

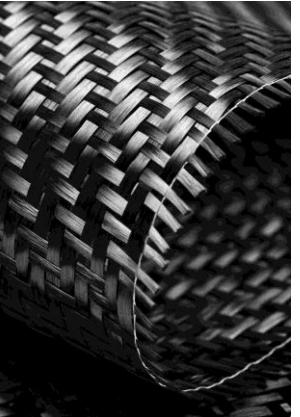
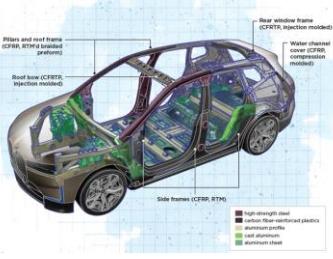


# Towards sustainable composites?

Dr. Martyn D. Wakeman  
[martyn.wakeman@epfl.ch](mailto:martyn.wakeman@epfl.ch)



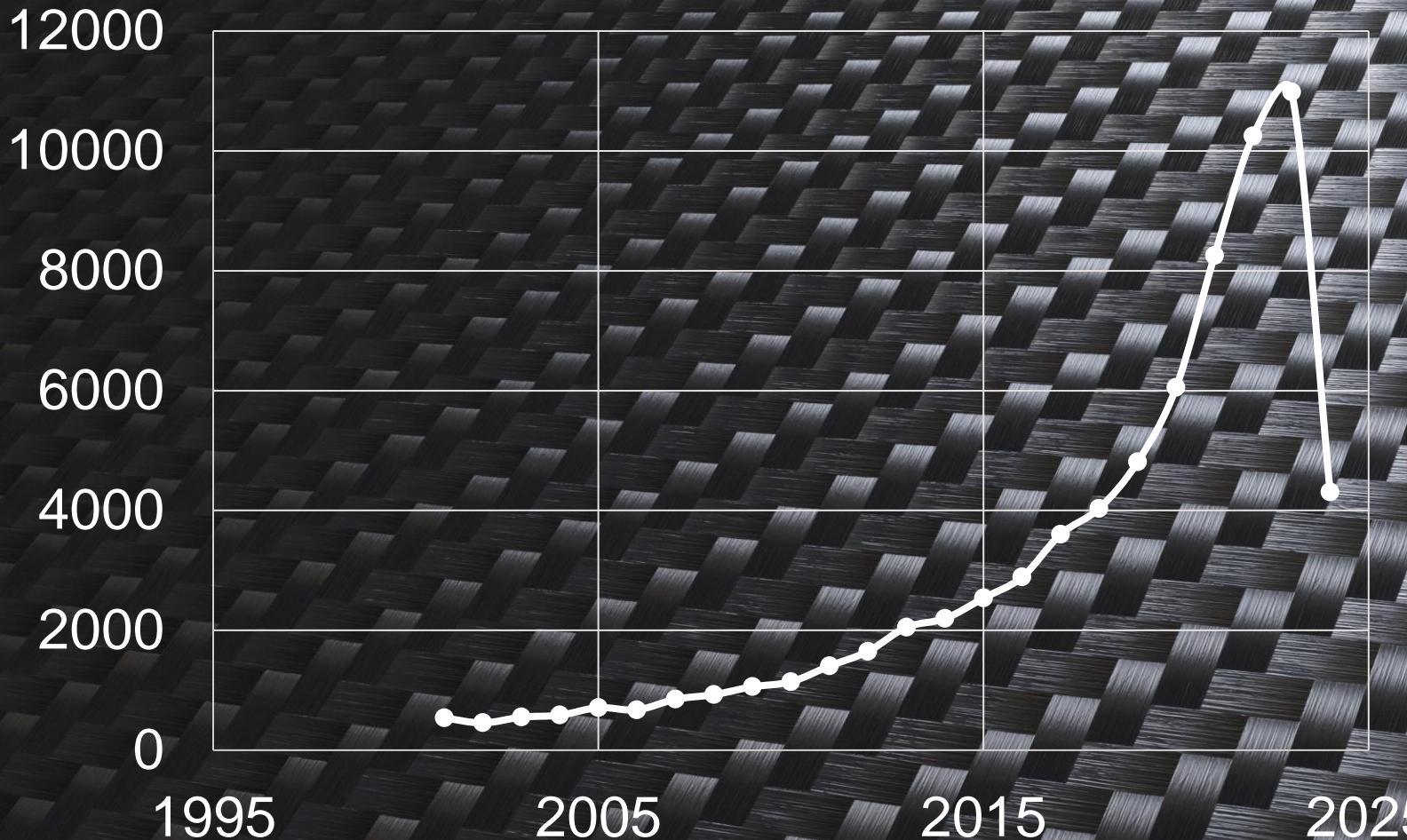
# Composites will see rapid growth as enablers towards 2050 SSPs

Main sectors	Aerospace	Wind	Automotive	Hydrogen	Infrastructure	Consumer	
Sub sectors	     						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil wide body <input type="checkbox"/> Civil narrow body <input type="checkbox"/> Evtol/drones <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind on-shore <input type="checkbox"/> Wind off-shore <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel cells <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Super cars <input type="checkbox"/> Premium <input type="checkbox"/> EVs <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> CNG tanks <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Aero Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete rebar <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles <input type="checkbox"/> Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
							

Needed industrial sector segmentation  
1980-2050 for EPFL model

# CF AND recycling: Science Direct

## Science direct CF AND recycling



**Question 1:**

Does this correspond to an equivalent growth in CF recycling and recovery?

**Question 2:**

If NO, then why?

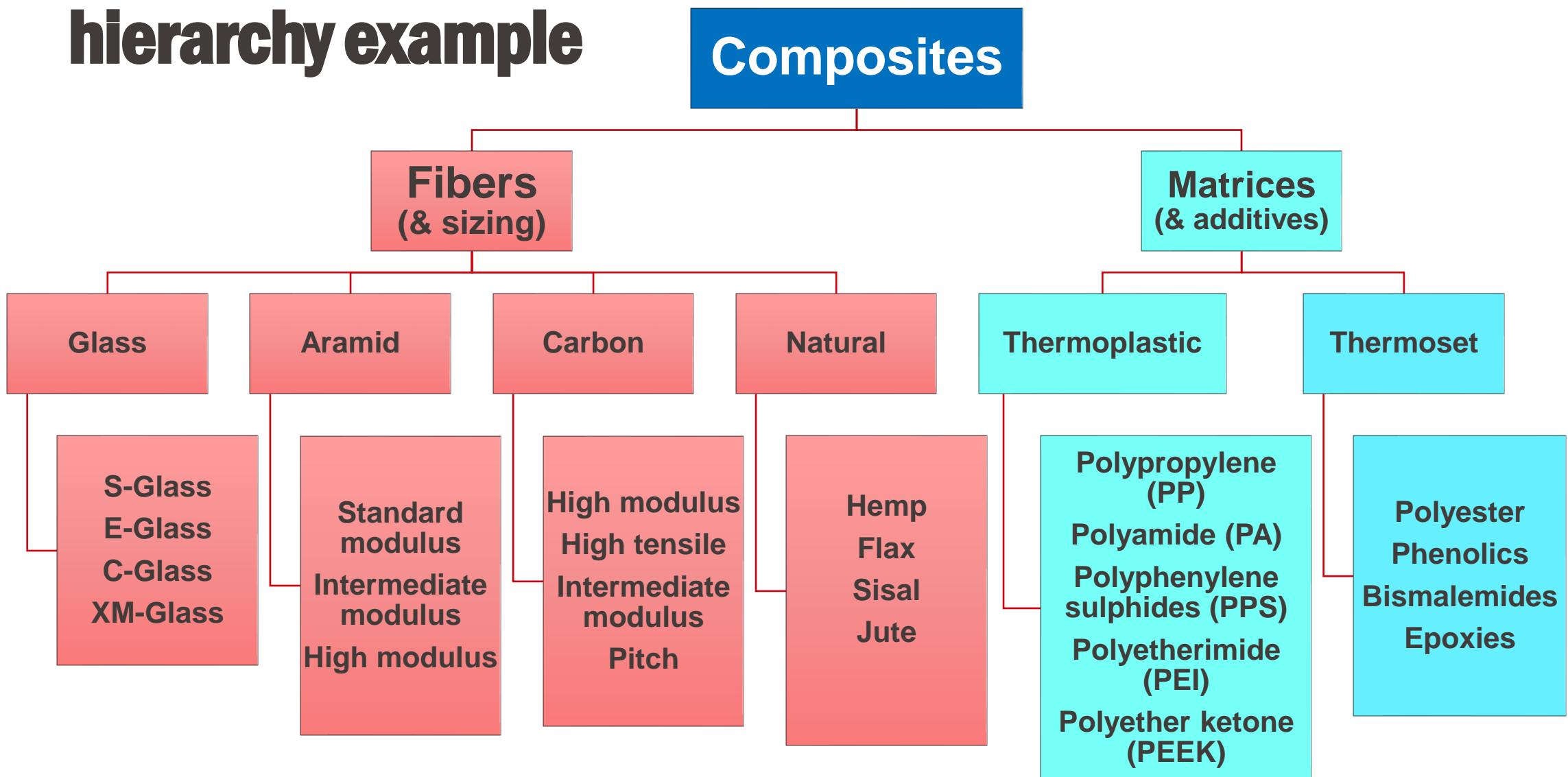
**Question 3:**

What is the degree of circularity of composites?

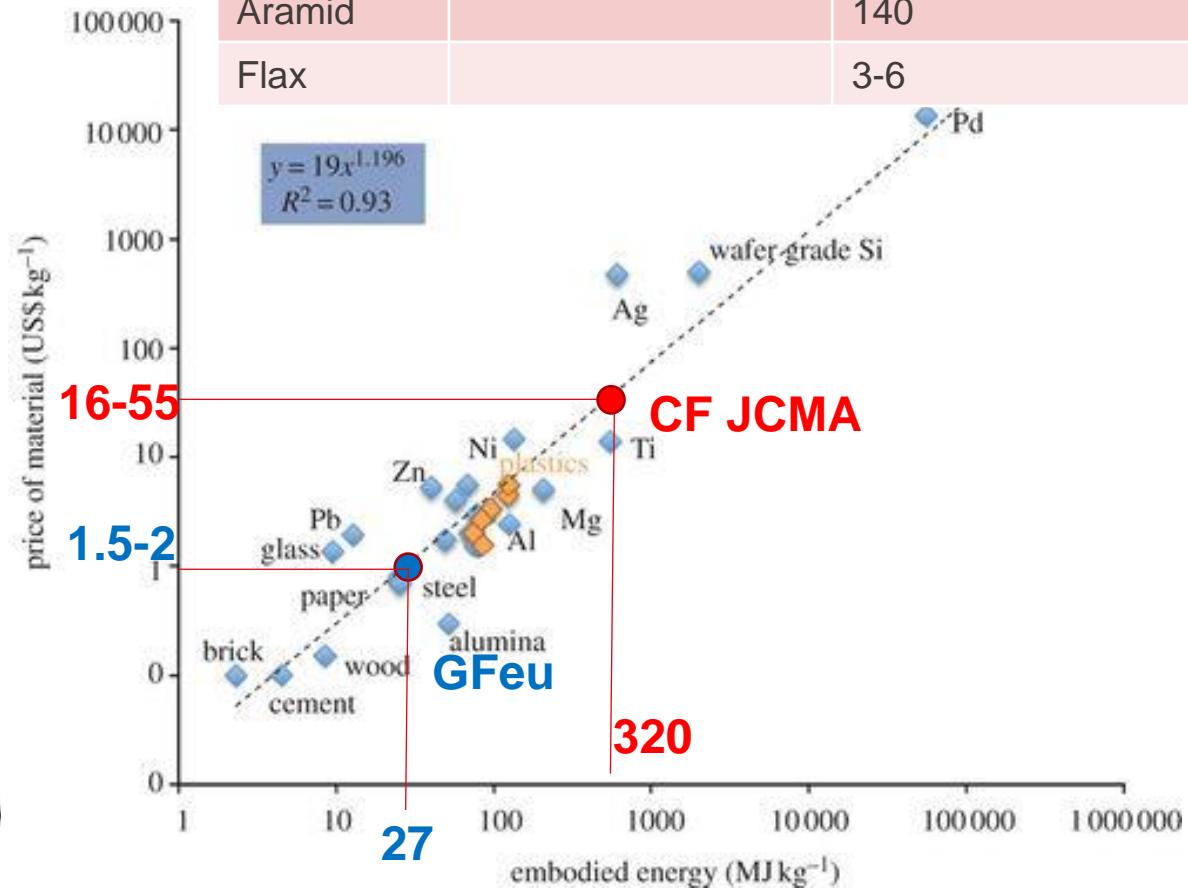
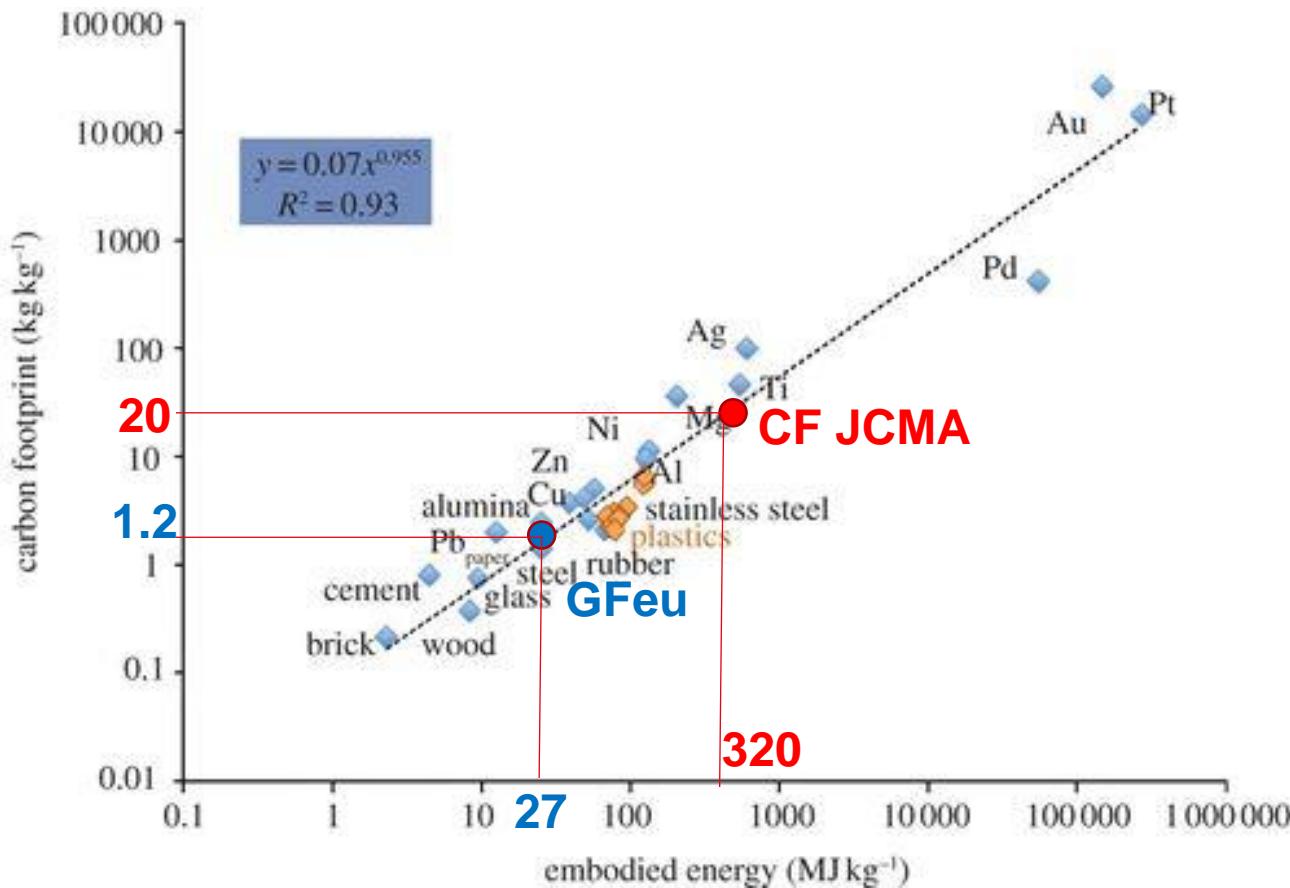
**Question 4:**

Can S&T solve this problem?

# Polymer composite hierarchy example



# CO<sub>2</sub>e vs. MJ/kg vs. \$/kg



Energy intensity of derivatives and conversion drives environmental foot print and economics

# Overview - Towards sustainable composite solutions

- End of life and recycling
- Bio-based materials
- Additive manufacturing
- Unmet challenges

- EL vehicle for automotive
- None for aerospace
- Landfill legislation
  - Current: Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
  - **Different EU state implementation; legal gaps**
    - The need of harmonized EU provisions is highlighted by different approaches taken up by some EU Member States.
    - **Belgium, Denmark and Austria allow landfilling in general**
    - **Germany & Netherlands established a ban on composite materials waste landfill**
  - Future: Directive (EU) 2018/850: stronger limits

# Policy - European ELV legislation

- “Polluter-pays”
  - Vehicle producers meet all or significant part of ELV treatments, collection & recycling network
- Component and material coding standards
  - Vehicle manufacturers must provide dismantling info for each new vehicle on the market
- Special mean values and prohibitions
  - Heavy metals - lead, cadmium, hexavalent chrome and mercury
- Design for recycling & recovery (conception phase)

**Vehicles made (not designed) before 1 Jan 1990, recycling target of 75% (including max 5% to energy recovery)**

**From Jan 2015:**  
**reuse & recovery: min. 95% wt./vehicle/yr**  
**reuse & recycling: min. 85% wt./vehicle/yr**

**Directive  
2000/53/CE on  
the End of Life  
Vehicles**



European Commission | English | Search

Energy, Climate change, Environment | Environment

Home > Topics > Waste and recycling > End-of-Life Vehicles > End-of-life vehicles Regulation

**End-of-life vehicles Regulation**

New rules for the design and end-of-life management of vehicles aim to protect the environment, decarbonise production and reduce raw material dependencies, benefiting EU industries

- Improve circular design of vehicles to facilitate removal of materials, parts and components for reuse and recycling
- Ensure that at least 25% of plastic used to build a vehicle comes from recycling (of which 25% from recycled ELVs)
- “25 + 25”

**How much will these rules cost?**

Less than 70€ per vehicle

Big issue for composite material systems (e.g. epoxy resin)

[End-of-life vehicles Regulation - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

# Aerospace end of life

- No equivalent EU legislation

## In storage

- over 2'000 aircraft in storage world-wide
- number of military aircraft in storage is considerably greater

## 2017-2030

- 6'000 to 8'000 commercial airlines reach end of life, 3kT CF/year
- over next 20 years, ~5'000 commercial airliners are expected to be withdrawn or retired from service
- ~250/year



[1 \(ox.ac.uk\)](http://1.ox.ac.uk)

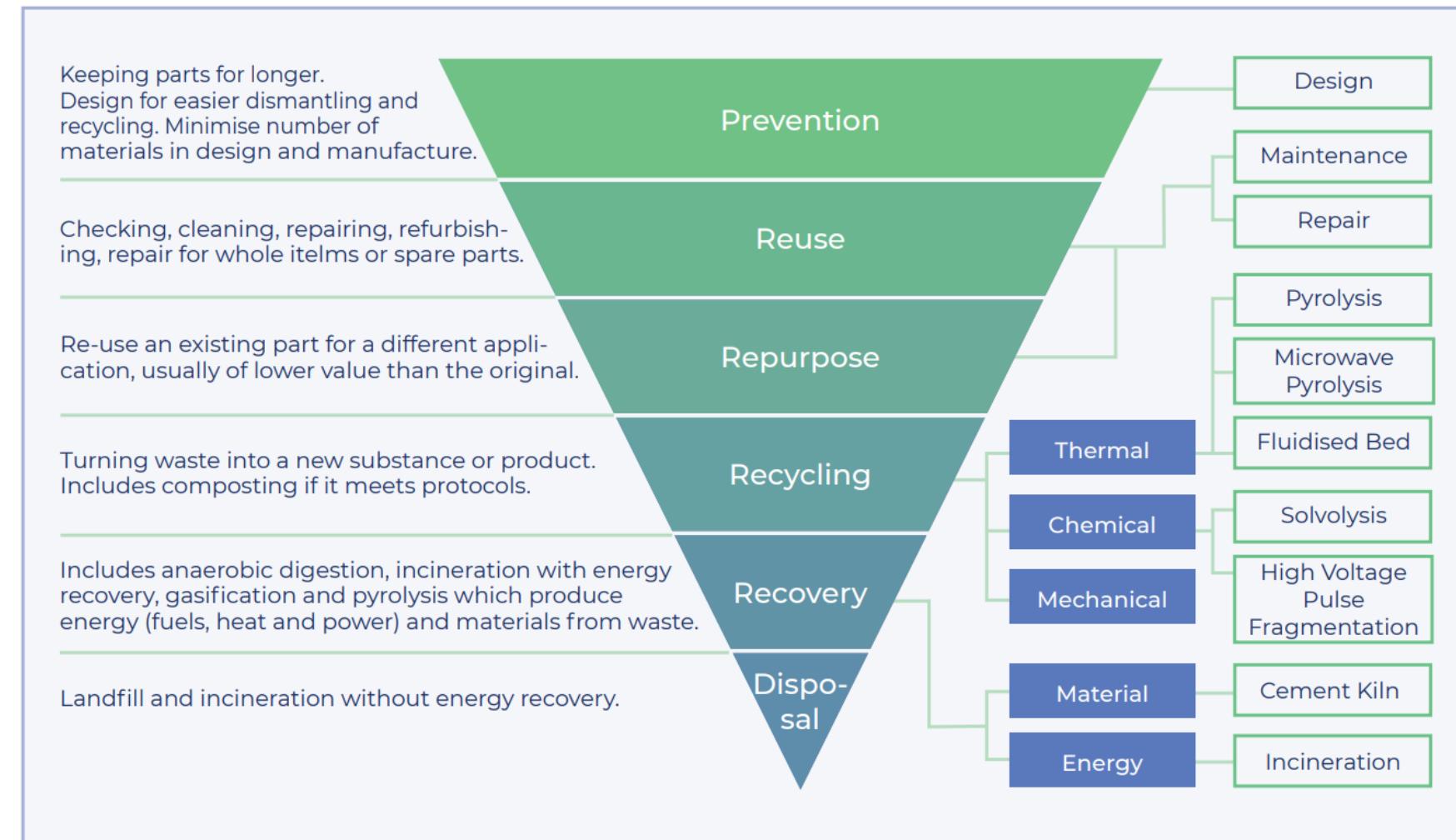
# THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MATERIAL HAS A DIRTY WASTE PROBLEM

- Over 90% of carbon fibre ends up in landfill
- 20x more CO<sub>2</sub> emitted than steel
- Expected 500,000,000 kg of carbon fibre waste by 2035

15.5 Mt  
CO<sub>2</sub>e



- Desirability is highest at the top of the diagram and decreases going down
  - Preventing a composite part from reaching its EoL is more desirable than recycling it
    - Recycling more desirable than disposing of it



For each step, the processes identified as being most promising and desirable are given.

