



Event for EU Green Week

Lithium Extraction, Circular Economy, and Clean Industry: Aligning Environmental Impact, Innovation, and Water Management

Join us to explore the environmental impacts of lithium extraction and its connection to the circular economy, the Clean Industry Deal, and the EU Water Strategy. Discussions will address environmental challenges in lithium mining and opportunities offered by circular economy.

This event will focus on the environmental impacts of lithium extraction and its connection to the EU's circular economy, alongside its relevance to the **Clean Industry Deal** and the **EU Water Strategy**. Discussions will address sustainability challenges and opportunities in lithium mining, which is crucial for green energy solutions.

Objectives:

- Explore the environmental impacts of lithium extraction, including water depletion, pollution, habitat destruction and the need of environmental strategic planning.
- Discuss how the EU's Clean Industry Deal, Circular and Water Resilience Strategy can guide more responsible lithium mining and processing practices.
- Showcase innovative lithium recycling and reuse approaches, linking them to circular economy principles and water management strategies.
- Foster dialogue on EU policies that promote more responsible lithium supply chains while protecting water resources and advancing industrial decarbonization.

Target Audience:

European Commission officials (DG ENVI, DG GROW, DG CLIMA, DG TRADE, DG JRC, DG INTPA, and DG AGRI), industry leaders, environmental NGOs, water experts, consumers, and circular economy stakeholders.

Format:

The Moderator, Fred Pierce, journalist, will set the scene.

Veronica Manfredi, Director of Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition – DG ENVI (TBC)

Insights into how the EU's Clean Industry Deal, EU Water Strategy and Circular Economy strategy can guide industries, including lithium extraction, towards more responsible and water-efficient practices, ensuring that the green transition is both eco-friendly and resource-efficient



Roman Baigun – Coordinator of the Saving High Andean Wetlands Program [Wetlands International LAC / Fundación Humedales](#) will present the situation of lithium extraction in the Argentina-Bolivia-Chile lithium triangle.

Dr. Cecilia Tortajada, Professor in Practice of Environmental Innovation, University of Glasgow, UK (TBC), discussing the *Challenges of water usage in lithium extraction and how sustainable water management practices can be integrated into the EU's broader environmental policy framework*

Case study presentations

Circular Materials Italy (TBC) will showcase EU-based lithium recycling initiatives, demonstrating how circular economy principles and responsible water usage can mitigate environmental impacts.

Q&A sessions will engage participants in deep discussions on how to reconcile the need for lithium with the EU's environmental goals, focusing on water efficiency, industrial sustainability, and circular economy principles (using Slido and other tools)