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BIOGRAPHY

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URBAN MINING, A SUSTAINABLE BUT CHALLENGING SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL

In a more circular economy the products of today should be part of the raw material for the products of tomorrow. To reach this we need to overcome a number of obstacles: Product design needs to take into account reuse, repair and recycling. Present Extended producer responsibility legislation does not give enough incentives; classification of waste is based on contamination content, should be based on risk; monopolies that only focus on reducing cost/maximize profit. Products and material that has been used in society one time, often loses all of its value when it becomes waste. In average <3% of the value is left. There are many reasons for this, fashion and legislation, to avoid extreme down-grading of waste by treating using energy recovery or landfilling, technologies like feed-stock-recycling needs to be applied. In most applications biodegradable plastics are non-sustainable; bio based in most cases the opposite. If a carbon atom is "black" or "green" does not make a big difference if it is circulated in society, but the possibilities to do so are today very limited.