currents, according to [Greenpeace](#) UK.
- In May 2021, a [California appeals court rejected challenges by manufactures of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane](#) against the state's clean-up standards for the cancer-causing chemical that was added to pesticides and has polluted groundwater in Central Valley.
- In May 2021, [lobbyists from BASF, Dow and INEOS, and industry groups crippled Europe's first rules to investigate and regulate the health impacts](#) of widespread polymer pollution, according to EEB, a network of European citizen organisations.
- In May 2021, [USA's top PFAS manufacturers, including Dow, executed a lobbying and campaign donation blitz](#) during the Trump era that resulted in the defeat of key legislation to rein in PFAS pollution, even as the EPA "slow-walked new rules".
- In May 2021, [Dow Chemical reportedly creates 5.5 million tonnes of plastic waste, and ranks high](#) among just 20 companies that are the source of more than half of all the single-use plastic items thrown away globally.
- In May 2021, a [Vietnamese-French woman appealed a French court's decision to dismiss her lawsuit against firms, including Dow](#), that manufactured the toxic Agent Orange defoliant used in the Vietnam War.
- In February 2021, [Ecuadorian farmers allegedly harmed by exposure to DBCP pesticide produced by Dow](#) and two others filed an opposition in a Delaware court to a motion by the companies to dismiss the farmers' lawsuit citing the statute of limitations.
- In January 2021, [Dow ranked 2 in Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index](#), according to a 2021 report prepared by the University of Massachusetts Institute based on publicly available 2019 data.
- In January 2021, [Dow ranked 7 in Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index](#), according to a 2021 report prepared by the University of Massachusetts Institute based on publicly available 2019 data.
- In May 2020, [concerns were raised that catastrophic flooding](#) in Michigan could potentially release toxic pollution from site contaminated by Dow.

- In May 2020, [a study showed](#) that only 20 companies are behind more than half of the world's single-use plastic waste. Dow was one of them.
- In November 2019, [Dow was fined a 98,750,000 USD penalty](#) to compensate the public for damages to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances from a Dow facility in Michigan, USA. The company will fund and implement natural resources restoration projects.
- In June 2019, [Dow settled with the US Justice Department and the EPA](#) over alleged environmental violations at the company's chemical manufacturing facility in Midland, Michigan. The consent decree required Dow to undertake extensive measures for reducing emissions, spend 1.6 million USD on supplementary environmental projects, and pay a fine of almost 4.6 million USD.
- Between 2012 and 2021, Dow paid more than 252 million USD in penalties for 74 environmental violations, according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.