



IKK
Institut für Kunststoff- und Kreislauftechnik
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Josef Endres

Kunststoffrecycling
- Perspektiven und Herausforderungen

Hans-Josef Endres
IKK – Institut für Kunststoff- und Kreislauftechnik

1st Clausthal Conference on Circular Economy 23.-24. November 2023



Leibniz
Universität
Hannover



Produktionstechnisches
Zentrum Hannover

Professional Career



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RUHR UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM **RUB** »»» **thyssenkrupp**

1991 **1995** **1991 - 1999**

Dipl.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. Area Manager

HOCHSCHULE HANNOVER
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

Fakultät II
Maschinenbau und
Bioverfahrenstechnik

1999

Professor

»»» **IfBB** Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites **Fraunhofer** WKI

2011

Institute Director

2013

Head of Department

2019

Institute Director



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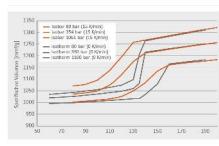
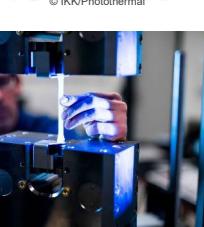
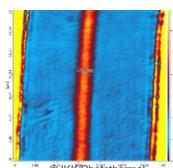
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Plastics Technology
and Recycling

Sustainability
Assessment

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Plastics Analytics

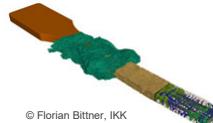
Material Testing



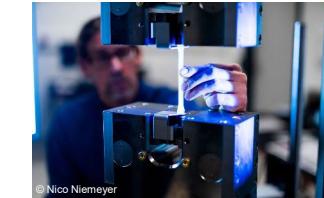
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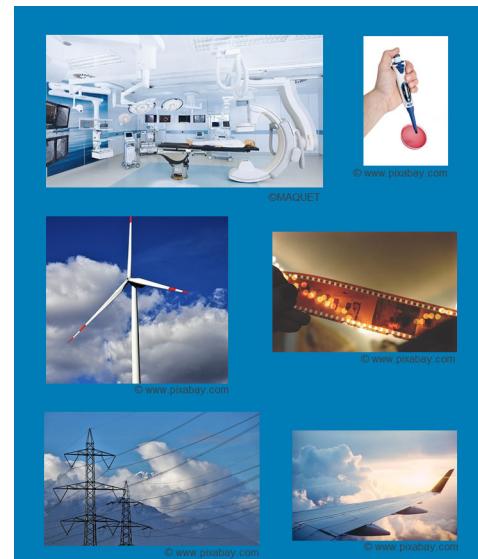
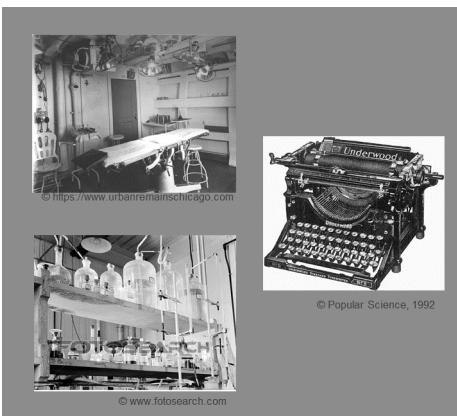
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Plastics as amazing, innovative, unique Materials

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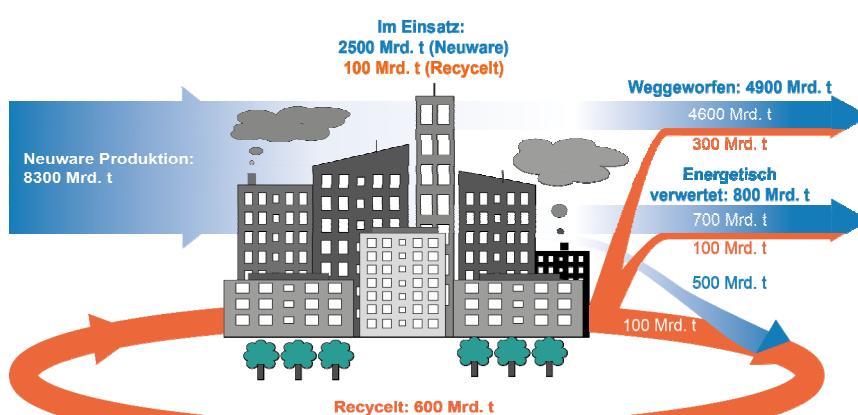
Plastics – good, bad or both?



Source: www.unsplash.com

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Weltweite Produktion, Verwendung und Verbleib von Kunststoffen, Kunststofffasern und Additiven (1950 bis 2015)

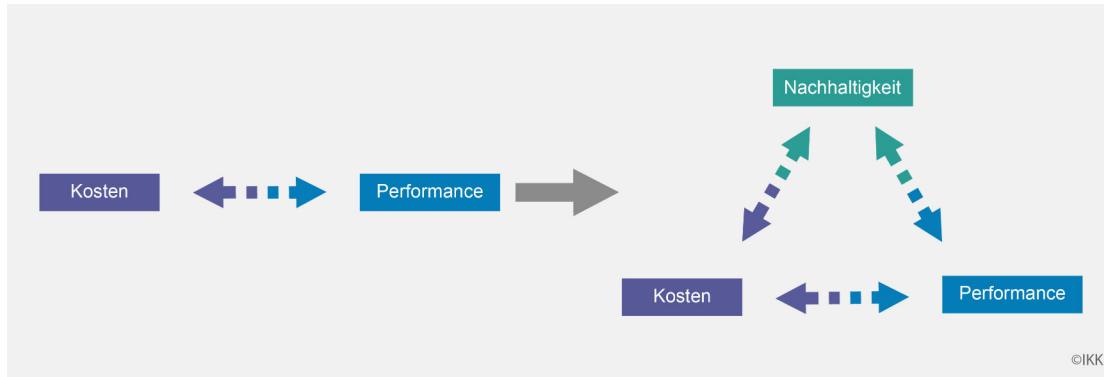


Eigene Darstellung in Anlehnung an Geyer, R., et. al. (2017), Science Advances 3 (7)

- Kunststoffe werden in reiner Form oder in Kombination verwendet: faserverstärkte Kunststoffe, Materialverbunde, gefüllte Kunststoffe, usw.

