

R20AWS Breakout Session

PLASTIC POLLUTION & HEALTH Strategies for a Circular Economy

Date/ Time: May 29th / 09:30 – 12:00

Location: Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Marmorsaal

Background & Objectives

In the past decades plastic waste became one of the biggest threats to our planet and as a consequence also to our society. An increasing amount of plastic keeps reaching the oceans and entering our food chains: For the first time ever plastic particles were found in the human body. Today we know that finding new strategies to cut down plastic waste is one of the most urgent steps to avoid further irreparable damages to our ecosystems. The objective of the break out session is to discuss alternative materials as well as approaches to recycle and reuse plastic to foster a circular economy. Such as the transfer of technology and know-how about waste management strategies and systems from Austria to developing countries is a concrete solution against plastic pollution. Representatives of politics, companies and NGOs ensure interesting insights in current projects as they work together on new ways and solutions for the future. In times of a dramatically increasing need of raw material, new business models, policies, technology and investment opportunities will be discussed.

Speakers

Moderation: **Thomas Jakl**, Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

Maria Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment, WHO

Werner Boote, Documentary Filmmaker (Plastic Planet)

Hans-Peter Hutter, Deputy Head, Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna

Craig Helgreen, Director Sustainability & Public Affairs, Borealis

Joost van Dun, Global Circular Economy Lead, ING

Tanja Dietrich Hübner, Head of Sustainability, REWE International AG

Christian Redl, Apnoea Diver, Initiator 7 Oceans Project

Martin Wesian, CEO, Helioz

Ewald-Marco Münzer, Münzer Group & **Joseph Siaw Agyepong**

Program

Moderation: Thomas Jakl, Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

9:00 **Registration starts** at the entrance of the Ministry

9:30 **Welcome & Introduction**

9:35 **Input**

Maria Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment, WHO

Werner Boote, Documentary Filmmaker (Plastic Planet)

9:55 **Quick Introduction of the Working Group Leaders and their Solutions & Approaches**

- **Innovative Materials & Processes**

Working Group Leader:

Craig Helgreen, Director Sustainability & Public Affairs, Borealis

- **Awareness**

Working Group Leader:

Christian Redl, Apnoea Diver, Initiator 7 Oceans Project

- **Plastic Pollution & Health**

Working Group Leader:

Hans Peter Hutter – Med University Vienna

- **Food Retailer**

Working Group Leader:

Tanja Dietrich Hübner, Head of Sustainability, REWE International AG

- **Financer**

Working Group Leader:

Joost van Dun, Global Circular Economy Lead, ING

- **Waste management**

Working Group Leaders:

Ewald-Marco Münzer, Münzer Group &

Martin Wesian, Helioz

10:30 **Coffee Break > Foyer**

10:45 **Working Groups:** 6 groups (a 15 persons)

Leading questions:

1. Tell us the key lesson of your success story
2. What are the main demands for policy-makers to foster circular economy even stronger?

11:45 **Wrap up & Conclusions**

12:00 -13:00 **Networking Lunch > Foyer**