## Supporting Information

Photocatalytic dechlorination of chlorinated hydrocarbons including PVC by organolanthanide complexes
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## S1 General Details

All moisture and air sensitive materials were manipulated using standard high-vacuum Schlenk-line techniques and MBraun gloveboxes and stored under an atmosphere of dried and deoxygenated dinitrogen. All glassware items, cannulae and Fisherbrand $1.2 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ retention glass microfiber filters were dried in a $160^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ oven overnight before use.

Hexanes, tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether ( $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ) and toluene for use with moisture and air sensitive compounds were dried using an MBRAUN SPS 800 Manual solvent purification system and stored over activated $3 \AA$ molecular sieves. Benzene- $D_{6}$ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and refluxed over potassium metal for 24 hours, freeze-pump-thaw degassed and purified by trap-to-trap distillation prior to use. THF-D $\mathrm{D}_{8}$ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and dried over sodium/benzophenone before being freeze-pump-thaw degassed and purified by trap-to-trap distillation prior to use. All solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Fisher Scientific and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves for 4 hours before being used.
$\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}$ was prepared according to the literature procedure ${ }^{1}$ and stored at $-30{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Dihydrocarbyl magnesium reagents ${ }^{2}, \mathrm{KC}_{5} \mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{H},{ }^{3}$ lanthanide triodides ( $\mathrm{Ln}=\mathrm{La}, \mathrm{Ce}, \mathrm{Nd}, \mathrm{Sm}$ ), ${ }^{4,5}$ lanthanide tris(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl) complexes 2-Ln (Ln = La, Ce, Nd, Sm), ${ }^{4,6}\left[\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Ce}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl})\right]_{2}(3-\mathrm{Ce})^{7}$, $\left[\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Ln}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl})\right]_{2}(3-\mathrm{La}),{ }^{7}$ and $\mathrm{Mg}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2}{ }^{8}$ were all prepared using published methods. All other chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and degassed and/or dried under vacuum or over 3 Å molecular sieves for 12 hours before use.

The station for photochemical reactions was equipped with a fan to maintain constant temperature, and unless otherwise stated, a single 40 W Kessil A160WE 440 nm lamp. The reactions were conducted in J-Young valved NMR spectroscopy tubes fixed at a distance of 7.5 cm from the light source.

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 500 and 600 MHz spectrometers and are referenced to residual protio solvent for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. THF was used as solvents for No Deuterium (NoD) NMR spectroscopic experiments, ${ }^{10}$ and was referenced to added tetramethylsilane ( 0.00 ppm for both ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectroscopic experiments). Quantitative ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR data were acquired with a minimum of 24 , with the delay time set to $5 x$ the longest $T_{1}$ value present. Chemical shifts are quoted in ppm and coupling constants in Hz. Tetrakis(trimethylsilyl)silane (TMS*) was used as internal standards for quantitative ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. NMR spectra were taken at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ unless otherwise noted. Elemental analyses were carried out by the microanalytic services in the College of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. ATR-FTIR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IRSpirit FTIR spectrometer on neat powders.

X-ray diffraction data were collected at beamline 12.2.1 of the Advanced Light Source (ALS) at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, using a Bruker D8 diffractometer coupled to a Bruker Photonll CPAD detector with $\mathrm{Si}(111)$-monochromated synchrotron radiation (17 keV radiation). All data were collected at 100 K and corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects; no correction for crystal decay was applied. An empirical absorption correction based on comparison of redundant and equivalent reflections was applied using SADABS. All software used for diffraction data processing are contained in the APEX3 program suite (Bruker AXS, Madison, WI). ${ }^{9}$ All structures were solved using SHELXT in Olex2 and refined using SHELXL in Olex2. ${ }^{10,11}$

## S2 Experimental Procedures and Characterization

## Synthesis of $\left[\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Nd}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl})\right]_{2}(3-\mathrm{Nd})$

In a glovebox a vial was charged with ( $\left.\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{3} \mathrm{Nd}(94.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.186 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.) in THF ( 5 mL ), resulting in a green solution. With stirring, a colorless solution of $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}(26.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0968 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.52$ equiv.) in THF ( 1 mL ) was added dropwise. After stirring for 1 hour at room temperature, a color change to turquoise was seen, and the solution continued to stir overnight. After this time the volatiles were removed under vacuum, resulting in a turquoise powder which was subsequently washed with cold hexanes ( $2 \times 0.5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The powder was redissolved in a minimum of THF ( 1 mL ), layered with hexanes ( 3 mL ) and stored at $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 days to yield periwinkle blue blocks of $\left[\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{NdCl}\right]_{2}$ that were suitable for X-ray diffraction studies. Yield: $56.0 \mathrm{mg}, 70 \%$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$ ) $\delta 17.70$ (br. s, $12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3 \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{p}}}$ ), 0.05 (br. s, $12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3 \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{p}}}$ ), -9.86 (br. s, $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Cp}}$ ).
Anal. Calcd for: $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{Nd}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ : C, 51.47; $\mathrm{H}, 5.76$. Found: $\mathrm{C}, 50.78 ; \mathrm{H}, 5.87$.