**Thermosets**

Cured / B-staged

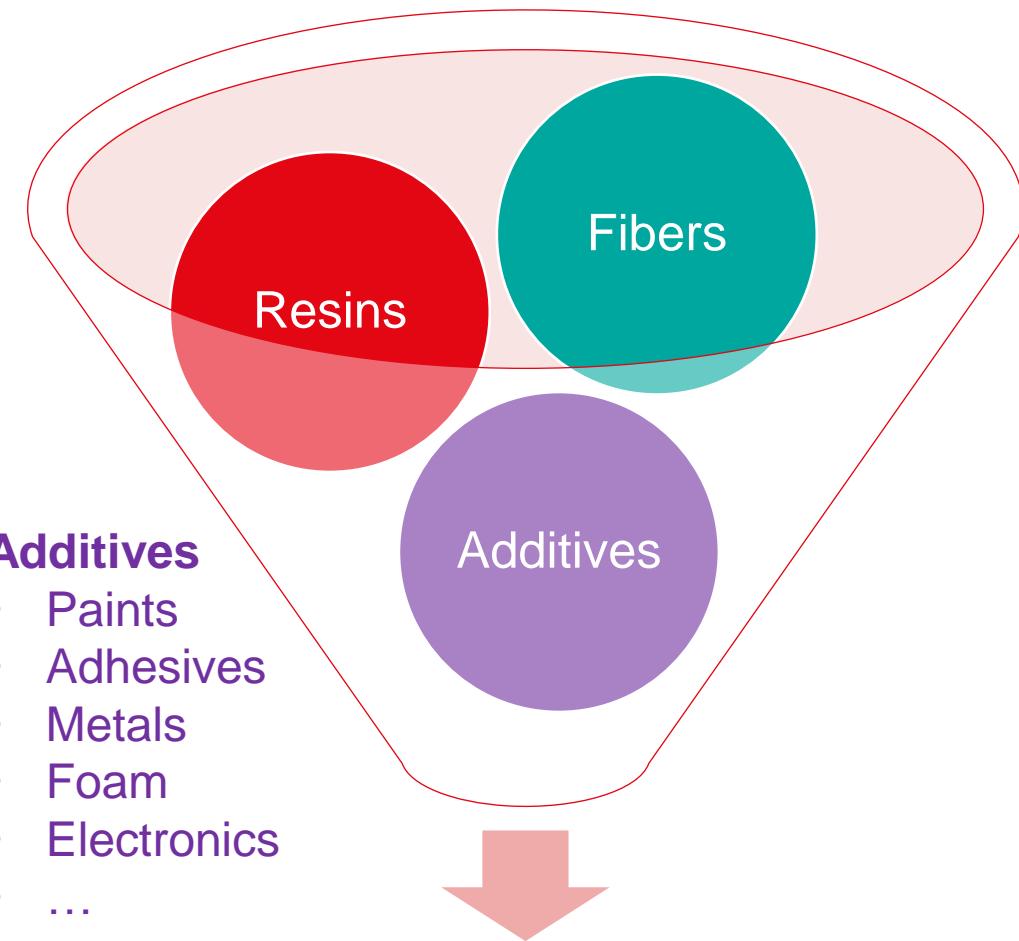
- Polyester
- Polyurethane
- Vinyl-esters
- Epoxy
- Phenolic
- Cyanate Ester
- Bismaleimide
- Benzoxazine
- Phthalonitriles
- ...

**Thermoplastics**

- PE
- PP
- PET
- PA
- PPA
- PC
- PEI
- PPS
- PEAK
- PEEK
- ...

**Fibers**

- Different lengths
- Different architectures
- Dry / impregnated
- Glass
  - S-Glass
  - E-Glass
  - C-Glass
  - XM-Glass
- CF PAN
  - Many different grades
- CF Pitch
- Kevlar (different grades)

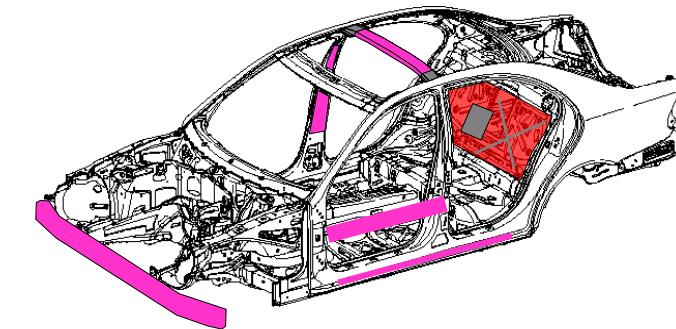
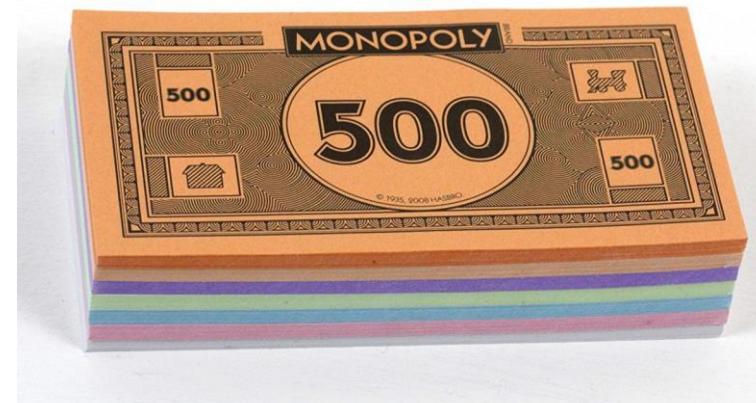


**Our waste flow**  
- cm to 10's meters

# Post industrial CF waste = post industrial \$ money



MSE-433



# Composites waste management?

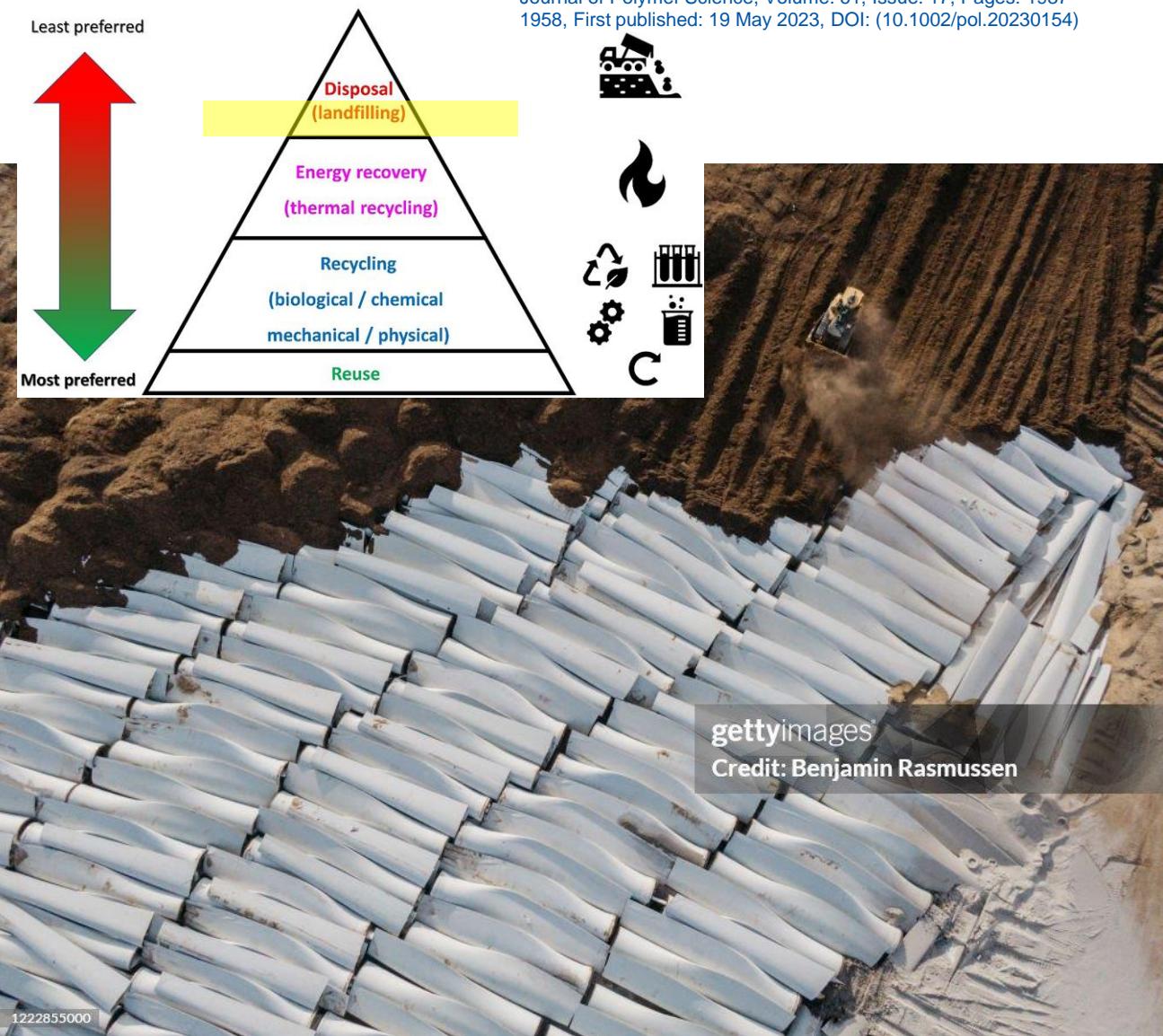


# Issues with landfill



Wyoming's Wind Turbine Graveyard  
CASPER, WYOMING, USA - January 9, 2020: Pieces of wind turbine blades are buried in the Casper Regional Landfill in Casper, Wyoming. Around 8,000 wind turbine blades will need to be removed and disposed of a year in the United States alone. Because of the conditions they are built to withstand, the blades cannot be easily recycled. This leads many of them to be buried in landfills like Casper's, where 870 blades stacked into holes 30 feet deep. (Photo by Benjamin Rasmussen/Getty Images)

Pieces of wind turbine blades are buried in the Casper Regional... News Photo - Getty Images



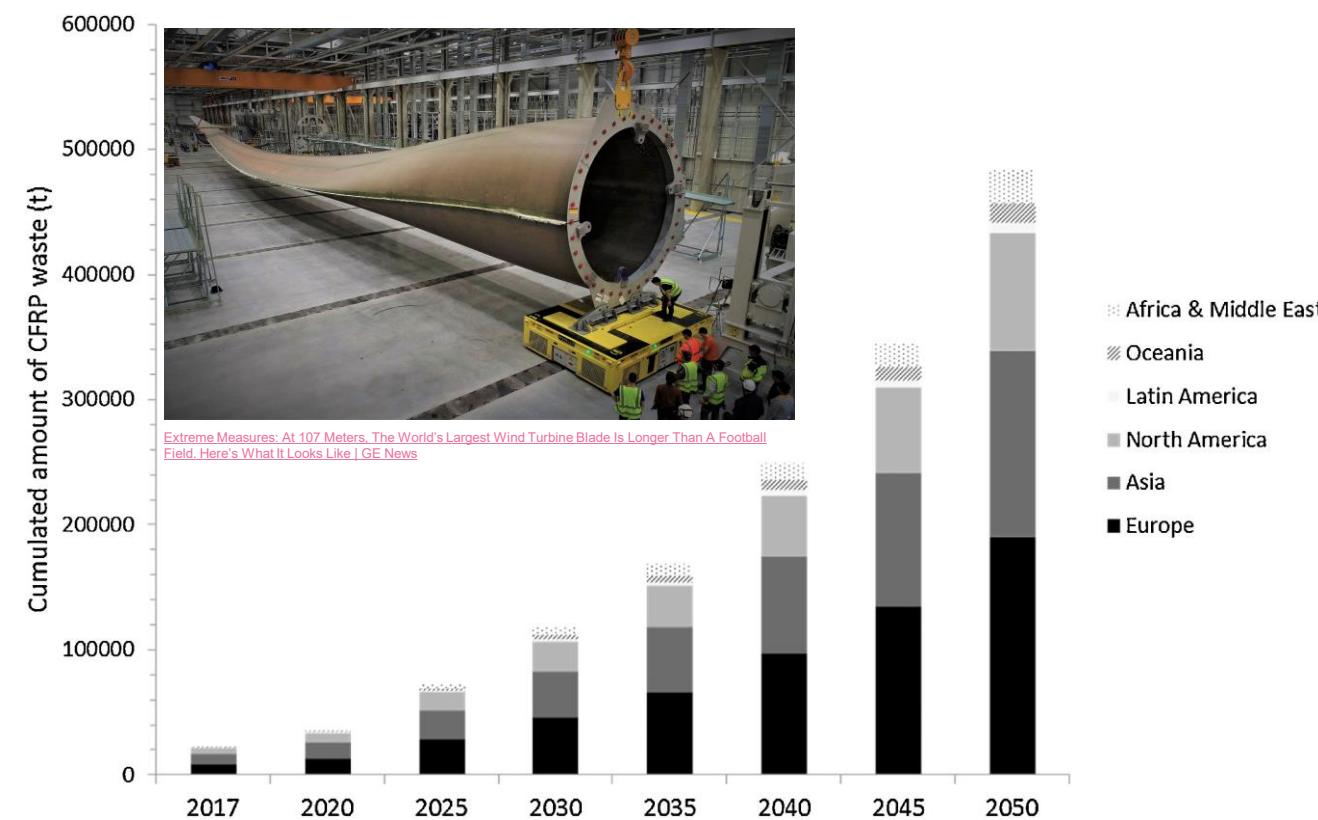
[Bisphenol-A-Pollution-Wind-Turbines.pdf \(wind-watch.org\)](#)  
[Abandoned Wells Can Provide Use for Pulverized Wind-Turbine Blades | Journal of Petroleum Technology | OnePetro](#)  
[ACP\\_MicroplasticsFactSheet\\_March-2023.pdf \(cleanpower.org\)](#)

# Start by not throwing it

Anticipating in-use stocks of carbon fibre reinforced polymers and related waste generated by the wind power sector until 2050

Anaëlle Lefèuvre<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sébastien Garnier<sup>a</sup>, Leslie Jacquemin<sup>a</sup>, Baptiste Pillain<sup>a</sup>, Guido Sonnemann<sup>b,c</sup>

600kT



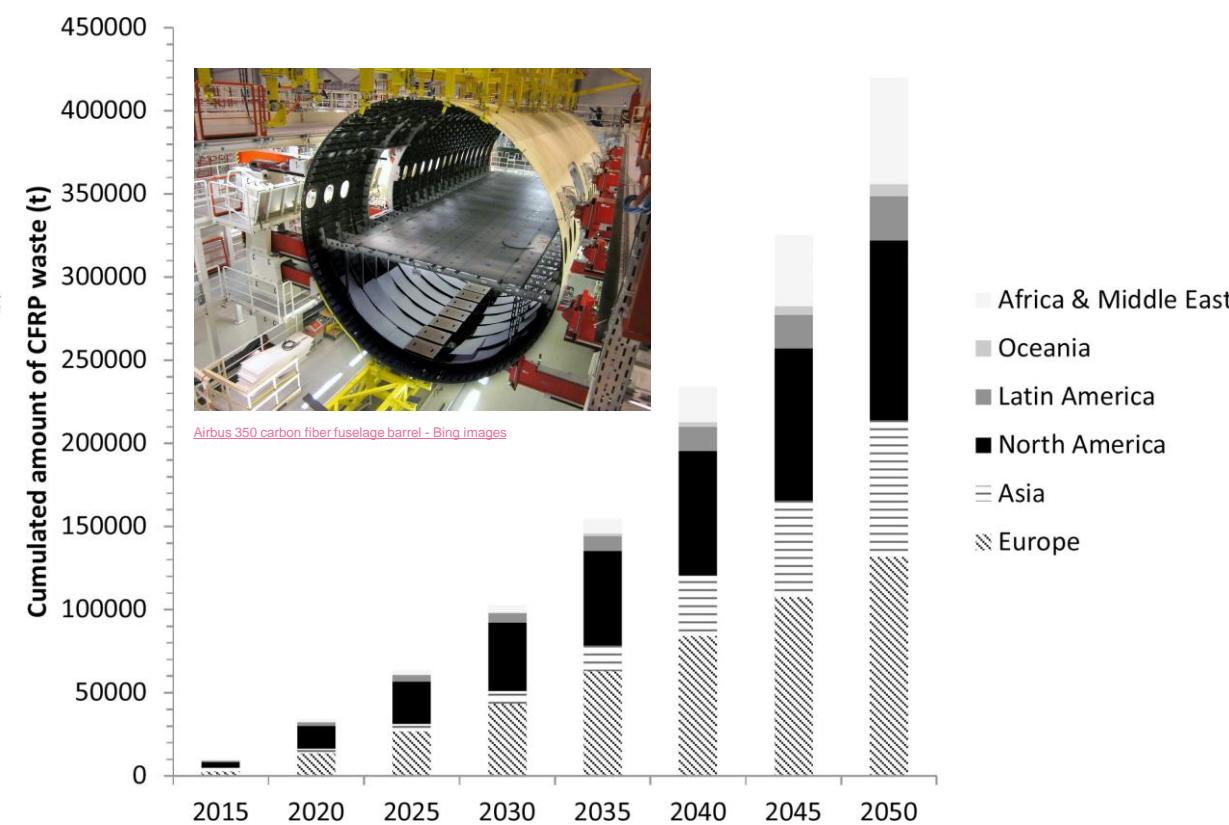
MSE-433

[Anticipating in-use stocks of carbon fibre reinforced polymers and related waste generated by the wind power sector until 2050 - ScienceDirect](#)

Anticipating in-use stocks of carbon fiber reinforced polymers and related waste flows generated by the commercial aeronautical sector until 2050

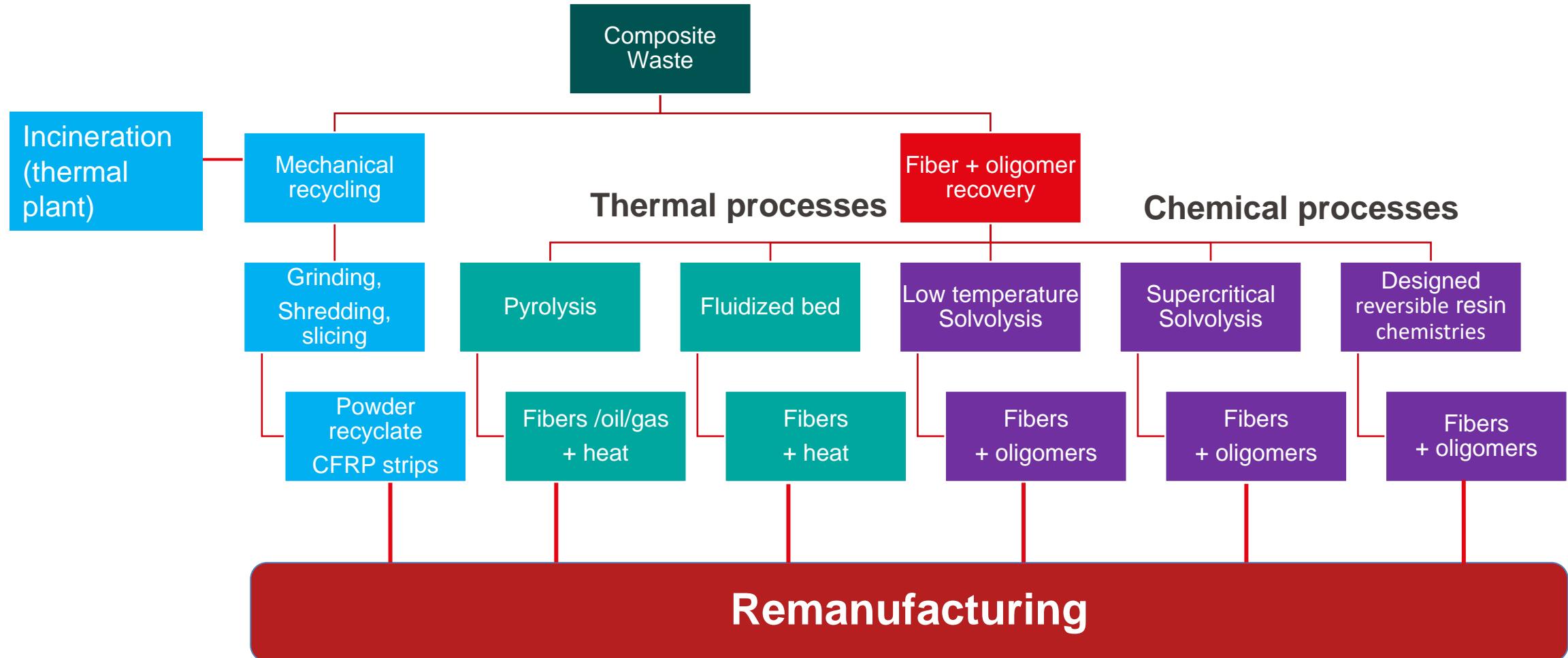
Anaëlle Lefèuvre<sup>a</sup>, Sébastien Garnier<sup>a</sup>, Leslie Jacquemin<sup>a</sup>, Baptiste Pillain<sup>b,c</sup>, Guido Sonnemann<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

450kT

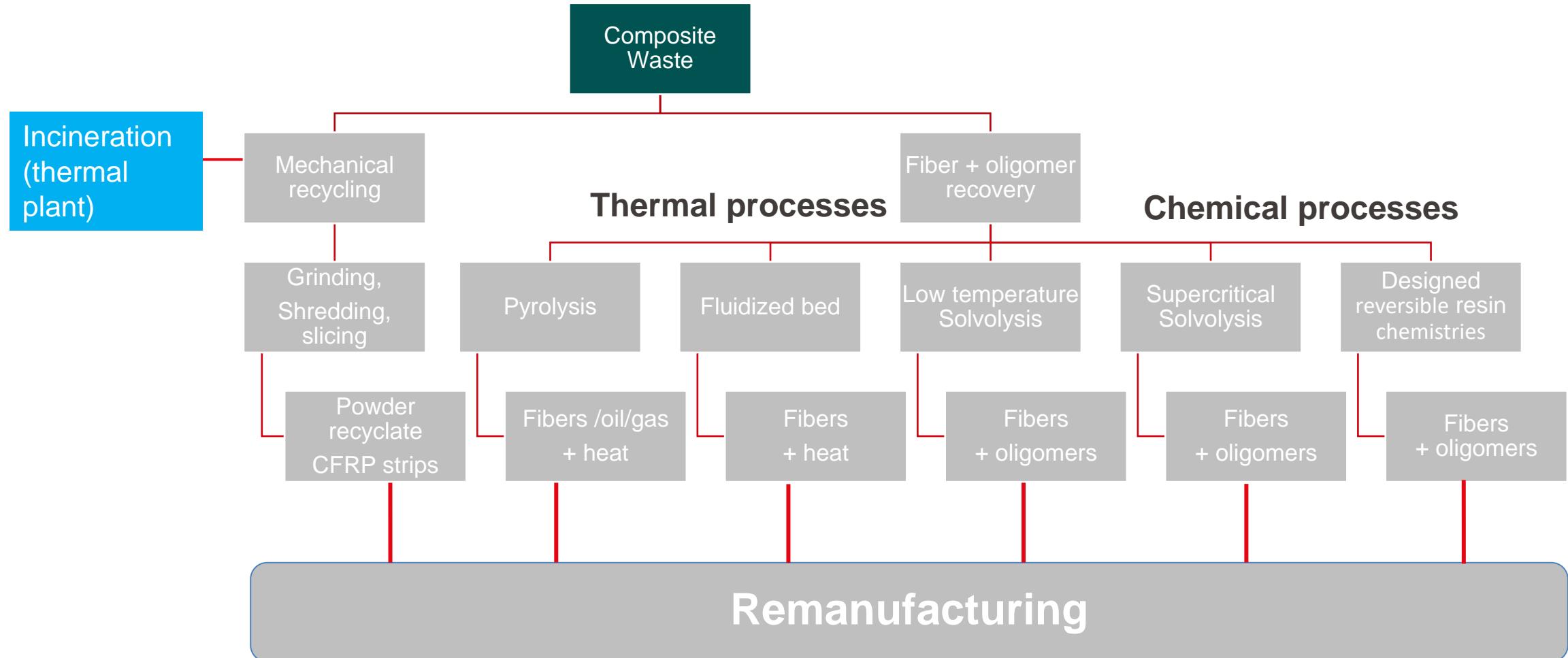


[Anticipating in-use stocks of carbon fiber reinforced polymers and related waste flows generated by the commercial aeronautical sector until 2050 - ScienceDirect](#)

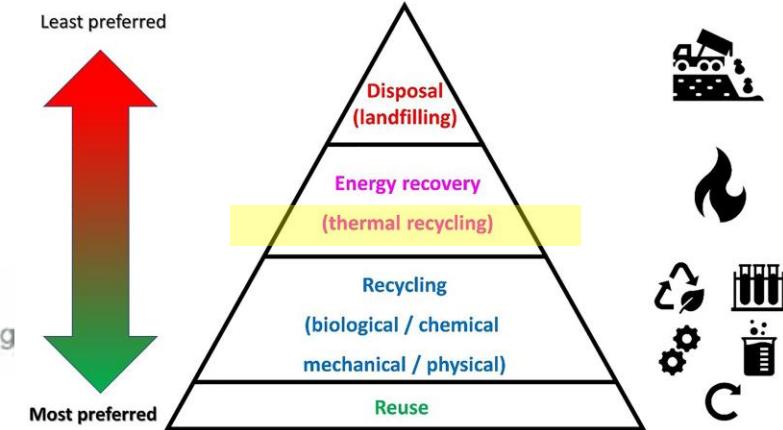
# Recycling Routes



# Recycling Routes



# How the EU sees composites recycling



## Glass fibre reinforced thermosets: recyclable and compliant with the EU legislation

June 2011

The European Plastics Converters (EuPC), the European Composites Industry Association (EuCIA) and the European Composite Recycling Service Company (ECRC) welcome the End-of-Life of Vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC) and the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC): **glass fibre reinforced thermosets are both material and energy recyclable through the cement kiln route and compliant with the EU legislation.**

[EuCIA-position-paper-52816.pdf \(csmres.co.uk\)](http://csmres.co.uk)



# GF composites: Thermal plant feedstock

- Co-processing of End of Life/ composites used in cement manufacturing
  - highly effective source of energy
  - calorific values of  $\sim 30,000$  kJ/kg
- Glass fiber in oxide form, replacing hydrated or carbonated minerals in Portland cement
- Replacement of fossil fuels by non-recyclable & biomass waste, and use of alternative raw materials
  - Gives 15% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction in the cement industry by 2050
- Co-processing plants (such as cement or lime kilns, steel plants, etc.) that produce material products, waste used as a fuel and/or raw material that otherwise would be subject to disposal.