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Übergeordnete Ziele in der Kunststoffindustrie



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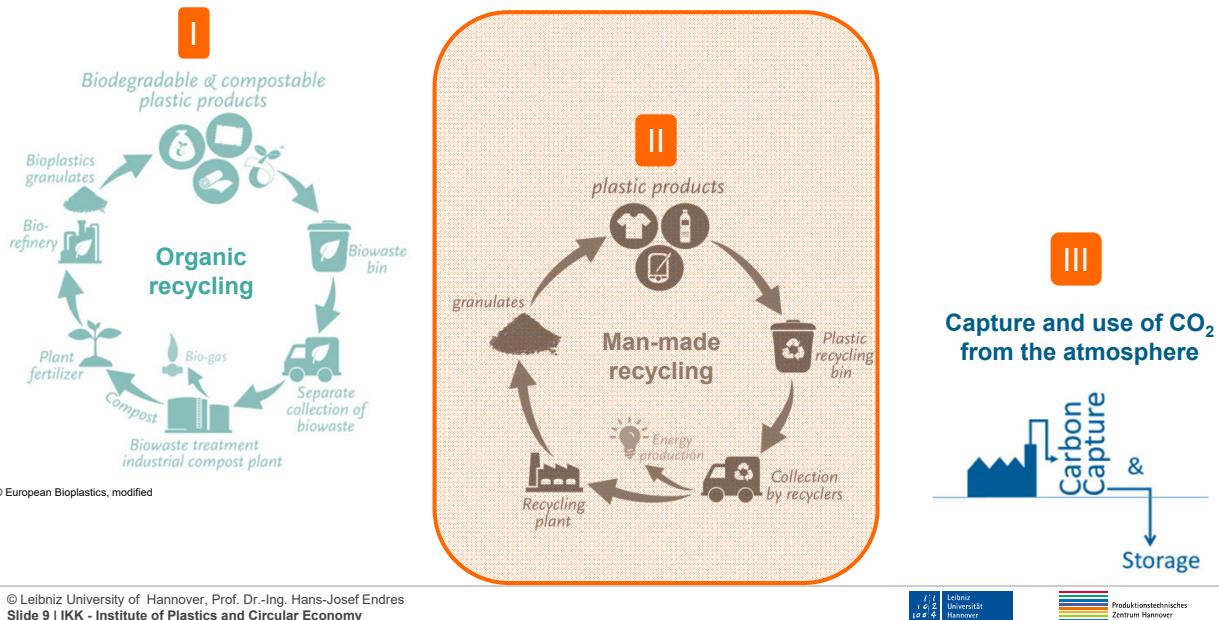
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Kann menschliches Handeln nachhaltig sein?



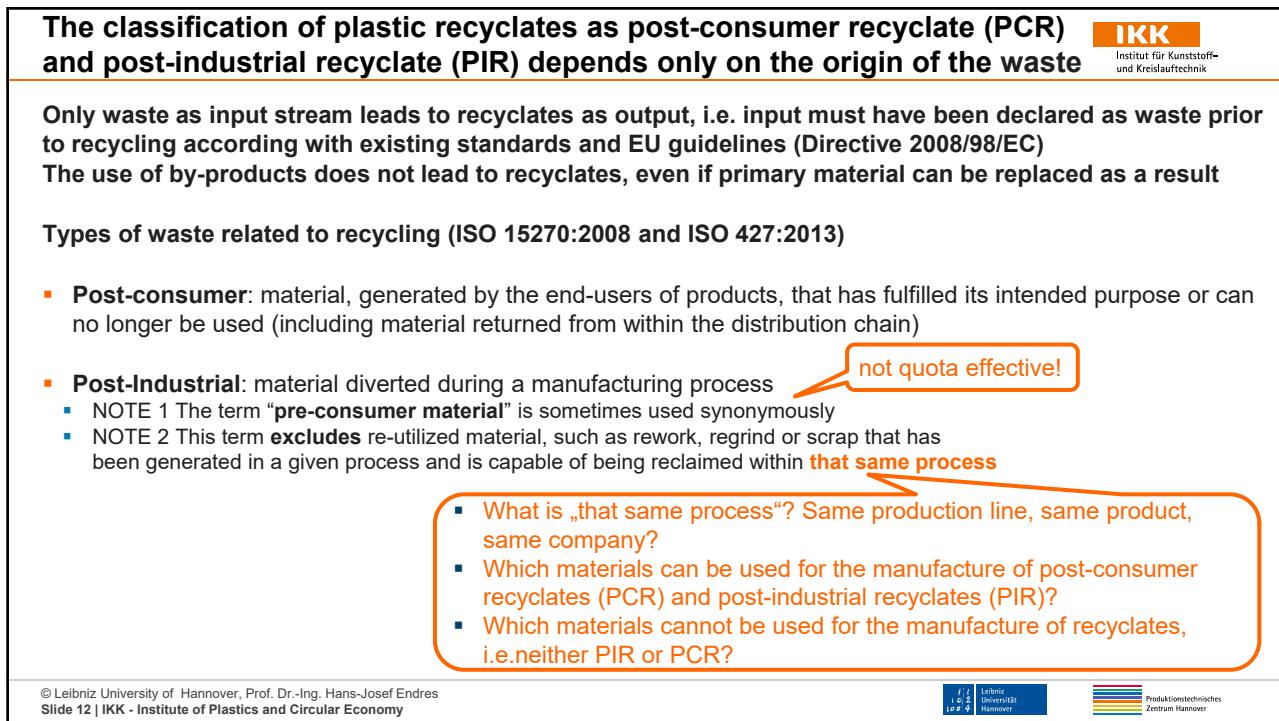
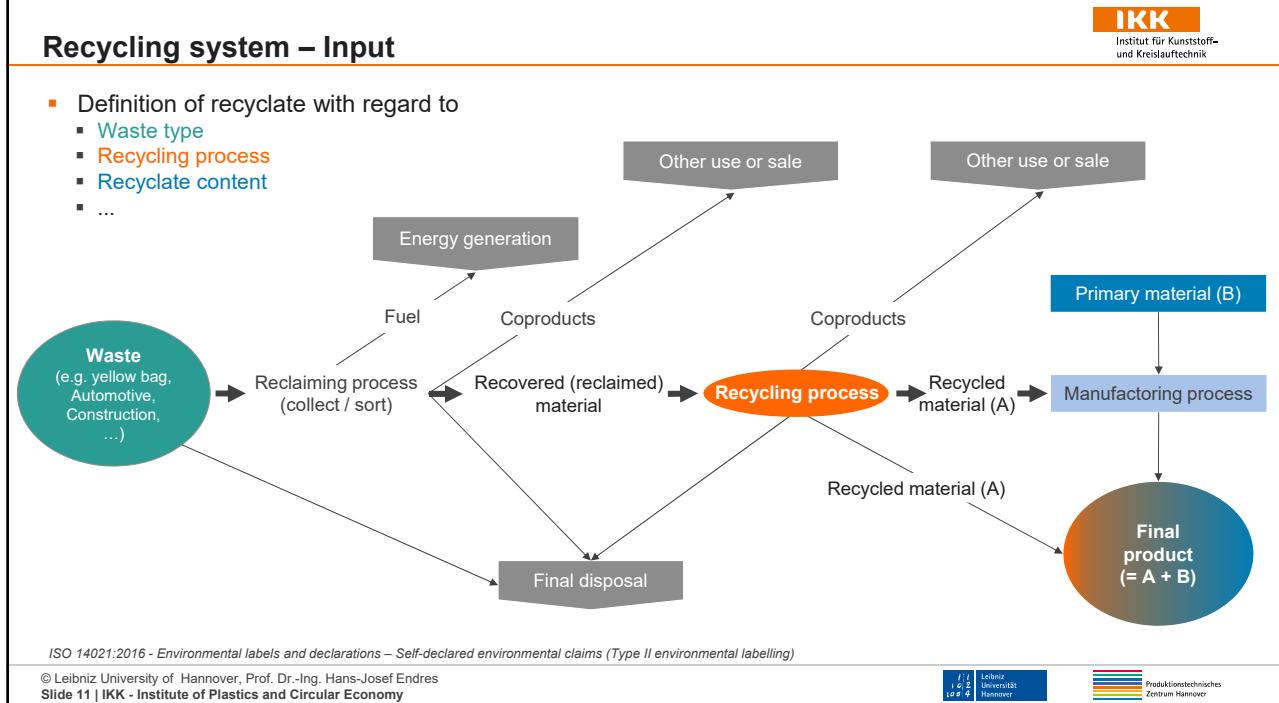
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Approaches for the plastic industry to become CO₂-neutral