## Synthesis of $\left[\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2} \underline{\mathrm{Sm}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl})]_{2}(3-\mathrm{Sm})}\right.$

In a glovebox a vial was charged with $\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{3} \mathrm{Sm}(95.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.186 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.) in THF ( 5 mL ), resulting in a red solution. With stirring, a colorless solution of $\mathrm{PhICl}_{2}(26.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0968 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.520$ equiv.) in THF ( 1 mL ) was added dropwise. After stirring for 16 hours at room temperature, a color change to orange was seen, and the volatiles were removed under vacuum resulting in an orange powder which was subsequently washed with cold hexanes ( $2 \times 0.5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The powder was redissolved in a minimum of THF ( 1 mL ), layered with hexanes ( 3 mL ) and stored at $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 days to yield orange blocks that were suitable for X-ray diffraction studies. Yield: $60.3 \mathrm{mg}, 77 \%$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{D}_{8}$ ) $\delta 11.77$ (br. s, $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Cp}}$ ), 1.56 (br. s, $12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3 \mathrm{Cp}_{\mathrm{p}}}$ ), 0.30 (br. s, $12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3 \mathrm{Cp}_{\mathrm{p}}}$ ).
Anal. Calcd for: $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{Sm}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ : C, 50.73; $\mathrm{H}, 5.68$. Found: $\mathrm{C}, 51.03 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.03$.

## S3 Catalytic C-Cl activation

## Procedure

In a glovebox, a Young NMR tube was charged with metal complex (1-20 mol\%), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ ( 1 equiv.), internal standard, and THF ( 0.5 mL ). Chlorinated substrate ( 1 equiv.) was then added, and the sample sealed, placed in front of a Kessil 440 nm lamp and monitored periodically by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. Final time point measurements were collected after 24 hours unless stated otherwise.

Results
Table S1 - Calculated conversion R-Cl to R-H or R-Bna with yields of dechlorinated product determined by ${ }^{1}$ H NMR spectroscopy. No product formation was seen without irradiation with light.

| Entry | Catalyst | Catalyst Loading (mol\%) | Time ( hr ) | Substrate | Major Identified Product | Product Yield (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2-La | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 52 |
| 2 | 2-La | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 29 |
| 3 | 3-La | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 28 |
| 3 | 1-Ce | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 96 |
| 4 | 1-Ce | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 37 |
| 5 | 2-Ce | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 89 |
| 6 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 93 |
| 7 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | Chlorobenzene | Benzene | 64 |
| 8 | 2-Ce | 5 | 48 | Chlorobenzene | Benzene | 100 |
| 9 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | 241-Chloro-4-fluorobenzene | Fluorobenzene | 100 |
| 10 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | (2-chloroethyl)benzene | Ethylbenzene | 42 |
| 11 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | 1-(chloromethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene | 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethane | $89^{\text {a }}$ |
| 12 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | 1-Chloro-2-methylpropene | 2-methylprop-1-ene | 73 |
| 13 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | 3-Chloro-2-methylpropene | (3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)benzene | $79^{\text {a }}$ |
| 14 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | 2-chloro-2-methylpropane | 2-methylprop-1-ene ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 20 |
| 15 | 2-Ce | 5 | 24 | Polyvinyl chloride ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | Polyethylene | $79^{\text {d }}$ |
| 16 | 2-Ce | 1 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 96 |
| 17 | 3-Ce | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 63 |
| 18 | 3-Ce | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 76 |
| 19 | 3-Ce | 5 | 24 | Chlorobenzene | Benzene | 15 |
| 20 | 3-Ce | 5 | 48 | Chlorobenzene | Benzene | 82 |
| 21 | 3-Ce | 1 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 97 |
| 22 | 2-Nd | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 37 |
| 23 | 2-Nd | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 6.6 |
| 24 | 3-Nd | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 27 |
| 25 | 2-Sm | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 15 |
| 26 | 2-Sm | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 2.2 |
| 27 | 3-Sm | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 15 |
| 28 | 2-Dy | 20 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 0 |
| 29 | 2-Dy | 5 | 24 | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 0 |

## S4 Miscellaneous and Control Reactions

Table S2 - Calculated conversion R-Cl to R-H with yields of dechlorinated product determined by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. Reactions carried out in 0.5 mL THF and irradiated with a Kessil 440 nm lamp for 24 hours unless otherwise specified. No product generation was seen without irradiation with light.

