RENEWABLE
CARBON
INITIATIVE
REPORT

Structure and Governance of the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI)

March 2026

Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI)
www.renewable-carbon-initiative.com

Table of Contents

1 Foreword

The governance and structure of RCI were developed when RCI was founded in the year 2020, with only about ten members and a small budget. Today, RCI has 80 members and an annual budget of around €700,000.

In spring 2025, the RCI board requested an evaluation and update of the governance and structure from the RCI office, working closely together with the board.

Over the last nine months, the governance, structure and processes have been evaluated in three online meetings and through several email discussions between the RCI office and board members. This included the incorporation of feedback by the board as well as realisation of recommendations and suggestions provided by members.

The process is now finalised, with many details having been further developed, clarified, and updated. Good alignment has been achieved in a constructive reform process. Several processes were documented in detail for the first time.

The RCI office compiled all the details and decisions in this leaflet, which was then shared in February 2026 with the board. The board was asked to conduct a final review, discuss the leaflet, and vote on it. A strong majority agreed to the text without making any further changes.

Now that the final agreement has been reached, the leaflet will be shared with all members.

Every January from now on, the board and the office will review the leaflet and update it as needed. It will then be shared and discussed with all members again.

Huerth, 16 March 2026

Christopher vom Berg and **Michael Carus,**
Executive Managers of the RCI Office

2 The Main Principles of RCI

The RCI document “Main Principles of the RCI” was published in 2023, setting out **twelve principles to which RCI’s members have committed** for a renewable chemicals and materials industry to achieve a net-zero circular economy by 2050.

https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/23-10-16-Main-Principles-of-the-Renewable-Carbon-Initiative-RCI.pdf

For example, the important **principle 10**: RCI recognises that, in regard to the three sources of renewable carbon, there is **no *a priori* hierarchy** or discrimination between various types of **biomass** (e.g. first and second generation), utilisation of different **CO_2 sources** (biogenic and fossil) or mechanical and chemical **recycling** options. The technology-open concept allows taking specific regional and application-related features into account to identify the most sustainable carbon source. While not every application based on renewable carbon is automatically sustainable, **no fossil-based application will ever be sustainable** (see next 2 pages).

Main Principles of the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI)

October 2023

How to achieve a net-zero circular economy by 2050?
Twelve principles for a sustainable chemical and materials industry:

1. RCI and its member companies want to **contribute to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050** by promoting the concept of renewable carbon. This is key to tackle raw-material related emissions from industry, which are a major part of Scope 3 emissions.
2. RCI supports the well-known strategies of decarbonisation for the energy sector, i.e. the **massive expansion of renewable energies and the hydrogen economy,** complemented by the utilisation of carbon-containing **e-fuels** based on green hydrogen and **sustainable biofuels** in particular for aviation and container shipping.
3. RCI stresses the need for **a robust, innovative and sustainable chemical and material sector as crucial** for achieving net-zero in almost all industrial sectors. Tackling energy emissions will not be enough – raw material related emissions also play an important role to achieve climate neutrality. Chemicals and derived materials are used in almost all applications.
4. RCI promotes the **strategy of defossilisation** as decarbonisation is not possible for chemicals and materials, because they are largely based on carbon. For chemicals and materials, carbon is a permanent need with rising demand. Today, 90% stems from fossil resources. In our vision, these are to be replaced by renewable carbon by 2050.
5. RCI facilitates the **transformation of the entire chemical and material industry** from fossil to renewable carbon as a key target. Replacing embedded fossil carbon – the carbon in the molecules – by renewable carbon is the biggest transformation of the chemical and material industry since the industrial revolution.
6. **Renewable Carbon entails all carbon sources** that avoid or substitute the use of any additional fossil carbon from the ground. Renewable carbon can come from the biosphere, atmosphere or technosphere – but not from the geosphere. This means that biomass, utilisation of CO_2 (CCU) and recycling are the only available sources for renewable carbon. They can circulate between biosphere, atmosphere or technosphere, creating **sustainable carbon cycles.**

