

Controversies: LyondellBasell Industries

- In November 2021, The [State of Texas has filed a lawsuit against LyondellBasell](#) seeking injunctive relief, civil penalties and costs for violations of environmental laws and rules. This is in relation to the July 2021 accident at the company's La Porte facility when the release of 43,359 kg acetic acid resulted in the death of two contractors and injuries of more than 30 people.
- In November 2021, LyondellBasell was found to be one of just five corporations whose [cancer-causing emissions cover more populated square miles than from any other companies in the US](#), according to analysis by independent journalism platform ProPublica.
- In October 2021, three LyondellBasell companies [will pay \\$3.4 million USD in civil penalties for environmental violations](#) at their production facilities in the United States, in addition to spending \$50 million to reduce air pollution at its facilities in Texas and Iowa.
- In July 2021, LyondellBasell's facilities in La Porte, Texas have [paid at least \\$237,761 USD in fines over the last 10 years for violations of air and water](#) quality norms. The Texas Department of Environmental Quality records at least 5 such violations during this period.
- In July 2021, it was reported that a floating roof over a chemical tank had collapsed, [releasing a mixture of carbon disulphide, dimethyl sulphide and methyl ethyl disulphide](#). This happened at LyondellBasell's Houston Refinery.
- In July 2021, a power outage at LyondellBasell's facility in Lake Charles triggered [heavy flaring with dark smoke billowing out](#) of the plant's flare stacks.
- In May 2021, LyondellBasell [ranked 8 among the top 20 plastics manufacturers](#) that are responsible for more than 50% of the single-use plastics polluting the environment.
- In January 2021, LyondellBasell [ranked 2 among USA's Toxic 100 Air polluters with subsidiary Equistar's Bayport](#), Texas facility accounting for nearly 70% of the company's air toxicity load.
- In January 2021, LyondellBasell [ranked 3 among USA's Toxic 100 water polluters](#) as per 2019 data. The Lyondell Bayport facility accounts for nearly 95% of water toxicity load contributed the company.

- In August 2020, a [leak of titanium tetrachloride](#) occurred at the LyondellBasell plant in Edison, New Jersey, causing respiratory issues for two persons.
- In August 2020, [a fire broke out](#) at a LyondellBasell hydrotheater in Houston, Texas. No injuries were reported from the fire.
- In August 2018, Harris County filed a [lawsuit against Equistar](#), a subsidiary of LyondellBasell, for allegedly violating state air pollution laws. This is the second time Harris County sues Equistar for air pollution.
- In June 2018, the Houston Refining, LP and the Texas Attorney General's Office agreed to a settlement involving 680,000 USD in penalties, plus attorney fees and certain injunctive relief over air emission events at the refinery.
- In June 2018, LyondellBasell's Morris facility, the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General's Office agreed to resolve air pollution related matters for a penalty of 125,000 USD.
- In March 2018, the local court in Cologne, Germany, issued a regulatory fine notice of 1.8 million EUR arising from a pipeline leak at the company's Wesseling facility in Germany.
- In 2017, the US based enforcement watchdog [Environmental Integrity Project](#) reported that, in 2016, the state of Texas had failed to penalise 97 percent of illegal air pollution releases. In its report, the watchdog highlighted five separate illegal releases at LyondellBasell's Houston Refinery, including one where a leak at the plant released 54,286 pounds of volatile organic compounds in less than an hour and a half. Short, intense pollution spikes like these pose a serious threat to millions of Houstonians, especially the 316,000 people living within five miles of the plant.
- In April 2016, a [fire](#) was reported in the cooker unit at the LyondellBasell's Houston refinery. The fire raged for nineteen hours before it was controlled. A first-person account of the incident from local resident is available on this [video](#).
- In July 2015, there were [two explosions that sparked a fire](#) at a LyondellBasell plant in Berre-l'Etang, France. It was reported as being a criminal act. No one was hurt in the incident.
- In January 2012, LyondellBasell's site in Wesseling, Germany was [hit by an explosion](#). Seven employees were injured in the incident. Industry sources reported that the blast was at the low-density polyethylene plant.

- Between 2012 and 2021, LyondellBasell [paid more than 61 millions of USD in fines for 81 environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.