Fig.1 : Unloading of windmill blades at processing site  
Courtesy: Zajons, Melbeck



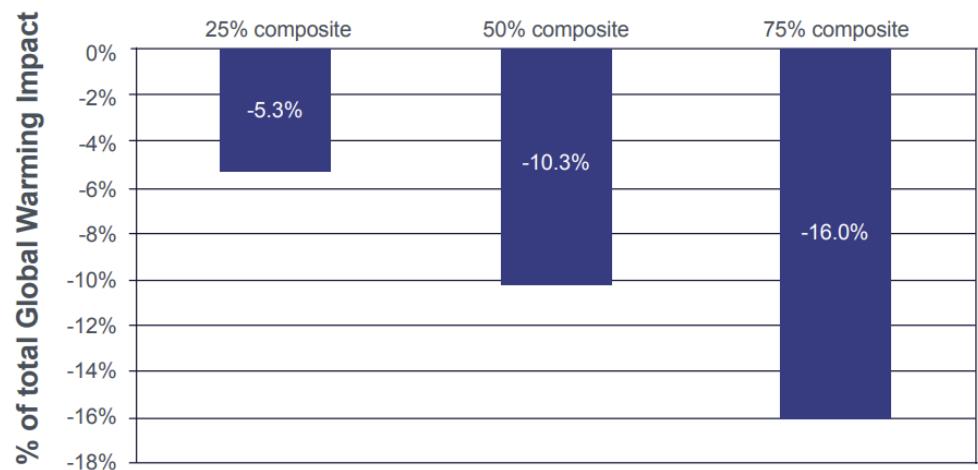
Fig.2 : Part storage prior to mechanical treatment  
Courtesy: Zajons, Melbeck



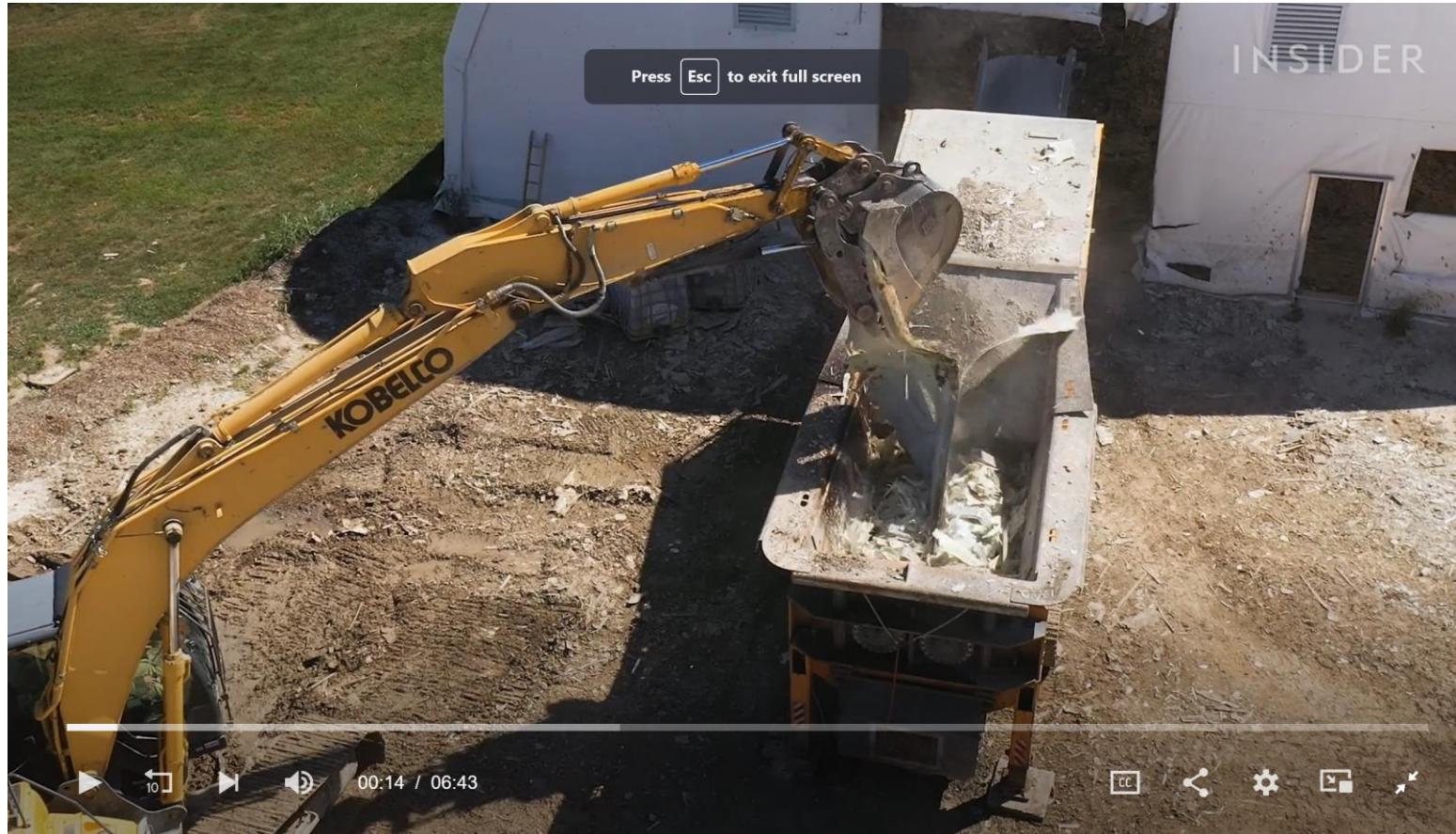
Fig.3 : Mobile sawing equipment to reduce transport costs  
Courtesy: Zajons, Melbeck



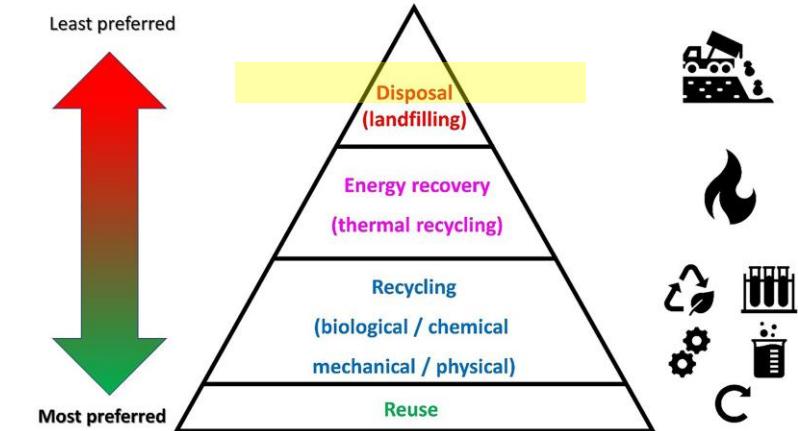
Fig.4 : Typical composite regrind, made from ground windmill blade  
Courtesy: Zajons, Melbeck



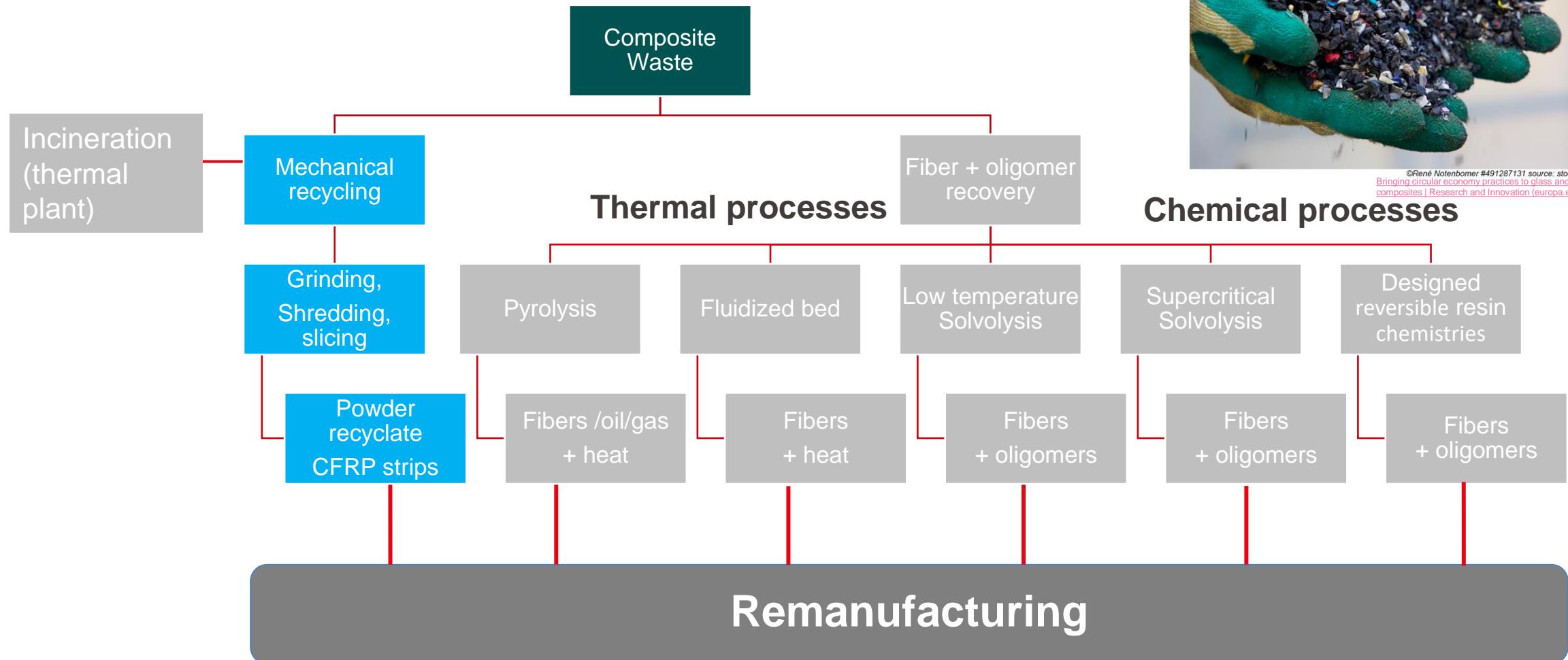
# Shredding blades for cement feedstock



[How One Company Keeps Wind Turbine Blades to Keep Out of Landfills \(businessinsider.com\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/one-company-keeps-wind-turbine-blades-to-keep-out-of-landfills-2023-4)



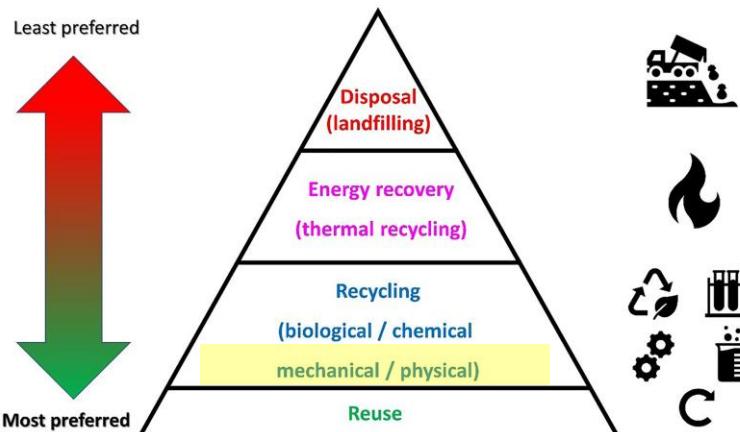
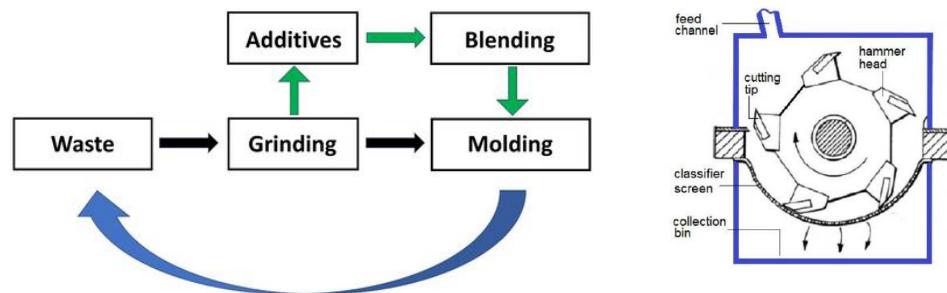
# Recycling Routes



©René Notenboer #491287131 source: stock.adobe.com 2023  
Bringing circular economy practices to glass and carbon fibre composites | Research and Innovation (europa.eu)

# Mechanical recycling (thermoplastic composites)

- Post industrial waste
- Shredded
- Used for injection molding
- Higher fiber lengths vs. short glass injection



Journal of Polymer Science, Volume: 61, Issue: 17, Pages: 1937-1958, First published: 19 May 2023, DOI: (10.1002/pol.20230154)

[In-house recycling of carbon- and glass fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composite laminate waste into high-performance sheet materials - ScienceDirect](#)



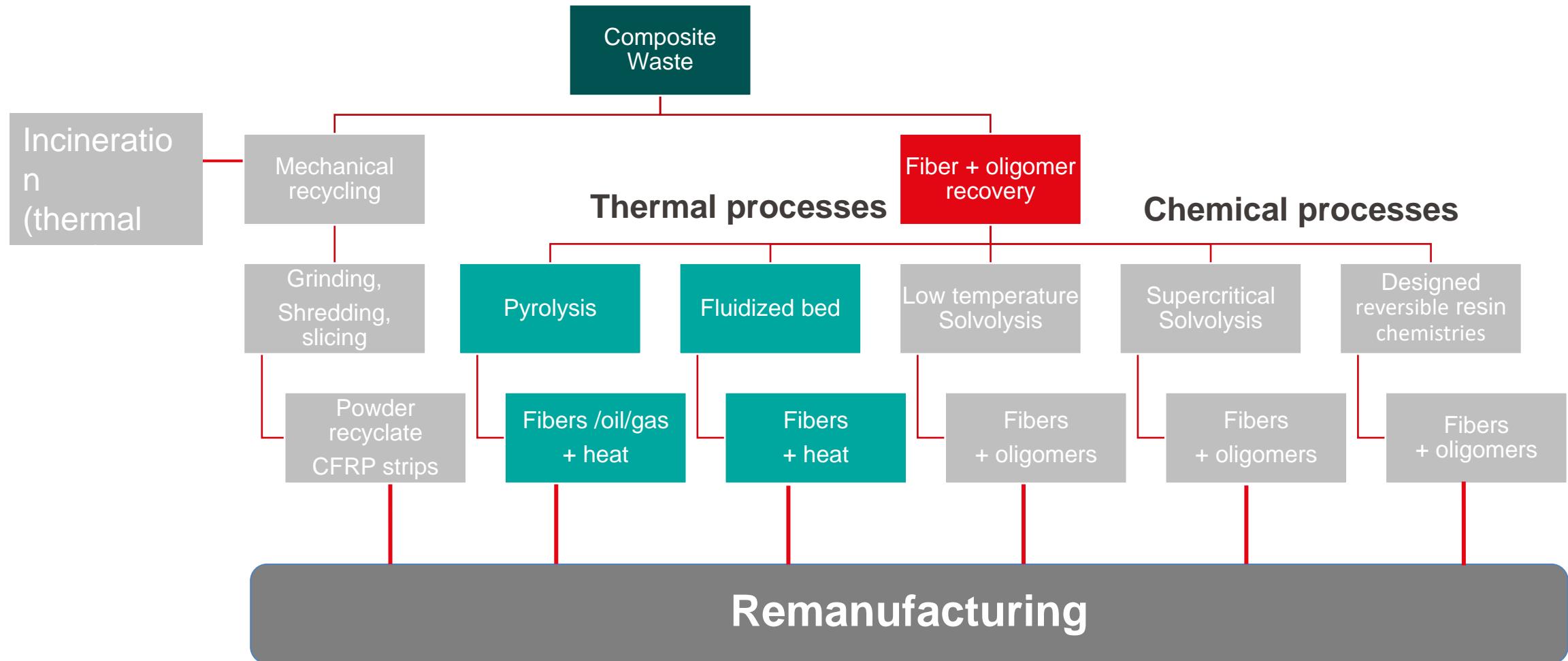
Composites Part A 139 (2020) 106110

PA6-CF recycling route



Fig. 1. Recycling routes for PP-GF and PA6-CF based TPCLs.

# Recycling Routes



# Fluidized bed recovery

- Waste composite material shredded **25mm** in size
- Silica and (0.85mm) is fluidized by hot air.
- **450°C** glass / polyester; **550°C** carbon fiber epoxy composites
- Fibers separate from one another, carried out of fluidized bed in the hot air stream
- **Cyclone** used to separate fibers from the gases which then pass to a high temperature combustion chamber for full oxidation.
- Energy recovery from high temperature gases leaving combustion chamber
- Tolerant of contaminated and mixed materials, suitable for end-of-life components

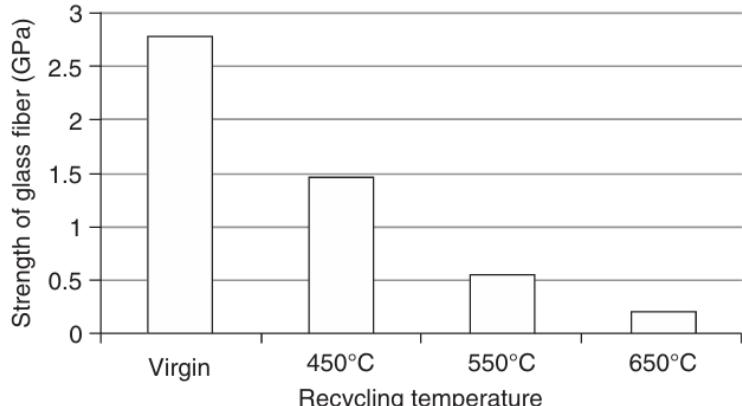
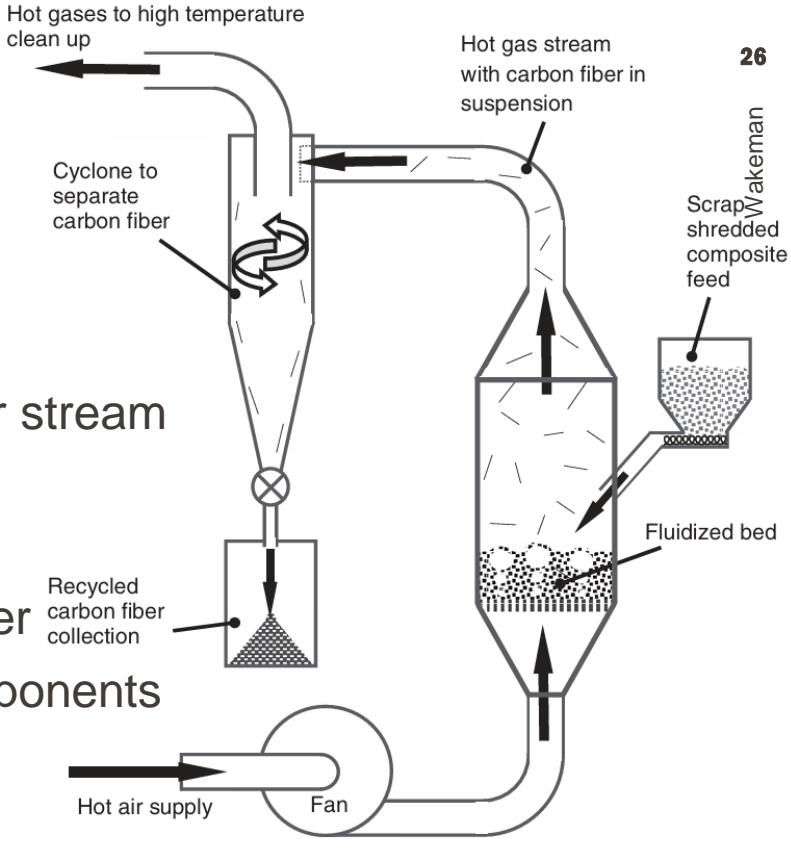
CF strength retention **46-62%**, modulus not affected



[Boeing funds carbon fibre recycling research – Research, The University of Nottingham](#)



**Figure 4.** Recycled carbon fiber in a fluffy form.



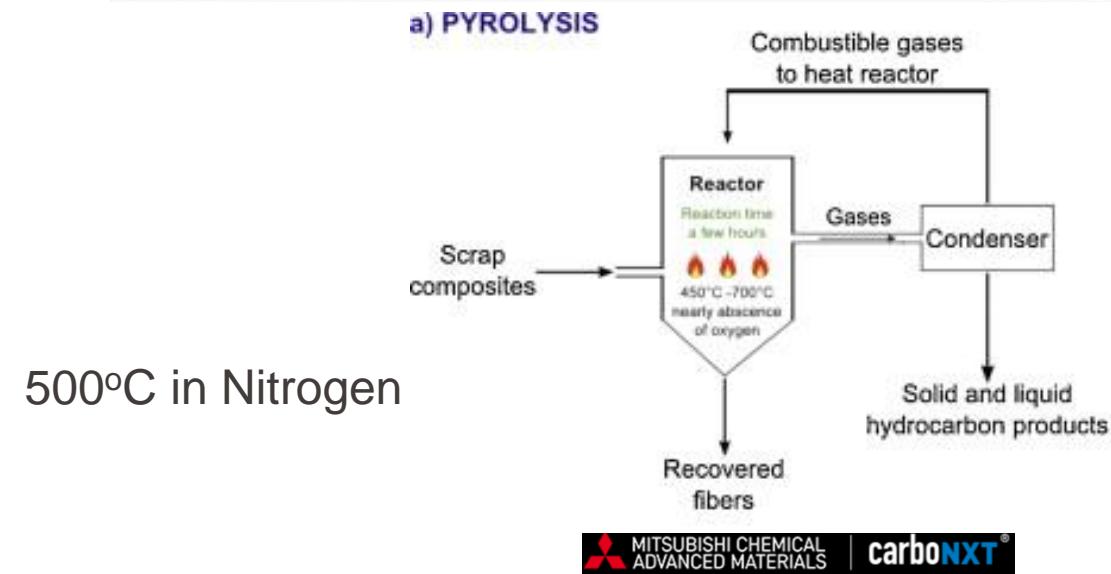
# Pyrolysis

- Thermal degradation of resin / polymeric additives (absence of oxygen / nitrogen atmosphere)
- 400-500°C
- Calcification step in air to remove char on fiber surface
- 1 or 2 step process
- Fibers recovered
- Gas / oil / char

[100% CARBON FIBERS \(carbonxt.de\)](http://carbonxt.de)