| Entry | Catalyst | Catalyst Loading (mol\%) | Turnover reagent | Substrate | Major Identified Product | Yield (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\mathrm{Mg}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\text {Me4 }}\right)_{2}$ | 5 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 1.2 |
| 2 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | 20 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 0 |
| 3 | $\mathrm{MgPh}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | 20 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 3.5 |
| 4 | $\mathrm{MgCl}_{2}$ | 20 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 2.0 |
| 5 | KCp ${ }^{\text {me4 }}$ | 5 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 3.0 |
| 6 | 1-Ce | 20 | Ce | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 20 |
| 7 | 1-Ce | 20 | Zn | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 20 |
| 8 | 1-Ce | 20 | $\mathrm{MgPh}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 23 |
| 9 | 2-Ce | 5 | NaH | Chlorocyclohexane | Cyclohexane | 7.0 |
| 10 | 2-Ce | 1 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Polyvinyl chloride ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Polyethylene | $79^{\text {b }}$ |
| $11^{\text {c }}$ | 2-Ce | 5 | $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ | Polyvinyl chloride ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Polyethylene | $78{ }^{\text {b }}$ |

a) average $M_{w} \sim 233,000$, average $M_{n} \sim 99,000$, commercial sample. b) Yield indicates the percentage of Cl removed from PVC, as determined by Mohr's method, vide infra. c) Reaction time extended to 48 hours.

Incorporation of deuterium into cyclohexane (Figure S1). In a glovebox, a vial was charged with $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2},(35.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.100 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.) chlorocyclohexane ( $11.8 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.100 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.) and THF- $\mathrm{D}_{8}$ ( 0.5 mL ). The solution was then used to dissolve 2-Ce ( $2.5 \mathrm{mg}, 5.00 \mu \mathrm{~mol}, 0.0500$ equiv.), and the reaction mixture transferred to a Young's valve-equipped NMR tube. The sample was irradiated with a Kessil 440 nm lamp and monitored periodically by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectroscopy, with a time point measured after 24 hours. Following this time coupling arising from the formation of cyclohexane- $\mathrm{D}_{1}$ was observed by ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectroscopy, but no diagnostic peaks could be observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy because the peaks of cyclohexane-D coalesce at room temperature.


Figure S1. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR in THF- $\mathrm{D}_{8}$ of catalysis reaction mixture of the dechlorination of chlorocyclohexane by 2-Ce carried out in THF- $D_{8}$ under otherwise standard conditions. The incorporation of deuterium into cyclohexane- $\mathrm{D}_{1}$ is highlighted in the spectrum, a yield of $3 \%$ is observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR.

Incorporation of deuterium into 2-methylpropene (Figure S2). In a glovebox, a vial was charged with $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$, ( $35.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.100 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.) 1-chloro-2-methylpropene ( $9.84 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.100 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.00 equiv.) and THF-D $D_{8}(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$. The solution was then used to dissolve 2-Ce ( $2.5 \mathrm{mg}, 5.00 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$, 0.0500 equiv.), and the reaction mixture transferred to a Young's valve-equipped NMR tube. The sample was irradiated with a Kessil 440 nm lamp and monitored periodically by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectroscopy, with a time point measured after 24 hours. $2.4 \%$ in situ yield of 2-methylprop-1-ene-1D was observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy.


Figure S2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR in THF-D ${ }_{8}$ of catalysis reaction mixture of the dechlorination of 1-chloro-2-methylpropene by 2-Ce carried out in THF-D $\mathrm{D}_{8}$ under otherwise standard conditions. The incorporation of deuterium into 2-methylprop-1-ene-1-D is highlighted in the spectrum, a yield of $3 \%$ is observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR.
 glovebox, a Young's valve-equipped NMR tube was charged with 2-Ce ( $5.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.010 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}(70.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.200 \mathrm{mmol}, 20.0$ equiv.), THF ( 0.5 mL ) and an internal standard. The NMR tube was sealed and the mixture immediately analyzed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy. An equilibrium constant of 2.5 was calculated based on the relative concentrations of $\mathbf{2 - C e}, 6-\mathrm{Ce}, \mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{Mg}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me} 4}\right)_{2}$ present in solution. Yields: $99 \%$ conversion to $6-\mathrm{Ce}, 92 \%$ conversion to $\mathrm{Mg}\left(\mathrm{Cp}^{\mathrm{Me4}}\right)_{2}$.

