

Sustainable Vehicle Production 2026



Organized and Hosted by:



- February 25 and 26, 2026
- Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel
2111 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, and Larry Lyons, Head, Automotive Product Strategy
Isiah Enterprises
Rich James, Global Marketing Director
Dow Chemical

EcoBio Plastics Michigan is a manufacturer specializing in plant based and bio-composite materials derived from organic fibers and recycled plastics. In July 2025, the company was acquired by One World Products, a sustainability firm led by Isiah Thomas, soon to be rebranded Isiah Enterprises. The Midland facility now serves as a central R&D and production hub, supplying eco-friendly materials for the automotive, packaging, and industrial sectors.

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. **Biomass Balance (BMB) Certification: Mass Balance Attribution from Renewable Feedstock to Final Product**

Chris Bradlee, Sustainability Manager
BASF

The Biomass Balance (BMB) method enables certified attribution of renewable feedstocks to products through a transparent, third-party verified mass balance system. This ensures full traceability from renewable raw materials to final products while preserving identical performance. This presentation details the robust procedures used to demonstrate and verify linkage for certification through a flexible PU foam case study.

12:30 p.m. **Lunch sponsored by**



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.

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. 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.

3:25 p.m. Driving Change: Safer, Greener, Better Materials for a Sustainable Tomorrow
Rich James, Global Marketing Director

Dow Chemical

Minimizing carbon emissions, advancing circularity, and developing safer materials are key for a sustainable future. Considerations to design for end-of-life recyclability and component lightweighting are important. Methods to achieve these multiple goals, at times synergistically, will be highlighted.

3:35 p.m. Driving Toward More Sustainable Composite Materials
Dr. Mike Siwajek, VP of Research and Development

CSP

CSP is advancing sustainability of its fiber-reinforced composite products through a cradle-to-grave approach.

3:45 p.m. Remanufacturing End-of-Life Vehicle Plastics for Sustainability

Marco Meloni, Chief Operating Officer

Plastic Recycling Inc.

This presentation examines how end-of-life vehicle plastics, particularly automotive shredder residue, can be transformed from a perceived low-value byproduct into a controlled feedstock for high-performance recycled compounds. Drawing on Plastic Recycling Inc.'s industrial experience and investments, this presentation demonstrates that scalable, closed-loop solutions for automotive plastics are now operational.

3:55 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

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 a.m. Collectively Driving Automotive Plastics Circularity
Davide Del Ben, Senior Manager, Partnerships & Operations
Global Impact Coalition (virtual)
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.

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
Moderated by James Lyijynen, Automotive Executive (Stellantis - former)

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.

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

Session Chair: Dr. Matthew Korey, 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.

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 CO₂ 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

Exhibitors To-Date:

- **Arkema**
- **EGE²**
- **INVISTA**
- **Mazlite**
- **Owens Corning**
- **Plastic Recycling Inc.**

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In-Person on February 25 and 26, 2026

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