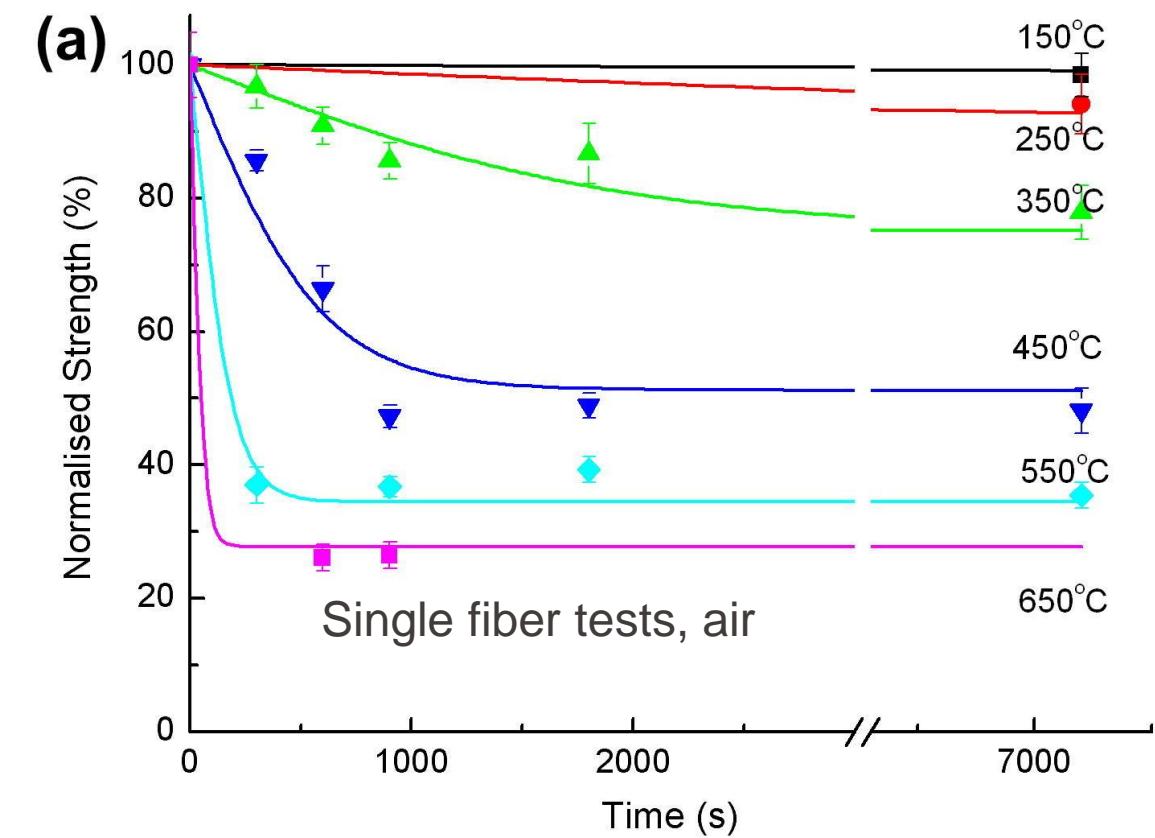
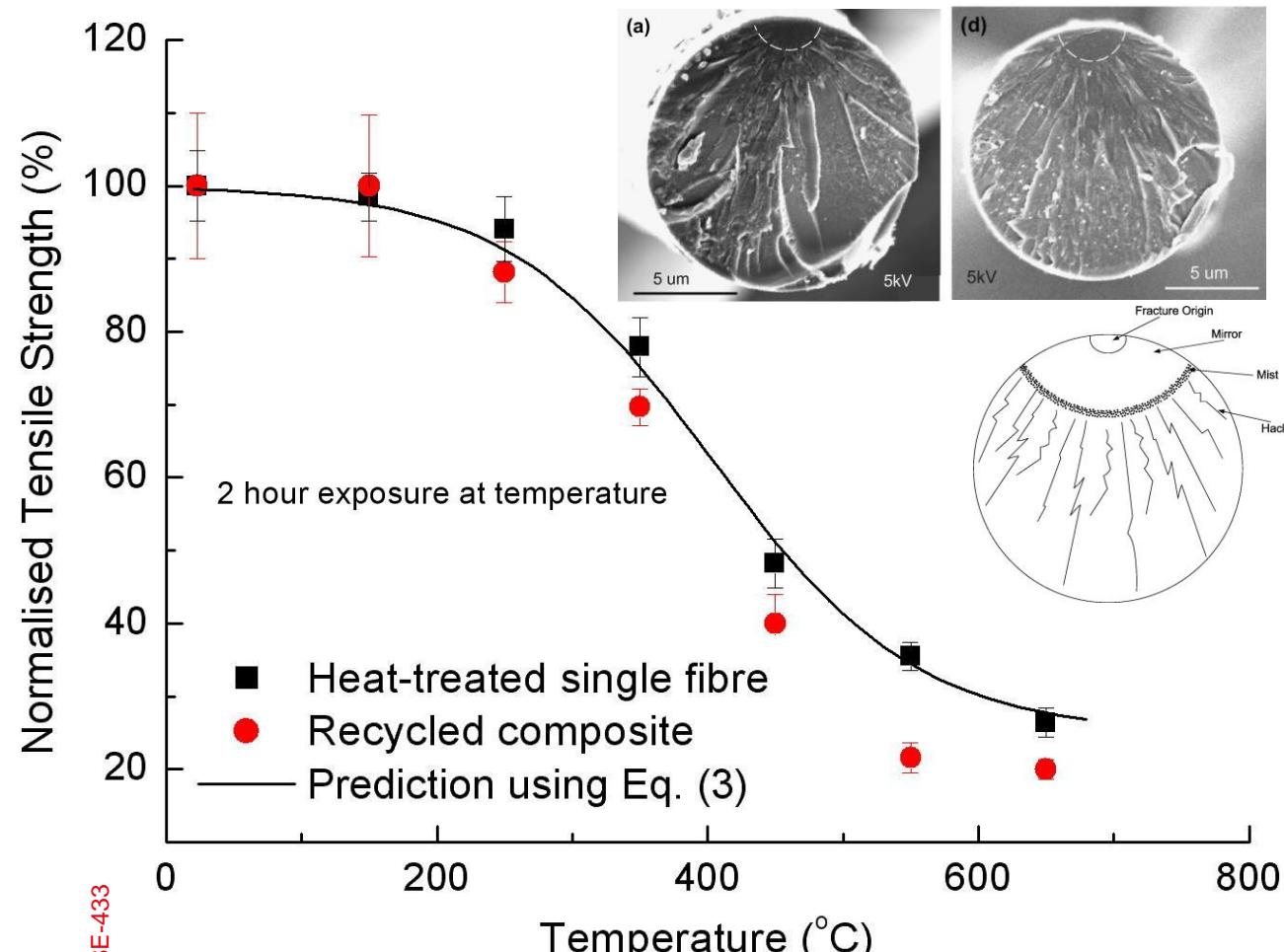
[Recycling of carbon fibre-reinforced plastics \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfJyfJyfJy)

1:45s – 6:11



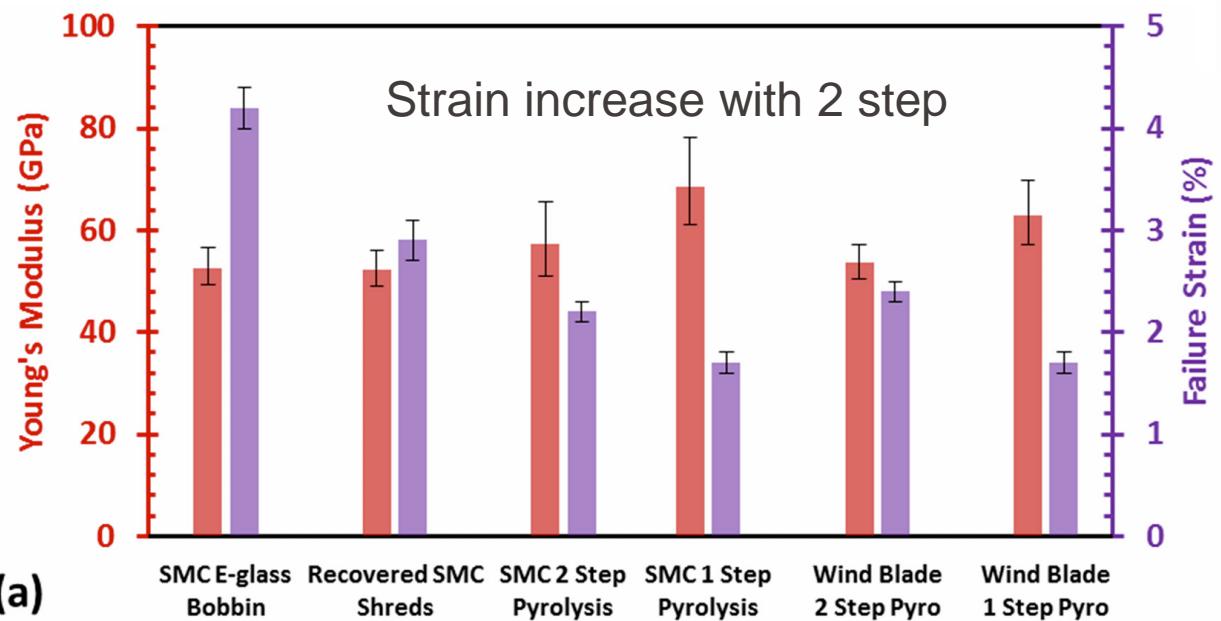
# Effect of pyrolysis on glass fiber properties

- Modulus not affected
- Strength loss after heating due to surface defects, annealing/stress relaxation, chemical diffusion



# Two step pyrolysis

- Two step
  - 350°C for 22minutes
  - 450°C for 11 minutes
- Glass fiber structural changes

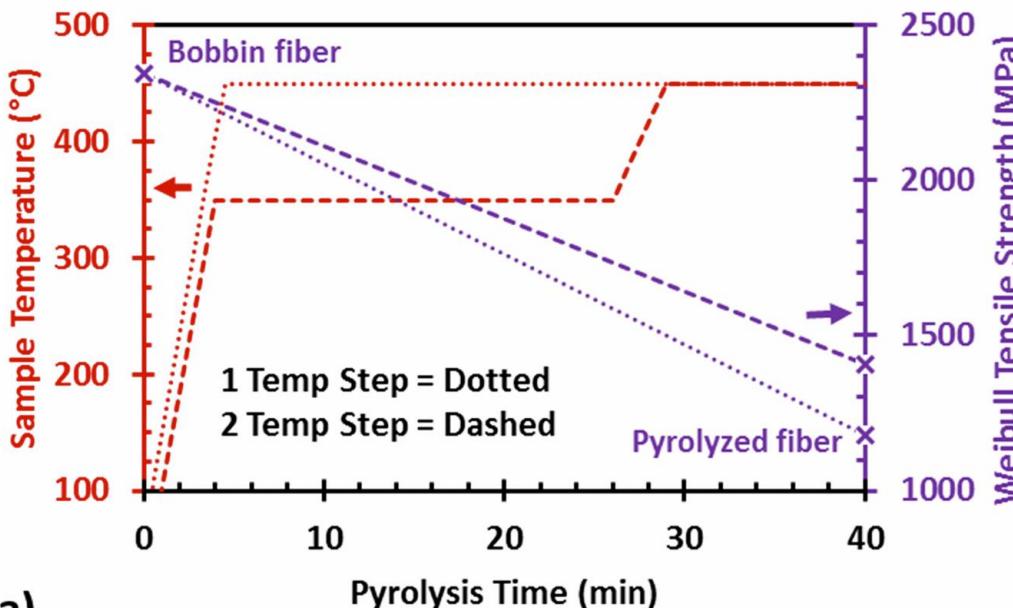


■ MSE-433

## Recycling of Commercial E-glass Reinforced Thermoset Composites via Two Temperature Step Pyrolysis to Improve Recovered Fiber Tensile Strength and Failure Strain

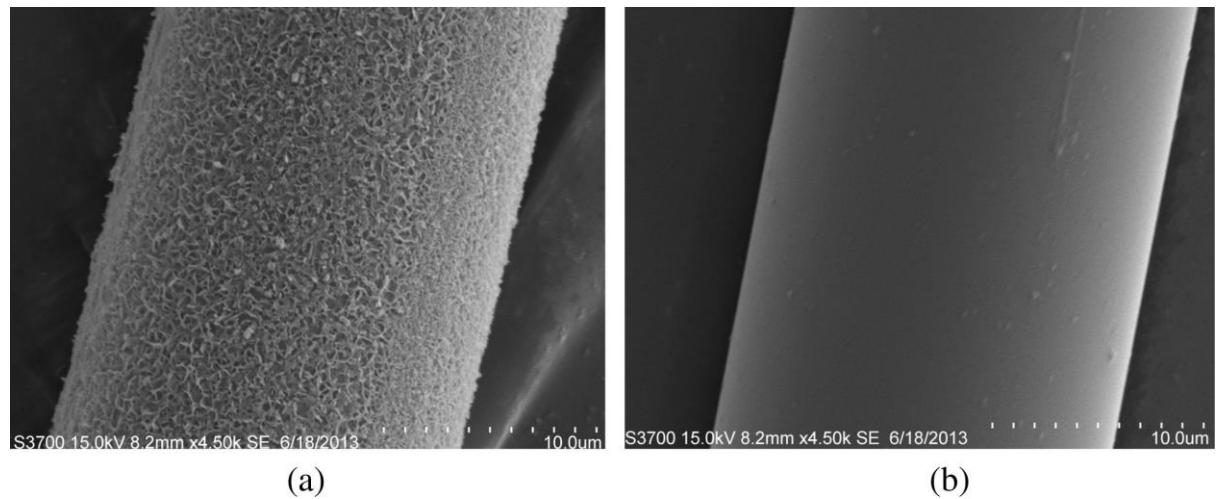
Ryan S. Ginder <sup>1,2,\*</sup> and Soydan Ozcan <sup>1,2</sup><sup>1</sup> Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA; ozcan@ornl.gov<sup>2</sup> Chemical Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA

\* Correspondence: rginder@vols.utk.edu; Tel.: +1-865-374-9040

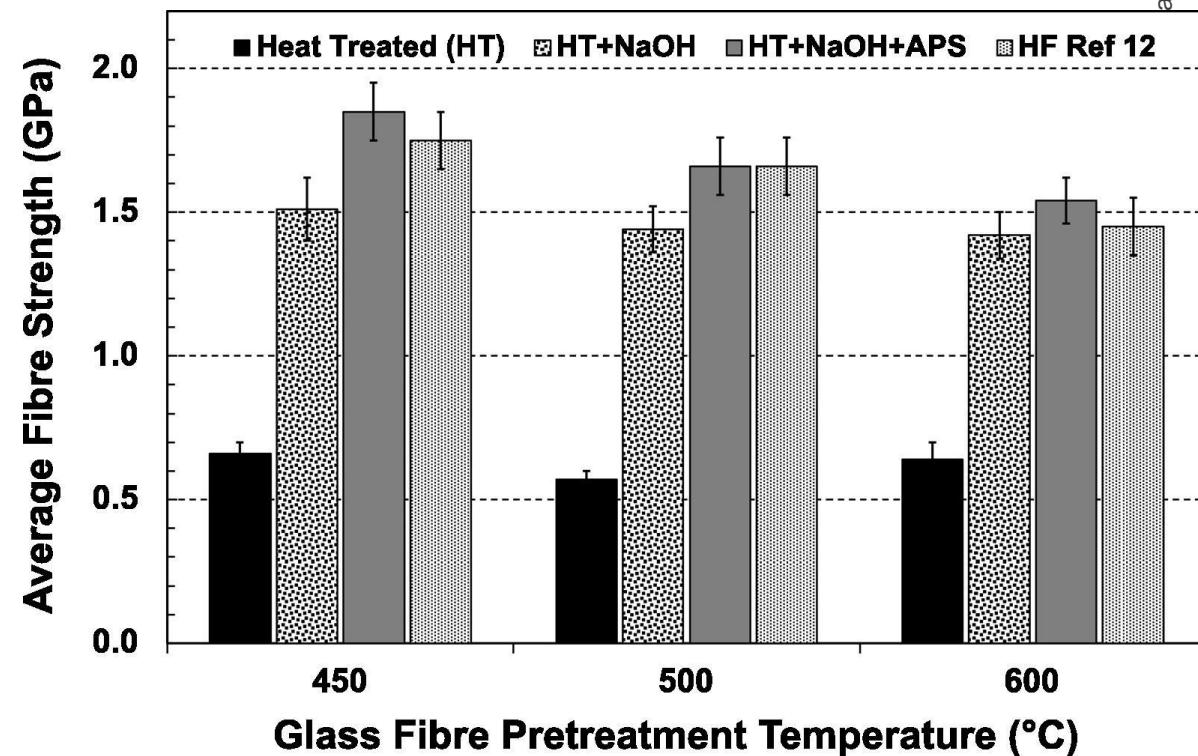


# Glass fiber post treatment after pyrolysis

- Immersed in a sodium hydroxide solution (NaOH) for 10 min at 90 °C
- Fibers drained & rinsed in hydrochloric acid (HCl) to neutralize, followed by silane sizing treatment
- Recover compatibility of fiber to resin and interfacial stress transfer



SEM images of heat conditioned fibre after (a) NaOH treatment, (b) NaOH treatment + HCl rinse + Silane coating.



Influence of heat treatment temperature and ReCoVeR chemical treatments on the average glass fibre strength at 20 mm gauge length.

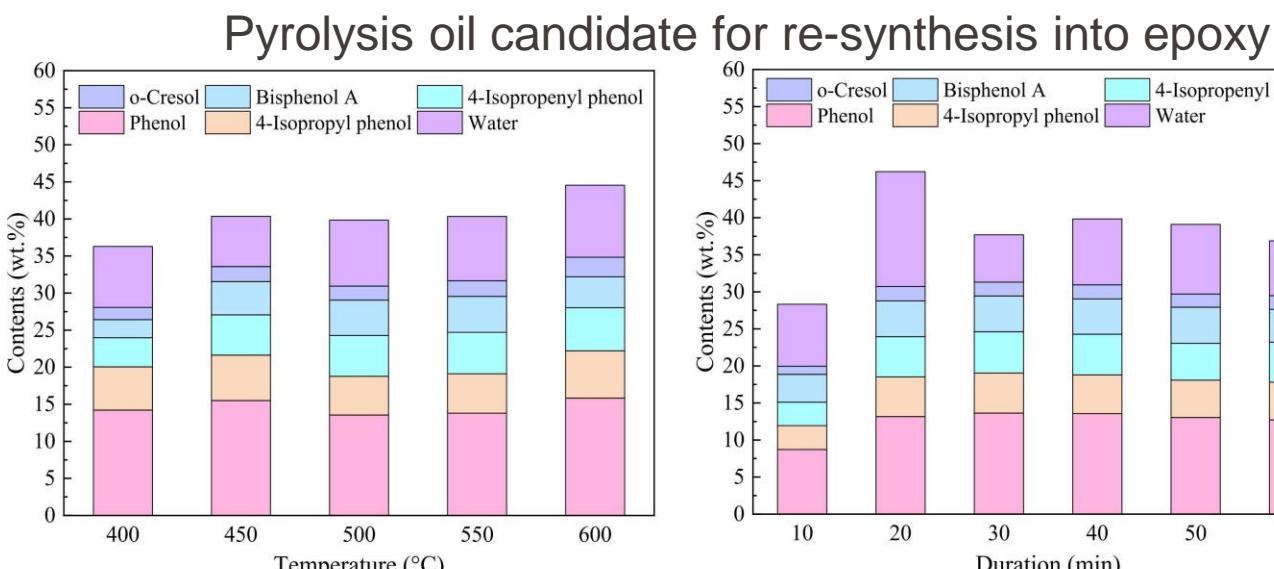
# Effect of pyrolysis on carbon fiber

- Modulus generally maintained
- Strength reduction, process and parameter dependent
  - Lower end: SM 80%, IM as much as 55%
  - Upper end: pyrolysis temperature of 500°C / 20 mins, 94%.
- Surface chemistry similar to virgin CF
- Some post heat in air/oxygen at 500-600°C to remove pyrolytic char from CF surface
- Microwave heating can reduce avoid char formation on fiber surface or gasification, heated in oxygen to 600°C

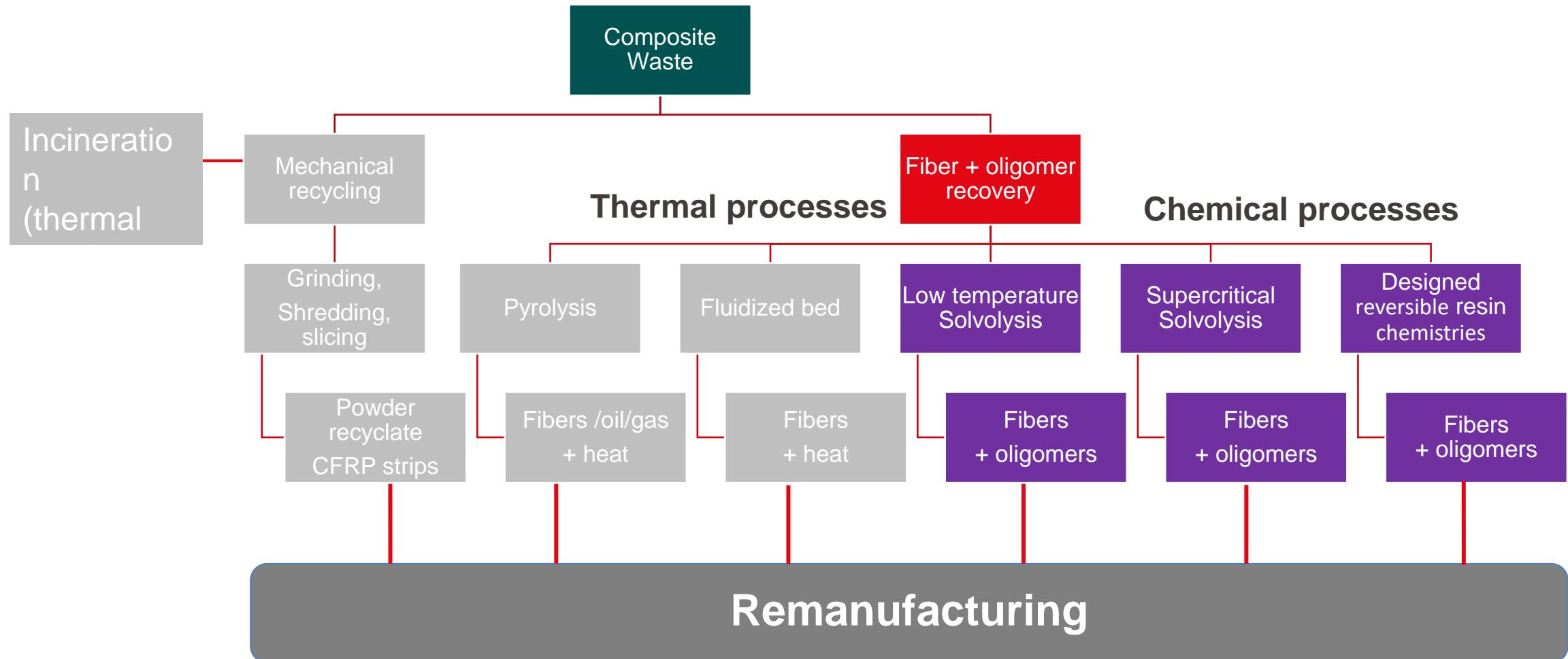
**Table S1** The tensile strength retention of carbon fibers recovered by different methods.

Method	Tensile strength retention* (%)	Sources
Mechanical method	50-65	Zhu, et al [1]
Fluidized bed method	80.00	E. Pakdel, et al [2]
Pyrolysis method #1	92.00	O. Zabihi, et al [3]
Pyrolysis method #2	75.86	Lopez, et al [4]
Chemical method #1	93.55	Pei, et al [5]
Chemical method #2	Almost 100	Jiang, et al [6]

\* Tensile strength retention was the ratio of tensile strength between recovered and virgin carbon fibers [7].