Reaction to investigate the formation of 3-Ce from dechlorination catalysis mixtures. In a glovebox, a Young's valve-equipped NMR tube was charged with 2-Ce ( $5.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.010 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv.), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ ( $70.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.200 \mathrm{mmol}, 20.0$ equiv.), THF ( 0.5 mL ) and an internal standard. Chlorocyclohexane ( $23.6 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.200 \mathrm{mmol}, 20.0$ equiv.) was then added before the NMR tube was sealed and irradiated for 24 hours under a 440 nm lamp. Following this time, the complete conversion from 2-Ce to 3-Ce was observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy.

Reaction of 3-Ce and $\mathbf{M g B n}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ in the dark. In a glovebox, a Young's valve-equipped NMR tube was charged with $3-\mathrm{Ce}\left(4.26 \mathrm{mg}, 5.00 \mu \mathrm{~mol}, 0.5\right.$ equiv.), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}(70.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.200 \mathrm{mmol}, 20.0$ equiv.), THF ( 0.5 mL ) and an internal standard. The NMR tube was sealed, wrapped in aluminum foil and stored in the dark for 24 hours. Following this time, a color change from bright yellow to darker yellow had occurred but no conversion to 6 -Ce was observed by ${ }^{1}$ HMR spectroscopy.

Reaction of 3-Ce and $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}$ under 440 nm light irradiation. In a glovebox, a Young's valveequipped NMR tube was charged with $3-\mathrm{Ce}\left(4.26 \mathrm{mg}, 5.00 \mu \mathrm{~mol}, 0.500\right.$ equiv.), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}$ (THF) $\mathbf{2}_{2}(70.0 \mathrm{mg}$, $0.200 \mathrm{mmol}, 20.0$ equiv.), THF ( 0.5 mL ) and an internal standard. the NMR tube was sealed and
irradiated for 24 hours under a 440 nm lamp. Following this time a color change from bright yellow to a yellow-green had occurred and $96 \%$ conversion to $6-C e$ was observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy.

## S5 Characterization of products arising from dechlorination of polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

We aimed to characterize the sample arising from the dechlorination of PVC by Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI). However, the sample was not sufficiently soluble in organic solvents for these characterization techniques to be possible.

## S5.1 Determination of the extent of dechlorination of PVC

In a glovebox, a Young NMR tube was charged with 2-Ce ( $0.005 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5 \mathrm{mg}$ ), $\mathrm{MgBn}_{2}(\mathrm{THF})_{2}(0.100$ $\mathrm{mmol}, 35.1 \mathrm{mg}$ ), a commercial sample of PVC ( $0.100 \mathrm{mmol}, 6.25 \mathrm{mg}$, average $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}} \sim 233,000$, average $M_{n} \sim 99,000$ ) and THF ( 0.5 mL ). The sample was then sealed and placed in front of a Kessil 440 nm lamp for 24 hours. During this time, the precipitation of the dechlorinated polymer as a colourless solid (Figure S1, left) was observed, alongside generation of a yellow solution shown to contain 3-Ce by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy.


Figure S3 - Solution and polymer precipitate resulting from the dechlorination of PVC by 2-Ce (left); isolated dechlorinated polymer (right).

Mohr's method was then used to determine the amount of $\mathrm{MgCl}_{2}$ and other chloride-containing species resulting from the dechlorination of polyvinyl chloride. The Young NMR tube was opened to air, and the white solid manually separated from the solution (Figure S1, right). The solution was evaporated to dryness and the resulting solids redissolved in water suitable for trace metal analyses. Potassium chromate indicator was added, and a 25 mM solution of silver nitrate was titrated against the solution until the end point was reached. The extent of dechlorination in the polymer was determined to be 79\%.

## S5.2 Further characterization



Figure S4. IR spectrum of PVC, polyethylene and the dechlorinated sample. Sample possesses similar features to commercial sample of polyethylene, alongside evidence of unreacted PVC.

## S6 Photophysical measurements



Figure S5-Emission and excitation spectra of 3-Ce recorded in THF. The emission spectrum was collected with an excitation wavelength of 300 nm ; the excitation was monitored at an emission wavelength of 559 nm . All data were calibrated to the detector efficiency and normalized.


Figure S6 - Lifetime decay of 3-Ce recorded in THF. $\tau 1[\mathrm{~ns}]=175.10 \pm 0.16$.


Figure S7 - Absorbance spectrum of 4-Ce in THF.


Figure S8-Absorbance spectrum of 4-Ce and $1 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ chlorocyclohexane in THF.

## S7 Crystallography



Figure S9- ORTEP diagram of 3-Nd. Ellipsoids shown at 50\% probability, hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.