7. **Renewable carbon serves as a strong guiding principle** for a sustainable future of the chemical industry. The chemical industry must decouple from fossil carbon from the ground as a raw material and the renewable carbon concept delivers concise ideas on how to achieve the necessary transformation. It leads to effective **carbon management,** enabling more than 1 Gt of embedded renewable carbon to supply the chemical industry's growing demand by 2050.
8. RCI maintains that renewable carbon as a guiding principle contributes to the **rapid transformation of the chemical industry,** as it leaves flexibility for actors in the value chain and offers manyfold investment opportunities in terms of raw materials and technologies.
9. RCI envisages comprehensive **carbon management** as integral for organising the complex transition – in time and volume – from today's fossil carbon from the ground to renewable energy and to renewable carbon across all industrial sectors. This management will not only require effort from the industries, but should be structured and directed by policy measures, technology developments and major investments. This comprehensive setting would offer certainty to industry and brands to make the system change to renewable carbon.
10. RCI recognises that, in regard to the three sources of renewable carbon, there is **no *a priori* hierarchy or discrimination** between various types of **biomass** (e.g. first and second generation), utilisation of different **CO_2 sources** (biogenic and fossil) or mechanical and chemical **recycling** options. The technology-open concept allows taking specific regional and application-related features into account to identify the most sustainable carbon source. While not every application based on renewable carbon is automatically sustainable, **no fossil-based application will ever be sustainable.**
11. RCI commissions **science-based reports** to provide knowledge on and shape the renewable carbon transformation, **supports collaboration** between stakeholders to stimulate investment, and publishes **position papers** to advise policy makers.
12. RCI advocates for an **appropriate policy framework** that involves carbon management and which includes:
    - Carbon recycling at all levels;
    - A robust circular economy;
    - Science-based selection of sustainable biomass streams;
    - Utilisation also of fossil CO_2 emissions as long as they exist;
    - Acceptance of a wide range of chemical recycling processes;
    - Different legislative treatment of products based on fossil or renewable carbon sources; and
    - New methods such as Mass Balance and Free Attribution (MBFA) if the replacement of fossil carbon is proven.

3 Key Policy Messages

The RCI document “Key Policy Messages” was published in 2023, describing a set of core key policy messages that the RCI jointly agreed upon. These seven messages are:

- Renewable carbon and comprehensive carbon management need to become integral guiding principles of policies to achieve truly sustainable carbon cycles.
- Adopt a precise definition of “non-fossil, sustainable” carbon and then adopt a legally binding target for 20% sustainable, non-virgin-fossil carbon content
- Suitable measures to support the 20% goal would be
  - Material- and product focused policies that promote all three renewable carbon sources,
  - CCU receiving at least the same support as CCS and
  - Recognition and promotion of chemical recycling technologies
- Support the transformation of existing chemical infrastructure from fossil to renewable carbon and support the transformation of biofuels plants into chemical suppliers
- Support the massive expansion of renewable energies
- Develop standards, certificates and labels for renewable carbon
- Phase out financial support, tax advantages and tax exemptions for fossil feedstocks

See next 3 pages, download available at:
https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/23-07-05_RCI_Policy-Messages.pdf

RENEWABLE CARBON INITIATIVE

Key Policy Messages

Shape the Future of the Chemical and Material Industry

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renewable-carbon-initiative.com

What is RCI?

The Renewable Carbon Initiative is an interest group of companies that are committed to and pioneering an accelerated shift from fossil carbon towards renewable carbon sources as feedstock for chemicals and materials. RCI and its member companies want to make an important contribution to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Biomass, CO_2 & Recycling
Carbon from above the ground

Crude Oil, Natural Gas & Coal
Carbon from below the ground

What is Renewable Carbon?

Renewable carbon entails all carbon sources that avoid or substitute the use of any additional fossil carbon from the geosphere. Renewable carbon can come from the atmosphere, biosphere or technosphere ("from above the ground") – but not from the geosphere ("from below the ground").

This means that biomass, carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) and recycling are the only available sources for renewable carbon. They can circulate between biosphere, atmosphere or technosphere, creating sustainable carbon cycles.

RCI Key Policy Messages

1

Renewable carbon and comprehensive carbon management need to become integral guiding principles of policies to achieve truly sustainable carbon cycles.

