PROGRAM
17TH INTERNATIONAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Circular Economy, Decarbonisation and Circular Bioeconomy: Regional Solutions for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Transformation

Thursday, 19th November 2026 | Environmental Campus Birkenfeld

08:00	**Registration**

Welcome Addresses & Keynotes

Session Moderator: Prof. Dr. Peter Heck

09:00	Welcome Address **Prof. Dr. Peter Heck,** Managing Director, Institute for Applied Material Flow Management (IfaS)
09:05	Welcome Address **Prof. Dr. Klaus Helling**, Dean of the Department of Environmental Economics/Law, Trier University of Applied Sciences
09:10	Shaping Sustainable Futures: Circular Bioeconomy in Rhineland-Palatinate and Beyond **Dr. Simon Lang,** Department of Circular Economy, Soil Protection and Green Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture, Environment and Forestry Rhineland-Palatinate
09:20	Harnessing Circular Bioeconomy: Driving Regional and Industrial Transformation **Prof. Dr. Peter Heck**, Managing Director, Institute for Applied Material Flow Management (IfaS)
09:50	Circular Economy in Algeria: Connecting Eco-design, Industry, Research and Civil Society **Prof. Messaoud Hamiane,** M'Hamed Bougara University of Boumerdès, Algeria
10:10	**Break**

Green Finance and the Economics of Sustainable Transformation

Session Moderator: Prof. Dr. Klaus Helling

10:30	Climate Finance and the Transition towards Resilient Economies **Prof. Syed Mahbubur Rahman,** Professor, BRAC Business School, BRAC University, Bangladesh
10:50	Sustainability as an Investment Strategy for Long-Term Value Creation **Aicha Zakraoui,** Partner and Head of Impact & Sustainability, AfricInvest, Tunisia
11:10	Integrating Climate Mitigation and Resilience into Infrastructure Investment **Yijun Jiang,** Climate Specialist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), PR China
11:30	Decarbonising the Economy and Redirecting Investment towards Sustainable Growth **Dr. Michael Knaus,** Vice-President, Climate Team Coordination, DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH

11:50 – 13:20 Lunch Break

Innovation for Circular Industry through Applied Research and Digital Technologies

Session Moderator: Mr. Marco Angilella

13:20	Connecting Process Transparency and Data Quality with AI for Resource-Efficient Operations **Norbert Meyer,** Managing Director, BITControl GmbH
13:40	Additive Manufacturing for Resource-Efficient Products and Production **Eng. Pascal Paulus,** Research Assistant, Trier University of Applied Sciences
14:00	Applying AI in Industry to Improve Processes and Resource Efficiency **Jens Schneider,** Co-Founder and Co-Chief Technology Officer, Ignite AI GmbH (IGNAITE)

Practical Pathways to Industrial Decarbonisation and Resource Efficiency

Session Moderator: Mr. Marco Angilella

14:20	Improving Energy Efficiency in Water and Wastewater Treatment **Markus Leidinger,** Global Application Manager - Wastewater, Aerzener Maschinenfabrik GmbH
14:40	Turning School Waste into Resources: A Cross-Country Approach to Circular Economy and Renewable Energy in Africa **Philipp Senner**, Head of Business Development, OEKOBIT GmbH **Priscilla Hammond,** Project Manager, OEKOBIT GmbH
15:00	Airborne Wind Energy as a New Pathway to Renewable Power Supply **Stephan Wrage,** Founder and CEO, SkySails Group GmbH
15:20	**Break**

Circular Resources and Climate-Resilient Regional Development

Session Moderator: Ms. Jackeline Martínez

15:40	Recovering Strategic Raw Materials from Industrial Cable Waste **Ketlen Haak,** Founder and CEO, Resíduos Green Ambiental, Brazil
16:00	Rethinking Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Innovative Materials and Hybrid Nature-Based Solutions **Dr. Jovana Husemann,** Global Business Development & Sustainability, Naue Group
16:20	Creating Shared Value through Environmental Stewardship **David Mauricio Sánchez Henao,** Environmental Coordinator, ISAGEN, Colombia

Building Partnerships for Regional Transformation

Session Moderator: Ms. Julia Veckes

16:40	Advancing Sustainable Urban Development through International University Cooperation **Prof. Osama Saadeh ,** Professor, German Jordanian University, Jordan
17:00	Artificial Intelligence Empowerment of Global Energy Governance: Mechanisms, Risks and China's Institutional Shaping **Xiaolong Zou,** School of International and Public Affairs, Jilin University, PR China
17:20	**Closing Remarks**
17:30	**Closure**

This programme is preliminary. Speakers and presentation titles are not yet finally confirmed (TBC)