

Joint Approaches to Reduce Persistent Microplastic

The current accumulation of microplastics in the environment and the potential risks they may pose to ecosystems and human health require the immediate reduction of further emissions. A consortium of partners from science, industry and administration is developing concepts in order to tackle the cause of the problem in the long term and to provide recommendations to legislation:

- In the short term, much more awareness has to be raised: Plastic products must be completely removed at the end of their life and must be protected from wind transport etc.
- When processing plastic products outdoors (e.g., cutting), parts and particles must be consistently collected.
- Packaging for fruit, vegetables, bread and take away products will either have to be eliminated (reduced or designed as a reusable product) or made from biodegradable materials in order to avoid microplastics in organic waste management as must products that are used in agriculture, forestry and horticulture be made from biodegradable materials to avoid persistent microplastic emissions.

The presentation will provide an overview of the activities of the alliance “bündnis Mikroplastikfrei” in Austria. The focus is on solutions using biodegradable materials in various applications.