

Towards Circularity 2026

11–12 June 2026, Herrenhausen Palace, Hanover

#TowardsCircularity

1 Thursday, 11 June 2026

Time	Programme
09:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Auditorium	Welcome Ulrike Bischler, VolkswagenStiftung
10:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	Keynote Towards a circular chemical economy Peter H. Seeberger, CTC Center for the Transformation of Chemistry
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Session I: Polymers Bio-PE – A new bio-based circular production route for molecularly tailored polyethylene pom-pom contributing to closed and defossilized material cycles in polyolefin industry Michael Fischlschweiger, KIT teXirc – Textile materials designed for circularity Stefan Mecking, University of Konstanz CloseT – Closing the recycling process of old used textile products Hatice Malatyali, SKZ Kunststoffzentrum Interior Loop – Closing the loop of complex post-consumer waste of end-of-life vehicles (ELV) to high quality automotive interior applications Dagmar Arends, Fraunhofer IVV & Matthias Brunnermeier Fraunhofer IBP
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion of Speakers How can recycling and novel polymers foster a circular economy? What are important research questions for upscaling?
12:30 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.	GROUP PHOTO

12:40 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Foyer outside Auditorium	<p>World Café: Themed Tables (3 rounds)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Pollutants and non-intentionally added substances (NIAS) in recycling Hosts: Kevin Carl, Lara Clemens, RWTH Aachen University 2 No bad odors please! – Recyclates for interior automotive applications Host: Matthias Brunnermeier, Fraunhofer IBP 3 Renewable, inclusive and equitable cities Hosts: Kabibi Kamashanju, Wolfram Schmid, BAM 4 Techno-economic analysis Host: Peter Letmathe, RWTH Aachen University 5 Microbial engineering Hosts: Bastian Molitor, Christian Schöne, Leipzig University 6 All about mycelium Hosts: Birte Pupkes, Michael Unger, BIBA 7 Valorization of agricultural waste streams Host: Kashif ur Rehman, DIL 8 Meet the Joachim Herz Foundation Hosts: Michael Rütten, Matthias Tamminga 9 Meet the Volkswagen Foundation Hosts: Daniel Bakker, Ulrike Bischler, Melanie Herzig 10 Meet other PhD students informal gathering without hosts
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Auditorium	<p>Invited Talk</p> <p>Assessing circular economy systems Magnus Fröhling, TU Munich – Campus Straubing:</p>
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	<p>Session II: Recycling</p> <p>MagCycleAM – Resource and energy efficient recycling and additive manufacturing of Nd-Fe-B magnets Mario Schönfeldt, Fraunhofer IWKS</p> <p>PLAS4PLAS – Plasma-assisted recycling of glass-fibre reinforced plastics Diego Gonzalez, Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology</p>

	REARRANGE – Utilization options for the mineral residue from phosphorus recovery as a secondary raw material in the building materials industry Anya Vollpracht, RWTH Aachen
	ADMIRATION – Accelerated discovery of living fiber-reinforced mineral composite materials for circular construction Martin Ostermann, University of Stuttgart
4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Panel Discussion of Speakers What are the scientific and practical challenges when recycling heterogeneous products?
5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	SHORT BREAK
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Invited Talk Frugale Innovationen und Bioökonomie: Zwei Seiten derselben Medaille? Thomas Taddigs & Timo Achterlik, Volkswagen AG
6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Poster Pitches A H.-J. Endres et al: REMOTIVE S. Herres-Pawlis et al: CIRCON P. Quicker et al: REFOAM M. Wistuba et al: Bioasphalt Tim Gießmann: Short Circuits Klaus Kümmerer: On green, circular and sustainable chemistry (plus other posters to sessions I and II)
6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Seminar Rooms 3, 4	Poster Session A
7:00 p.m.	DINNER

2 Friday, 12 June 2026

Time	Programme
08:45 a.m. – 09:15 a.m.	DOORS OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE
09:15 a.m. – 09:45 a.m. Auditorium	Invited Talk Global Plastic Pollution – Can Bacteria Solve the Problem? Wolfgang Streit, University of Hamburg

09:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	<p>Session III: Biotec</p> <p>HotCircularity – Harnessing thermophilic archaea for production of biodegradable alternatives to microplastics from biodiesel waste byproducts Bettina Siebers, University of Duisburg-Essen & Oliver Spadiut, TU Wien</p> <p>BioLoop – Micro-biologically enhanced material cycle for closing PE and PE-PET multilayer plastic foil loops David Laner, University of Kassel</p> <p>MyPro – A platform for sustainable mycelium material production using genetically engineered filamentous fungi Hannes Hinneburg, Fraunhofer IAP</p> <p>D3MAT – A design approach to advance circularity at a multidimensional product level Frank Döpfer & Niko Nagengast, University of Bayreuth</p>
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p>Panel Discussion of Speakers</p> <p>What potential do fungi, bacteria, and archaea offer? What bottlenecks must be overcome?</p>
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	<p>Poster Pitches B</p> <p>M. Eder et al: Seed Coats M. Freitag et al: MycelCycle A. Kustermann et al: R3C2 B. Molitor et al: Cyanophycin K. ur Rehman et al: Bioconversion W. Schmidt et al: Circular B-I/O B. Siebers et al.: HotCircularity Darindra Sandya Thanos: LignoCide</p> <p>(plus other posters to sessions III and IV)</p>
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Seminar Rooms 3 & 4	Poster Session B
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Auditorium	<p>Session IV: Environment</p> <p>PFAS Adsorbers – Sustainable solutions for PFAS removal: Exploring biogenic and circular approaches in lignin-based adsorber materials Mohsen Adeli, Freie Universität Berlin</p> <p>LignoCide – Functional lignin-based spray coat to prevent plant diseases Sanjam Chandna, Freie Universität Berlin</p>

ReProFilm – Repurposing protein-rich waste streams for developing sustainable functionalized protein-based films for agricultural applications

Willi Wagner, TU Hamburg

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion of Speakers

How can circularity contribute to a healthy environment and an economy within planetary boundaries?

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Final Panel: Emerging Topics, Transfer, Knowledge Gaps

3:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

CLOSING

optional: Walk in the Garden

3 List of participants

Name	First Name	Title	Institution
Adeli	Mohsen	Prof. Dr.	Freie Universität Berlin
Achtelik	Timo	Dr.	Volkswagen AG
Aguirre Molina	Lucia		Universität Kassel
Amdursky	Nadav	Prof. Dr.	The University of Sheffield
Arenas Garcia	Mario	Dr.	Leibniz Institute for New Materials INM
Arends	Dagmar		Fraunhofer IVV
Baeumker	Lena Malin		University of Bayreuth
Bakker	Daniel		VolkswagenStiftung
Balcik	Marcel	Dr.	TU Clausthal
Baszyński	Piotr		University of Stuttgart
Bawadkji	Obida	Dr.	Freie Universität Berlin
Beck	Gesa	Prof. Dr.	SRH Hochschulen Berlin
Beuermann	Sabine	Prof. Dr.	TU Clausthal
Biala	Eliza		University of Stuttgart
Bischler	Ulrike	Dr.	VolkswagenStiftung
Bitomsky	Peter	Dr.	Fraunhofer IFAM
Böker	Alexander	Prof. Dr.	Fraunhofer IAP
Bonni	Laura		RWTH Aachen University
Bräsen	Christopher	Dr.	University Duisburg-Essen
Brunnermeier	Matthias	Dr.	Fraunhofer IBP
Carl	Kevin	Dr.-Ing.	RWTH Aachen University
Chandna	Sanjam	Dr.	Freie Universität Berlin
Chaverra Ordoñez	William Felipe		Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Clemens	Lara		RWTH Aachen University

Dierkes	Robert	Dr.	Universität Hamburg
Döpfer	Frank	Prof. Dr.-Ing.	University of Bayreuth
Drache	Marco	Dr.	TU Clausthal
Dunlop	John	Prof. Dr.	University of Salzburg
Eder	Michaela	Prof. Dr.	TUM – School of Life Sciences
Engelmann	Gunnar		Fraunhofer IAP
Enogieru	Benjamin		Hochschule München
Falkenhagen	Jana	Dr.	Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung
Fazel Dehkordi	Nazanin		University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Fischer	Jörg	Prof. Dr.	University of Linz
Fischlschweiger	Michael	Prof. Dr.	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Forster	Theresa		SKZ - KFE gGmbH
Förster	David		University of Bayreuth
Freitag	Michael	Prof. Dr.-Ing.	BIBA - Bremer Institut für Produktion und Logistik GmbH
Fröhling	Magnus	Prof. Dr.	TUM – Campus Straubing für Biotechnologie und Nachhaltigkeit
Fu	Hao		RWTH Aachen University
Fuss	Franz Konstantin	Prof. Dr.	University of Bayreuth
Gertchen	Semira		University of Duisburg Essen
Giessmann	Tim		RWTH Aachen University
Goetjes	Victoria		Universität Kassel
Gonzalez	Diego	Dr.-Ing.	Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology
Grabowski	Nils Th.	Dr.	University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Grothe	Hinrich	Prof. Dr.	Technische Universität Wien
Heitmeyer	Janis		DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.
Herzig	Melanie		VolkswagenStiftung
Hinneburg	Hannes	Dr.	Fraunhofer IAP