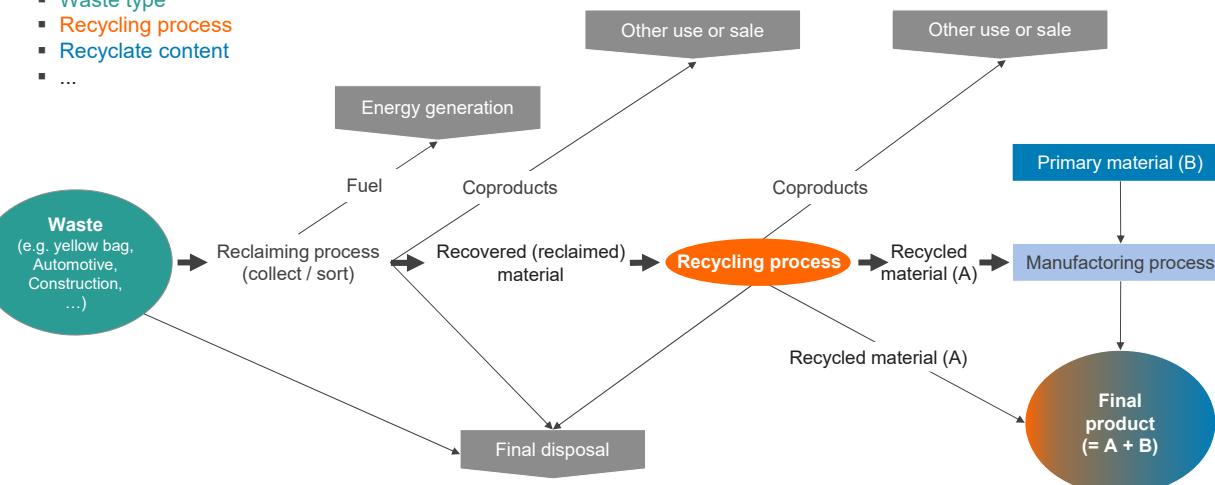
Scope

- When is a recyclate a recyclate?
- How much recyclate must be in there, so that a recyclate can also be called as recyclate?
- What are mass-balanced recyclates or mass-balanced bioplastics?
- Which recycling processes will have a quota effect, e.g. for the plastic tax?
- Do all recycling processes lead to the same result?
- How can a recycled or biobased feedstock be proved?
- How can sustainability in plastic recycling be assessed and who “owns” the credit?
- Do we have enough (high quality) recyclates?
- Are there sufficient standards in the recycling sector?
- Who is liable for the quality of the recyclates or who bears the liability risk?



Recycling system – Recycling processes

- Definition of recyclate with regard to
 - Waste type
 - Recycling process
 - Recyclate content
 - ...



ISO 14021:2016 - Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)

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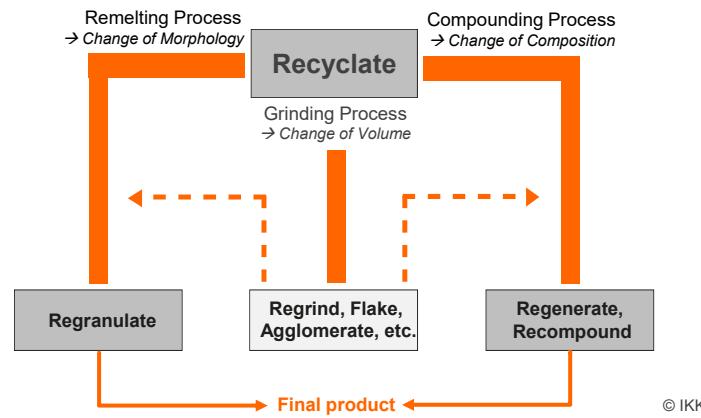
Übersicht Recyclingprozesse



Quelle: Endres, H.-J., Quo vadis Kunststoffrecycling, Kunststofftechnik 2023

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Mechanical Recycling Processes