# Recycling Routes



**Table S1** The tensile strength retention of carbon fibers recovered by different methods.

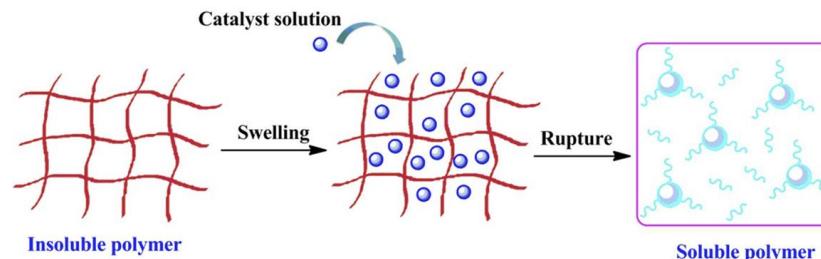
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# Low-Temperature Solvolysis

- Uses reactive solvents such as alcohol, ammonia or glycol
- Break down the chemical bonds of the epoxy or phenolic matrix
- Solvents can be toxic
- Yields fibers and organic liquid (mixture of monomers and excess reactive solvent)
- e.g. Hitachi Chemical
  - **180°C, benzyl alcohol solvent and tri-potassium phosphate catalyst, 5-20hrs**
  - Used for tennis rackets
  - **63 MJ/kg vs 286 MJ/kg virgin CF**

[Near- and supercritical solvolysis of carbon fibre reinforced polymers \(CFRPs\) for recycling carbon fibers as a valuable resource: State of the art - ScienceDirect](#)



## c) SOLVOLYSIS AT LOW TEMPERATURE

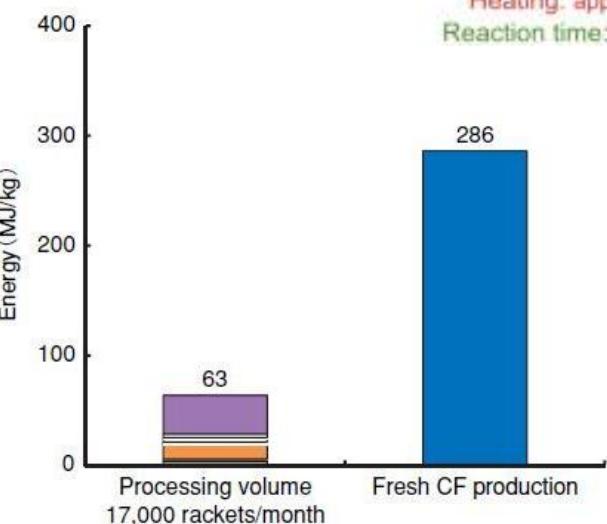
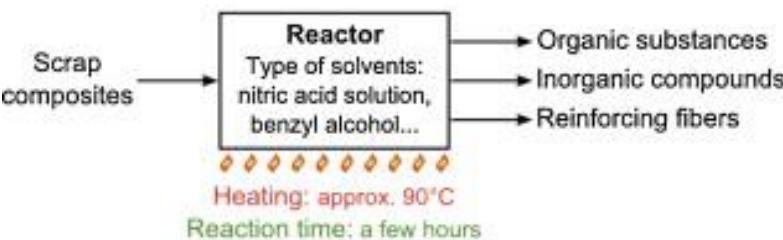


Figure 13 A comparison of energy of a recovered CF by dissolving method under ordinary pressure with a fresh CF on the market

Item	Depolymerization under ordinary pressure
Organization	Hitachi Chemical
Temperature	200 °C
Pressure	Ordinary pressure
Solvent	Benzyl alcohol
Catalyst	Alkali metal salt
Preprocessing	None
Processing capacity	12 tons/year (200 L x 2 baths)

# Supercritical solvolysis

## ▪ Supercritical fluid

- Any substance at a temperature and pressure above its critical point, where distinct liquid and gas phases do not exist, but below the pressure required to compress it into a solid
- e.g. water 373°C, 220bar, alcohols, used as alternatives to organic solvents, and catalysts.

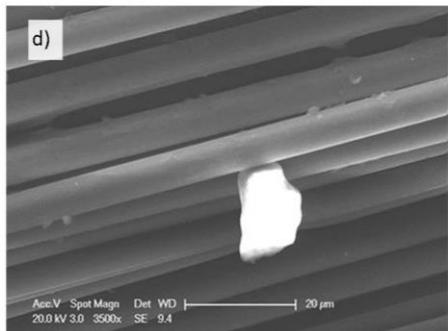
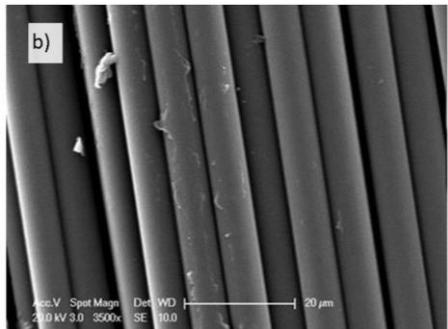
## ▪ Non toxic / low cost solvents

▪ 310-440°C, 15-30 MPa

## ▪ Excellent fiber property retention

## ▪ CF, GF, TP, TS materials

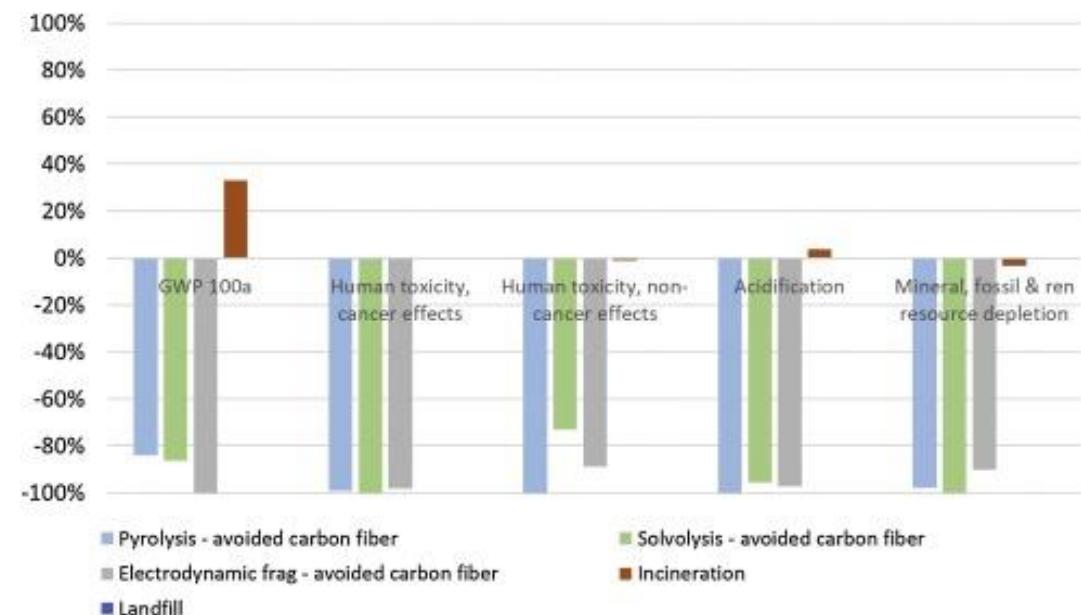
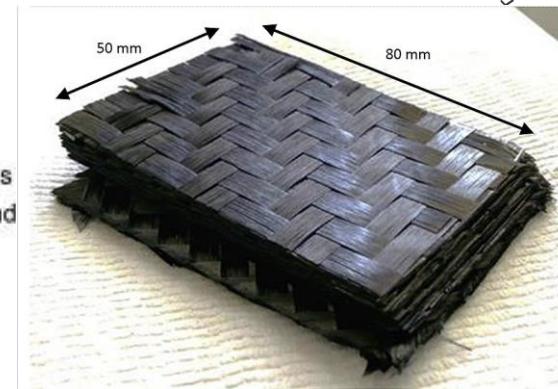
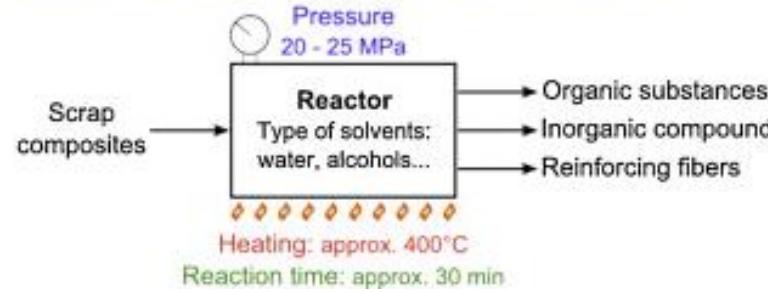
## ▪ End products: fibers, monomers, gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CO)



b) unwashed carbon fibres recovered after solvolysis; d) solid particle of partially degraded resin on slightly washed carbon fibres.

Recovery and reuse of discontinuous carbon fibres by solvolysis: Realignment and properties of remanufactured materials - ScienceDirect

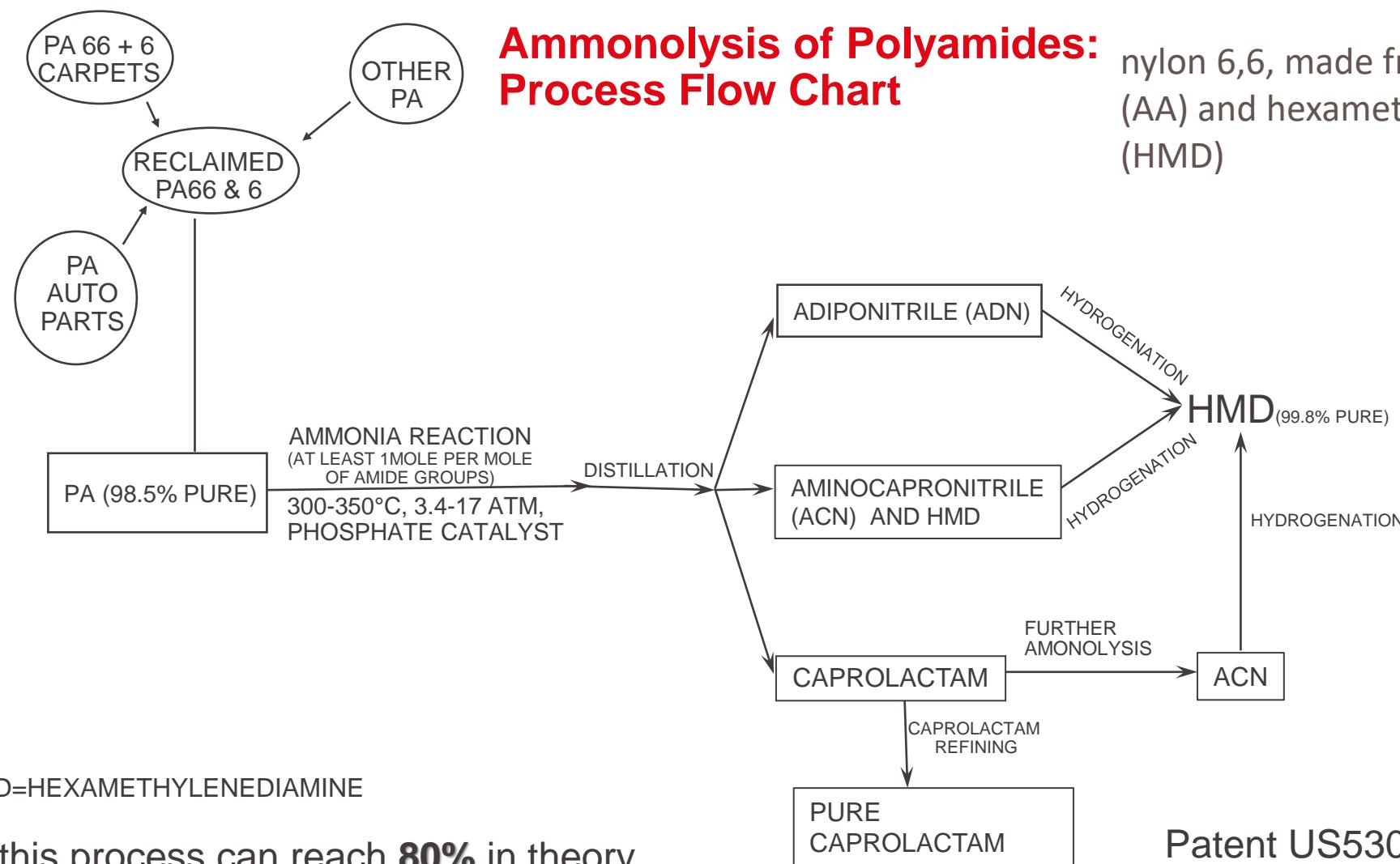
## d) SOLVOLYSIS IN SUPERCRITICAL CONDITIONS



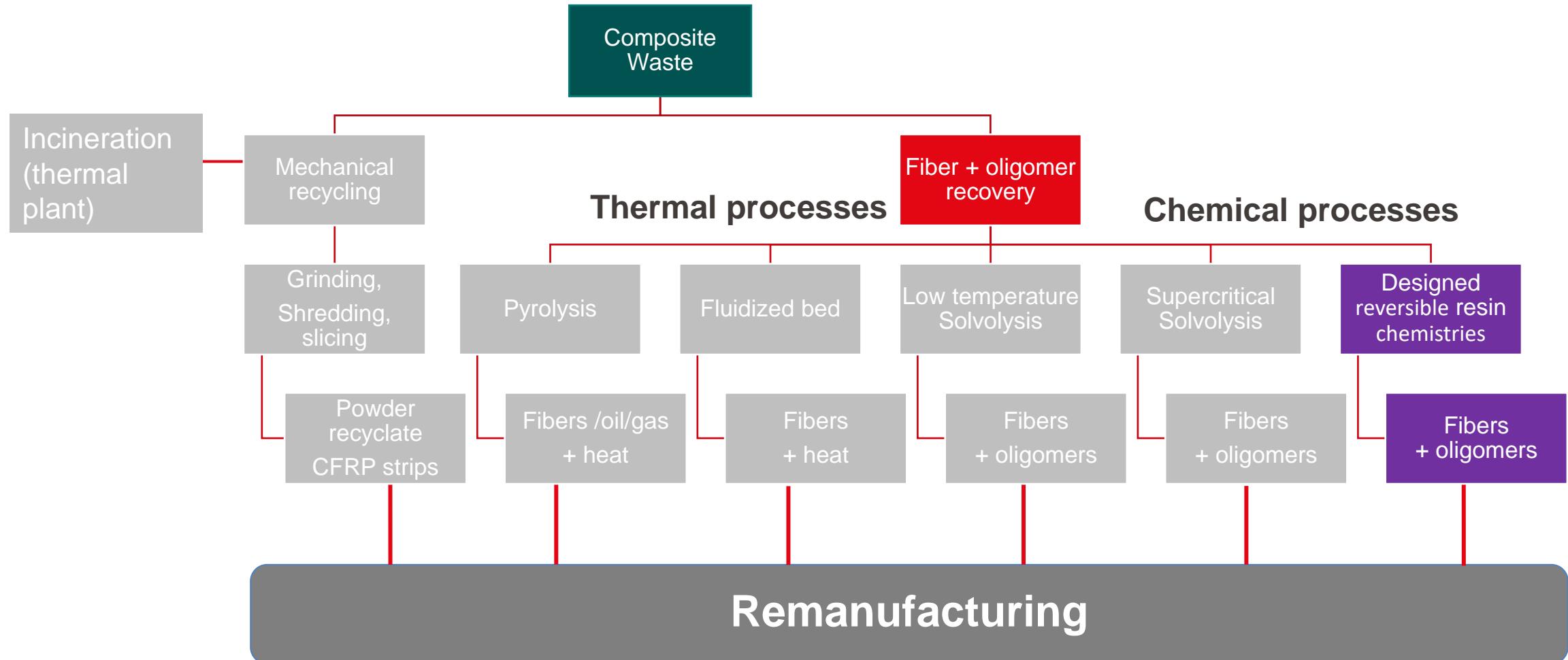
[Near- and supercritical solvolysis of carbon fibre reinforced polymers \(CFRPs\) for recycling carbon fibers as a valuable resource: State of the art - ScienceDirect](#)

[Recycling of carbon fiber with epoxy composites by chemical recycling for future perspective: a review | Chemical Papers \(springer.com\)](#)

# PA chemical recovery (molecular recycling)



# Recycling Routes



# Wind energy: recyclable blades

- Siemen's RecycleableBlades (81m long) [Cleaver]



## Novel resin

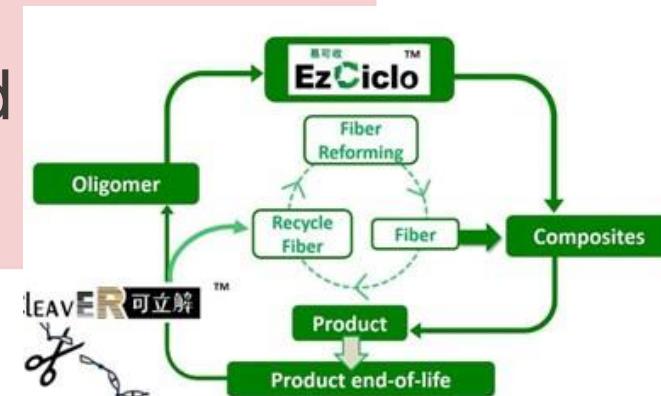
- Chemical structure
- Ketal diamines (recyclamine) in hardner
- Can efficiently separate the resin from the other components

## End of life

- Blade immersed into a heated mild acidic solution (solvolysis)
- 140°C , 4-5hrs

## Recovery

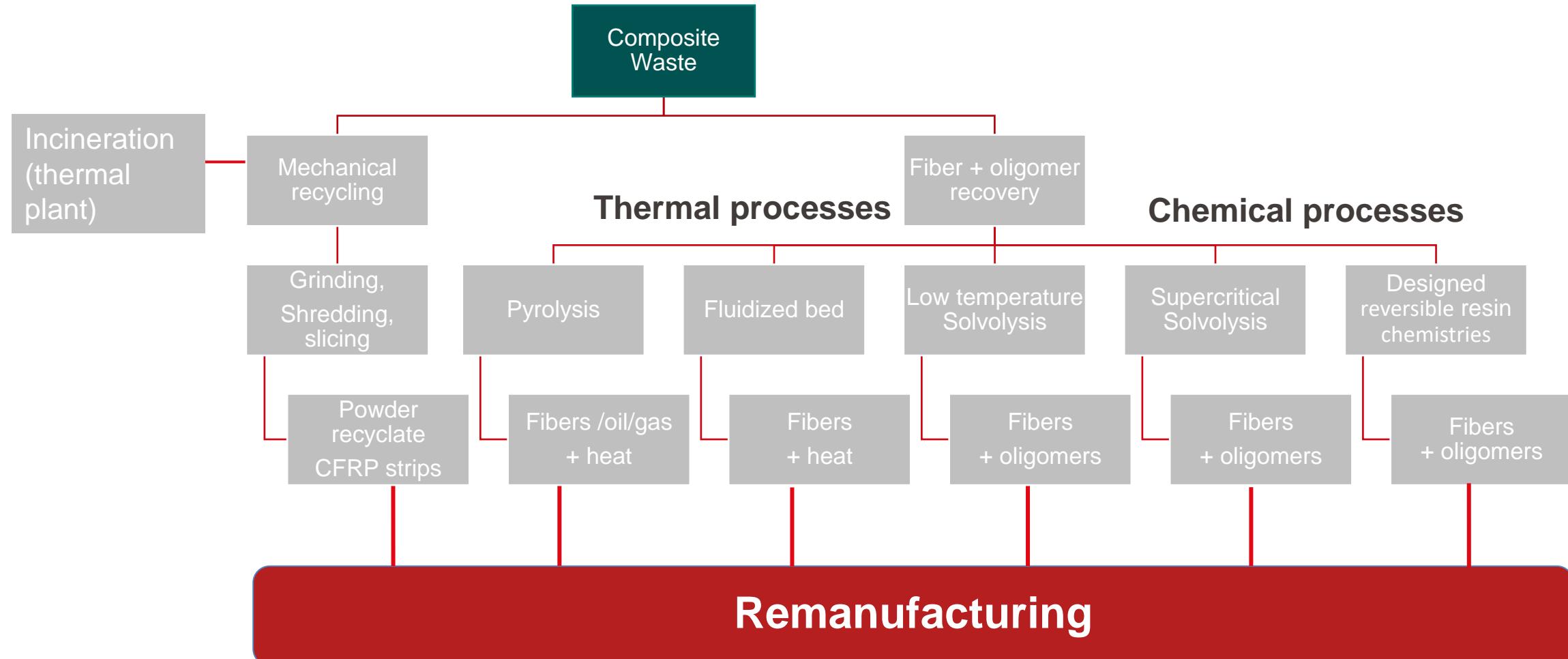
- Separates resin from the fiber glass, plastic, wood and metals
- Oligomer recovered, directly re-used



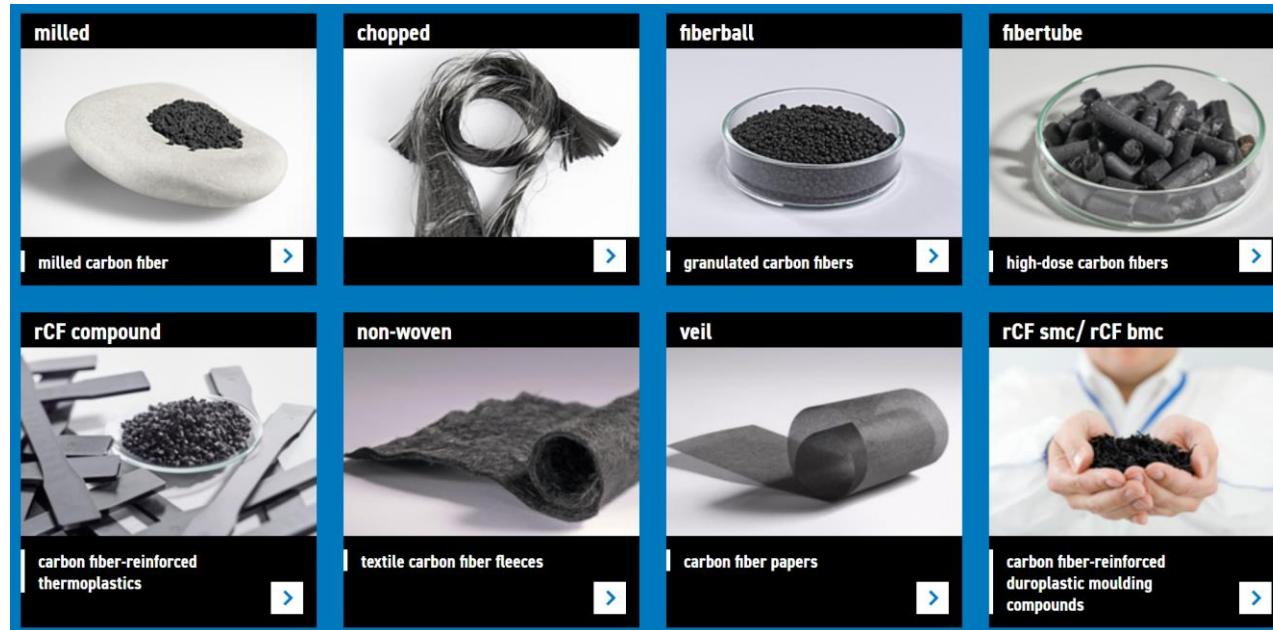
[Swancor, Siemens Gamesa solidify recyclable wind blade partnership | CompositesWorld](#)

[Swancor launches recyclable thermosetting epoxy resin | CompositesWorld](#)

[SWANCOR: Leading into the Zero-Carbon Era: Recyclable Thermosetting Resin System EzCiclo and Cleaver \(youtube.com\)](#)

