Sustainable Vehicle Production 2026

SVP

Organized and Hosted by:

itb GROUP

- February 25 and 26, 2026
- Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel
  21111 Haggerty Rd., Novi, MI, USA

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Program Agenda – FEBRUARY 25

7:30 a.m. **Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks and Session Chair**
Mitra O'Malley, Managing Director and Co-Founder
The ITB Group

8:40 a.m. **Sustainability: Why Me, Why Now?**
Kristen Siemen, VP & Chief Sustainability Officer
General Motors (former)

9:00 a.m. **Sustainability: THE Motivation for an NBA Champion to Get into the Plastics Business**
Isiah Thomas, Chairman and CEO
Isiah Enterprises *and*
Rich James, Global Marketing Director
Dow Chemical

9:30 a.m. **Coffee and Conversations Break**

10:15 a.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Dismantling and Recycling ELV's – A Perspective from Europe
Jelle Saint-Germain, Sales Engineer
AD REM
ELV recycling is established in Europe and the U.S., but Europe's regulatory landscape is rapidly evolving under the EU's 2050 carbon-neutrality strategy. New ELV rules target 95% recyclability and up to 25% recycled plastic content in vehicles, impacting collection, dismantling, material selection, and manufacturing. This presentation will highlight the Galloo–Stellantis Joint Venture and Galloo's end-to-end recycling technologies, showcasing opportunities for automotive recyclers and OEMs.

Delivering Profitable Sustainable Materials

Session Chair: Dr. Joel Kopinsky, Managing Director and Co-Founder - The ITB Group

11:00 a.m. **Incorporating Greener Materials with AI**
William Crane, CEO
OrbAid
Sustainability pressures and material-efficiency targets are reshaping automotive innovation, placing materials suppliers and engineering teams at the center of the transition. This session will demonstrate how OEMs and suppliers use AI to identify high-ROI cost-reduction opportunities and accelerate progress toward emissions, circularity, and biodiversity goals. AI tools will simplify complex sustainability datasets and translate needs into practical design recommendations, enabling decisions in minutes rather than months.

11:45 a.m. **Advanced Recycling Solutions for the Automotive Value Chain**
Carla Toth, Senior Vice President Corporate Strategy
Nexus Circular
This presentation will highlight Nexus Circular's partnerships within the automotive sector and how these collaborations support sustainability targets. It will outline emerging business models, including licensing and cooperative recycling approaches. These models offer scalable pathways for improving waste management across the automotive value chain.

12:10 p.m. **Certification in Biomass Balance: Demonstrating Verified Connectivity from Renewable Feedstock to Product**
Chris Bradlee, Sustainability Manager
BASF
The Biomass Balance method allows renewable feedstocks to replace fossil inputs in chemical production. After third-party verification, the renewable share is allocated to specific products with full traceability, reducing product carbon footprint while maintaining conventional performance. This presentation will cover certification procedures and illustrate the method with a flexible PU foam case study.

12:30 p.m. **Lunch sponsored by** American Chemistry Council | Plastics Division

LCA: The Road to Net Zero - Are We on Track

Session Chair: Nicholas Hammond, Product Sustainability and Compliance Manager - Shawmut

1:45 p.m. **SAE's Vehicle Carbon Footprint Disclosure Addendum: Rationale and Draft Progress**
Nicholas Hammond, Product Sustainability and Compliance Manager
Shawmut Corporation
Differences in LCA methods and assumptions make vehicle carbon-footprint comparisons across OEMs and models challenging. An SAE working group is developing a standardized addendum with uniform material classification, a consistent use-phase scenario, and emissions normalized per mile or kilometer. This presentation will explain the addendum's rationale, expected benefits, and provide a progress update on the group's 2025 efforts.

2:00 p.m. **XYCLE: Unlocking Real-Time, Auditable LCA for Complex Supply Chains**
Dr. Robert Pell, CEO
Minviro
Growing regulatory pressure and complex supply chains are increasing needs for transparent, verifiable environmental data. An overview of XYCLE, an AI-driven LCA platform that integrates primary data across multiple supply tiers to deliver real-time, regulation-ready insights, will be provided. Advantages of scalable continuous assessments and benefits of improved decision making will be highlighted.

