

Renewable Materials Conference 2021 - Abstract

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Talk Title: Transitioning toward a circular economy with advanced recycling technologies

Talk abstract: The world is in the middle of a plastic waste crisis, only made worse by the pandemic. The limitations of traditional recycling technologies and economic challenges facing the planet currently present significant roadblocks in tackling this problem. To truly transform into a global circular economy for plastics, the acceptance and implementation of advanced recycling technologies is critical. While there is no single solution to solve this growing crisis, there are innovations and technologies from the industry to help. Yet, to support these technologies a variety of challenges must be overcome. These challenges include widespread acceptance of recycling at molecular level; an understanding and utilization of mass balance accounting; reasonable economics; and the ability to generate feedstocks through supply chains that may not exist today. An Eastman representative will explain the ins and outs of advanced recycling – a technology 101, the pros and cons, what advanced technologies work best for which materials, the infrastructure challenges that need to be solved to get more chemical recycling technologies operating at scale, and what you can do to be a part of the solution.