

12th and 13th March 2026

Venue: Hotel Alte Werft

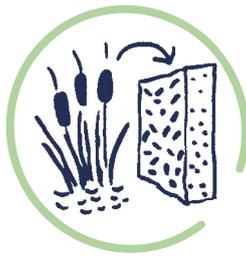
Ölmühlenweg 1 | 26871 Papenburg



CONGRESS

Regional Resources for the Future

Bioeconomy - Circular Economy - Paludiculture



PROGRAMME

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

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

8:00

Registration

Participants have the opportunity to register at the conference office in Papenburg, chat over coffee, and view the exhibition.

9:00

Welcome

By the organisers

9:10 to 10:40

Keynotes: The German and the Dutch perspective

Manfred Tannen

Vice President Chamber of Agriculture in Lower Saxony

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

Friso Douwstra

Regional Minister of the province of Friesland

Norbert Gebbe

Niedersachsen.next GmbH

10:40 bis 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 to 12:00

Keynotes: The European perspective

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

12:00 to 13:00 **Lunch Break**

13:00 to 13:45

BIO-CIRCULAR PLASTICS

Circular economy for plastics

Tobias Deneke

IfBB – Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites

The Northern Netherland: Transformation of a gas-producing region into a forerunner in the biobased transition

Prof. Dr. André Heeres

Hanze UAS

Questions from the audience

13:45 to 14:30

BIO-BASED BUILDINGS

Building BioBased – From the bog to the building envelope

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Heinrich Wigger and Amelie Fiegert

Jade UAS Oldenburg

Bio-based Building

Erik Fledderus

Circulair Friesland

14:30 to 14:45

Practical Examples - 3 Pitches

Jan Jaap Folmer
Uppact B.V.

Coen Verboom
Bouwgroep Dijkstra
Draisma

Dipl.-Ing. Hartmut Schoon
Enneatech AG

14:45 bis 15:15 **Coffee Break**

15:15 to 16:00

PALUDICULTURE – STATE OF THE ART

Paludiculture - an overview from the German perspective

Dr. Christian Fritz

Radboud University Nijmegen

Online-Presentation

Prof. Dr. Gerald Jurasinski

Greifswald Mire Centre/ University of Greifswald

Discussion

16:00 to 16:45

BIOENERGY AND CASCADE UTILISATION: PEAT SUBSTITUTES

Peat substitute from digestate: Chance for biogas and driver for productive, multifunctional cultivation systems

Prof. Dr. Walter Stinner

Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum (DBFZ)

Renewable resources for the substrate industry and horticulture: potentials, limits and regulatory frameworks

Philip Testroet

Industrieverband Garten e.V. (IVG)

Questions from the audience

16:45 to 17:35

CO₂-MARKETS AND REGULATIONS

The valorization of climate performance: avoid - reduce -remove

Eise Spijker

JIN Climate and Sustainability

Erikjan van Huet Lindemann

Dutch Carbon Company B.V.

Online-Presentation

The Green Tripartite: Agreement and agricultural perspectives

Niels Peter Nørring

Dept. of Climate & EU Affairs, Danish Agriculture & Food Council

Practical Examples Paludi Products - 3 Pitches

Phillip Rutsch
OBI Group Holding

Sjanie Hindenberg
Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH

Petra Boorsma
Biosintrum

17:55

Closing – Preview on Day 2

19:00 **Conference Dinner**

Dinner speech

Vanessa Gattung

Mayor of the City of Papenburg

Congress languages:

German and English with simultaneous translation

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.

Starting at 9:15 two sections will run in parallel, in Room 1 »Theater« and in Room 2 »Stadthalle«

»Theater« | Room 1



9:15 to 10:45

**PALUDICULTURE –
FROM FIELD TO PRODUCT**

Chairs: Frans Debets and Jessica K. Meißner

Opening & Moderation

Frans Debets | Debets Advies and
Jessica K. Meißner
3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

Introduction to topic & speakers

Block 1: Sphagnum farming

Silke Kumar
Torfwerk Moorkultur Ramsloh

Dr. Jens-Uwe Holthuis
Stiftung Naturschutz LK Diepholz

Dr. Gert-Jan van Duinen
Stichting Bargerveen

Block 2: Typha

Elisabeth Schwertfeger
Naturschutzstiftung Lk Cuxhaven

Florian Schick
Jade UAS Oldenburg

Jonas-Rumi Baumann
Hochschule Bremen

Tjeerd Veenhoven
Studio Tjeerd Veenhoven

Block 3: Wet meadow

Birthe Godt
Michael Succow Stiftung

Frank Havemeyer
Niedersächsisches Landvolk Kreisv. Osterholz e. V.