- → Feedstock base of chemicals and materials and carbon embedded in their molecules should be considered by relevant policies.
- → Create a level playing field for chemicals and materials to other climate relevant policy sectors, such as energy and storage.
- → A "Carbon Management Regulation" should be considered as a tool to accelerate the phasing out of fossil carbon in the chemical and materials industry.

2

Adopt a precise definition of "non-fossil, sustainable" carbon as described in the Sustainable Carbon Cycles Communication with the available renewable carbon sources in mind.

Then **adopt a legally binding target for 20 % sustainable, non-virgin-fossil carbon content** in chemicals and plastics which is outlined in the Communication.

3

To support this overall goal of 20 %, several measures would be suitable:

- → Material- and product focused policies (e.g. PPWR, Ecodesign) should promote **all three renewable carbon sources** as alternatives to virgin fossil feedstock. This should also be reflected in the revision of the Waste Framework Directive.
- → CCU should receive – at least – the same support as CCS and should be deployed as a key strategic net-zero technology.
- → Recognise and promote chemical recycling technologies to increase the amount of recycled materials from hard-to-recycle waste streams.

4

Support the transformation of existing chemical infrastructure from fossil to renewable carbon and support the transformation of biofuels plants into chemical suppliers, without discriminating against existing productions from renewable feedstocks.

5

Support the massive expansion of renewable energies from solar and wind power to produce green hydrogen for CCU and optimised biomass utilisation.

6

Develop standards, certificates and labels for renewable carbon in products in order to create transparency and trust for the transition.

7

Phase out financial support, tax advantages and tax exemptions for fossil feedstocks.

Why is Renewable Carbon important?

Using fossil resources is the main reason for global warming. Approximately 70 % of all human made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions stem from fossil carbon from the ground.[1] This means that a drastic shift away from fossil carbon is a core element of any strategy seriously aiming to reduce climate change to a minimum and stay within the 1.5° goal of the Paris agreement. The EU has set itself an ambitious net-zero goal by 2050.

While electrification and hydrogen can lead to an almost complete decarbonisation in the energy sector, this is not possible for the chemical and material industries that need carbon in their molecules. This embedded carbon is usually emitted into the atmosphere at products' end of life if not collected and recycled. Such emissions contribute between 50 % and 90 % of the overall emissions of given products.

Therefore, to achieve true net-zero, material-related emissions need to be urgently addressed. Here, a shift to renewable carbon sources from biomass, direct CO_2 utilisation or recycling is the corresponding strategy – as acknowledged in the Commission's Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles (2021)[2] . Renewable energies and renewable carbon will enable the defossilisation of our economic system.

To which specific EU policy objectives does Renewable Carbon contribute?

Objectives laid out in the European Green Deal[3], the NextGenerationEU[4] plan and the Transition Pathway for the Chemical Industry[5]:

- **Climate change mitigation,** achieving the 1.5°C target, by addressing the "invisible carbon footprint" of embedded carbon in chemicals and materials. To achieve true net-zero by 2050, we need to address (Scope 3) emissions at end of life, which can only be achieved by changing the carbon source for materials and products from fossil to renewable carbon.
- **Independence from fossil feedstock imports**
- **Competitiveness and innovation** of the European industry
- **Circular economy and zero-pollution** ambition for a toxic-free environment – using waste, wastewater and industrial off-gases as valuable resources
- **Rural development** – farmers can become chemical feedstock providers

Renewable carbon enables truly sustainable carbon cycles, follows the waste hierarchy, considers the cascading use principle and keeps materials in use.

1 IPCC (2021): Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/

2 European Commission 2021: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Sustainable Carbon Cycles. Brussels, 15.12.2021. https://climate.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/com_2021_800_en_0.pdf

3 European Commission 2019: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The European Green Deal. Brussels, 11.12.2019. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

4 European Commission 2020: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Europe's moment: Repair and prepare for the Next Generation. Brussels, 27.05.2020. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0456&from=EN

5 European Commission 2023: Transition Pathway for the Chemical Industry. Brussels, January 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/54595

4 Unique Structure of RCI – the Basis of the RCI Reputation and Success

Self-concept: RCI success is based on our unique structure – RCI is not an industry lobby group

