



RMC 2023 – UPM Biochemicals abstract

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Title: UPM BioPura MEG: Drop-in solution enabling several industries to achieve carbon footprint goals

UPM Biochemicals currently constructs a biorefinery in Leuna, Germany converting wood biomass to chemicals starting end 2023. The raw material beechwood will be sourced from regional sustainable managed forest (FSC & PEFC). UPM will mainly use thinning and industrial hardwood, which for 70% today gets incinerated. Besides, sustainable managed forests perfectly act as a carbon sink to achieve global climate goals.

One of the biorefinery's product will be the UPM BioPura MEG, which is a drop-in solution with an attractive carbon footprint. UPM will transform today's fossil MEG applications from within, hence UPM BioPura MEG will enable a holistic circular economy for PET. Current challenge in this application is the regulatory framework in packaging and packaging waste directive. Besides, MEG is the key ingredient with approx. 94% in battery & engine coolants, so it will support the sustainability journey of car manufacturers especially since EV needs more than double coolant in the battery compared to ICE. Furthermore, UPM BioPura MEG will enable the Polyester industry to achieve their sustainability goals. Due to the lack of existing recycling streams, Polyester players act like "parasites" in the PET bottle loop, therefore UPM BioPura MEG will be part of their solution.

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