Phillip Rutsch
OBI Group Holding

Jasper van Belle
Veen Innovatie Polder Hegewarren

Summary, Discussion

10:45 to 11:15 **Coffee break**



11:15 to 13:00

**SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND
NUTRIENT CYCLES**

**Optimizing nitrogen use efficiency in Euro-
pean livestock systems from feed to plant
N use**

Dr. Frank Liebisch
Agroscope

**Digestate as a soil substrate –
first results from the BiToP project**

Sascha Hermus
3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

**Re-thinking Farming and Manure
Management: From Manure Surplus to
Soil Resilience**

Dr. Chris Schott
Wetsus European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable
Water Technology

**Measures and funding opportunities
offered by German ‘Federal Action Plan
on Nature-based Solutions‘ (ANK)**

Dr. Elke Burow
Kompetenzzentrum Natürlicher Klimaschutz (KNK)
at ZUG gGmbH

**Agroforestry for sustainable land use –
current state and development in Germany**

Michelle Breezmann
Deutscher Fachverband für Agroforstwirtschaft
(DeFAF)

13:00 to 14:00 **Lunch Break**



14:00 to 16:00

**BIOENERGY AND CASCADE UTILISATION –
PEAT SUBSTITUTES**

Opening

Chair: Dr. Frank Köster
3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

**Project PeatFree Substrates – Results of
cultivation trials and silphium fermen-
tation**

Florian Ruhnau
HS Osnabrück

Peter Schreurs
Agrar Innovatie Nederland B.V.

Project From Grass to Gas

Ingrid Klinge
New Energy Coalition

Future of gaseous bioenergy

Joost Kühlenkamp
Landesverband Erneuerbare Energien
Niedersachsen (LEE)

Biogas in Lower Saxony – Inventory 2024

Michael Kralemann
3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

Conclusion | On the Stairs: farewell speech

Get-Together

Starting at 9:15 two sections will run in parallel, in Room 1 »Theater« and in Room 2 »Stadthalle«

»Stadthalle« | Room 2



9:15 to 10:45

**BIO-CIRCULAR PLASTICS –
CONCRETE INITIATIVES FOR
CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION 1.0**

Chair: Cor Kamminga

Introduction

Cor Kamminga | Ecoras

Are you plesTic ready?

Dr. Martijn Beljaars

Greenwise Campus Circular Plastics

Operational networks

Dr. Philip Mörbitz | Fraunhofer Institut für Umwelt-,
Sicherheits- und Energietechnik

Hartmut F. Schoon | Enneatech AG (Representative
& Member Kunststoffnetzwerk

René van Bremen | Sustainable Products and
Chemicals Cluster (SUSPACC)

Erik Fledderus | Circulair Friesland

Cross border cooperation & Interreg projects

EMPHATI

Pascal Gerlach & Dr. Frank Köster
3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

Two4C

Christiaan Bolck | Oost NL

NEXCARB

Christiaan Bolck | Oost NL

10:45 to 11:15 **Coffee Break**



11:15 to 13:00

**BIO-CIRCULAR PLASTICS –
CONCRETE INITIATIVES FOR
CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION 2.0**

**Care2Change: Strengthening the Local
Supply Chain to Create a Waste-Free
Healthcare System**

Femke van der Zant | University Medical Center
Groningen (UMCG) (Care2Change)

Textiles in a circular economy: SORTED!

Sven Jurgens | Ecoras

Too good to burn – From paper to plastics

Prof. Dr. Elke Wilharm | Ostfalia UAS

**From Nature to Nozzle: Reinforcing PHA
with Hemp Fibers for Sustainable FFF**

Nadja Berger | UAS Münster

Sustainable interior materials in vehicles

Dr. Matthias Rechel | Niedersachsen.next GmbH

Eduard Putsch | Expinos

Denis Schmitz | HS Osnabrück

Dr. Thomas Taddigs | Volkswagen AG

Panel Discussion

Lead: Cor Kamminga | ecoras

Joost Pâques | Paques Biomaterials

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jan Post

Philips Health Tech Drachten

Christiaan Bolck | Oost NL

Cord Neemann

NEEMANN LiteFlex PACKAGING GmbH

Peter Brinkmann

TKT Kunststoff-Technik GmbH

Dr. Philip Mörbitz | Fraunhofer Institut (UMSICHT)

Wrap Up Cor Kamminga | Ecoras

13:00 to 14:00 **Lunch Break**



14:00 to 16:00

**CIRCULAR & BIO-BASED CONSTRUCTION:
LESSONS LEARNED –
READY FOR TAKE OFF?**

Opening & Moderation

Chair: Jochen Keimer

3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

Block 1:

**Bio-based Materials: From Field to Building –
Lessons learned!**

**Focus: Biobased buildings and insulation
materials – pilot projects**

**Straw Buildings: Turning an Agriculture
By-Product into a Million-Ton Carbon Sink**

Dirk Scharmer | Deltagrün Architektur Büro

**Building with Renewable Raw Materials –
Potential for Achieving Climate Goals**

Dorothee Mix | Bildungswerkstatt für nachhaltige
Entwicklung e.V. (BIWENA)

Block 2:

**The Future of Bio-based Materials –
ready for take off?**

**How do we achieve a breakthrough for bio-
based and circular construction methods?**

**Biobased construction in Fryslân:
role of the regional government in accelera-
ting the circular transition**

Charlotte Strijbos | Provincie Fryslan

**Exkursion to BBoBB Showroom and
Paludi Tiny House (Outside of the Venue)**

Jana Denecke & Jessica K. Meissner

3N Kompetenzzentrum e.V.

**Conclusion | On the Stairs:
farewell speech**

Get-Together