

Controversies: Braskem

- In 2023, Braskem was involved in several lawsuits for its salt mining activities in Maceió in the region of Alagoas in Brazil. For example, in July, Braskem settled an agreement with the city of Maceió for compensation of 356 million USD in damages caused by its salt mining operations. Another settlement was reached, including 9.1 billion reais (\$1.75 billion) for the cracks and sinking ground, which required thousands to relocate.
- It started in August 2019, when Brazil's Federal Public Ministry [filed a public civil action](#) holding Braskem responsible for societal and environmental damage worth 5.07 billion USD. This was based on Brazil's Geological Survey findings, which linked the company's salt mining operations with fissures and other geological damage in Maceió, a city in the Brazilian state of Alagoas. Braskem operated chloralkali and polyvinyl chloride plants in Maceió.
- In June 2023, [a fire produced by an explosion](#) at Braskem's Santo Andre production site in Sao Paulo left one worker dead and two injured.
- In May 2023, [a minor propylene release was reported at the Braskem Facility in La Porte, Texas](#). The facility did not say if anyone was injured during the release or if it threatened the residents in the area.
- In September 2022, the UK-based think tank Planet Tracker [called out the Alliance to End Plastic Waste's "sophisticated" greenwashing](#). The Alliance, whose members include Braskem, were accused of publicly committing to help tackle plastic pollution and quietly lobbying for policies derailing progress on the issue.
- In the summer of 2021, a [study showed](#) that a mere 20 companies are behind more than half of the world's single-use plastic waste. Braskem was one of them.
- In 2021, the company's "green plastic" was labelled [greenwashing](#) because it encourages extensive use of land, pesticides and water for sugarcane monoculture while triggering agrarian conflicts and diverting productive farmland for commodity production instead of food.
- Between 2019 and 2023, [Braskem paid more than 170,000 USD in environmental liabilities](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.