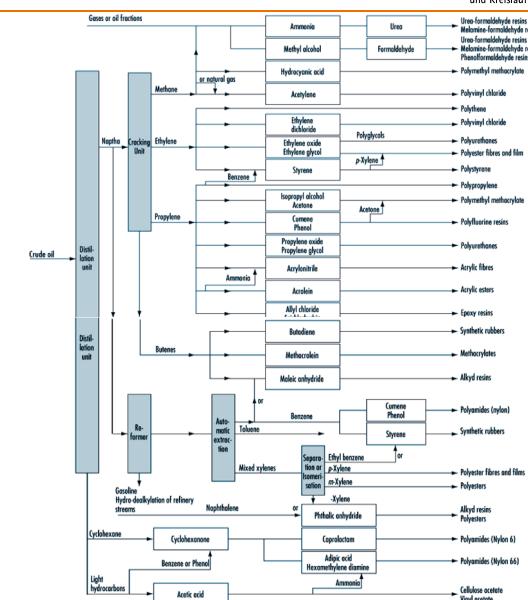
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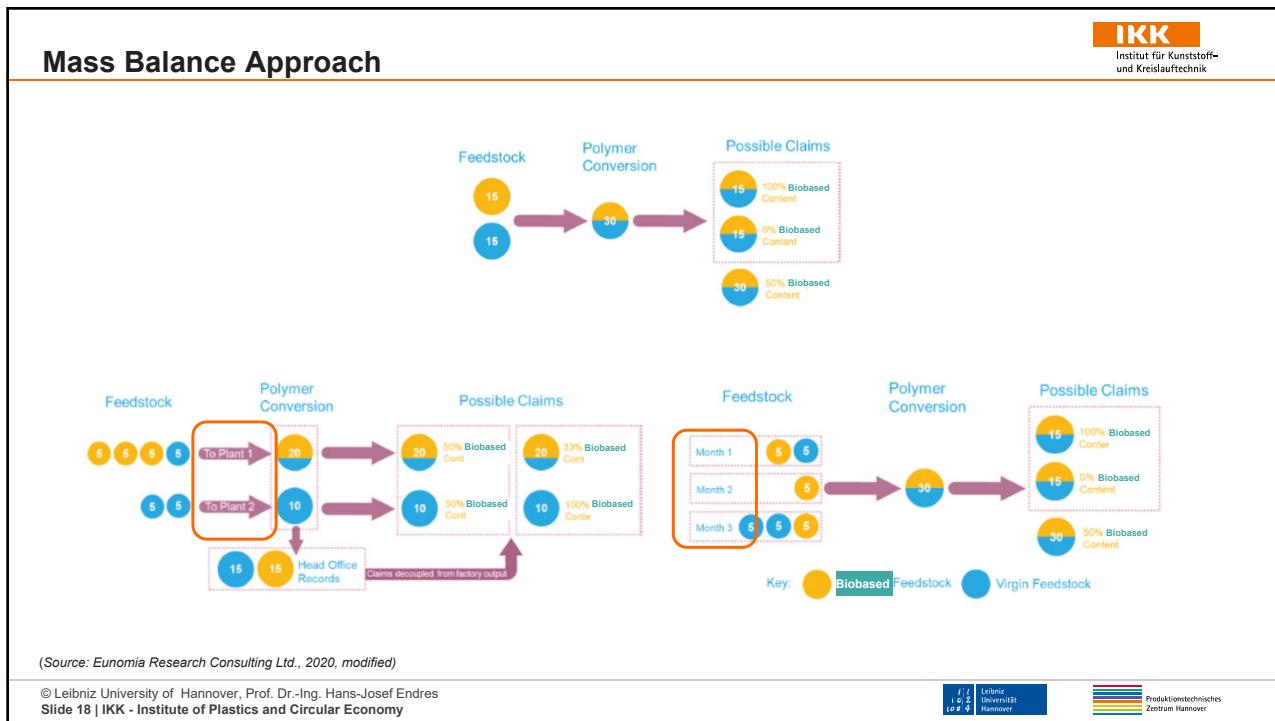
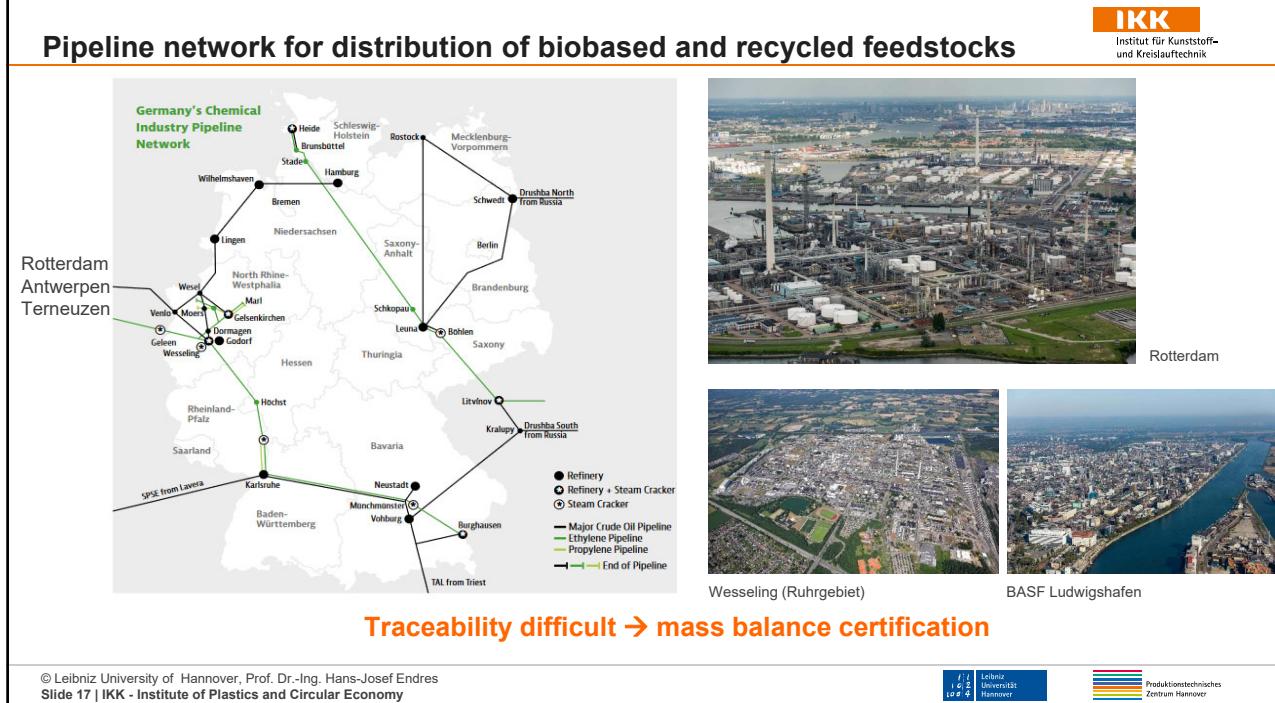
Quelle: Endres, H.-J., Quo vadis Kunststoffrecycling, Kunststofftechnik 2023

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New feedstock for chemical industry