Figure S10-ORTEP diagram of 3-Sm. Ellipsoids shown at 50\% probability, hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.
Table S3 - Crystal data and structure refinement for 3-Nd and 3-Sm.

|  | 3-Nd | 3-Sm |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Nd}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Sm}_{2}$ |
| Formula weight | 844.15 | 856.37 |
| Temperature/K | 100 | 100 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic | monoclinic |
| Space group | $\mathrm{P} 21 / \mathrm{n}$ | $\mathrm{P} 21 / \mathrm{n}$ |
| a/Å | 8.504(13) | 8.5346(12) |
| $b / \AA$ | 10.398(14) | 10.3557(14) |
| c/Å | 19.24(3) | 19.111(3) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 |
| $\beta /{ }^{\circ}$ | 91.801(8) | 91.674(5) |
| $\gamma /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 |
| Volume/Å ${ }^{3}$ | 1700(4) | 1688.4(4) |
| Z | 2 | 2 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ | 1.649 | 1.684 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 3.395 | 3.859 |
| F(000) | 844.0 | 852.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ${ }^{3}$ | $0.1 \times 0.04 \times 0.02$ | $0.2 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$ |
| Radiation | synchrotron ( $\lambda=0.7288$ ) | synchrotron ( $\lambda=0.7288$ ) |
| $2 \Theta$ range for data collection/ ${ }^{\circ}$ | 4.344 to 52.074 | 4.588 to 58.288 |
| Index ranges | $-10 \leq h \leq 10,-12 \leq k \leq 12,-23 \leq \mathrm{l} \leq 23$ | $-11 \leq h \leq 11,-13 \leq k \leq 13,-25 \leq 1 \leq 25$ |
| Reflections collected | 21497 | 25987 |
| Independent reflections | 3104 [ $\left.\mathrm{i}_{\text {int }}=0.1314, \mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0838\right]$ | $4208\left[\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}=0.0807, \mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0554\right]$ |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 3104/0/189 | 4208/0/189 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | 0.986 | 1.037 |
| Final $R$ indexes [ $1>=2 \sigma(1)]$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0482, w R_{2}=0.1196$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0349, w R_{2}=0.0902$ |
| Final $R$ indexes [all data] | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0585, w R_{2}=0.1275$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0419, w R_{2}=0.0940$ |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\AA^{-3}$ | 0.98/-1.11 | 0.85/-1.11 |

## S8 Computational details

All DFT and TDDFT calculations were carried out using Gaussian $09^{13}$ software package. Optimizations, frequency calculations and population analysis were performed using the B3PW91 ${ }^{14,15}$ functional. Ce, La and Cl atoms were treated with a Stuttgart effective core potential and the associated basis set. ${ }^{16,17}$ In the case of Cl , a set of polarization functions ${ }^{18}$ was added. The $6-31 \mathrm{G}^{* *}$ basis set ${ }^{19,20}$ was employed for C and H atoms. Single point calculations including THF solvent were carried out to correct the TDDFT spectra using the SMD model.

## S8.1 2-La



## First excitation :

Excited State 2: Singlet-?Sym $3.2853 \mathrm{eV} 377.39 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0216<$ S**2 $^{*}>=0.000$

$$
\text { HOMO-1 -> LUMO } 0.70421
$$




HOMO-1

## LUMO



Including solvent (THF, single point)
Excited State 2: Singlet-?Sym 2.9146 eV $425.92 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0216<\mathrm{S}^{*}{ }^{*} 2>=0.000$ HOMO-1 -> LUMO 0.70421

## HOMO-1

LUMO


## S8.2 2-Ce



SOMO


## LUMO



HOMO-1


First observable excitations:
Excited State 9: 3.425-?Sym $3.0242 \mathrm{eV} 409.98 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0006<\mathrm{S}^{* *} 2>=2.683$

```
SOMO -> LUMO 0.79134
HOMO-1 -> LUMO -0.56170
```

Excited State 14: 2.061-?Sym $3.2471 \mathrm{eV} 381.83 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0209<\mathrm{S}^{* *} 2>=0.812$

$$
\text { SOMO -> LUMO } 0.57443
$$

$$
\text { HOMO-1 -> LUMO } 0.80932
$$

## Including solvent (THF, single point)

Excited State 9: 3.425-?Sym $2.7552 \mathrm{eV} 449.98 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0006<\mathrm{S}^{* *} 2>=2.683$

```
SOMO -> LUMO 0.79134
HOMO-1 -> LUMO -0.56170
```