Presentations will be made available to conference attendees two weeks after the conference has concluded AND when provided permission by the speaker

2:15 p.m. **Enhancing Efficiency in Life Cycle Assessment and Product Carbon Footprint Reporting**
Dr. Michael Faltenbacher, Director Transport & Mobility
Sphera
LCA and Product Carbon Footprint reporting are becoming essential as regulations like the EU Battery Regulation and CBAM require detailed product-level data. Manual data compilation is slow and resource-intensive for complex automotive components. This presentation demonstrates a modular, increasingly automated approach for calculating and managing PCF and LCA across product portfolios, highlighting lessons from OEM and supplier implementations. It will show how automation and primary supply-chain data enable robust, reproducible, and third-party-verifiable results on demand.

2:30 p.m. **LCA Panel Session**

2:50 p.m. **Coffee and Conversations Break**

Circular Economy in Motion

Session Chair: Gina Oliver, Senior Director, Durable Markets Advocacy - American Chemistry Council

3:15 p.m. *Marco Meloni, Chief Operating Officer*
Plastic Recycling Inc.

3:30 p.m. *Rich James, Global Marketing Director*
Dow Chemical

3:45 p.m. **Driving Toward More Sustainable Composite Materials**
Dr. Mike Siwajek, Vice President of Research and Development
CSP
CSP is advancing sustainability of its fiber-reinforced composite products through a cradle-to-grave approach. Life Cycle Assessments are used to set ambitious yet achievable targets for more sustainable materials and to guide manufacturing toward lower climate impact. This presentation will highlight these efforts, including initiatives addressing product end-of-life scenarios.

4:00 p.m. **The Drive Towards Plastics Circularity**
Dr. Ellen Lee, Technical Leader Advanced Polymer Technologies
Ford Motor Company
This presentation will cover past and current efforts in the development and implementation of more sustainable alternatives to prime plastics, as well as Ford's future outlook and sustainability aspirations. Opportunities to overcome the significant challenges to achieving a circular economy will be discussed.

4:15 p.m. **Circular Economy Panel session**

From Concept to Production: A Tier One Approach to Sustainability

Session Chair: Dr. Joel Kopinsky, Managing Director and Co-Founder - The ITB Group

4:35 p.m. **30 Years of Defying the Myths of Recycled Material in High Performance Applications**
Jordan Ginsbach, Quoting and Sales Engineer and Zack Cohen, Automotive Customer Liaison
AGS Technology
Recycled plastics are still frequently limited or excluded in high-performance automotive applications. AGS Technology demonstrates that a property-driven approach, combined with the right applications and reliable waste streams, can enable parts with up to 100% recycled content. This presentation will outline the methods and factors required for success. Several case studies will be highlighted.

4:55 p.m. **Sustainability Triangle for Packaging**
Bridget Grewal, Director Packaging Continuous Improvement
Magna
The 2026 Sustainability Triangle for Packaging outlines a global strategy to advance sustainable packaging through phyto sanitation, packaging recycling, sensor technology, and returnable containers. The presentation reviews regulations, emerging challenges and risks of non-compliance. It highlights innovations such as RFID, BLE, LPWAN, GPS, and sensor integration, along with industry collaborations and voluntary standards for sustainable packaging.