- **No focus on a single sector**: RCI is NOT acting as industrial lobbyist for a specific sector. The objective is NOT to influence legislation, regulation or government policies for the benefit of **only one** specific, represented industry or technology.
- Our science-based, objective approach establishes a **trusted and credible foundation with policy-makers**, ensuring our advice is welcomed as a valued and influential resource in the policy-making process.
- RCI is recognised as **interest group and think tank** with **science-based advocacy,** presented by the RCI office

RCI is an interest group / think tank led by nova-Institute with a clear and ambitious overarching mission

- **RCI mission statement**: *"The RCI is an interest group with the aim to support and speed up the transition from fossil carbon to renewable carbon for all organic chemicals and materials."* (*cf.* **Interest Group's Design and Structure** all members agreed to: https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/interest-groups-design-and-structure/)
- **Science-based core**: The science-based RCI background reports from nova and additional scientists address critical questions relevant for policy-making. They are one of the most important and unique activities of RCI and play a key role to fulfil this mission. The impact of the reports and position papers is significant and unquestionable.
- **High recognition and reputation in Brussels**: In particular due to our scientific approach, RCI is highly recognised in Brussels and Member States, and a main reason why RCI has been able to build up a strong Brussels network (more than 100 Commission contacts) in only five years (since 2020). Here again, the highly recognised nova experts are essential.
- **nova-Institute is the scientific backbone of RCI**: RCI is represented by nova scientists (RCI Office, WG leaders and project scientists), who are the driving force for this mission across a broad range of sectors and industries. The reputation ("thought-leading") of nova experts is RCI's key to success in advocating on behalf of the organisation in Brussels and across the Member States.

RCI is tackling a specific, enormous challenge which needs a special structure and governance

- **Agile**: From the very early days on, the intention was always to develop RCI into a large but agile alliance. The structures are designed with this in mind and work perfectly to continue the mission to change the entire world of chemistry – strongly and at a fast pace.
- **Diversity as strength, but also challenge**: RCI, by design, includes very diverse players with diverse focus points. It needs strong and sustained moderation by the RCI executive office to keep the very different sectors (feedstock, processing, applications) and technologies on board; only in RCI do food crops and CCU work together on a level playing field. This is not a coincidence, but the basis for RCI. (see Chapter 2)

- **Clear role of the board**: The board is assembled and (should be) balanced from members of all different RCI sectors, defined by an active role in RCI. The board decides on budget allocation and approval of all RCI publications. (see Chapter 6.4)
- **The unique governance is essential** and guarantee the continued success of RCI, and is therefore not up for discussion. Design, sharpening and further development of processes within the existing RCI structures is a continuous task for RCI office and board.

The successful structure of RCI is locked-in

In the RCI official "**Interest Group's Design and Structure**" all members agreed to: https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/interest-groups-design-and-structure/ which says

- §3 in "Interest Group's Design and Structure":
- 3 Changes to the design and structure
- 3.1. Changes to the design and structure of the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI) will only be proposed to the Board by nova-Institut.
- 3.2. Both a 2/3 majority of the Board and a simple majority of the members are required for adoption.

The processes within the structure can and will be developed and fine-tuned, and the RCI office is thankful for any critical input in this context.

What does RCI offer its Members?

The global economy is undergoing a fundamental transformation from fossil-based to renewable carbon. An RCI membership is not just about sustainability – it is about securing a competitive edge in a €26 trillion transformation. In an era where 75% of companies view sustainability as a value creation opportunity, joining RCI delivers measurable returns that extend far beyond environmental compliance. By joining over 80 industry leaders in RCI, you gain privileged access to policy, reduce regulatory risks, unlock new revenue streams through renewable carbon technologies and build lasting partnerships essential for success. While competitors struggle to meet 2030 emissions targets, our members are actively shaping the policies that will determine market winners.

Act now

The EU is rapidly advancing regulations governing carbon used in chemicals and materials. Proactive investment in renewable carbon today will avoid significantly higher compliance costs tomorrow. For an annual investment of €12,500 (with reductions for SMEs and start-ups) – a fraction of the future compliance costs – you secure a voice in shaping the future framework and gain access to the following critical benefits, designed to build scientific credibility, secure regulatory advantages, and create a lasting competitive advantage.