Excited State 14: 2.061-?Sym $2.9146 \quad \mathrm{eV} 425.92 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0209<\mathrm{S}^{* *} 2>=0.812$

$$
\text { SOMO -> LUMO } 0.57443
$$

$$
\text { HOMO-1 -> LUMO } 0.80932
$$

## S8.3 Chloroalkyl adduct to 4-Ce



Excited State 8: 2.594-?Sym $2.9146 \mathrm{eV} 425.40 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{f}=0.0026<\mathrm{S}^{* *} 2>=1.432$ 132A ->135A -0.13457 133A ->135A 0.55554 133A ->136A 0.14504 133A ->137A 0.22292 133A ->138A 0.26988 133A ->140A 0.19525 133A ->145A -0.12899 133A ->147A 0.11695 133A ->148A -0.11153

```
    134A ->135A -0.17874
    134A ->136A 0.38889
    133B ->134B -0.13876
    133B ->135B -0.34078
    133B ->136B -0.10498
Including solvent (THF, single point)
Excited State 8: 2.594-?Sym 2.7675 eV 447.98 nm f=0.0026 <S**2>=1.432
    132A ->135A -0.13457
    133A ->135A 0.55554
    133A ->136A 0.14504
    133A ->137A 0.22292
    133A ->138A 0.26988
    133A ->140A 0.19525
    133A ->145A -0.12899
    133A ->147A 0.11695
    133A ->148A -0.11153
    134A ->135A -0.17874
    134A ->136A 0.38889
    133B ->134B -0.13876
    133B ->135B -0.34078
    133B ->136B -0.10498
```



HOMO-1


## 2-La

| La | -0.001751 | -0.001934 | 12.375711 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| C | 2.460921 | -0.820264 | 11.223000 |
| C | 1.945785 | -2.072326 | 11.665674 |
| C | 1.945665 | -2.072125 | 13.086399 |
| C | 2.460729 | -0.819944 | 13.528818 |
| C | 2.789848 | -0.066560 | 12.375835 |
| C | 2.760853 | -0.451026 | 9.796715 |
| C | 1.690819 | -3.254343 | 10.777747 |
| C | 1.690437 | -3.253838 | 13.974664 |
| C | 2.760224 | -0.450285 | 14.955089 |
| H | 3.242478 | 0.917073 | 12.375715 |
| H | 3.054550 | 0.598243 | 9.713562 |
| H | 3.588978 | -1.051524 | 9.397553 |
| H | 1.910705 | -0.611948 | 9.120878 |
| H | 1.350193 | -2.953920 | 9.781690 |
| H | 2.609386 | -3.840172 | 10.633098 |
| H | 0.943836 | -3.939322 | 11.190242 |
| H | 2.608877 | -3.839767 | 14.119566 |



LUMO

0.943379 -3.938816 13.562324
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 1.349782 & -2.953016 & 14.970593\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 3.055945 & 0.598437 & 15.037652\end{array}$
H 3.586787 -1.052139 15.355354
H 1.909209 -0.608944 15.630429
C $\quad-0.518402 \quad 2.53756311 .223022$
C $\quad 0.823200 \quad 2.72045311 .665375$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.823716 & 2.720346 & 13.086013\end{array}$
C $\quad-0.517551 \quad 2.53729213 .529281$
C $\begin{array}{llll}-1.334896 & 2.444039 & 12.376428\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -0.987536 & 2.605943 & 9.796231\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.974777 & 3.096701 & 10.780626\end{array}$
C $\quad 1.975830 \quad 3.096686 \quad 13.970024$
C $\quad-0.985820 \quad 2.60511914 .956385$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -2.412414 & 2.339544 & 12.376813\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -2.053292 & 2.376940 & 9.720328\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & -0.841570 & 3.610624 & 9.378354\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & -0.452972 & 1.915423 & 9.130440\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 1.874875 & 2.676811 & 9.774724\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 2.035846 & 4.187620 & 10.661595\end{array}$

| H | 2.939518 | 2.770720 | 11.181279 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| H | 2.036960 | 4.187605 | 14.088815 |
| H | 2.940336 | 2.770654 | 13.568877 |
| H | 1.876481 | 2.676958 | 14.976044 |
| H | -2.051533 | 2.376096 | 15.032773 |
| H | -0.839617 | 3.609594 | 15.374599 |
| H | -0.450907 | 1.914286 | 15.621602 |
| C | -1.943159 | -1.719940 | 11.222213 |
| C | -2.769930 | -0.647482 | 11.665045 |
| C | -2.770025 | -0.647585 | 13.085773 |
| C | -1.943358 | -1.720130 | 13.528560 |
| C | -1.456363 | -2.382176 | 12.375372 |
| C | -1.771438 | -2.161872 | 9.795574 |
| C | -3.667610 | 0.166013 | 10.780144 |
| C | -3.667762 | 0.165776 | 13.970749 |
| C | -1.771866 | -2.162208 | 14.955183 |
| H | -0.829706 | -3.265304 | 12.375348 |
| H | -1.023064 | -2.954103 | 9.715228 |
| H | -2.710183 | -2.559981 | 9.388449 |
| H | -1.465864 | -1.348365 | 9.124477 |
| H | -3.245475 | 0.302064 | 9.779377 |
| H | -4.639429 | -0.329892 | 10.647469 |
| H | -3.875732 | 1.159416 | 11.189220 |
| H | -4.639301 | -0.330503 | 14.103867 |
| H | -3.876454 | 1.158967 | 13.561469 |
| H | -3.245367 | 0.302281 | 14.971354 |
| H | -1.023881 | -2.954786 | 15.035510 |
| H | -2.710791 | -2.559878 | 15.362266 |
| H | -1.465903 | -1.348871 | 15.626338 |

