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PRESS RELEASE

Shaping the future of the circular economy: The Forum Plastic Recyclates on March 25-26, 2026, in Darmstadt

New European regulations aim to increase the use of recycled materials in plastic products and accelerate the transition to a circular economy. At the same time, the shortage of single-type plastic waste and the technical and financial effort required for recycling-friendly design remain significant hurdles. Innovative approaches and close cooperation between industry, research, and policy are needed to overcome these challenges. The eighth "Forum Plastic Recyclates" will take place on March 25–26, 2026, in Darmstadt, focusing on practical issues in the mechanical recycling of plastics. Program and registration are now available online.

Boosting recycling rates and increasing the use of recycled materials are crucial steps toward a truly circular economy. According to a study by Plastics Europe, only 8.7 percent of plastics were recycled in 2023, while the majority was incinerated or landfilled. To change this, innovative solutions and strong collaboration are essential. That's exactly where the "Forum Plastic Recyclates" makes an impact.
The forum focuses on improving recyclates quality with advanced degassing and decontamination technologies, developing sustainable compounds that combine ecological requirements with functional properties, and using machine learning to optimize material analysis. The program is complemented by exciting insights into simulation methods for accelerating development processes and innovative approaches to creating closed material cycles.

International exchange as a driver of the circular economy

The Fraunhofer Institute for Structural Durability and System Reliability LBF acts as a bridge between science and industry and plays a leading role in recycled materials research. As a neutral, application-oriented partner, Fraunhofer LBF is organizing the eighth "Forum Plastic Recyclates" on March 25 and 26, 2026 to provide a platform for international exchange – bringing together plastics producers, processors, recyclers, and users to jointly advance the circular economy.

A strong connection between science and industry drives innovation

The forum aims to be the central platform for knowledge transfer and networking in plastics recycling, fostering innovation through presentations, discussions, and collaboration to develop forward-looking solutions.

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Program and registration:
https://www.kunststoffrezyklate.de/en/program-2026.html?utm_source=pi-FPR-26-program-en

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Actively shaping the future of the circular economy: The Forum Plastic Recyclates 2026 offers a platform for knowledge transfer and networking. Graphic: Ki-generated DALLE-E_Fraunhofer LBF.

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Structural Durability and System Reliability LBF** in Darmstadt has stood for safety and reliability in lightweight structures since 1938. With its expertise in the fields of structural durability, system reliability, vibration technology, and polymer technology, the institute now offers solutions for three important cross-cutting issues of the future: lightweight system construction, functional integration, and cyber-physical mechanical engineering systems. The focus is on solutions for societal challenges such as resource efficiency and emission reduction, as well as future mobility, such as electromobility and autonomous, networked driving. Its clients come from a wide range of industries, including automotive engineering, aviation, mechanical and plant engineering, energy technology, electrical engineering, medical technology, and the chemical industry. They benefit from the proven expertise of around 400 employees and state-of-the-art technology in more than 17,900 square meters of laboratory and testing space. www.lbf.fraunhofer.de

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