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 r**e**cycling 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	**World Café: Themed Tables** (3 rounds) 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	**Invited Talk** Assessing circular economy systems Magnus Fröhling, TU Munich − Campus Straubing:
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	**Session II: Recycling** MagCycleAM − Resource and energy efficient recycling and additive manufacturing of Nd-Fe-B magnets Mario Schönfeldt, Fraunhofer IWKS PLAS4PLAS − Plasma-assisted recycling of glass-fibre reinforced plastics Diego Gonzalez, Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology

	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.	**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
	BioLoop − Micro-biologically enhanced material cycle for closing PE and PE-PET multilayer plastic foil loops David Laner, University of Kassel
	MyPro − A platform for sustainable mycelium material production using genetically engineered filamentous fungi Hannes Hinneburg, Fraunhofer IAP
	D3MAT − A design approach to advance circularity at a multidimensional product level Frank Döpper & Niko Nagengast, University of Bayreuth
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**Panel Discussion of Speakers**
	What potential do fungi, bacteria, and archaea offer? What bottlenecks must be overcome?
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	**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: Bioconversion W. Schmidt et al: Circular B-I/O B. Siebers et al.: HotCircularity Darindra Sandya Thanos: LignoCide
	(plus other posters to sessions III and IV)
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	**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
	LignoCide − Functional lignin-based spray coat to prevent plant diseases Sanjam Chandna, Freie Universität Berlin

	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