RETECH CIRCULAR ECONOMY GCC FORUM

How to Create a Circular Economy Around Waste Management:
A Dialogue with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries

Date:
15 December 2026

Time:
09:00 - 18:00 CET

Location:
VKU Forum
Invalidenstraße 91, 10115 Berlin

PROGRAMME AGENDA

09:00 - 09:30 — **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

09:30 - 10:00 — **Official Opening Session**

- Welcome Address by **Lucas Dörr**, Chairman of German RETech Partnership (RETech)
- Opening Address by **Federal Minister Carsten Schneider**, Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)
- Remarks from GCC representatives

10:00 - 10:30 — **MoU Signing Ceremony**

10:30 - 10:50 — **Keynote Message**
From Ambition to Infrastructure: Advancing the GCC Circular Economy through Technology, Innovation and Cooperation

10:50 - 11:40 — **Panel Discussion 1: Beyond Landfills**
Building Smart and Integrated Waste Management Systems

11:40 - 12:45 — **Networking Lunch & Exchange**

12:45 - 13:35 — **Panel Discussion 2: Financing the Circular Economy**
New Models for Infrastructure Investment and Long-Term Viability

13:35 - 13:55 — **Coffee Break**

13:55 - 14:45 — **Technology and Innovation in Practice**
Adapting German Waste Management Solutions in the GCC

14:45 - 15:05 — **Networking Break & Coffee-To-Go**

15:05 - 15:55

Breakout Sessions Round 1: Initial Discussion & Exchange

Parallel breakout sessions on selected key topics.

- **Plastic Packaging**: A Full Lifecycle Approach from Design and Use to Collection and Recycling
- **WEEE**: Strengthening Take-Back, Smart Recycling and Critical Raw Materials Recovery
- **Organic Waste Management**: Scaling Treatment and Resource Recovery
- **Financing the Circular Economy**: From Innovative Pilots to Scalable Solutions
- **Industrial Hazardous Waste Management**: Specialized Treatment and Compliance

15:55 - 16:15

Coffee Break Transition & Coffee-To-Go

16:15 - 16:55

Breakout Sessions Round 2: Further Discussion & Validation

Parallel breakout sessions on selected key topics.

- **Plastic Packaging**: A Full Lifecycle Approach from Design and Use to Collection and Recycling
- **WEEE**: Strengthening Take-Back, Smart Recycling and Critical Raw Materials Recovery
- **Organic Waste Management**: Scaling Treatment and Resource Recovery
- **Financing the Circular Economy**: From Innovative Pilots to Scalable Solutions
- **Industrial Hazardous Waste Management**: Specialized Treatment and Compliance

17:05 - 17:35

From Discussion to Project Pipeline

Presentation of results from the breakout sessions.

17:35 - 17:45

Project Commitments and Next Steps

Conference wrap-up highlighting key takeaways, stakeholder commitments, and future areas of collaboration.

17:45 - 17:55

Road to Riyadh: IFAT Saudi Arabia

17:55 - 18:00

Closing Ceremony

- Closing remarks from **Lucas Dörr**, Chairman, RETech

END OF CONFERENCE / BEGINNING OF RETECH WINTER MARKET

18:00 - 21:00

RETech Winter Market

Festive evening reception and networking event with international delegates, partners, and RETech members, opening with a choir performance and followed by a Christmas market-style networking reception.