5:15 p.m. **Concluding Remarks**
Mitra O'Malley, Managing Director and Co-Founder
The ITB Group

Wi-Fi Sponsored by: Henkel

Exhibitors To-Date:

- Arkema
- EGE2
- Mazlite
- Owens Corning

Program Agenda – FEBRUARY 26

7:30 a.m. **Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Dr. Joel Kopinsky, Managing Director and Co-Founder
The ITB Group

8:40 p.m. **Collectively Driving Automotive Plastics Circularity**
Ana Sofia Almagro, Global Project Lead - **Global Impact Coalition (virtual)**
Kai Lammel, Senior Project Manager, Innovation Excellence - **Global Impact Coalition / BASF**
Karen Guzman, Automotive Marketing & Sustainability Manager - **Covestro**
This presentation explores how the automotive industry can convert plastic waste into a resource while preparing for new European ELV regulations. The Global Impact Coalition's Automotive Plastics Circularity pilot focuses on improving dismantling, shredding, sorting, and recycling processes to recover more high-value plastics. Phase 1 results from 2025 will be reviewed, including technical and economic insights. Plans and objectives for Phase 2 in 2026 will also be presented.

Sustainable Materials Lab: Bio-Based, Recycled, Low-Impact Materials in Automotive

Session Chair: Dr. Matthew Korey, Associate R&D Staff Oak Ridge National Laboratory

9:00 a.m. **Domestically Sourced Reinforcements for Automotive Polymer Composites: The Role of Industrial Hemp**
Dr. Amber Hubbard, R&D Staff Member
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
This presentation focuses on the development of bio-based thermoplastic and thermoset composites for high-rate manufacturing of advanced composites, supporting the creation of a secure domestic supply chain for industrial demand.

9:15 a.m. **Improving Surface Compatibility of Cellulose to Strengthen and Lightweight Thermoplastic Composites**
Dr. William Gramlich, Associate Professor
University of Maine
Biobased fibers can reinforce thermoplastics to reduce fossil-based content and enable lightweighting, provided they are effectively dispersed and compatibilized. This presentation introduces grafting through polymerization methods to chemically functionalize cellulose derivatives in water, creating bio-based reinforcements. When melt compounded and 3D printed, these reinforcements deliver high strength and modulus in thermoplastic composites.

9:30 a.m. **High-Throughput Identification of Sustainable Plastics Using Microdevice-Enhanced Infrared Sensing and AI**
Dr. Yaoli Zhao, Electrical and Computer Science Engineering
Tufts University
The shift toward circular materials requires fast, accurate tools for identifying diverse and often contaminated plastic feedstocks. This research combines microdevice sensitivity with infrared spectroscopy to enable high-throughput identification of plastics, including black and additive-rich materials that evade conventional NIR systems. A complementary multimodal sensing platform can quantify recycled content with over 90% accuracy to support global regulations. Together, these technologies offer a scalable method to verify circularity, ensure material quality, and reduce emissions across automotive supply chains.

9:45 a.m. **Sustainable Materials Lab Panel Session**

10:15 a.m. **Coffee and Conversations Break**

10:45 a.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Integrating Sustainability into Automotive Design
Charlotte Harper, Product Sustainability Engineer
Rivian
This presentation offers insight into the 'how' behind Rivian's mission to keep the world adventurous forever, by diving into the design process to look at the mechanisms used to deliver ambitious sustainability credentials.

Engineering Tomorrow - Innovations in Sustainable Auto Technologies

Session Chair: Mitra O'Malley, Managing Director and Co-Founder - The ITB Group

11:15 a.m. **Circular and Low Carbon Glass Fiber Use in the Automotive Industry**
Paul Salach, Product Leader
Owens Corning
This presentation will highlight innovations in glass fiber circularity and the development of SUSTAINA® and SUSTAINA® Loop fibers. Strategies used to lower the carbon footprint of glass fiber products for the automotive industry, including details on a pilot hydrogen melting process at the Owens Corning L'Ardoise, France site will be presented.

11:35 a.m. **New Advancements to Unlock Post-Consumer Recycling of Nylon 6,6**
Dr. William Tenn, Senior Research Associate
INVISTA
Large-scale recycling of Nylon 6,6 has not yet been realized. INVISTA is addressing this challenge by advancing recycling technologies for post-consumer nylon 6,6 products through proprietary in-house developments and support for third-party innovators.

This presentation will share the latest data and progress on these initiatives, highlighting INVISTA's efforts to make recycled nylon 6,6 a viable solution for the automotive industry.

