

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 und non-intentionally added substances (NIAS) in recycling Hosts: Lara Clemens, Kevin Carl, RWTH Aachen University 2 Bad odors – Volatiles in recyclates Host: Matthias Brunnermeier, Fraunhofer IBP 3 Renewable, inclusive and equitable cities Hosts: Wolfram Schmid, Kabibi Kamashanju, BAM 4 Techno-economic analysis Host: Peter Lethmathe, RWTH Aachen University 5 Microbial Engineering (angefragt) Host: NN 6 All about mycelium (angefragt) Host: NN 7 Themed Table tbd 8 Meet the Joachim Herz Foundation Hosts: Michael Rütten, Matthias Tammiga 9 Meet the Volkswagen Foundation Hosts: Daniel Bakker, Ulrike Bischler, Melanie Herzig 10 Meet other graduate/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 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> <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</p>

	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 Rezyklate und biogene Rohstoffe: Herausforderungen und Chancen für die Automobilindustrie Thomas Taddigs & Timo Achterlik, Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg
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 B. Wetzel et al: ReGluWood M. Wistuba et al: Bioasphalt Tim Gießmann: Short Circuits (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.	Session III: Biotec 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>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 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 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: Biotransformation W. Schmidt et al: Circular B-I/O Darindra Sandya Thanos: LignoCide (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 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> <p>ReProFilm – Repurposing protein-rich waste streams for developing sustainable functionalized protein-based films for agricultural applications Willi Wagner, TU Hamburg</p>
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion of Speakers How can circularity contribute to a healthy environment and an economy within planetary boundaries?</p>
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