



Polymer Sustainability and Circularity

Please Join Us Wednesday, May 13, 2026

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Case Western Reserve University, Tinkham Veale Center

Hosted by Dr. Gary Wnek, Macromolecular Science and Engineering, CWRU
and Prof. Michael Großhauser, Fraunhofer Cluster of Excellence Circular
Plastics Economy CCPE

The principal aim of the event is to have interactive and stimulating discussions on current and emerging challenges and opportunities focused on sustainability of polymeric materials including additives.

Preliminary Agenda (Tinkham Veale Center, Senior Classroom):

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| 9:00 am | Coffee and Light Refreshments |
| 9:30 am | Welcome and Objectives |
| 9:45 am | Topic 1 - The 12 Principles of Green Chemistry and Green Engineering: Opportunities for an Barriers to Implementation |
| 10:30 am | Topic 2 - Can existing commodity polymers and engineering plastics be made more broadly useful with new processing methods and material combinations? |
| 11:00 am | Break |
| 11:15 am | Topic 3 - Contrasts between EU and US recycling rates and reasons for better rates in the EU |
| Noon-12:45 | Working Lunch |
| 12:45 pm | Topic 4 - Additives (anti-oxidants, flame retardants...) and emerging solutions with increased sustainability |
| 1:30 pm | Topic 5 - Bioplastics (esp. aliphatic polyesters including PLA and the PHA family) and potential to at least partially replace long-standing plastics in specific applications |
| 2:15 pm | Break |
| 2:30 pm | Topic 6 - Workforce development and sustainability practices |
| 3:15 pm | Open discussion and key take-aways (with refreshments) |

A Zoom link will be available for those interested in one or more topics but unable to join in person

RSVP by April 24 to

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