

Press release

Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI)

www.renewable-carbon-initiative.com

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The Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI) celebrates its first anniversary

Looking back at a successful first year with a tripled membership count and presenting clear goals and ambitions for the second year

After its launch on 20 September 2020, the RCI (www.renewable-carbon-initiative.com) is proud to celebrate its first anniversary this fall. The balance sheet of the first year is impressive: starting from 11 founding members, that number increased to 30 member companies within 12 months. Numerous webinars, press releases, background information, a glossary and a comic allowed to convey the “Renewable Carbon” concept to the public. The RCI is actively working on labelling and policy analysis, and more activities will follow in the next year.

Key for this success: the topic of renewable carbon in chemicals and materials is increasingly becoming a focus of politics and industry. Larger companies will have to report their GHG emissions and also the footprint of their products as part of legislative changes surrounding the European Green Deal. In this context, indirect emissions and the carbon sources of materials will play a much more crucial role. The RCI is actively working on solutions for companies to shift from fossil to renewable carbon, which consists of the use of bio-based feedstock, CO₂-based resources and recycling. In the future, reporting on GHG emissions will also include Scope 3 emissions, which are all indirect emissions that occur along the company’s value and supply chain and where the used raw materials account for a large proportion of the footprint. Here is where the carbon source of chemicals and plastics comes into play as an important contributor to the carbon footprint. Without a shift from fossil to renewable carbon feedstocks (combining bio-based, CO₂-based and recycled), a sustainable future and the Paris climate targets will be almost impossible to master.

To discuss, promote and realise the shift, 30 innovative companies have already joined forces to support the transition to renewable carbon, considering both technological and economical approaches – and helping to shape the political framework accordingly.

For the second year, RCI plans to focus on a comprehensive understanding of the expected political framework conditions in Europe and across the globe, since they will determine the future of chemistry and materials more than ever. Building on this knowledge, the topic of renewable carbon could then to be systematically integrated into new political directives, which has so far not been effectively managed.

In reality, the political focus lies on the strategy of decarbonising the energy sector, a very central and Herculean task. However, it cannot be applied to the chemical and material world because carbon is usually the central building block that cannot be dispensed with. On the contrary, the demand for carbon in the chemical and materials sectors is expected to more than double by 2050. In order to meet this demand in a sustainable manner, we must move towards quitting fossil carbon. For the first time in industrial history, it is possible to decouple chemistry

and materials from petrochemicals and completely cover the demand through the utilisation of biomass, CO₂ and recycling. The faster we diminish the use of additional fossil carbon from the ground and the sooner the alternative feedstock are used at scale, the less we will need to rely on removing huge amounts of CO₂ out of the air in the future.

The RCI invites all concerned and interested parties to become part of a unique network of pioneers for renewable chemicals and materials and to bring innovative ideas and further momentum to the renewable carbon strategy. In the upcoming weeks, the new business platform “Renewable Carbon Community (RCC)” will see the light of day and further facilitate the communication and networking between member companies.

Disclaimer

RCI members are a diverse group of companies, institutions and associations addressing the challenges of the transition to renewable carbon with different approaches. The opinions expressed in this press release may not necessarily reflect the policies and views of all RCI members. The RCI is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

The Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI) was founded in September 2020 by eleven leading companies from six countries under the leadership of nova-Institute (Germany). The aim of the initiative is to support and speed up the transition from fossil carbon to renewable carbon for all organic chemicals and materials. www.renewable-carbon-initiative.com

Find all press releases of the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI), visuals and more free-for-press purposes at www.renewable-carbon-initiative.com/media/press

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