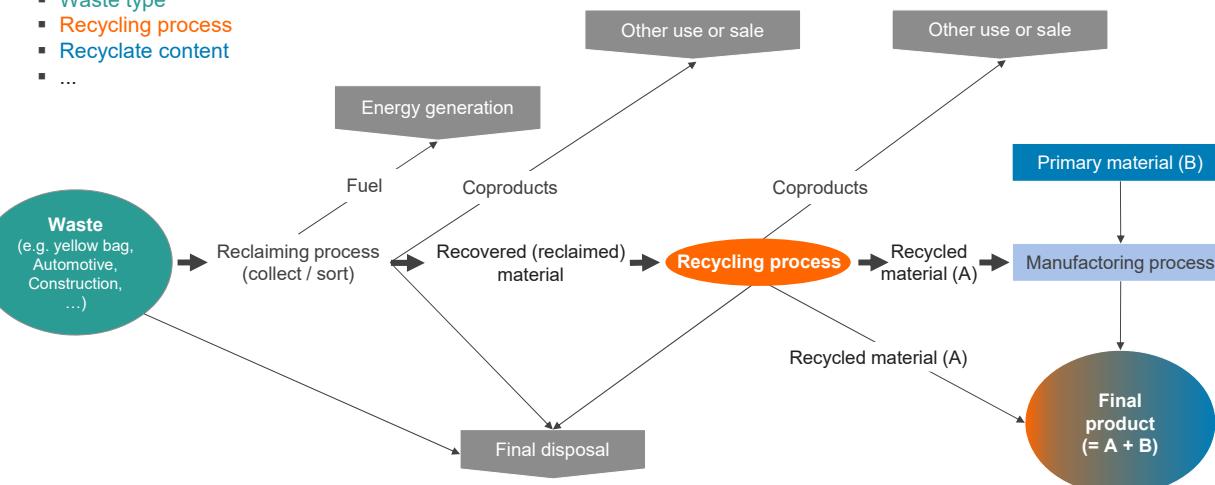
- Naphtha cracker (mainly EU)
 - Feedstock: 100% crude oil (\rightarrow C3 – C6)
 - Feedstock: Tall oil, UCO or HVO
 - \rightarrow Bionaphtha (C3 - C12/C16)
 - Feedstock: Polymers (Polyolefines)**
 - \rightarrow Pyrolysis oils \rightarrow Renewable naphtha
- Gas cracker (USA)
 - Ethane, propane, +X mix,
 - Shale gas (ethane cracker)
 - Biogas / Bio-methane
 - Pyrolysis gases**

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Recycling system Simplified diagrammatic representation

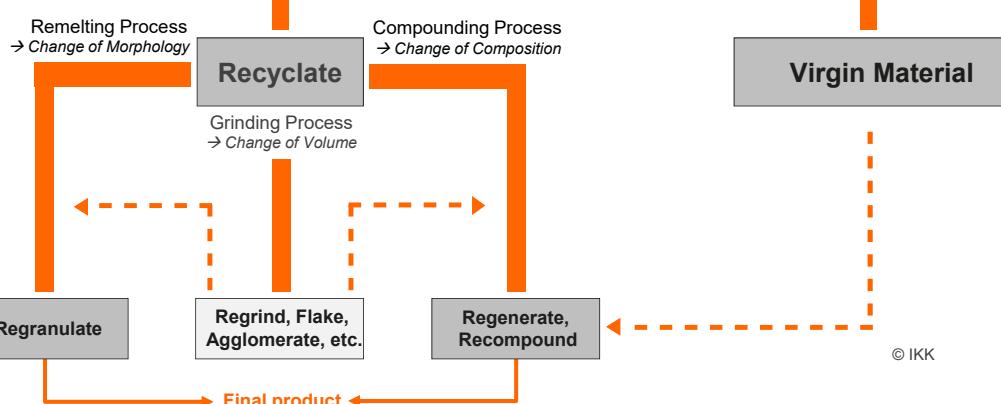
- Definition of recyclate with regard to
 - Waste type
 - Recycling process
 - Recyclate content
 - ...



ISO 14021:2016 - Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)

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Mechanical Recycling Processes



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Assessment of processes - mechanical versus chemical recycling

Property	Mechanical Recycling	Chemical and solvent based Recycling
Technical requirements for infrastructure / processes	+ (low)	- (high)
Possibility of decentralized processing	+ (possible)	- (currently technically challenging and uneconomical)
Requirement on quality for input stream	- (medium - high)	0 (low - medium)
Quality of output material	0/- (proportional to the quality of input material. Moderate quality improvement using process parameters and additives is possible and is inversely proportional to the technical expense)	+ (very high)
Food regulatory approval of the output	0 (in special cases PE (and HDPE) possible)	+ (high)
Possibility of multiple recycling	0 (limited)	+ (high)
Industrial maturity	+ (high)	0 (depending on process, not fully mature)
Cost	+ (low)	- (high)
Environmental assessment / Quality of data	+ / LCA data gaps	0 / almost no data

Source: H.-J. Endres: Recycling and circular economy are not always the same, Polyproblem-Report 2 / 2020, Röchling Stiftung, modified

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Challenges for plastics recycling

Recyclate

Definition with regard to content / characterisation

General information

- There is no regulation regarding min. recycled content in plastic mixtures
 - Plastic mixtures composing of virgin and recycled plastic may also be called recyclate
- There is no regulations regarding recycling process, e.g.
 - Mechanical recycling vs chemical recycling

Polymer-specific standards for recyclate characterisation

- Recyclate content
- Other polymers
- Fillers
- Additives

EN 15345, DIN SPEC 91446

Recycled content in product (X %) = $\frac{\text{mass recyclate in product}}{\text{total mass product}} * 100$

but DIN EN 17615

Recycled content in product (X %) = $\frac{\text{mass recycled plastic in product}}{\text{total mass product}} * 100$

Characterisation of Polypropylene (PP) recyclates DIN EN 15345

Property	Uni	Test method
Required data		
Color		Visual examination
Density	kg/m ³	EN ISO 1183-1
Impact strength	kJ/m ²	EN ISO 179-1,-2 or EN ISO 180
Melt mass flow rate	g/10 min	EN ISO 1133
Form		Visual examination
Optional data		
Ash content	%	EN ISO 3451-1
Bulk density	kg/m ³	Annex A
Other polymers	%	Thermal analysis / IR
Bending properties	MPa	EN ISO 178
Filtration grade	µm	Mesh size
Recycled content	%	EN 15343
Yield stress	%	EN ISO 527-1,-2
Elongation at break	%	EN ISO 527-1,-2
Content of volatiles	5	EN 12099, etc.

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Recyclate

Definition in relation to content - Polymer-specific standards

Legend: M – mandatory (gefordert), O - optional

Property	Definition process	DIN EN 15342 PS	DIN EN15344 PE	DIN EN 15345 PP	DIN EN 15346 PVC	DIN 15348 PET
Original use	To be defined by supplier	O				
Form	Visual examination	M	M	M	M	M
Recycled Content	EN 15343			O		
Color	Visual examination	M	M	M	M	M: Visual examination O: EN ISO 11664-4
TeilchengröÙe	ISO 22468	M: Verfahren entsprechend der Teilchenart und dem Kontrollbereich	M			M: max. TeilchengröÙe
Komponentenverteilung	Normspezifisches Verfahren					
Schüttichte	Normspezifisches Verfahren	O: Anhang A	M: Anhang B	O: Anhang A	M: Anhang B	
Dichte	EN ISO 1183	O: EN ISO 1183-1 oder Verfahren A	O	M: EN ISO 1183-1 oder Verfahren A	O: EN ISO 1183-1 oder Verfahren A	
Wasserfestigkeit	EN ISO 2857	O	O	O	O	
Wärmebeständigkeit	EN ISO 1043	O	O	O	O	
UV-beständigkeit	EN ISO 1043-2	O	O	O	O	
Witterungsbeständigkeit	EN ISO 1043-2, 3, 4	O	O	O	O	
Stoßfestigkeit	EN ISO 1043-4	O	O	O	O	
Abriebfestigkeit	EN ISO 1043-4, 5	O	O	O	O	
Abriebfestigkeit (Kugel)	EN ISO 1043-5	O	O	O	O	
Abriebfestigkeit (Kugel)	EN ISO 1043-6	O	O	O	O	
Contamination with other polymers	FT-IR or DSC		M (PP and others)	O		

