

Renewable Materials Conference 2024

Speaker:

René Bethmann

Title:

Beyond Bottles: The Polyester Journey into Sustainable Feedstocks and Future Market Trends

Abstract:

Polyester (PET) holds the largest market share globally, exceeding 52%. Traditional polyester is sourced from fossil fuel-based materials, primarily crude oil. To shift the industry away from these conventional, non-renewable feedstocks towards more sustainable alternatives, the most straightforward approach has been transitioning to recycled feedstocks from bottles. However, this feedstock may not be available for other industries in the future.

In this context, the presentation aims to provide an overview of the current market situation, upcoming regulations, and trends. Additionally, it will explore potential alternative feedstock sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based materials.

Bio:

René Bethmann holds a degree in Textile and Apparel Technology and boasts his career in product and material management with renowned brands throughout Europe. Presently, he serves as the Senior Innovation Manager at VAUDE, where he oversees and drives innovation initiatives and projects pertaining to materials and joining technologies, with a particular emphasis on strategies for renewable carbon. Additionally, since 2020, he has been a consultant for the VAUDE Academy for Sustainable Business. With almost 20 years of experience in the sports industry, he has established himself as a distinguished global speaker in the domains of bioeconomy, circular economy, and innovative material technologies.