# Powering the Circular Textile Economy Through Collaboration



**The future of textile recycling will not be shaped by individual breakthroughs alone—it will be built through collaboration. The 2026 IRG Networking Day demonstrated that when industry leaders, researchers, and technology innovators unite, sustainability becomes a shared journey rather than a distant goal.**

Every transformation begins with a conversation.

The textile industry stands at a defining moment. Faced with growing environmental responsibilities, evolving regulations, and increasing demand for circular solutions, the path forward cannot be walked alone. It requires partnerships that transcend company boundaries and inspire collective innovation.

That spirit came alive at the **Industry Research Group (IRG) Polymer Recycling Networking Day 2026**, hosted at **EREMA's Technical Centre in Ansfelden, Austria**. More than a gathering of experts, it became a meeting of minds united by a common purpose—to build a sustainable future for textiles through recycling, innovation, and collaboration.

Throughout the event, industry leaders, researchers, technology providers, and manufacturing specialists engaged in meaningful discussions on technological advancements, market developments, and the rapidly evolving political and regulatory landscape. Contributions from **Zschimmer & Schwarz, Volkswagen Group Innovation, STRÄHLE+HESS,** and the **Technical University of Leoben** enriched the dialogue, while support from partners including **Bekaert, EREMA, Barmag, Stadler Anlagenbau, Technip Energies, Fibrant, BASF,** and **Remondis** highlighted the strength of collaborative innovation.

The visit to EREMA's Technical Centre transformed ideas into reality, allowing participants to witness advanced recycling technologies in action. It reinforced an important truth: sustainability is no longer a vision confined to research laboratories—it is becoming an industrial reality driven by shared expertise and practical solutions.

The IRG Networking Day was more than an annual event. It reflected the growing belief that the future of textile recycling depends on collective action. Every discussion, every partnership, and every shared insight strengthens the foundation of a circular textile economy.

The journey toward sustainability is not defined by competition. It is defined by cooperation. And when an entire industry moves forward together, innovation becomes the strongest thread weaving the future of textiles.