



Sustainable Packaging Innovation Forum USA

Chicago, USA | 27-28 October 2026

From risk to ROI: How to leverage
packaging innovation for new value creation



INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY • DESIGN AND OPERATIONS
STRATEGIC COMPLIANCE • BRAND VALUE AND CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

The conference

This conference brings together 100+ key stakeholders and experts across the packaging and waste value chain, to explore how companies are scaling packaging innovation for long-term value creation. We'll exchange expertise on shared challenges and map the landscape of solutions that meet compliance, consumers, and business needs.

Key themes



Material and design choices

A practical look at how packaging can be designed for the full lifecycle, from sourcing to end-of-life. Exploring material trade-offs, recycled content, and the small design details that impact recyclability and long-term compliance.



Packaging as an asset

How packaging decisions across the value chain influence efficiency, brand perception, and customer experience. From labelling to logistics, aligning systems can improve transparency, reduce waste, and strengthen consumer trust.



The opportunities in compliance

We'll assess how the evolving regulatory landscape is shaping markets, and how to stay ahead. From EPR in the US to global trends, we'll look at infrastructure, investment and cross-industry collaboration key to support companies' compliance efforts.



Innovation for business resilience

Innovation in materials, data, technology and operations deliver business value. We'll focus on best practices: from navigating internal buy-in for innovation, to identifying which emerging solutions are most fit for purpose.

Agenda highlights

- **EPR compliance infrastructure:** what the rules require and what the market can deliver
- **Innovation that sells:** Translating consumer behavior into new market opportunities
- **'Design for recycling':** Why we need more dialogue between upstream and downstream
- **Circular economy as industrial strategy:** strengthening value chains and local economies
- **The role of labels:** traceability, compliance and consumer education
- **Closing the loop:** How to develop viable end markets for secondary materials?
- **Reuse at scale:** What works, what doesn't, and pathways forward
- **In conversation with CalRecycle:** What's the state of play in the largest US market?
- **AI and automation in sustainable packaging:** Industry applications and strategic opportunities

Day 0 visit – October 26

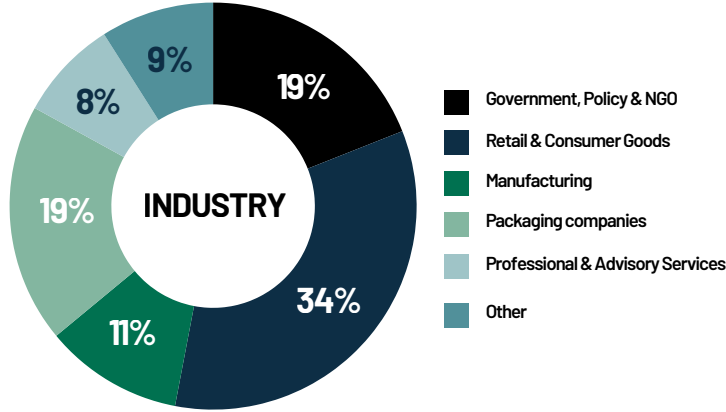
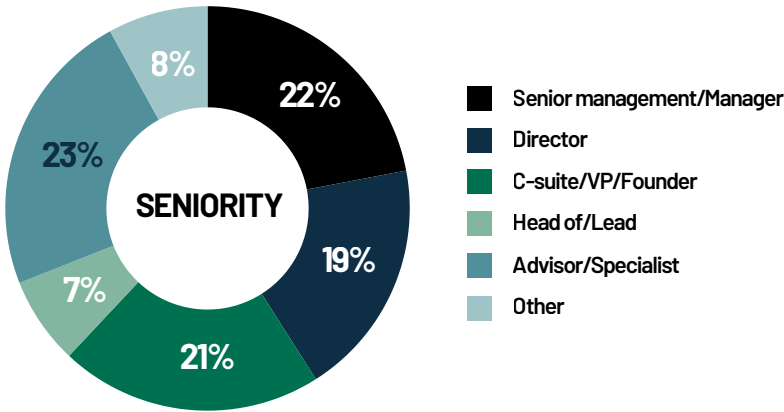


Join us for an exclusive **on-site visit** to **TerraCycle's new North American Operations Center** in Aurora. We'll tour the site, seeing how they sort through the waste they receive through their free recycling programs, Zero Waste Boxes, and Commercial recycling business.

This pre-conference activity is strictly for attendees of the forum. We have limited spaces available for this visit, so make sure to register soon to express interest.

REGISTER NOW AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION

2025 Audience breakdown



2026 GOLD SPONSORS



2026 RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



2026 KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



2026 IMPACT PARTNERS



NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect with senior manager and C-suite level industry professionals during **six hours** of designated networking during the event.

**DAY
01**

Registration and breakfast **60 min.**
Morning break **30 min.**
Lunchtime **60 min.**
Afternoon break **30 min.**
Networking drinks **60+ min.**

**DAY
02**

Registration and breakfast **60 min.**
Morning break **30 min.**
Lunchtime **60 min.**



REGISTER AND NETWORK WITH KEY INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

2026 speakers



Amanda Marti
Mc Donald's
US circularity lead



William Singleton
Mars
Director global packaging,
innovation and sustainability



Don Sparaco
Smurfit Westrock
President, US and Canada
corrugated packaging



Zoe Heller
CalRecycle
Director



Phoebe Leppla
Molson Coors Beverage Company
Senior manager, R&D
packaging development



Jamal Booker
The Coca-Cola Company
Vice president global public affairs,
communications and sustainability



Neha Mallik
Keurig Dr Pepper
Director of product management
and innovation



Xinnan Li
Rabobank
Vice president, analyst packaging
and logistics, Raboresearch



Jason Pelz
Tetra Pak
Vice president sustainability
US and Canada



Ellen Jacowski
Mastercard
Chief sustainability officer



Rachel Taplinger
L'Oréal
Head of Sustainability, L'Oréal US
Dermatological Beauty Division



David Lickstein
Kenvue
Senior director, global head of
packaging innovation, sustainability,
and experience



2026 advisory group



David Clark
Amcors
Chief sustainability officer



Linda Roman
Kraft Heinz
Director of packaging,
R&D North America



Sarah Kircher
Novolex
Vice president sustainability



Marco Volpi
Nestlé
Global packaging data lead



Jacob Rognaugh
Tomra
Vice president public affairs,
head of global development



Aisha Stenning
Ellen MacArthur Foundation
Business action lead, plastics



[FOLLOW THIS LINK FOR THE FULL SPEAKER LIST](#)

What's different about this forum?