11:55 a.m. **Sustainable Automotive Product Realization for Advanced Applications - Case Study**
Prashant Bhokardole, Staff Engineer - **PHINIA**
Jason Park, Senior Application Technology Engineer - **Ascend Performance Materials**
Approaches and considerations toward developing a sustainable product for a cleaner tomorrow will be presented. This automotive product was realized in collaboration with PHINIA's supply chain which provided an innovative material with significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, while still ensuring manageable cost impacts.

12:15 p.m. **Bio-Sourced Hydrin® (ECO) Elastomers for Heat, Oil, and Fuel-Resistant Application**
Andrew Mittermiller, Business Manager ECO
Zeon Chemicals
Bio-sourced Hydrin® is produced from glycerin-derived epichlorohydrin (ECH) to significantly reduce its carbon footprint. With broad temperature tolerance and excellent oil, fuel, and ozone resistance, it is ideal for automotive fuel hoses, air ducts, turbo hoses, and dust boots. This presentation will highlight its environmental benefits, performance metrics, and application case studies.

12:30 p.m. **Implementing Eco-Design Strategies in Battery Cooling Lines**
Cosimo Carfagna, Senior Business Development Engineer, Transportation
Arkema
This presentation discusses Arkema's joint work with ARaymond and demonstrates how material selection and eco-design of battery cooling lines can play a major role in reducing their environmental impact.

12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

Ethical, Scalable, Sustainable Battery Supply Chain

Session Chair: Dr. Joel Kopinsky, Managing Director and Co-Founder - The ITB Group

1:45 p.m. **Debonding-on-Demand Adhesives for Sustainable Battery Packs**
Matt Boback, Senior Manager, Battery Applications
Henkel
Henkel's debonding-on-demand adhesives provide strong structural bonding for components such as battery packs and headlamps while enabling controlled, non-destructive disassembly through heat or electric triggers. Benefits for component repair, second-life reuse, end-of-life recycling, and improved manufacturing efficiency will be highlighted.

2:00 p.m. **Designing Shred-Free, Recyclable Batteries via Molecular Self-Assembly**
Dr. Yukio Cho, Energy Postdoctoral Fellow
Stanford University
This presentation introduces a bio-inspired, molecularly self-assembled electrolyte layer designed for inherent recyclability. Its reversible, non-covalent structure enables selective disassembly with targeted solvents, eliminating the need for mechanical shredding. This chemistry-driven approach simplifies battery end-of-life processing and improves material circularity for next-generation energy storage systems.

2:30 p.m. **NextState™ BMS – From Battery Diagnostics to Intelligent, Sustainable Management**
Clemens van Zeyl, Managing Director
Heimdalytics
Sustainable electric vehicle production requires smart battery systems that extend life, ensure safety, and enable traceability. Heimdalytics' NextState™ BMS embeds AI-driven Electrical Impedance Spectrometry (EIS) to provide real-time, predictive insights on each cell's state of energy, safety, stress, and charge. This multidimensional insight enables proactive control, early anomaly detection, and optimal balancing of cells throughout the battery's lifecycle.

2:45 p.m. **Transforming Resources to Power a more Connected, Sustainable World**
Erich Esser, Managing Director GER/A
Ecobat
Conventional car batteries are one of the best examples for closed recycling loops in the automotive industry with use of secondary lead (LME registered lead) and reproduced polypropylene (Seculene®). These developments help reduce overall CO_2 footprints of the product.

3:00 p.m. **EV and EV Battery Supply Chain Trade and Production**
David Coffin, Senior International Economist
U.S. International Trade Commission
This presentation will review global EV, battery, and battery supply chain trends with a focus on the United States. It will cover the EV battery supply chain structure, major global consumption patterns, and U.S. battery sourcing at the model level. Key 2025 tariff and incentive changes affecting EVs and the battery supply chain will be summarized.

3:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Joel Kopinsky, Managing Director and Co-Founder
The ITB Group

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In-Person on February 25 and 26, 2026

The Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel • 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi , Michigan 48375

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Book your rooms HERE by January 26th to secure the corporate rate.

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