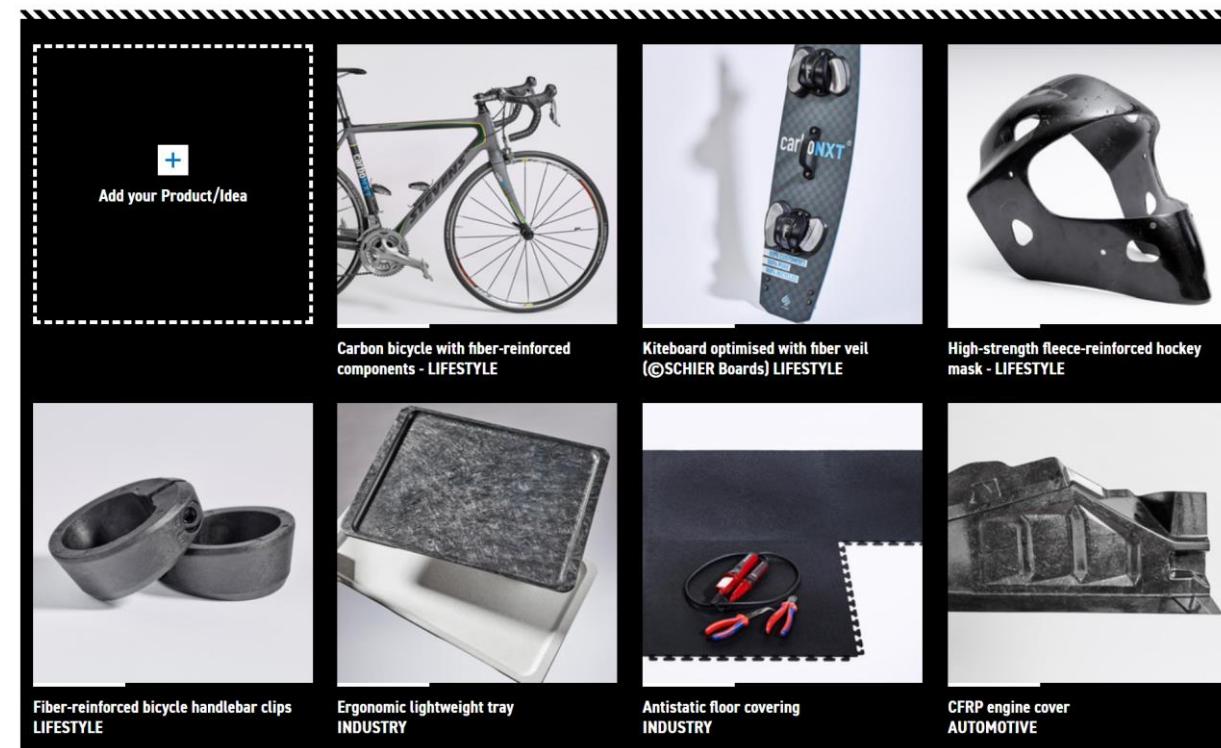


# Carbon fiber recycling & reuse



- Recovered CF material forms, 1000 T/yr

- Products using recovered CF



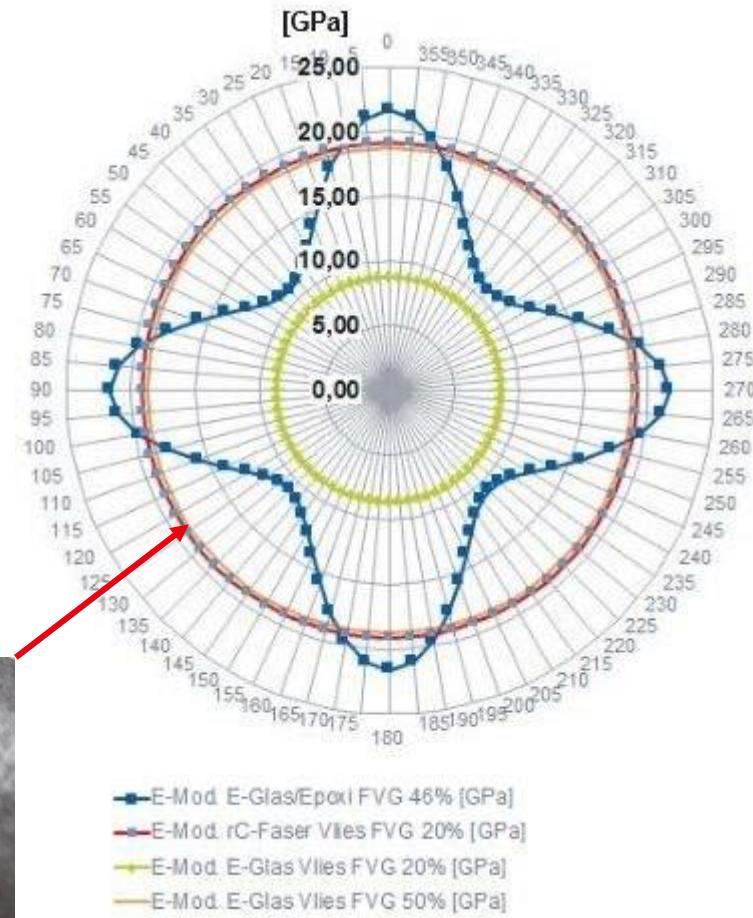
[100% CARBON FIBERS \(carbonxt.de\)](http://carbonxt.de)

- 2000 T/yr capacity
- Range of short fiber carbon materials
- Milling / cutting of CF waste
- Powder (60-300 $\mu$ m)
- Granulates
- Cut and resized fibers (300 $\mu$ m to 120mm)
- Fiber bundles (strands) 6mm



# Gen 2 carbon

- Uses recycled carbon fiber to make
- Non-woven mats 50-500gsm, 1-2.5m wide
- Commingled with PP/PA/PEI/PPS
- Random fiber (isotropic)



[Recycling carbon fiber for structural applications | CompositesWorld](#)

- 5000 T/yr
- Recycle post-industrial waste from carbon fiber prepreg production
- Mechanical treatment, robotics & machine learning to cut
- Maintain fiber length



- FAIRMAT Recycling process with avoided impact
- Thermal Recycling process (pyrolysis) with avoided impact
- Incineration (for average mix of plastic wastes)
- Landfill
- Current french end of life scenario (63% incineration / 37% landfill)
- Other scenario of interest (90% landfill / 9% incineration / 1% pyrolysis)

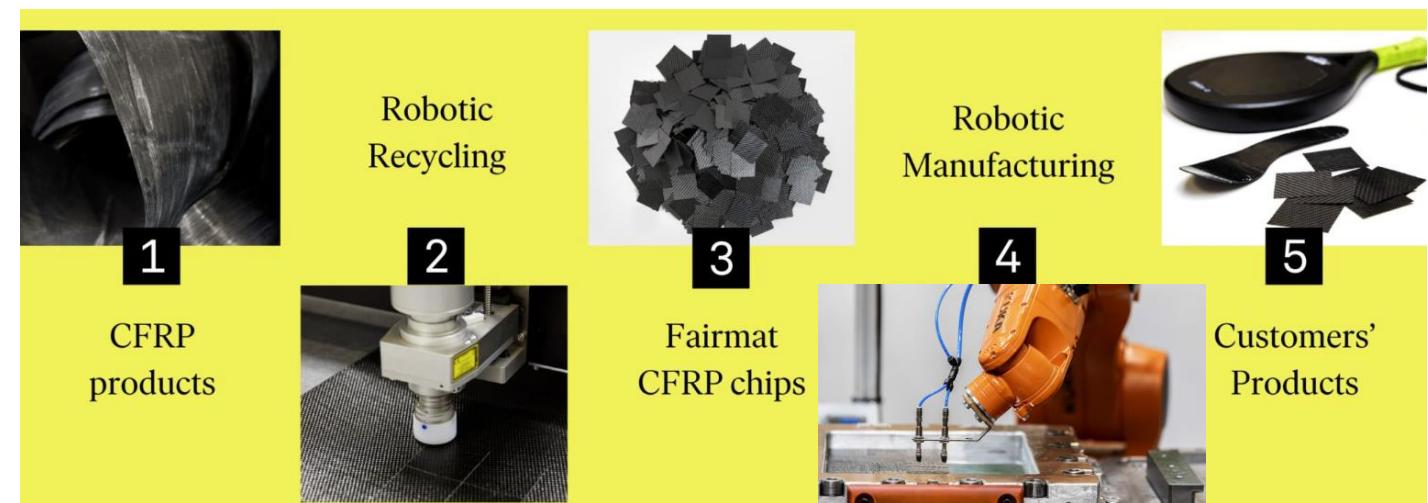
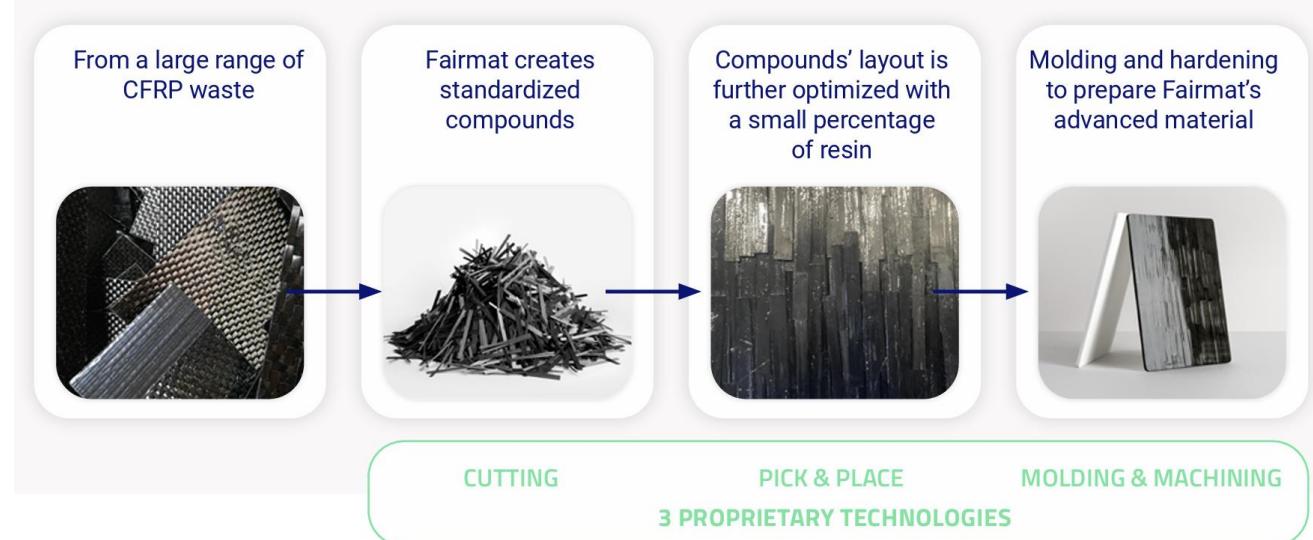
FIGURE 6: CARBON IMPACT COMPARISON BETWEEN FAIRMAT RECYCLING PROCESS AND OTHER END OF LIFE SCENARIOS CONSIDERING PRODUCTION OF RECYCLED MATERIAL

FAIRMAT - Unlock new possibilities with recycled carbon fiber

Published 11/29/2021

## Hexcel, Fairmat partnership aims to recycle carbon fiber preprints

Cutoffs generated by Hexcel's European plants will be repurposed by the end of 2022 into high value-added products



- HiPerDiF (University Bristol)

- Uses water jets to align fibers 1-12mm (4mm today, 6mm trade-off formability vs. strength, >8mm forms flocks and blocks)
- Tensile modulus of 115 GPa and tensile strength of 1509 MPa Vf 55%
- Tapes 6.35-50.8mm wide, kg/hr
- Used for 3D printing, potential for filament winding

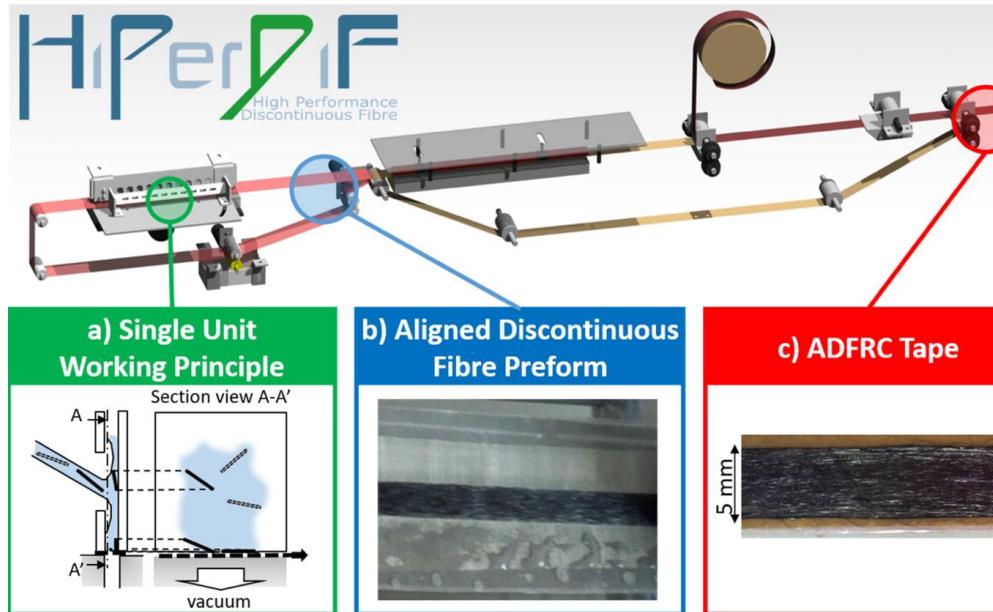
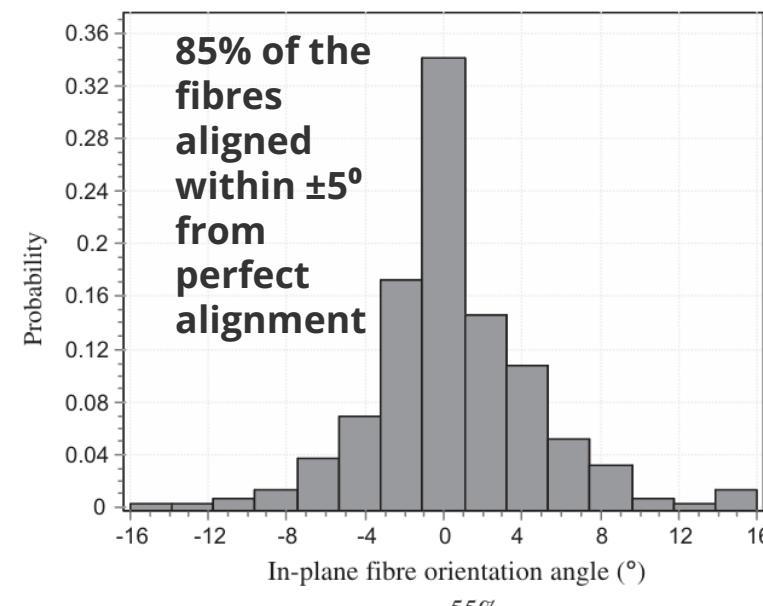
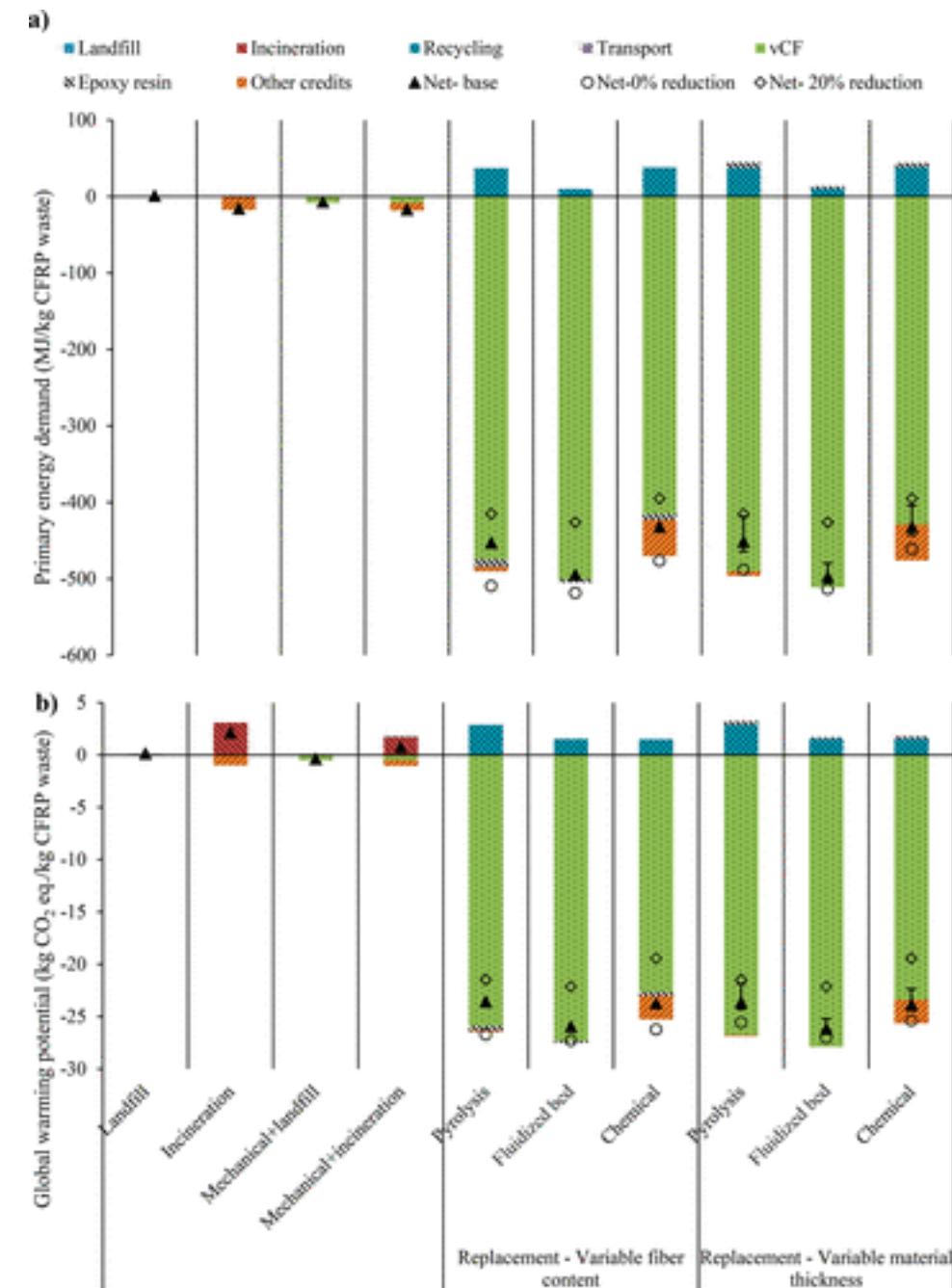


Figure 1. Schematic of the HiPerDiF alignment process.



# Recycled CF LCA

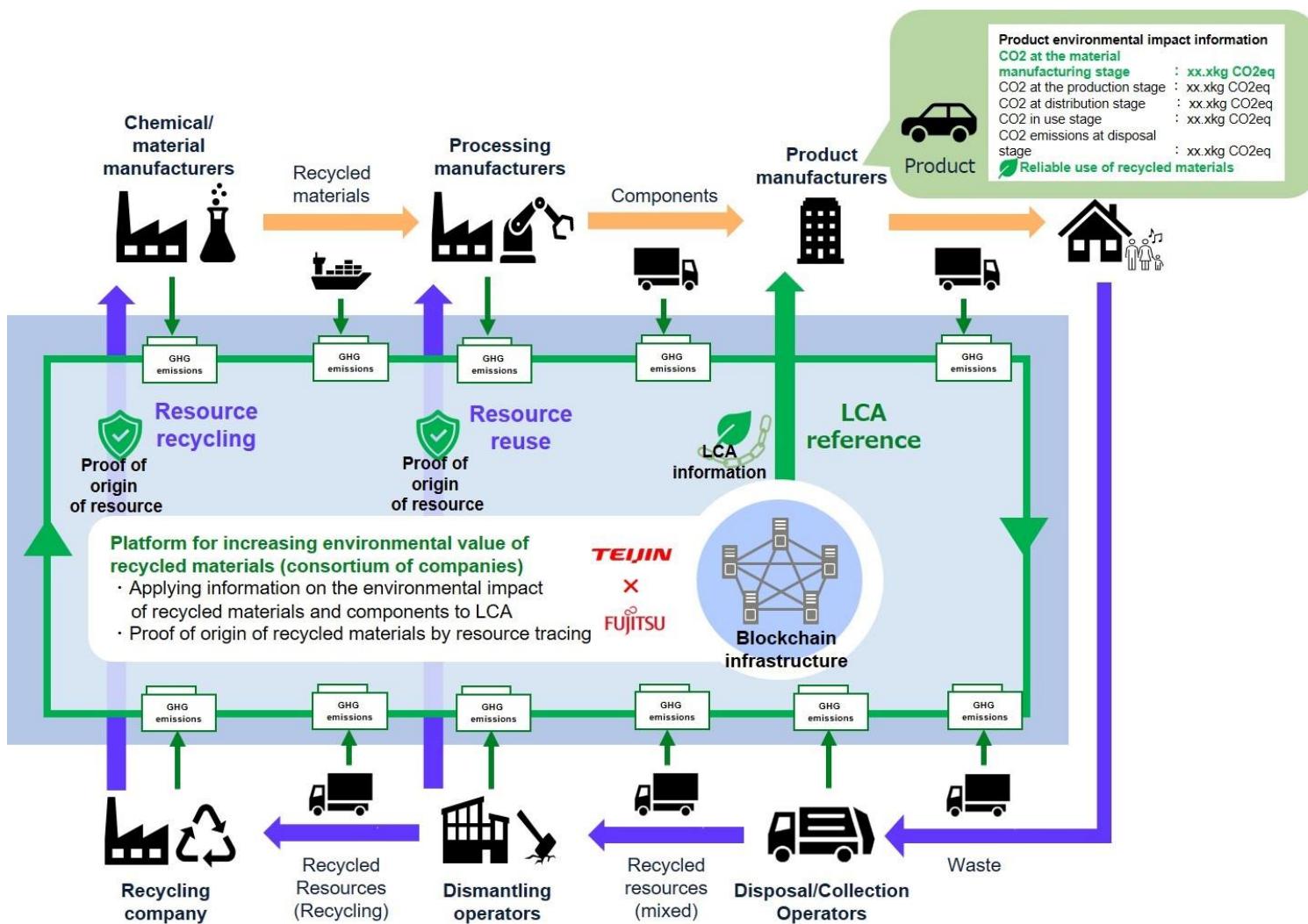
- Recycling processes can achieve
  - Global warming potential (GWP) from -19 to -27 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq
  - Primary energy consumption (PED) from -395 to -520 MJ per kg CFRP
  - Superior environmental performance to conventional composite waste treatment technologies
  - All process significant improvement vs. landfill and incineration



- How to go from non-standardized waste to standardized raw materials?
- Traceability / supply chain ...



# Block chain enabled carbon fiber composite recycling



**PLASTICS TODAY**

**SIGN UP TODAY** **Sign in**

**End Markets** **Plastics Processing** **Materials** **Sustainability** **Business** **Resin Pricing** **NPE News**

## Blockchain Deployed to Track Sustainability of Composites for Bicycles

Fujitsu and Teijin have started joint trials with Germany's V Frames and Advanced Bikes to enhance the environmental value of recycled carbon fiber used in the manufacture of bicycle frames.

Stephen Moore  
January 20, 2023 2 Min Read

**Chinaplas**  
World's Leading Plastics & Rubber Trade Fair

**Editor's Choice**

**MEDICAL**  
Former Medtech CEO Convicted of Healthcare Fraud  
MAR 13, 2024

**SUSTAINABILITY**  
The Next Step to Unlocking Plastic Circularity  
MAR 13, 2024

**PACKAGING**  
EPR Goes to Washington  
MAR 13, 2024

**IMAGE COURTESY OF V FRAMES**

**in** **f** **X** **✉** **⎙**

Japan's Fujitsu Ltd. and Teijin have launched a joint project to promote the sustainable use of recycled materials and trace emissions in the bicycle industry using a blockchain platform. The two Japanese firms will work with V Frames GmbH, a German manufacturer and distributor of carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic bicycle frames, and E Bike Advanced Technologies GmbH, a German manufacturer of bicycles, in the joint project running from January to March 2023.

