

12th and 13th March 2026

Venue: Hotel Alte Werft

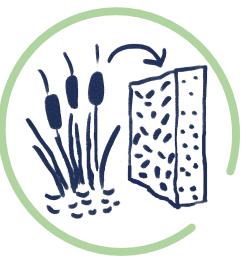
Ölmühlenweg 1 | 26871 Papenburg



CONGRESS

Regional Resources for the Future

Bioeconomy - Circular Economy - Paludiculture



INVITATION

Regional Resources for the Future – at the Eco Congress 2026 we want to explore how regional resources can shape a sustainable future. With experts from science, industry and practice we will exchange knowledge, discuss challenges, and present innovative solutions within the bioeconomy.

The congress will focus on key topics such as paludiculture, sustainable land use and nutrient cycles, bio-energy and peat substitution, bio-circular plastics, and circular, bio-based construction.

Be part of the dialogue shaping the resources use of tomorrow!

The Eco Congress is supported by the ministry of food agriculture and consumer protection of Lower Saxony and the provinces Fryslân, Groningen and Drenthe.



Niedersachsen



Provinsje
Fryslân



provincie
groningen

provincie Drenthe

Exhibition:

In addition to the lecture sessions, we offer a poster exhibition and company presentations. These will be hosted in the foyer of the conference hotel and online. If you are interested in participating, we would be pleased to receive a registration of your poster and/or company presentation.

Registration:

For your registration, please use the online form at www.eco-congress.com. You will then receive a confirmation of registration and a separate invoice. This will also serve as confirmation of your participation. The regular participation fee is 170 € for one day of the conference or 240 € for both days. Discounts are available. Further information can be found online. You will receive the access data for the online exhibition shortly before the start of the congress.

Congress languages:

German and English with simultaneous translation

Thursday, 12th March 2026 | First day of the conference

Registration	8:00
Welcome	9:00 to 9:10
Keynotes: The German and the Dutch perspective	9:10 to 10:40
Gerhard Schwetje President Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen	
Miriam Staudte State Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in Lower Saxony	
Gitta Connemann Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy	
Willemien Meeuwissen Provincial Executive Member of the province of Drenthe (WVD)	
Erik Jan Bennema Regional Minister of the province of Groningen	
Friso Douwstra Regional Minister of the province of Friesland	
tba Steuerliche Forschungsförderung Finanzamt Papenburg	
Keynotes: The European perspective	11:00 to 12:00
Jens Gieseke Member of the European Parliament for the region Western Lower Saxony - Clean industrial deal	
Stephanie Koch Managing Director of Interreg in the Ems-Dollard-Region	
Pieter Faber Head of EU Office Cities Northern Netherlands	
BIO-CIRCULAR PLASTICS	13:00 to 13:45
Prof. Dr. André Heeres Hanze UAS	
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Andrea Siebert-Raths Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (IFBB) UASA Hannover	
BIO-BASED BUILDING	13:45 to 14:45
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Heinrich Wigger Jade UAS Oldenburg	
Erik Fledderus Circulair Friesland	
Practical Examples - 3 Pitches	
Jan Jaap Folmer Uppact B.V.	
Coen Verboom bouwgroep Dijkstra Draisma	
Hartmut F. Schoon Enneatech AG	
PALUDICULTURE – STATE OF THE ART	15:15 to 16:00
Dr. Christian Fritz Radboud University Nijmegen	
Prof. Dr. Gerald Jurasinski Greifswald Mire Centre/ University of Greifswald	
BIOENERGY AND CASCADE UTILISATION	16:00 to 16:45
Prof. Dr. Walter Stinner Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum (DBFZ)	
Philip Testroet Industrieverband Garten e.V. (IVG)	
CO ₂ -MARKETS AND REGULATIONS	16:45 to 18:00
Eise Spijker JIN Climate and Sustainability	
Erikjan van Huet Lindemann Dutch Carbon Company B.V.	
Wibke Christel Ministeriet for Grøn Trepert Denmark	
Practical Examples Paludi Products - 3 Pitches	
Sjanie Hindenberg Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH	
Petra Boorsma Biosintrum	
tba	
Closing	
CONFERENCE DINNER	19:00
Dinner speech	
Vanessa Gattung Mayor of the City of Papenburg	

Organisers:



3N Kompetenzzentrum
Niedersachsen Netzwerk
Nachwachsende Rohstoffe
und Bioökonomie e. V.
Kompaniestraße 1
49757 Werlte
Germany



Ecoras
Duinkerkenstraat 13
9723 BN Groningen
The Netherlands

Friday, 13th March 2026 | Second day of the conference

Welcome

9:00

Guido Rink | Alderman of the Municipality of Emmen

The following two sections will run simultaneously: Sustainable land use in Room 1 and Circular Economy in Room 2

Sustainable land use

Room 1



PALUDICULTURE – FROM FIELD TO PRODUCT

9:15 to 10:45

Within three group discussions this session will elaborate the challenges, successes and next steps for the implementation on value chains of different paludicultures, such as Sphagnum and Typha, as well as wetland meadows. Experience from different areas of interest, from cultivating and harvesting to processing and marketing of the products, will be considered.



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND NUTRIENT CYCLES

11:15 to 13:00

From climate-smart land use approaches, such as agroforestry, to regional nutrient cycles and the processing of digestate – this session addresses different areas of interest, that are all related to sustainable land use.



BIOENERGY AND CASCADE UTILISATION – PEAT SUBSTITUTES

14:00 to 16:00

How can we achieve a peat free and climate neutral future? This session shows, how innovative substrate strategies, intelligent cascade utilisation and modern bioenergy can develop new markets. After having a closer look on international and national projects (PeatFree Substrates, Grass to Gas), future perspectives for bioenergy and insights in the current state of biogas in lower saxony are shared. This session is addressed to everyone, that considers bioenergy, substrates and circular economy as an opportunity for growth.

Circular economy

Room 2



BIO-CIRCULAR PLASTICS – CONCRETE INITIATIVES FOR CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

9:15 to 13:00

The Bio-Circular Plastics programme opens with an introduction to the Bio-Circular Plastics Roadmap, outlining shared ambitions towards 2035, followed by an overview of the Dutch PlesTIC Ready approach and practical insights from regional operational networks driving the bio-circular plastics transition. Cross-border collaboration is further explored through initiatives such as EMPHATI and Two4C, demonstrating how joint efforts are already taking shape. In addition, topic-specific presentations from both sides of the border will showcase initiatives with strong potential for future cooperation. The Bio-Circular Plastics programme concludes with a panel discussion and wrap-up, reflecting on how the day's insights can be translated into concrete next steps towards a bio-circular plastics economy.



CIRCULAR AND BIO-BASED CONSTRUCTION – READY FOR TAKE OFF?

14:00 to 16:00

The application of bio-based building materials is reliable and ready to be implemented. However, certain obstacles prevent a comprehensive implementation. This session addresses the need of further steps and joint efforts to further implement bio-based building materials, by giving an overview on the lessons learned and by discussing the question, how to achieve a breakthrough for bio-based and circular construction methods. The session will end with the visit of a Paludi-Tiny House and a showroom for construction with timber and other bio-based materials.