## 2-Ce

$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Ce } & -0.004371 & 0.003643 & 12.375680\end{array}$
C $\quad 2.430262-0.810051 \quad 11.222553$
C $1.920889-2.064111 \quad 11.665722$
C $1.921099-2.063642 \quad 13.086114$
C $2.430731-0.80933913 .528322$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 2.758508 & -0.055719 & 12.375148\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 2.729237 & -0.442136 & 9.795753\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { C } & 1.678822 & -3.249170 & 10.778728\end{array}$
C $1.679084-3.248045 \quad 13.973999$
C $2.730291-0.44069714 .954813$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 3.211162 & 0.927430 & 12.374766\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 3.031085 & 0.604625 & 9.712574\end{array}$
H 3.551483 -1.049147 9.394402
H 1.875949 -0.595716 9.122239
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 1.346935 & -2.952495 & 9.778786\end{array}$
H 2.601719 -3.830781 10.644891

|  |  | 0.931451 | -3.937204 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| H | 2.601891 | -3.829771 | 14.107401 |
| H | 0.931435 | -3.936195 | 13.568031 |
| H | 1.347547 | -2.950567 | 14.973819 |
| H | 3.035263 | 0.605237 | 15.036793 |
| H | 3.550569 | -1.049729 | 15.357109 |
| H | 1.876379 | -0.590846 | 15.628335 |
| C | -0.512510 | 2.509676 | 11.222458 |
| C | 0.827008 | 2.699546 | 11.665780 |
| C | 0.827086 | 2.699356 | 13.086374 |
| C | -0.512374 | 2.509319 | 13.529800 |
| C | -1.329008 | 2.411674 | 12.376159 |
| C | -0.980921 | 2.581669 | 9.795576 |
| C | 1.976004 | 3.085861 | 10.782475 |
| C | 1.976228 | 3.085438 | 13.969588 |
| C | -0.980630 | 2.580776 | 14.956754 |
| H | -2.406139 | 2.307597 | 12.376221 |
| H | -2.048403 | 2.361575 | 9.719664 |
| H | -0.826949 | 3.585443 | 9.378539 |
| H | -0.452221 | 1.887046 | 9.129476 |
| H | 1.874299 | 2.675565 | 9.772947 |
| H | 2.033724 | 4.178068 | 10.674170 |
| H | 2.942771 | 2.759116 | 11.177604 |
| H | 2.033965 | 4.177621 | 14.078147 |
| H | 2.942908 | 2.758798 | 13.574153 |
| H | 1.874729 | 2.674870 | 14.979019 |
| H | -2.048138 | 2.360792 | 15.032656 |
| H | -0.826496 | 3.584351 | 15.374210 |
| H | -0.451968 | 1.885797 | 15.622516 |
| C | -1.918739 | -1.704130 | 11.222143 |
| C | -2.749274 | -0.635211 | 11.665052 |
| C | -2.749432 | -0.635299 | 13.085944 |
| C | -1.918971 | -1.704241 | 13.528913 |
| C | -1.429391 | -2.364244 | 12.375540 |
| C | -1.748474 | -2.145343 | 9.795212 |
| C | -3.654550 | 0.170152 | 10.780694 |
| C | -3.654948 | 0.169906 | 13.970200 |
| C | -1.749116 | -2.145726 | 14.955804 |
| H | -0.802579 | -3.246712 | 12.375584 |
| H | -1.010748 | -2.947267 | 9.715493 |
| H | -2.691452 | -2.529904 | 9.384988 |
| H | -1.429799 | -1.334735 | 9.126739 |
| H | -3.237440 | 0.303959 | 9.777636 |
| H | -4.623850 | -0.332341 | 10.654669 |
| H | -3.867326 | 1.164081 | 11.186105 |
| H | -4.624129 | -0.332827 | 14.096194 |
| H | -3.867962 | 1.163747 | 13.564700 |
|  |  |  |  |


| H | -3.237945 | 0.303882 | 14.973279 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | -1.010904 | -2.947188 | 15.035698 |
| H | -2.692048 | -2.531019 | 15.365456 |
| H | -1.431314 | -1.335074 | 15.624628 |