# Overview - Towards sustainable composite solutions

- End of life and recycling
- Bio-based materials
- Additive manufacturing
- Unmet challenges

# Carbon fiber manufacture

## Block A

- Stage 1: AN precursor (propylene & ammonia)



## Block B

- Stage 2: PAN polymerization
- Stage 3: Solution spinning

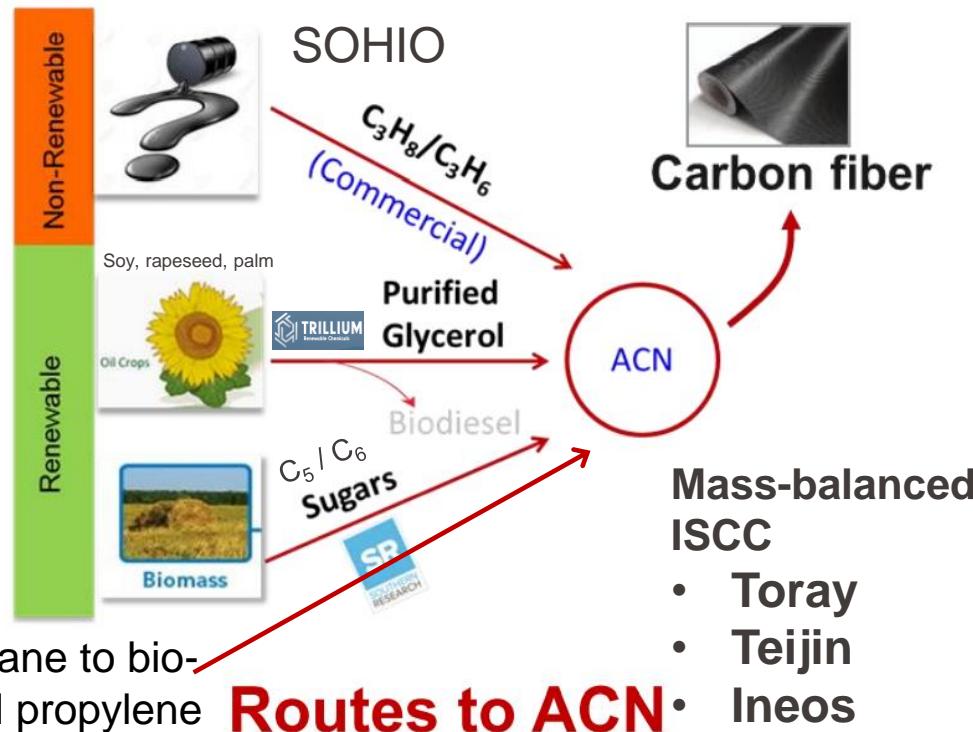


## Block C

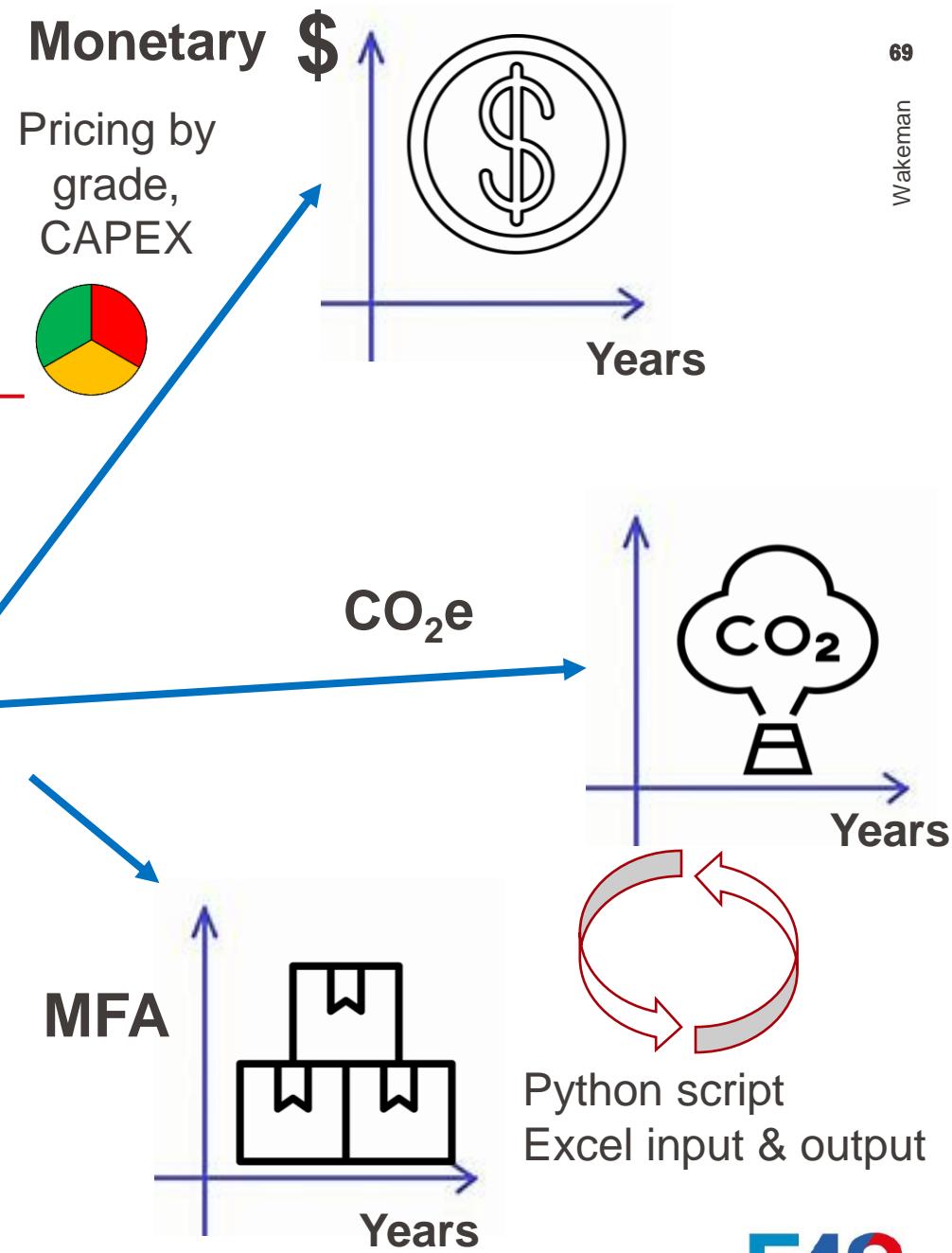
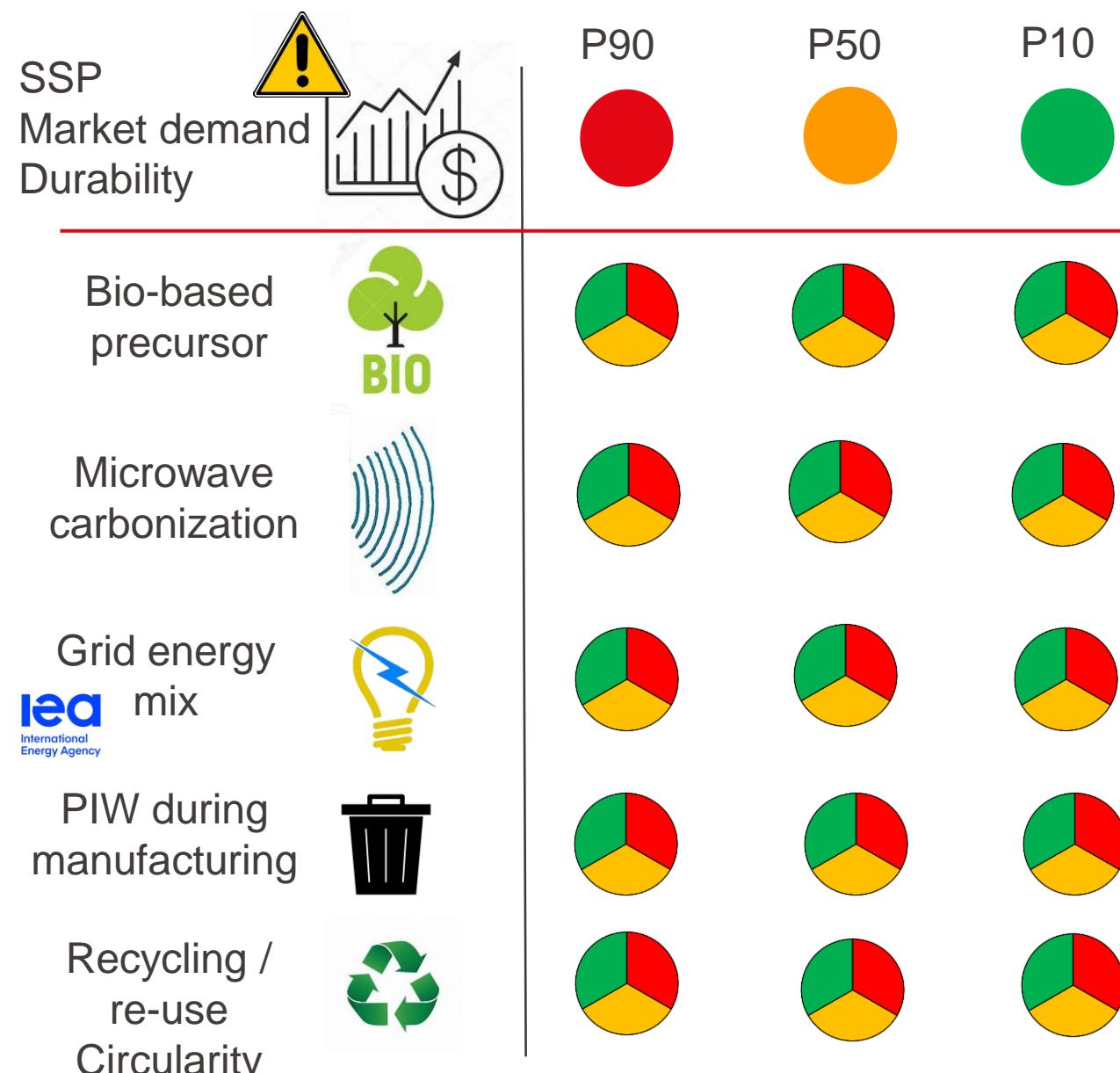
- Stage 4: Stabilization / oxidation
- Stage 5: Carbonization



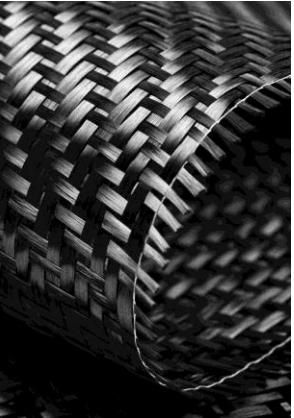
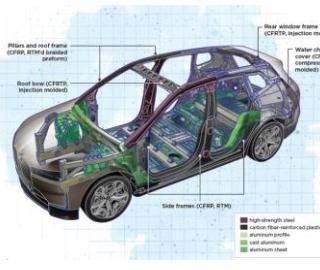
"Syensqo to Showcase Sustainable Mobility and Technology Collaborations at JEC 2024." Accessed: May 14, 2024.  
 [Online]. Available: <https://polymer-additives.specialchem.com/news/product-news/syensqo-jec-world-2024-carbon-fiber-applications-000233226>



# Monte Carlo simulation



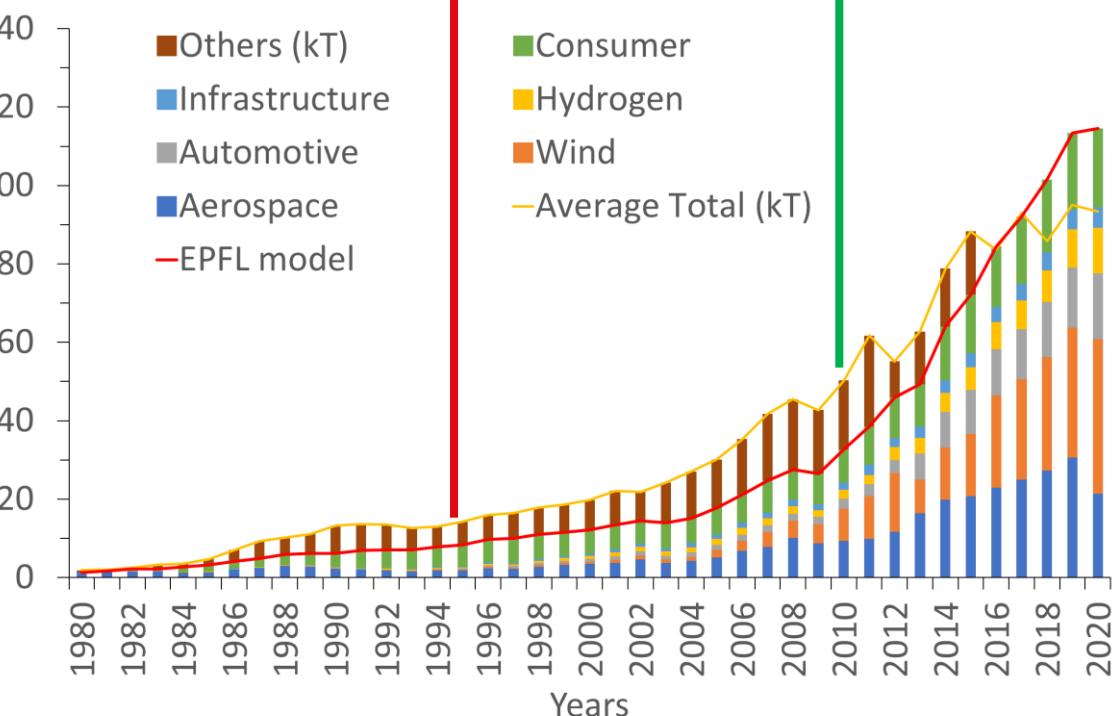
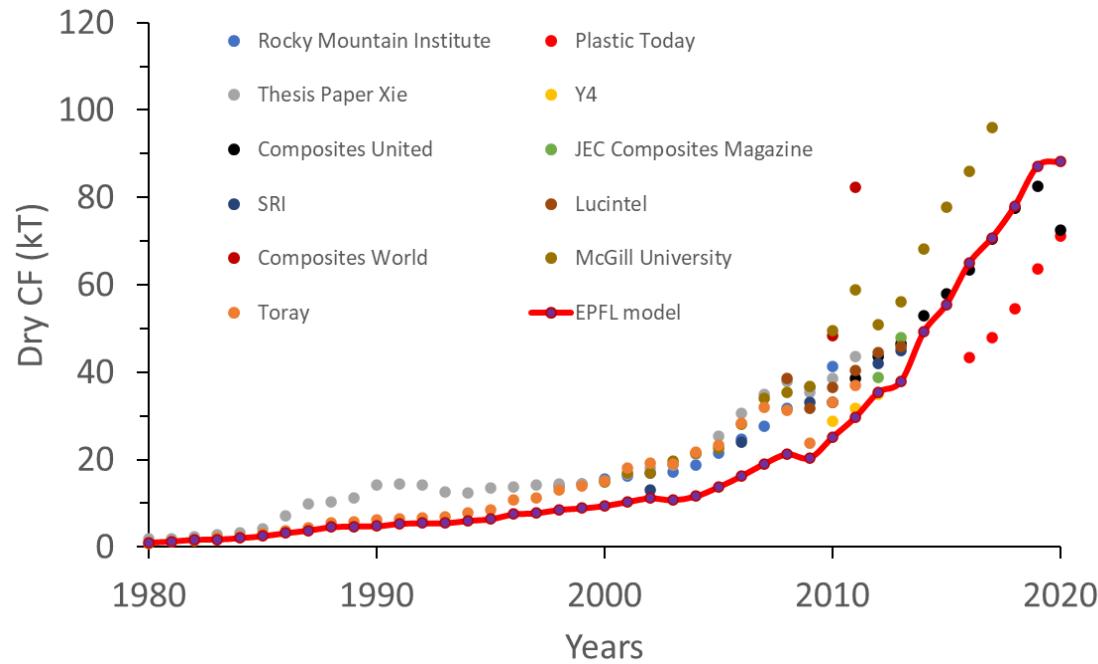
# Composites will see rapid growth as enablers towards 2050 SSPs

Main sectors	Aerospace	Wind	Automotive	Hydrogen	Infrastructure	Consumer
Sub sectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil wide body <input type="checkbox"/> Civil narrow body <input type="checkbox"/> Evtol/drones <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind on-shore <input type="checkbox"/> Wind off-shore <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel cells <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Super cars <input type="checkbox"/> Premium <input type="checkbox"/> EVs <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> CNG tanks <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Aero Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Hydrogen <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete rebar <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles <input type="checkbox"/> Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer <input type="checkbox"/> Other
      						

Needed industrial sector segmentation  
1980-2050 for EPFL model

# EPFL model of dry carbon fiber historical demand 1980-2020

Durability is the delay to reach end of life and enter recycling / disposal scenarios

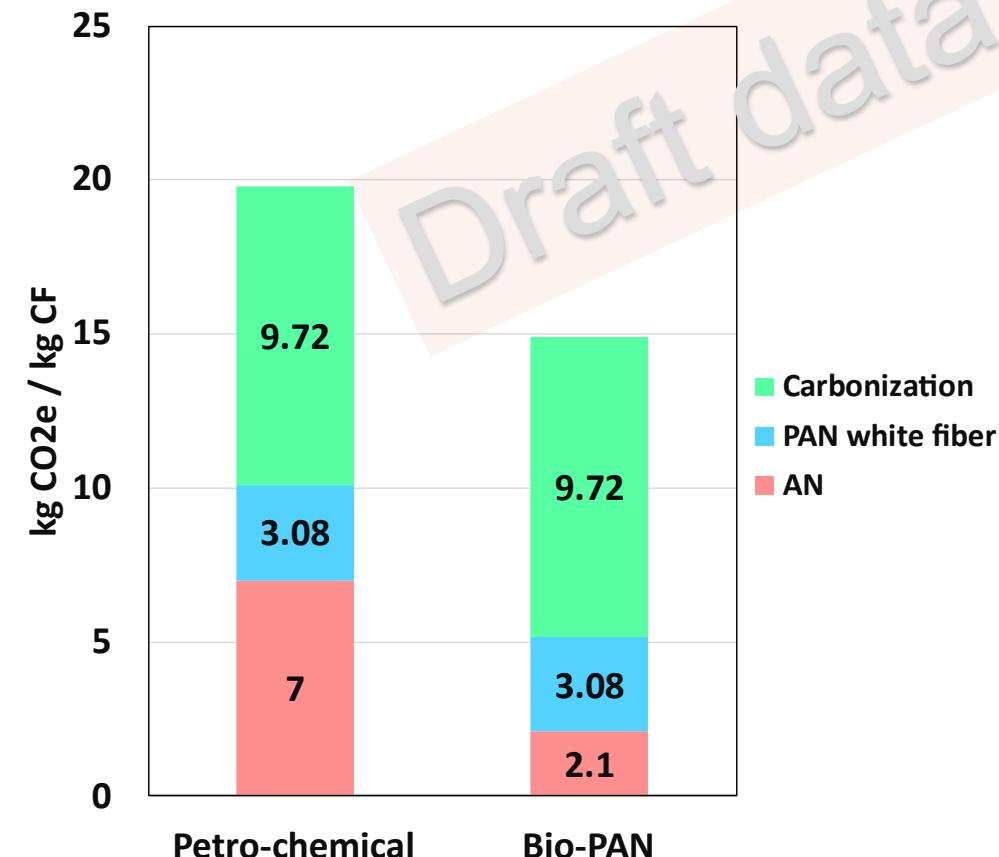


Data used in MFA (circularity versus time)

# kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg AN or CF: Effect of bio-mass / bio- attributed AN

- Traditional AN (SOHIO)  
3.5 to 6.6 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg AN <sup>(1)</sup>
- Bio-based AN
  - 70% reduction (Trillium)
  - Assumed here as 1.05 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg AN
- PAN white fiber <sup>(2)</sup>
  - $5.04 - 3.5 \text{ kg} = 1.54 \text{ kgCO}_2\text{e/kg PAN}$
- Carbonization <sup>(3)</sup>
  - 9.72 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg CF

JCMA 19.8 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg CF <sup>(4)</sup>



<sup>(4)</sup>[carbonfiber.gr.jp/english/tech/pdf/lci2022\\_en.pdf](http://carbonfiber.gr.jp/english/tech/pdf/lci2022_en.pdf)

(1) M. A. Morales-Mora, E. Rosa-Dominguez, N. Suppen-Reynaga, and S. A. Martinez-Delgadillo, "Environmental and eco-costs life cycle assessment of an acrylonitrile process by capacity enlargement in Mexico," *Process Safety and Environmental Protection*, vol. 90, no. 1, pp. 27–37, Jan. 2012, doi: 10.1016/j.psep.2011.10.002.

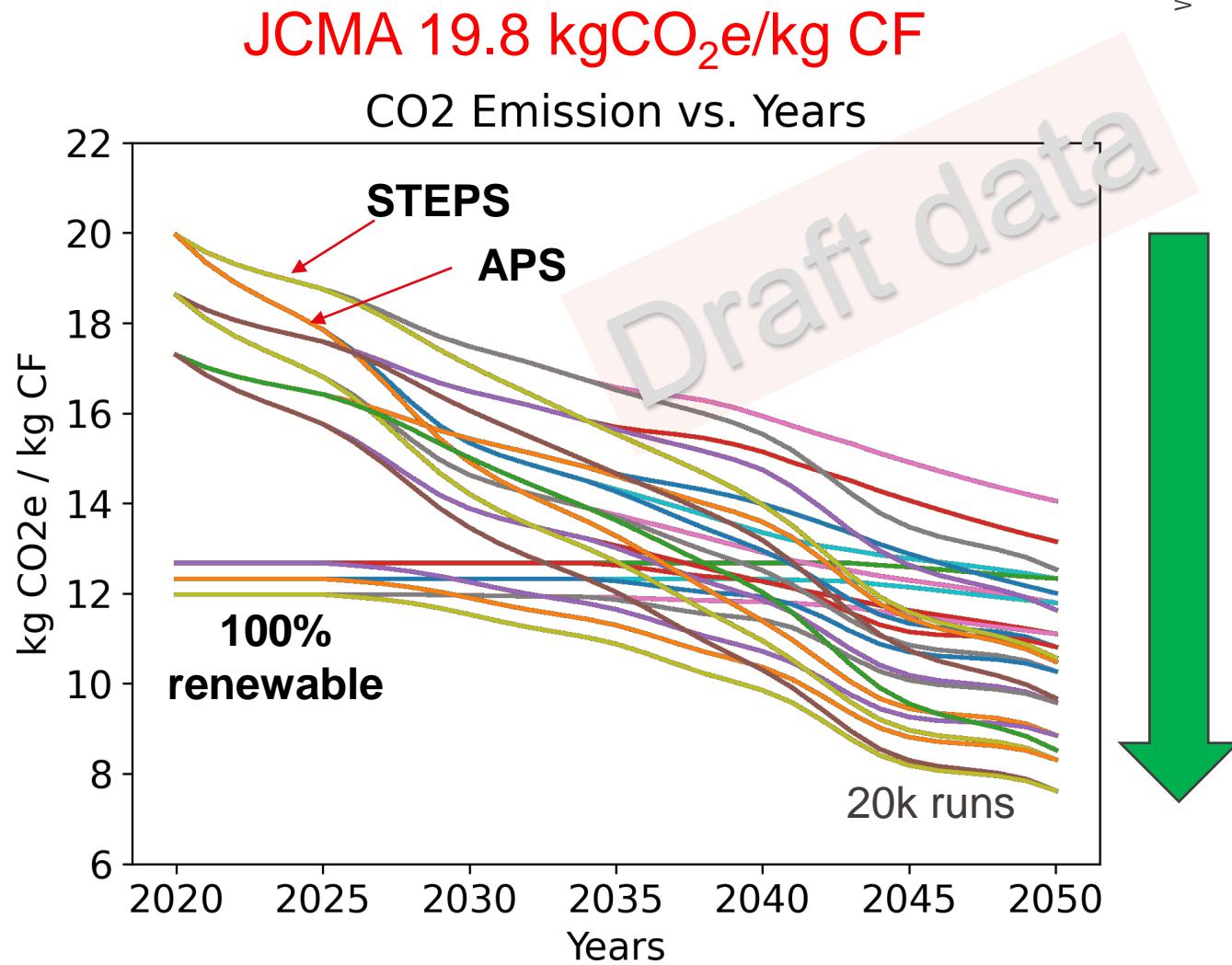
(2) K. Kawajiri and K. Sakamoto, "Environmental impact of carbon fibers fabricated by an innovative manufacturing process on life cycle greenhouse gas emissions," *Sustainable Materials and Technologies*, vol. 31, p. e 10.1016/j.susmat.2021.e00365.