Source: H.-J. Endres, M. Shamsuyeva (2020): Kreislaufwirtschaft braucht bessere Standards – Standards und Qualität von Kunststoffrecyclaten – Eine Bestandsaufnahme, Plastverarbeiter 6, modified)

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DIN SPEC 91446 „Classification of recycled plastics by Data Quality Levels for use and (digital) trading“

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Waste characterisation

Classification of recycled plastics by DQL

Product data sheet and label



	Data Quality Levels			
	1	2	3	4
Information	3	11	12	14
Property	0	3	5	10
Optional characteristics	22			

Increasing information



* Initiator
** Consortium leader

Cirplus

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Der GrünePunkt

REMONDIS

VDMA

BDE

INSTITUT FÜR KUNSTSTOFFVERARBEITUNG

KUNSTSTOFF UND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

TOMRA

STEINERT

MKT

Materialis

greiner

POLIPAK

KraussMaffei

SKZ

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Zu 2: Normgerechte Charakterisierung und Klassifizierung der Rezyklate nach vier unterschiedlichen Daten-Qualitäts-Leveln (DQL)

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Verbindliche allgemeine Angaben (=Information)	DQL1	DQL2	DQL3	DQL4
Materialtyp	PE, PP, PET, ...	X	X	X
Rezyklatgehalt gem. der DIN SPEC Berechnung	X %	X	X	X
Verpackung	Oktabins, Sackware, Ballenware, Silo, ...	X	X	X
Füllstoffgehalt	Mineral X %, Glasfaser X %	X	X	X
Recyclingtechnologie	Mechanisches Recyclingverfahren, lösungsmittelbasiertes Verfahren, ...	X	X	X
Zustand	Agglomerat, Flakes, Mahlgut, Regenerat, Regranulat	X	X	X
Chargennummer	Angaben auf der Verpackung oder dem Analysenzertifikat	X	X	X
Ursprung	Konsument- oder Industrieabfall	X	X	X
Gehalt an anderen Kunststoffen	Daten aus dem Sortierprozess, normierte FTIR, DSC-Messungen		X	X
Zertifizierung des Lieferanten	DIN EN ISO 9001, ...			X
Ursprüngliche Verwendung des Materials	Flaschen oder Schalen, Blasformen oder Spritzgießen, gemischte Abfälle, ...			X
usw.
Summe	3	11	12	14
Verbindliche materialtechnische Eigenschaften (= Property)	DQL1	DQL2	DQL3	DQL4
Viskosität	X	X	X	
Aschegehalt	X	X	X	
Restliche Feuchtigkeit		X	X	X
Dichte		X	X	
Schüttdichte		X	X	
Chemische Zusammensetzung			X	
usw.				...
Summe	0	3	5	10
Optionale branchen-, anwendungs-, produkt- und/oder materialspezifische Informationen oder Eigenschaften	DQL1	DQL2	DQL3	DQL 4
Härte				
Brennbarkeit				
Geruchs- oder Emissionsmessungen				
Lebensmittelkontakt erlaubt				
usw.				
Summe	22			

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DIN SPEC 91481 „Classification of recycled Polyamides for use and (digital) trading”

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<https://www.din.de/de/forschung-und-innovation/din-spec/alle-geschaeftsplaene/wdc-beuth:din21:358469913>

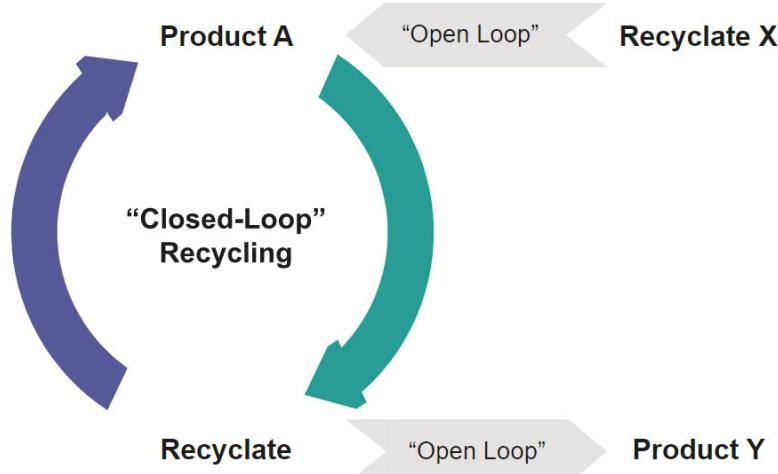
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Open and Closed Loop Recycling Approaches

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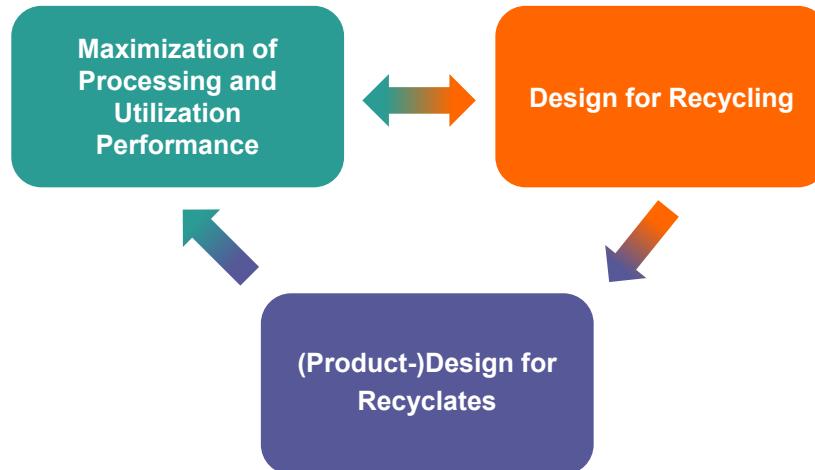


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Design for Recycling



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Windenergie End of Life-Rotorblätter



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Wissenschaft und Kultur

Demontage & Recycling GmbH

- Materialtechnischer Schwerpunkt: GFK
- Aktueller Stand:
 - Begleitung der Demontage, Zerlegung und Abfallaufbereitung
 - Charakterisierung von Inputströmen



Demontage einer Windenergianlage durch die Firma Aufwind Demontage und Recycling GmbH.