Hirschberg	Valerian	Prof. Dr.	TU Clausthal
Huber	Robert	Prof. Dr.	Hochschule München
Hummel	Malene		VolkswagenStiftung
Hussein	Fawaz		Fraunhofer IFAM
Iravanimanesh	Sahba		RWTH Aachen University
Jäckel	Hendrik		Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology
Kamashanju	Kabibi	Dr	Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung
Kaphahn	Isabel		RWTH Aachen University
Ke	Jinbo		RWTH Aachen University
Kenfack Sounna	Aubin		Leuphana University Lüneburg
Kolawole	Kiyesola		University of Salzburg
Kooniyara	Vinayak Prem		RWTH Aachen University
Kottmann	Nora	Dr.	VolkswagenStiftung
Kuchta	Kerstin	Prof. Dr.-Ing.	TU Hamburg
Kües	Ursula	Prof. Dr.	University of Göttingen
Kümmerer	Klaus	Prof. Dr.	Leuphana University Lüneburg
Kustermann	Andrea	Prof. Dr.-Ing.	Hochschule München
Lack	Nusa		Leibniz University Hannover
Laner	David	Prof. Dr.	Universität Kassel
Latz	Filip		RWTH Aachen University
Lecinski	Jacek		Leibniz University Hannover
Letmathe	Peter	Prof. Dr.	RWTH Aachen University
Malatyali	Hatice	Dr.-Ing.	SKZ - KFE gGmbH
Mecking	Stefan	Prof. Dr.	University of Konstanz
Mertins	Christian		Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg
Mokhles	Mohamad		DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.
Molitor	Bastian	Prof. Dr.	Leipzig University
Montag	David	Dr.	RWTH Aachen University

Nagengast	Niko		Deakin University & Universität Bayreuth
Nagy	Brigitte		Hochschule München
Norouzi	Fatemeh		Universität Kassel
Ntihuga	Jean Nepomuscene	Dr.	University of Tübingen
Ojha	Ravi Shankar		University of Duisburg-Essen
Ostermann	Martin	Prof. Dr.	University of Stuttgart
Pfeiffer	Thomas		SRH Hochschulen Berlin
Pinto	Mayte		RWTH Aachen University
Pupkes	Birte		BIBA – Bremer Institut für Produktion und Logistik GmbH
Rahm	Sibylle		VolkswagenStiftung
Rauer	Karolin		University of Stuttgart
Rausch	Clemens		Technische Universität Wien
Rehman	Kashif ur	Dr.	DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.
Rietdijk	Hugo		Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens
Rosenthal	Nikolai	Dr.	Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces
Rütten	Michael	Dr.	Joachim Herz Stiftung
Schamberger	Barbara	Dr.	TU Munich
Scherer	Katharina		University of Konstanz
Schmidt	Wolfram	Dr.	Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung
Schöne	Christian	Dr.	Leipzig University
Schönfeldt	Mario	Dr.-Ing.	Fraunhofer IWKS
Schwennen	Cornelia	Dr.	University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Siebers	Bettina	Prof. Dr.	University of Duisburg Essen
Siemes	Christian		RWTH Aachen University
Spadiut	Oliver	Prof. Dr.	Technische Universität Wien
Streit	Wolfgang	Prof. Dr.	University of Hamburg

Taddigs	Thomas	Dr.	Volkswagen AG
Tamminga	Matthias	Dr.	Joachim Herz Stiftung
Teupe	Felix		VolkswagenStiftung
Thanos	Darindra Sandya		Freie Universität Berlin
Thorat	Meghana	Dr.	University of Tübingen
Ullah	Irfan		University of Göttingen
Unger	Michael	Dr.	BIBA – Bremer Institut für Produktion und Logistik GmbH
Usma- Mansfield	Clara	Dr.	Deakin University
Varrone	Cristiano	Prof. Dr.	Aalborg University
Visscher	Christian	Prof. Dr.	University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Vollpracht	Anya	Prof. Dr.	RWTH Aachen University
Waag	Till		Institut für Umwelt & Energie, Technik & Analytik e.V.
Wagner	Willi		TU Hamburg
Weber	Achim	Dr.	University of Stuttgart
Wegner	Seraphine	Prof. Dr.	University of Münster
Weingartz	Thea	Dr.	TU Clausthal
Wurst	Katrin		University of Konstanz
Xu	Na	Dr.	University of Sheffield
Zuin Zeidler	Vania	Prof. Dr.	Leuphana University Lüneburg