

# Climate Friendly Materials (CFM) Platform Workshop: Towards High-Quality Material Recycling

**December 16, 2022**

**Location: DIW Berlin, Mohrenstraße 58, 10117 Berlin**

**Elinor Ostrom Room**

The cost of recycling raw materials remains high despite the technological advancements in the field. End-of-life waste recycling is less cost-effective compared to landfill or incineration and its economic feasibility shows large variation according to material type rendering secondary recycled materials uncompetitive to primary materials. Eliminating these barriers in the way of circularity and making the secondary material market a key source of input, requires a wholistic understanding of the material value chain.

The European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan (2020) introduced initiatives to establish a coherent product policy framework focusing on the entire life cycle of products. This Action Plan targets regulations on product design to promote circular economy processes and reduce of waste creation. Together with the subsequent Sustainable Product Regulation and further revisions of regulations on prioritized products (e.g. packaging, plastics, construction materials and end-of-life vehicles), they provide a unique opportunity to meet the needs of industries along the value chain in achieving a transition towards a decarbonized, resource-efficient and circular economy.

This workshop brings together researchers, policymakers and industry stakeholders to explore the challenges and policy needs for high-quality raw material recycling and develop a joint research agenda. During this workshop, bottlenecks for high-quality recycling will be explored and potential challenges under the current and upcoming policy framework will be identified with the objective of contributing to the development of comprehensive policy recommendations for the strengthening of the circular economy.



## Agenda

**9:00 - 9:15**

**Coffee**

**9:15 - 9:30**

**Welcome & Opening**

**9:30 - 9:45**

**Introduction**

Presentation by:

- **SUN Xi** (DIW)

Brief introduction of the current policy landscape and the potential contribution of high-quality recycling to resource efficiency, circular economy and the climate goals.

**9:45 - 11:30**

**Session 1: Issues and policy needs of product design**

Opening presentations by:

- **Svenja Grummt** (Umweltbundesamt)
- **Timo Gerres** (Universidad Pontificia Comillas)
- **Jessika Richter** (Lund University)

Guiding questions:

- To what extent is product design currently a barrier that limits further improvement of recycling rates?
- Do the current policies provide sufficient incentives for product eco-design, including product recyclability?

**11:30 - 12:30**

**Lunch Break**

**12:30 - 14:15**

**Session 2: Issues and policy needs of sorting and recycling**

Opening presentations by:

- **Peter Stemmermann** (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)
- **Elise Bernhard** (Berlin Recycling GmbH)

Guiding questions:

- What have been the most effective waste policies so far in reducing waste (externalities) and promoting recycling?
- What options exist to enhance capacity investment in recycling facilities?
- To what extent do recycling and incineration facilities compete for waste feedstock, and would an incineration tax encourage more recycling?

**14:15 - 14:30**

**Coffee Break**

**14:30 - 16:00**

**Session 3: Aligning the Governance of Circularity and Climate Policy**

Opening presentations by:

- **Aleksander Śniegocki** (Reform Institute)
- **Klaus Jacob** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Guiding questions:

- What is the best way to examine the joint impact of circularity and climate policies?  
How should a policy package that jointly addresses the objectives of resource savings, the resilience of value chains, pollution control and climate mitigation be evaluated and designed?