Die Zerkleinerung für das mechanische Recycling



Die Struktur eines Rotorblattes weist eine Vielzahl von Materialien auf

- Vorhandene Dokumentation ist für das Recycling nicht ausreichend
 - Sehr heterogene Zusammensetzung
 - Unterschiedliche Hersteller / Modelle
- Hohe Materialvariation innerhalb eines Rotorblatts (konstruktionstechnisch)
- Weitere und aktuelle Informationen auf der Projektseite verfügbar:
<https://rekon-recycling.de/>

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Composites Recycling - State of the Art



Januar 2023



Studie ist im Januar 2023
beim AVK erschienen

**Die englische Version
erscheint Anfang 2024**

Die Inhaltsangabe der Studie



IKK -
Institut für Kunststoff- und Kreislauftechnik



AVK -
Industrievereinigung
Verstärkte Kunststoffe e. V.

Autoren:
H.-J. Endres
M. Shamsuyeva

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Opportunities for plastics recycling



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Broadening of input streams for recycling



SARTORIUS SIEMENS

GERRY WEBER

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Fishing gears



Pharmaceutical



Shredderleichtfraktion

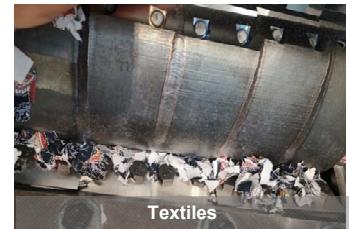
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E&E Waste



Composites



Textiles

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Input-adapted disassembly strategies

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or



or



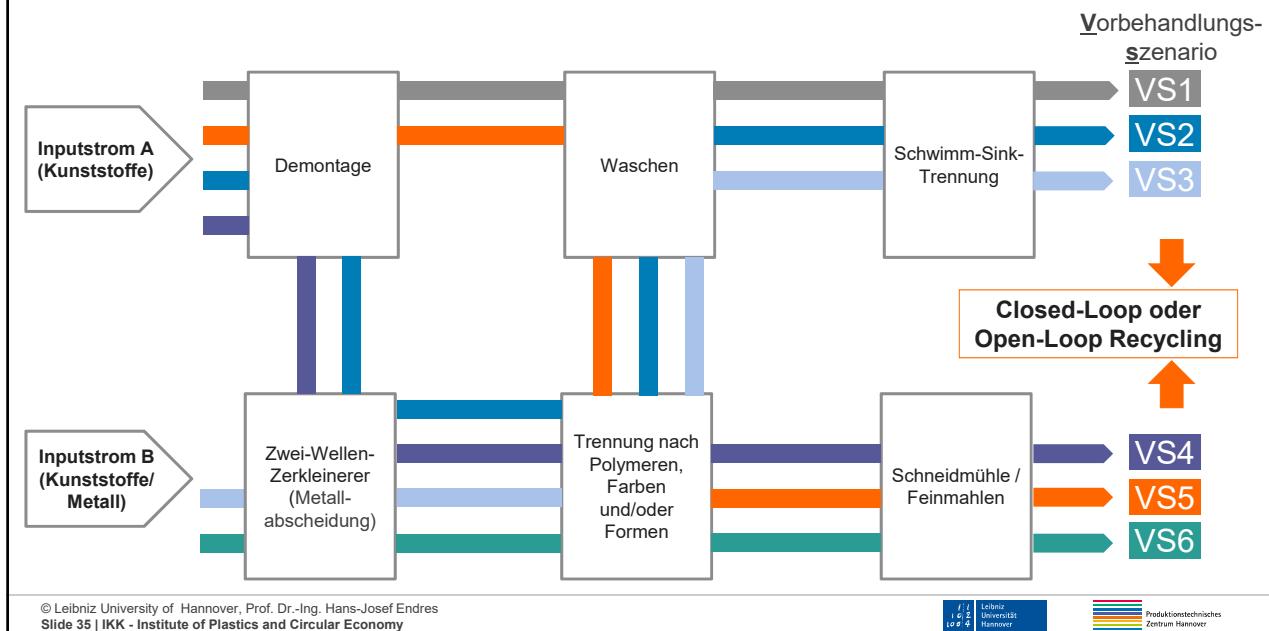
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Inputspezifische Vorbehandlungsstrategien für effektives, höherwertiges mechanisches Recycling technischer Bauteile

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Inline control of recyclate quality

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KraussMaffei Extrusion: Tandem Recycling line

Erema: Interema 906 TE



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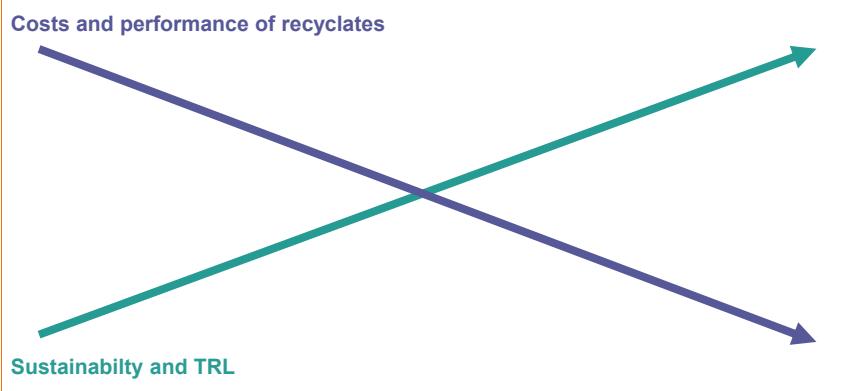
Additional features for inline control of recyclate quality during the recycling process

- Integrated control of color (feeding of liquid color)
- Inline process analytic of the melt composition
- Inline viscosity control through blending or controlled addition of peroxides
- Improved melt filtration cascades
- Purge gas-injection with nitrogen or carbon dioxide in order to
 - reduce odor or VOC content
 - optimize the process parameters
 - monitor chemical composition to minimize the risk