INNOVATION FORUM IS:

- ✓ **Candid:** Entirely off-the-record discussion that enables open and honest disclosure from speakers and genuine participation from the audience
- ✓ **Practical:** A clear focus on the practical and actionable guidance that can drive change throughout industries and supply chains
- ✓ **Focused:** We provide enough time, resources and expertise to the issues that really matter. We don't skate the surface, but engage experts the room to facilitate progressive dialogue and share constructive insights

INNOVATION FORUM IS **NOT**:

- ✗ **A PR platform:** Enthusiastic speakers are NOT given free rein to fill a session presenting their companies, allowing no time to actually get to the crux of the issues
- ✗ **A talking shop:** This is NOT an opportunity for a group people in a room to simply agree with everything said, regardless of outcomes
- ✗ **All promise, no delivery:** We will NOT promise what we can't deliver. The issues covered are complex. They won't be solved at a two-day conference. But we will help deliver progress through in-depth, constructive and practical advice around specific issues



Testimonials

At this link is a taster of what it's like to attend one of our Sustainable Packaging Innovation Forums. Hear directly from senior executives at **Amcor**, **Coca-Cola Europacific Partners**, **Bayer** and **Dow** at the 2025 forum in Amsterdam.

"Very insightful and impactful forum, allowing for good conversations. The topics covered were very relevant, the absence of PowerPoints made discussions very interactive, and my objectives to learn and network were met."

"Enjoyed the content, great speakers, and good conversations in between. Big thanks to Innovation Forum for hosting such a great event."

"I was looking to network, have a honest overview of other parts of the industry, and get inspired. I really liked the open format, without slides and lots of time to ask questions, giving the audience the opportunity to contribute to each session."

"The event attracted a great cross-section of knowledgeable and senior attendees. The venue wasn't too big and there was time to have a good conversations."

"It was great to be part of the sessions – and so good that there were no ppt's for company advertisements! Great to have some actual discussion."

Annebeth de Witte
Thai Union Group PLC



Susanne Mathis-Alig
Mondelēz International



Monica Ordegno
PepsiLipton



Julie Vaughan
Reed Smith PLL



Gramae Smith
Mars



Sustainable Packaging Innovation Forum



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Registration details

Secure your place now for the best price

EARLY BIRDS				FULL PRICE
Save \$500 <i>Offer ends 15th May</i>	Save \$400 <i>Offer ends 26th June</i>	Save \$300 <i>Offer ends 21st Aug</i>	Save \$200 <i>Offer ends 2nd October</i>	<i>After 2nd October</i>
NGO/Academic pass \$800	NGO/Academic pass \$900	NGO/Academic pass \$1,000	NGO/Academic pass \$1,100	NGO/Academic pass \$1,300
Corporate pass \$900	Corporate pass \$1,000	Corporate pass \$1,200	Corporate pass \$1,300	Corporate pass \$1,500
Service provider pass \$1,200	Service provider pass \$1,300	Service provider pass \$1,400	Service provider pass \$1,500	Service provider pass \$1,700

REGISTER HERE >>>

VENUE

The Study at University of Chicago

1227 E 60th Street
Chicago, IL
United States
60637



Sponsorship opportunities

The two-day forum will bring together 100+ industry leaders and sustainability experts from across the packaging value chain. We'll discuss the link between R&D and commercial solutions, looking at material innovation, emerging technologies and regulatory drivers.

Our network



**Newsletter/
database**

30,000+

sustainability
professionals



**Twitter
accounts**

10,000+

followers



Webinars

700-1200+

regular sign-ups



**Website
audience**

110,000+

annual users



**LinkedIn
channels**

20,000+

sustainability
professionals



**Podcast
channel**

8,000+

monthly
downloads



Promote a discussion that aligns with your values, sustainability credentials and leadership position



Engage a highly relevant audience of stakeholders around your sustainability programmes and initiatives



Boost awareness of your programmes through extensive exposure in the months around the conference



Support and drive progress in material innovation, and R&D and commercial solutions to deliver circular packaging systems

EXHIBITION AND INNOVATION ZONE

The forum will showcase the leading innovations and solutions that assist business in creating sustainable and circular packaging solutions. These solutions will be positioned in the very heart of the networking area. Exhibitors will make the most of prominent exposure over 6+ hours of dedicated networking time, creating long lasting connections with decision makers all pre-qualified with specific sustainability challenges in your field.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Around the forum, we'll be continuing the conversation through sponsored workshops, roundtables and webinars. Created bespoke, these discussions are designed to strengthen dialogue and build relationships with key stakeholders. These engagement opportunities allow business to utilise IF's reputation and network to ensure key insights into policies, programs and initiatives.

Click here for more information >>>

General enquiries: Lia Da Giau | Senior conference manager | lia.dagiau@innovationforum.co.uk

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Partnerships: Diana Kim | Senior marketing manager | diana.kim@innovationforum.co.uk