



Microplastics in soils - a threat for human health and the environment?

International Conference
Berlin, 19 - 20 October 2022

**Umwelt
Bundesamt**

German Environment Agency

International Conference on Microplastics in Soils

Wednesday, 19 October 2022 – Day 1 State of Science

12:00 Reception, Registration, Coffee

13:00 Opening and Welcome
Dr. Bettina Hoffmann, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (video message)
Dr. Lilian Busse, Vice President of the German Environment Agency

Session 1 – Findings, distribution and analysis of microplastics in soils

13:20 Entries, occurrence and distribution of microplastics in soils
Prof. Dr. Christian Laforsch, University of Bayreuth

13:40 Status quo of soil sampling for microplastic analysis (SOSMA)
Dr. Kristof Dorau, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources

14:00 Current methods for the detection of microplastics in soils – An overview
Dr. Jochen Türk/Dr. Carmen Wolf, IUTA e.V.

14:20 Coffee break

Session 2 – Impact and fate of microplastics in soils

14:50 The actual uses of plastics in agriculture across EU: Overview and environmental problems
Assistant Prof. Dr. Ruth Pereira, University of Porto

15:10 Agricultural plastics as a source of microplastic pollution to soil ecosystems and crops
Dr. Luca Nizzetto, Norwegian Institute for Water Research

15:30 Impact of microplastics on soils
Prof. Dr. Matthias Rillig, Freie Universität Berlin

15:50 Fate of microplastics in the environment
Prof. Dr. Violette Geissen, Wageningen University

16:10 Coffee break

16:30 Workshops* - Science gaps and research needs

17:45 Wrap up day 1, outline day 2
Dr. Annegret Biegel-Engler, German Environment Agency

Thursday, 20 October 2022 – Day 2 Recommendations for Action

8:30 Reception, Registration, Coffee

9:00 Welcome and wrap up day 1
Dr. Christoph Schulte, German Environment Agency

9:10 Keynote - EU policy developments to prevent microplastic pollution
Bavo Peeters, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment

Session 3 – Regulation and policy solutions

9:30 Nano- and microplastics policy: Regulations for sustainable plastics use and design
Prof. Dr. Denise Mitrano, ETH Zurich

9:50 Analysis of microplastics in soils: Harmonisation and standardisation - A first approach
Dr. Ulrike Braun, German Environment Agency

10:10 Coffee break

10:40 Investigation on plastic pollution and implementation of regulatory measures in agricultural soils – Case study
Katharina Sexlinger, Umweltinstitut Vorarlberg

11:00 Towards enforceable measures for microplastics in soils
Dr. Annegret Biegel-Engler, German Environment Agency

11:20 Workshops* - Recommendations and approaches

12:15 Presentation and voting to rank policy recommendations





12:45 Wrap up and closing
Dr. Christoph Schulte, German Environment Agency

*See back of flyer for workshops and online sessions.

Imprint

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Registration and Information

Conference rooms (Berlin) open at 12:00 on October 19th
and 8:30 on October 20th.

Online rooms with technical instructions for online
participants open at 12:30 on October 19th and 8:30 on
October 20th.

Target group: The international conference provides an
opportunity to learn and exchange knowledge on the topic
of microplastics in soils and is aimed at scientists and
decision-makers alike. The first day of the event focuses on
the state of the science, the second day on identifying policy
solutions and recommendations for action at the European
and international level.

Location: Neue Mälzerei, Friedenstraße 91, D-10249 Berlin
in Berlin, Germany

Conference Website:

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/international-
conference-microplastics-in-soils](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/international-conference-microplastics-in-soils)

Registration: <https://forms.ecologic.eu/microplastics>

Participation: This event will be held as a hybrid event. The
number of participants who may join in presence is limited.
Please indicate upon registration if you would like to
participate in presence or online. Due to the limited
capacity at our venue, we will only be able to confirm your
seat afterwards in a separate email. Participation capacities
may also be influenced by the pandemic situation in
October. Online participation is not limited.

Social programme: Option for dinner (October 19th, 19:30)
and lunch (October 20th, 13:15) nearby (at own expense)

Costs: Event participation is free of charge.

Contact: Hannes Schritt, Ecologic Institute,
microplastic-conference@ecologic-events.eu

Research has shown that soils are a major sink for microplastics

While a lot is known about microplastics in water, there are still large gaps in research on plastics in soils, especially regarding the determination, distribution, transport and impacts of microplastic particles. This conference focuses mainly on impacts of microplastics in soils, approaches and policy recommendations.

Workshops and online break-out-sessions

Day 1 - Science gaps and research needs

Workshop 1 - Occurrence, entries and technical options

Workshop 2 - Impact and fate of microplastics in soils

Workshop 3 - Analysis and data

Parallel break-out-sessions online

Day 2 - Recommendations and approaches

Workshop 1 - Regulation of microplastic entries

Workshop 2 - Management options, remediation and thresholds

Workshop 3 - Target group and communication of recommendations

Parallel break-out-sessions online

Poster Session

The poster session is open throughout the whole conference. Thematically, it comprises proposed and recently started projects on microplastics in soils and aspects concerning effects of microplastics on human health. If you are interested to present a poster, please contact the organisers.