Chloroalkyl adduct to 4-Ce
Ce 1.7893266 .162344
9.808599
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 3.725542 & 8.209133 & 9.565158\end{array}$
C $4.013137 \quad 7.2779198 .527664$
C $\quad-0.367834 \quad 5.07493711 .407860$
C $\quad-0.803809 \quad 6.381040 \quad 11.041349$
$\begin{array}{llll}C & 2.597853 & 3.961055 & 6.851221\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 3.636480 & 3.674689 & 6.996969\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.717626 & 3.913207 & 7.970671\end{array}$
C $\quad 2.168325 \quad 3.654448 \quad 9.312272$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 3.169632 & 3.237063 & 9.409425\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 1.441902 & 3.159339 & 9.956985\end{array}$
C $0.064839 \quad 7.32605711 .654792$
C $\quad 2.152809 \quad 4.293192 \quad 5.581913$
H $2.855298 \quad 4.276369 \quad 4.751493$
C $4.471602 \quad 6.261060 \quad 10.549228$
C $4.019088 \quad 7.584580 \quad 10.813093$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.034320 & 6.591969 & 12.387364\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 1.806955 & 7.023235 & 13.013149\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.773477 & 5.205295 & 12.243597\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 3.369113 & 9.656678 & 9.384539\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 2.880215 & 9.839585 & 8.423775\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 4.265275 & 10.291833 & 9.418219\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 2.694624 & 10.020142 & 10.167197\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 4.464966 & 6.085969 & 9.143603\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 4.767585 & 5.185403 & 8.622072\end{array}$
C $\quad 3.971757 \quad 7.539827 \quad 7.050185$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 3.833787 & 6.612494 & 6.486806\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 4.904137 & 8.004497 & 6.702059\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}H & 3.157610 & 8.218314 & 6.774979\end{array}$
C $\quad-0.097000 \quad 8.820175 \quad 11.671068$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 0.853722 & 9.321216 & 11.879706\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & -0.801722 & 9.134475 & 12.452817\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & -0.477908 & 9.217391 & 10.724344\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.369648 & 4.294560 & 7.712272\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -0.357212 & 4.224303 & 8.519588\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 4.069653 & 8.287312 & 12.138174\end{array}$

| H | 3.233442 | 8.980044 | 12.281183 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | 4.990648 | 8.879509 | 12.229893 |
| H | 4.061846 | 7.582688 | 12.974821 |
| C | 0.808956 | 4.622186 | 5.348183 |
| H | 0.461610 | 4.847844 | 4.344035 |
| C | 1.467597 | 4.092891 | 12.975048 |
| H | 1.671963 | 3.228806 | 12.333828 |
| H | 0.858522 | 3.732358 | 13.814936 |
| H | 2.422309 | 4.426776 | 13.391808 |
| C | -2.066158 | 6.698051 | 10.292029 |
| H | -2.053231 | 7.713512 | 9.887620 |
| H | -2.944756 | 6.620274 | 10.947002 |
| H | -2.236355 | 6.015481 | 9.451844 |
| C | -1.112389 | 3.797706 | 11.150687 |
| H | -1.747378 | 3.856647 | 10.260762 |
| H | -1.776338 | 3.557297 | 11.992612 |
| H | -0.443682 | 2.939933 | 11.023719 |
| C | -0.071642 | 4.618839 | 6.425697 |
| H | -1.124336 | 4.844623 | 6.269217 |
| C | 4.996721 | 5.274900 | 11.552080 |
| H | 4.490821 | 5.356130 | 12.519510 |
| H | 6.067884 | 5.429262 | 11.739115 |
| H | 4.872464 | 4.246108 | 11.200906 |
| Cl | 0.196343 | 8.365762 | 7.991907 |
| C | -0.126897 | 8.298331 | 6.168648 |
| C | 0.502903 | 9.514504 | 5.509908 |
| C | 0.207090 | 9.499486 | 4.002884 |
| C | -1.295710 | 9.417744 | 3.726694 |
| C | -1.919043 | 8.209750 | 4.429066 |
| C | -1.627335 | 8.221949 | 5.936971 |
| H | 1.582006 | 9.529450 | 5.689848 |
| H | 0.085068 | 10.423157 | 5.962066 |
| H | 0.637938 | 10.395608 | 3.542526 |
| H | 0.711904 | 8.639193 | 3.542092 |
| H | -1.480804 | 9.366118 | 2.647775 |
| H | -1.781080 | 10.336542 | 4.084806 |
| H | -3.003317 | 8.186695 | 4.272318 |
| H | -1.521263 | 7.285204 | 3.988445 |
| H | -2.038536 | 7.330999 | 6.420761 |
| H | -2.106588 | 9.094324 | 6.399536 |
| H | 0.363830 | 7.372619 | 95.855737 |

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