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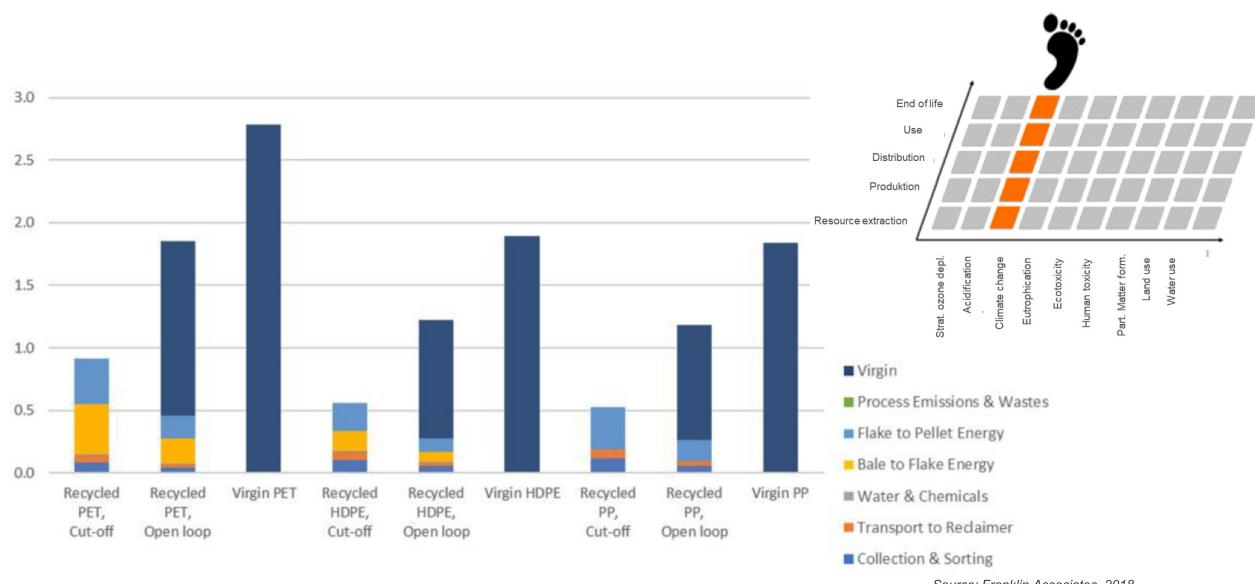


Comparison of different recycling technologies



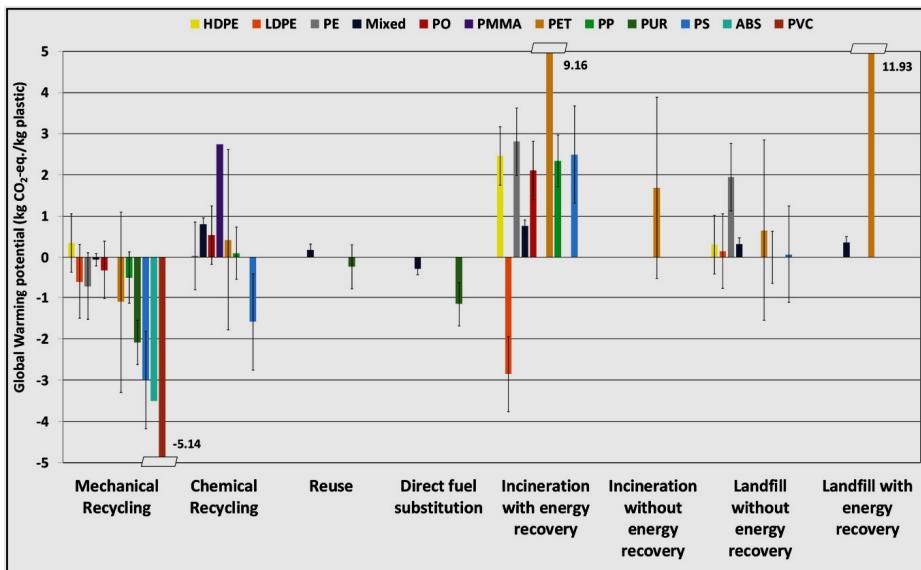
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Example – Mech. recyclates versus virgin materials (Global warming potential kg CO₂-eq./kg)



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Design for Recycling Strategies for Plastics



Source: V. Venkatachalam, H.-J. Endres et al.: Design for Recycling Strategies Based on Life Cycle Assessment and End-of-Life Options of Plastics in a Circular Economy, Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics, 2022

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Multifunctionality End-of-Life - 11 formulas

Table I Overview of the 11 analysed EoL formulas

Formula	Name	Formula
1a	0:100, no credit	$EF = E_V + R_2 \times E_{recycling,EoL} + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
1b	0:100, credit for avoided virgin production ^a	$EF = E_V + R_2 \times \left(E_{recycling,EoL} - E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} \right) + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
2	100:0, no credit	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled} + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
3a	100:100, no credit	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled} + R_2 \times E_{recycling,EoL} + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
3b	100:100, credit for avoided virgin production ^a	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled} + R_2 \times \left(E_{recycling,EoL} - E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} \right) + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
3c	100:100, credit for avoided production of mix at input side ^b	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled} + R_2 \times \left(E_{recycling,EoL} - E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} \right) + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
3d	100:100: crediting for avoided virgin production a ratio of min(R ₂ , R ₂ -R ₁) ^a	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled} + R_2 \times E_{recycling,EoL} - \min(\text{abs}(R_2-R_1), R_2) \times E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
4a	50:50, no credit	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + \frac{R_1}{2} \times E_{recycled} + \frac{R_2}{2} \times E_{recycling,EoL} + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
4b	50:50, credit for avoided virgin production a ratio of R ₂ /2 ^a	$EF = (1-R_1) \times E_V + \frac{R_1}{2} \times E_{recycled} + \frac{R_2}{2} \times \left(E_{recycling,EoL} - E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} \right) + (1-R_2) \times E_D$
5	BPX 50/50_adapted ^{a,c}	$EF = \left(1 - \frac{R_1}{2} \right) \times E_V + \frac{R_1}{2} \times E_{recycled} + \frac{R_2}{2} \times \left(E_{recycling,EoL} - E^* V \times \frac{Q_v}{Q_f} \right) + \left(1 - \frac{R_1}{2} - \frac{R_2}{2} \right) \times E_D$
6	Degressive, linearly	<p>For all except R₁ = R₂ = 1: EF = (1-R₁) × $\left(\frac{(2+n-1)}{n} \times E_V + \frac{E_p}{n} \right)$ + (1-R₂) × $\left(\frac{E_p}{n} + \frac{(2+n-1)}{n} \times E_D \right)$</p> <p>+ $\frac{E_p}{n} \times E_{recycled} + \frac{E_p}{n} \times E_{recycling,EoL}$</p> <p>For R₁ = R₂ = 1: EF = $\left(\frac{E_p}{n} + \frac{E_p}{n} \right)$ + 0.5 × E_{recycled} + 0.5 × E_{recycling,EoL}</p>

^aWith $E_V = E_V$ (closed-loop assumed)

^bWith $E_V = (1-R_1) \times E_V + R_1 \times E_{recycled}$ (closed-loop assumed)

^cThe BPX 50/50 approach was slightly adapted to enable differentiating between $E_{recycled}$ and $E_{recycling,EoL}$ and to enable including changes in inherent material properties, i.e. by including Q_v/Q_f

Source: Allacker et al. 2017

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