(3) <https://www.harperintl.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/JEC-Draft-20120323-Post-Presentation-Edits.pdf>

# kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg CF<sub>v</sub> predicted to 2050

- Precursor (bio-AN vs. PC-AN)
- Lower energy carbonization (microwave, 50%)
- Grid energy mix on carbonization
  - IEA models vs. time
    - STEPS
    - APS
    - 100% renewable
- Carbonization energy
  - Harper = 20.6 to 28.2 kW.hr / kg
  - Translated to new grid mix (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kW.hr) scenarios vs. time

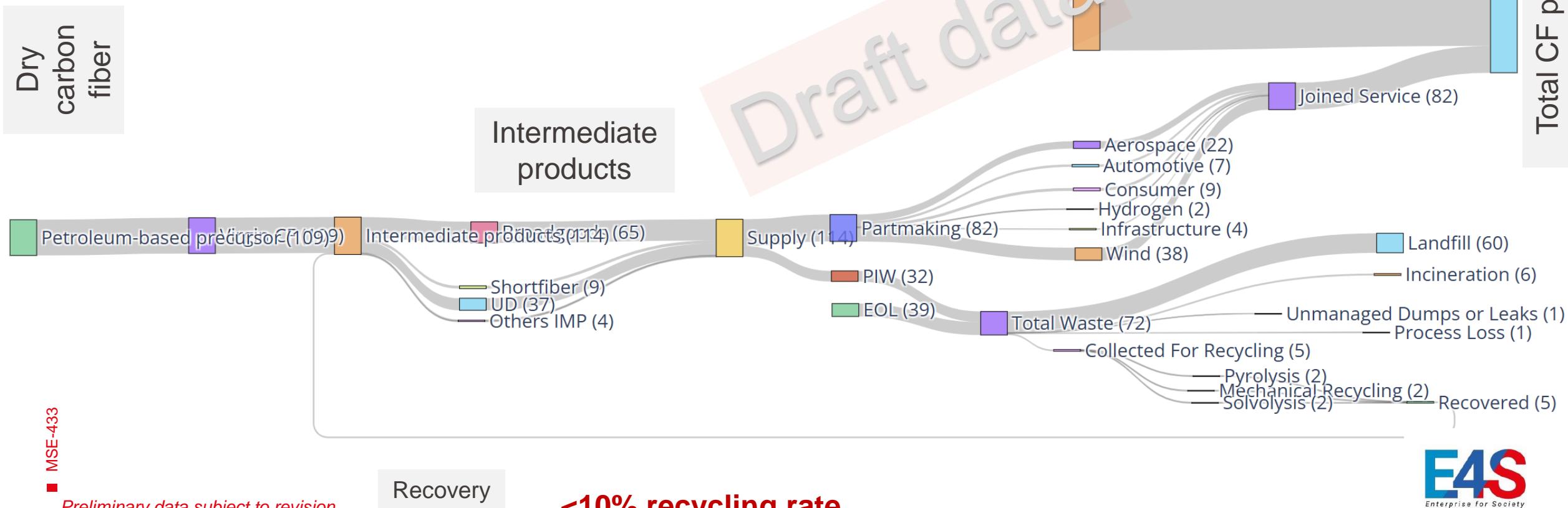
[processing-advancements-within-reach.pdf](http://processing-advancements-within-reach.pdf) (harperintl.com)



Sankey Diagram (kT) for P90 Scenario in 2020

## P90 2020 (Values in kt)

Automotive: OEM



# P10 2050 (Values in kt)

Automotive: OEM

Dry carbon fiber

Bioprecursor (1065)      Virgin CF (1365)  
Petroleum-based precursor (300)

Intermediate products

Intermediate products (1999)  
Shortfiber (513)  
UD (1128)  
Broadgoods (320)  
Others IMP (38)

Parts in service from historical data

Historical in Service (13261)

Draft data

Supply (1999)

Partmaking (1764)

PIW (236)

EOL (557)

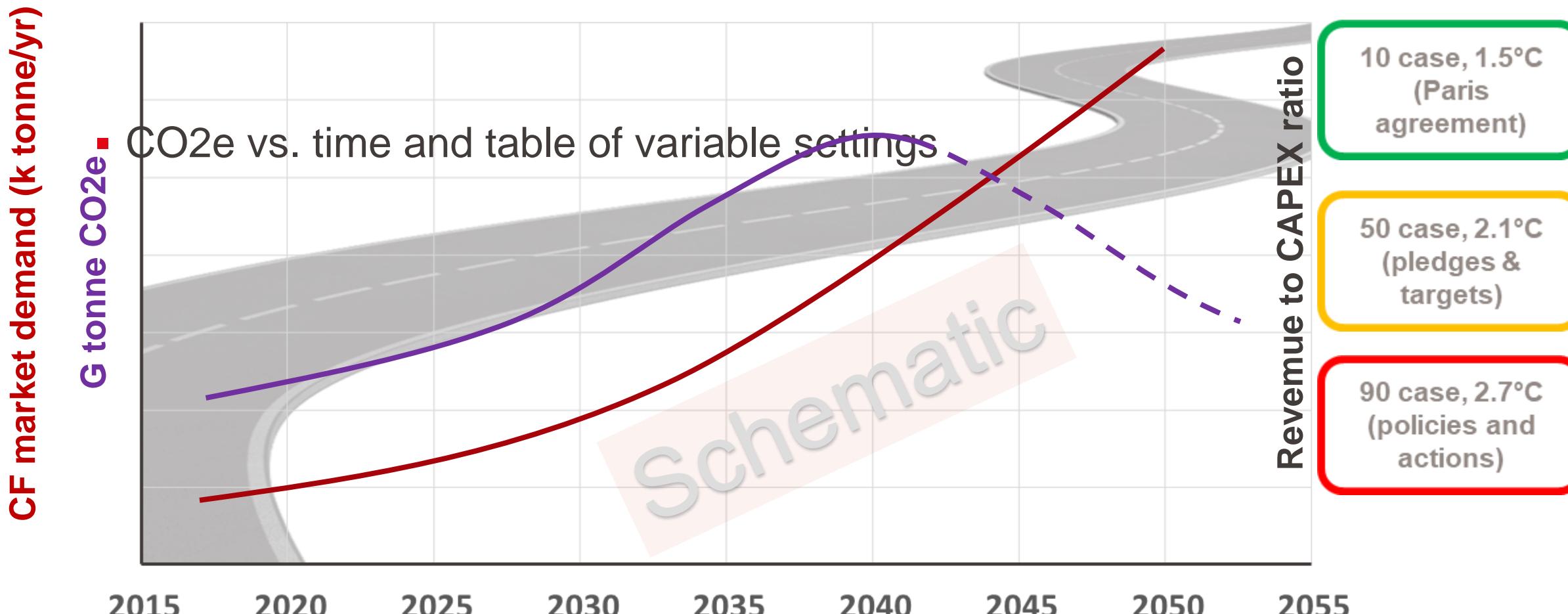
Aerospace (657)  
Automotive (517)  
Consumer (234)  
Hydrogen (105)  
Infrastructure (96)  
Wind (155)

Total Waste (792)

Collected For Recycling (634)  
Solvolysis (507)  
Mechanical Recycling (32)  
Pyrolysis (95)  
Recovered (634)

Total CF parts in service

## P90, 2.7oC SSP vs. P10, 1.5oC SSP

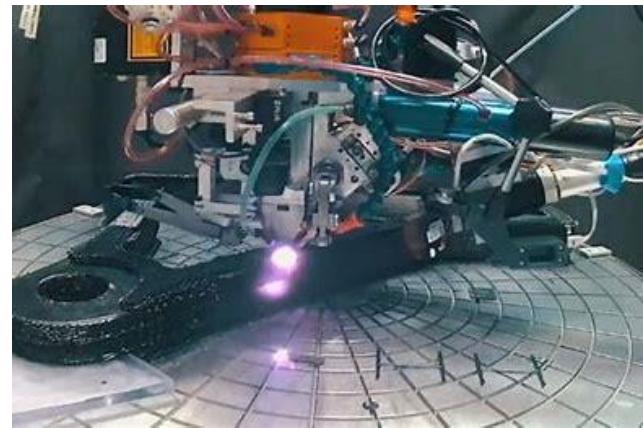


- Effect of SSPs on market growth and scaling of enabling technologies

# Overview - Towards sustainable composite solutions

- End of life and recycling
- Bio-based materials
- Additive manufacturing
- Unmet challenges

# Continuous carbon fiber 3D printing examples



Arevo



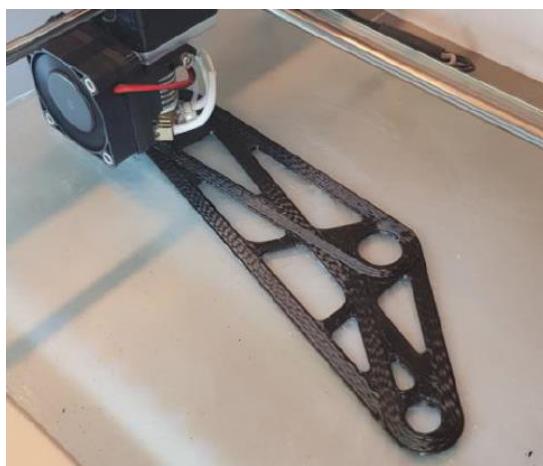
Ingersoll



Arris



Continuous composites

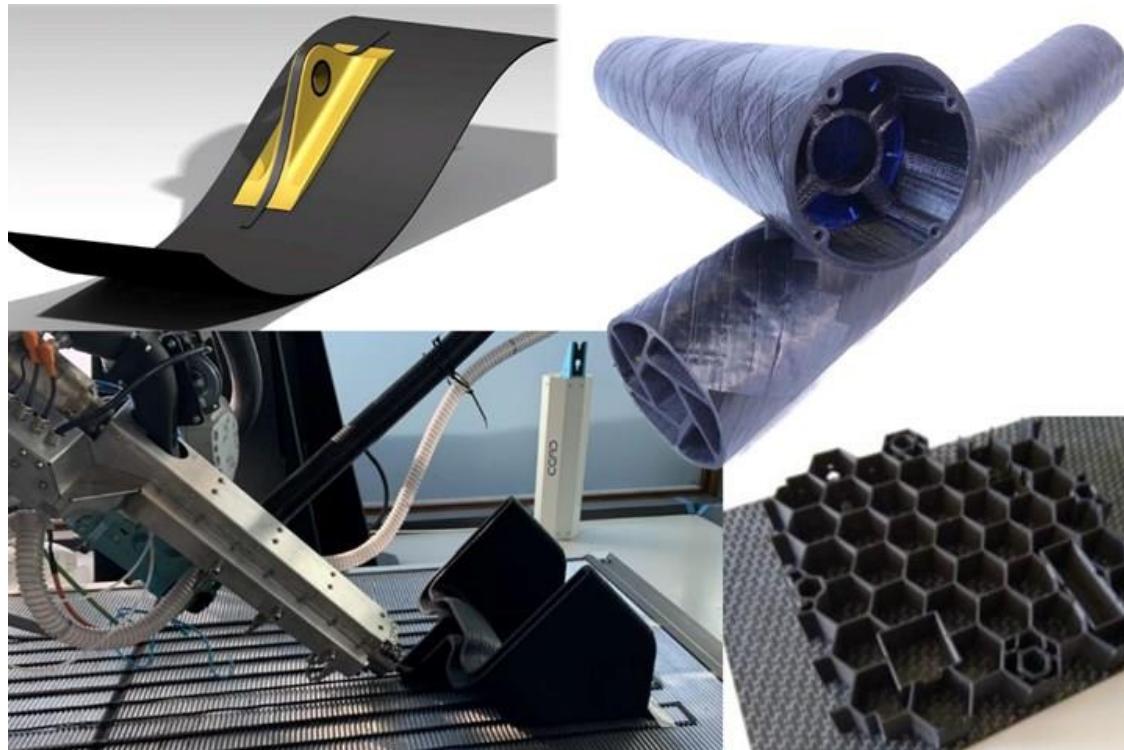


9tlabs



APS

# Merging of AM with composites manufacturing



- Overprinting onto pre-made CFRP surfaces and brackets (*top left*),
- hybridizing processes such as 3D printing and filament winding (*top right*),
- 3D printing cores onto AFP laminates and AFP skins onto 3D-printed cores (*bottom right*)
- CEAD AM Flexbot 3D printing at 45 degrees (*bottom left*).



Coriolis Composites  
Coriolis Composites - Cxico #additivemanufacturing machine 🔧

 Coriolis Composites  
484 subscribers

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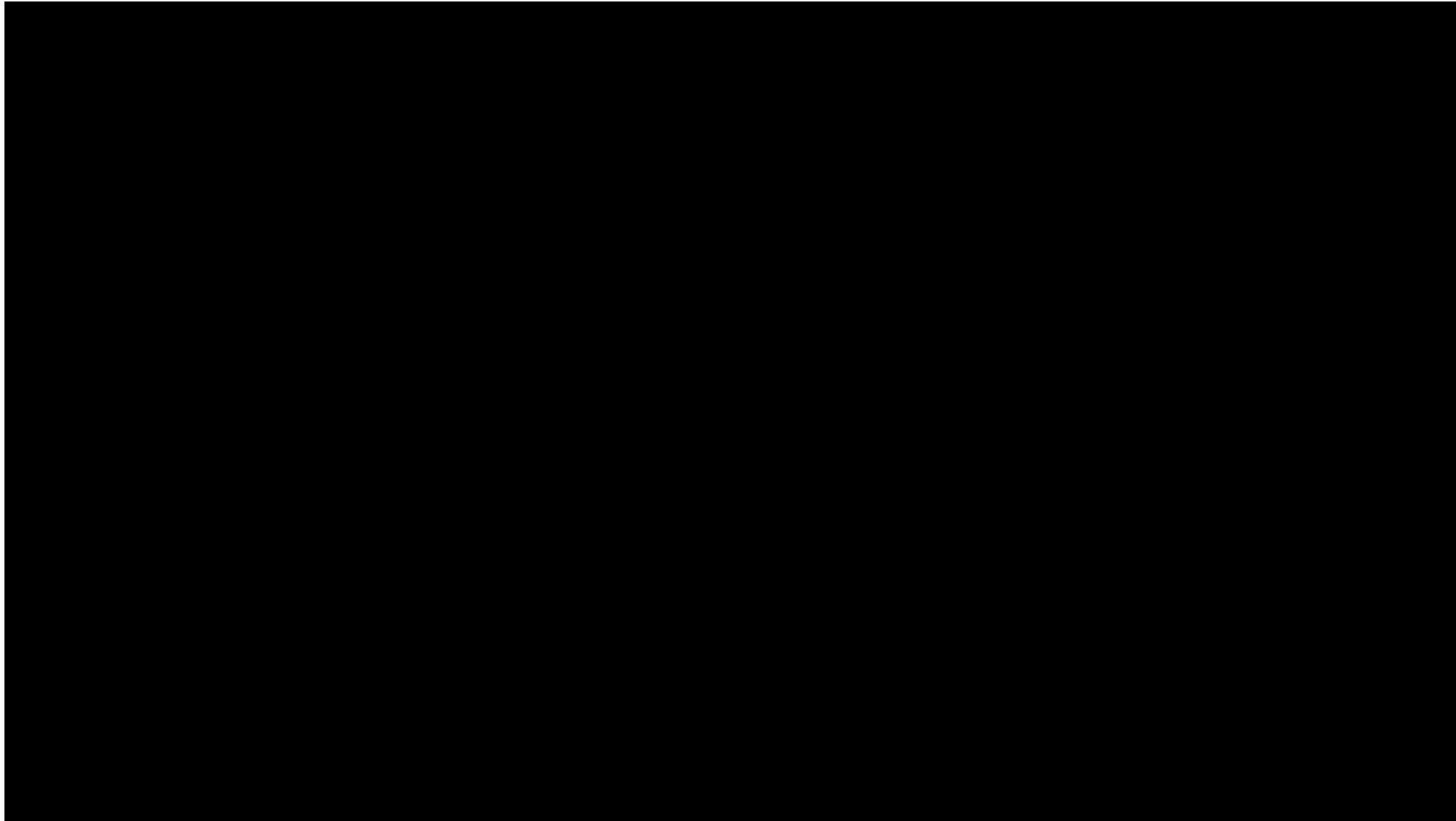
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# Merging of AM with composites manufacturing



[Electroimpact Continuous Fiber 3D Printing - YouTube](#)

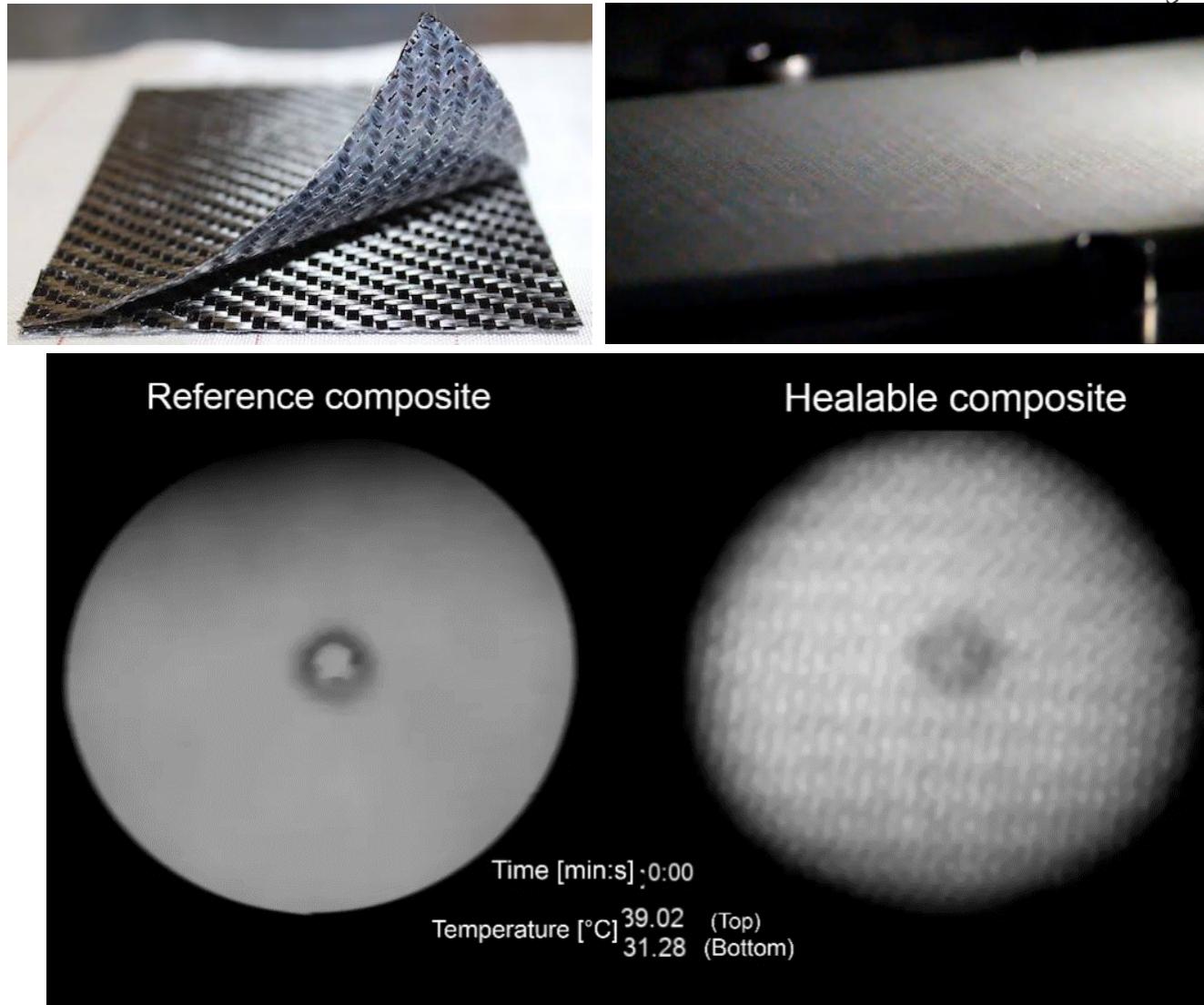
1min20s

# Overview - Towards sustainable composite solutions

- End of life and recycling
- Bio-based materials
- Additive manufacturing
- **Unmet challenges**

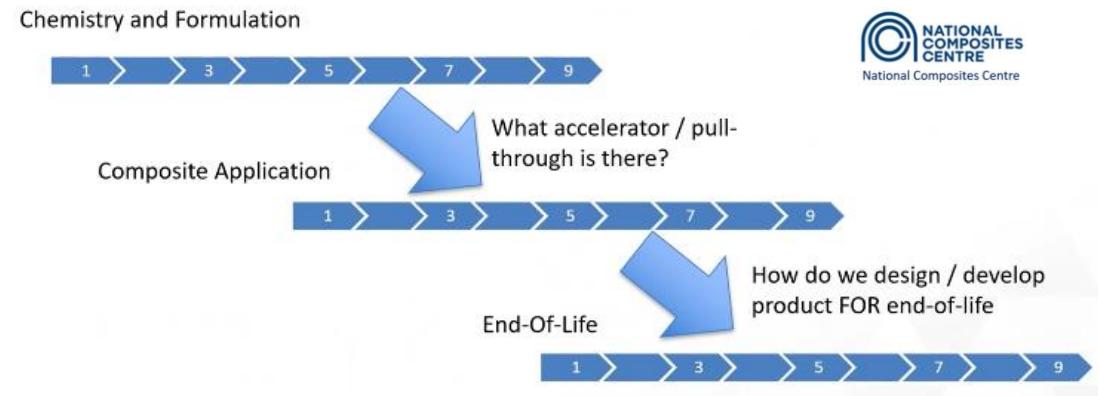
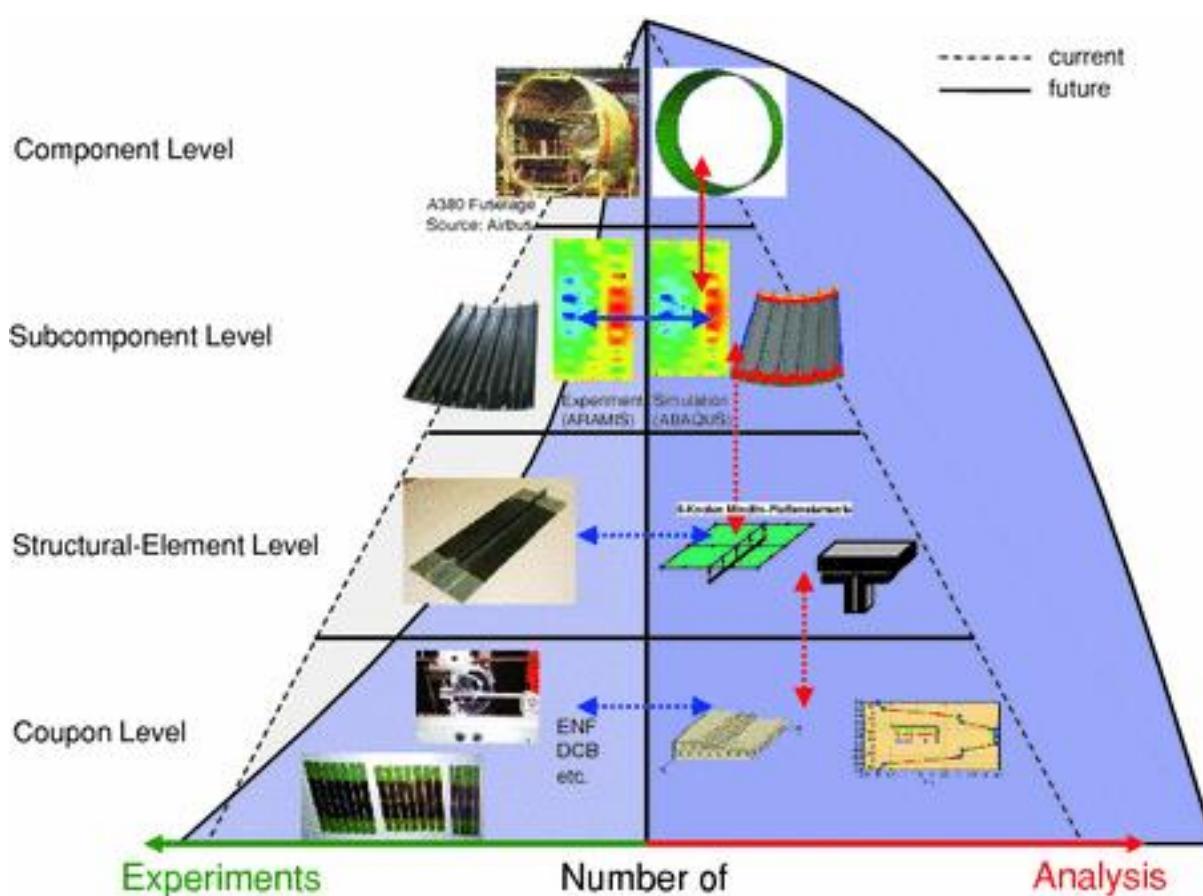
# Durability: Self-healing composites

- Self-healing technology to
  - reduce maintenance cost,
  - reduce manufacturing defects
  - extend the lifetime of composites.
- 12 years of research at EPFL
- HealTech™ is a new type of resin giving composite materials the ability to heal resin micro cracks and de-laminations in a few minutes.
- Composite structures (resin damage) can be fully repaired on site as the parts stay structural during healing.



Welcome - CompPair Technologies Ltd - Healable composite

# Virtualization to compress technology readiness



- Testing pyramid needed to approve CF materials
- Requalification through TRLs across supply chain (material, design, part making, ELV).
- Need concurrent TRL processes to reduce time to market and 1<sup>st</sup> revenue.

## Technical

- Limitations of materials
- Complexity and dimensions of parts (e.g. bike frames to wind turbine blades)
- Wide variety of existing materials, even different CF grades
- Endless material combinations
- Makes sorting for recycling difficult

## Market

- Constraints along value chain
- Financial, Social, Behavioral, Logistical
- Risk in developing recycling infrastructure versus waste supply heterogeneity
- Issues developing economies of scale for recycling
- Risk that recovered fiber can cost more (not always) than virgin fibers

## Policy

- Inadequacy, lack of local national or European regulations
- Some are outdated, others deemed too strict
- Waste is still considered a hazardous waste not a resource
- Limits trade and reuse and treatment
- Contradictory agendas

# Summarizing: a sustainable composites industry?