Participate on your terms

Engage as much or as little as your goals demand. Your level of involvement is flexible, allowing you to choose a participation style that matches your goals and capacity. Achieve significant value as an informed observer, drive the agenda by contributing to Working Groups, or shape strategic direction as a board member. The choice is yours.

RENEWABLE CARBON INITIATIVE CO_2

RCI's Unique Value Proposition: Science Meets Policy

Evidence-based authority, not just lobbying

RCI differs fundamentally from traditional industry associations in its scientific approach. Our publications are science-based and recognised. Our publications – such as those on Carbon Flows, on LCA methodologies for renewable carbon or on biomass availability for the chemical industry until 2050 – set industry standards and are used as references by EU regulators. This scientific credibility gives RCI members a decisive advantage: when the European Commission develops policies, RCI positions are already incorporated into the discourse.

Foresight and strategy – privileged intelligence

RCI provides members with early and exclusive intelligence into EU policy developments and market shifts, enabling them to make proactive decisions and develop competitive strategies. Due to our direct engagement with EU institutions, our members receive insights into regulations months or even years before competitors.

Direct policy influence: science-based shaping rather than following regulations

RCI members do not just receive policy intelligence – they actively shape regulations and industry standards through coordinated feedback, involvement in advisory boards, and collaboration with policymakers and business leaders. All advocacy is grounded in scientific evidence, ensuring our arguments are robust and credible. Our WG Policy and the Executive Office maintain continuous dialogue with EU Commission officials, providing structured input into critical documents.

Beyond regulations, RCI also shapes relevant key enablers for the transition to renewable carbon, such as mass balance, certification, industry standards and methodology, for example through our participation in the PEF Technical Advisory Board. This way, RCI shapes not just policy but the entire playing field for renewable carbon solutions.

Knowledge sharing and capacity building

RCI builds member expertise through expert workshops and webinars on critical topics, for example on LCA methodologies of biomass availability. These sessions, often held in collaboration with external stakeholders like BIC or SBTI, are designed to disseminate knowledge and foster dialogue on the most pressing topics. They provide a direct channel to access current information, exchange opinions, and discuss with high-level experts from across the membership.

This empowers members to build internal know-how and future-proof their teams. Additionally, the Roundtable format allows for strategic, member-driven discussions to foster unparalleled cross-pollination opportunities between multinationals – all with the aim to replace fossil resources and build a sustainable, profitable future.

6 The Bodies of RCI

The bodies of RCI are:

- Members (Chapter 6.1)
- Partners (Chapter 6.2)
- Board (Chapter 6.4)
- Working Groups members (Chapter 7.4)
- Project Advisory Board (Chapter 7.3)
- RCI Office (Chapter 6.3)
- Related nova experts (Chapter 6.3)

The graphic on the following page illustrated the structure of the RCI and its connections to different bodies.

The Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

nova-Institute

- Initiator and scientific backbone
- Organisation, management and coordination of RCI

MEMBERS

Board

- Strategic direction
- Budget allocation
- Highly active
- Max. 20 members

General assembly

- 2–3 main representatives per member
- Identify / define priorities of RCI
- Decide on future projects

PARTNERS

- Support and promote each other
- Advise on specific topics

ACTIVITIES

- Advocacy
- Scientific background reports
- Position papers
- Networking

WORKING GROUPS - Involvement of all interested members

WG Labelling

- Development of a renewable carbon share (RCS) certificate and label

WG Policy

- Position papers
- Factsheets
- Stakeholder dialogues
- Public consultations of regulations

WG Recycling

- Chemical and mechanical recycling
- Position papers
- Strategic reports

WG Sustainability

- Deep understanding and harmonisation of sustainability assessment and reporting
- Position papers
- Strategic reports

6.1 The Importance of RCI Members

RCI's (growing) membership is critical to the success of RCI, for many reasons:

Diverse Membership: The diversity of RCI members demonstrates the relevance and universality of its vision, bringing together a wide range of sectors and perspectives. This diversity ensures RCI is not considered a sector-specific organisation

Holistic Approach: This diversity enables a comprehensive view, fostering collaborations between companies that might otherwise not interact. It facilitates transformation across the entire value chain, creating new pathways and partnerships.

Collective Wisdom: Members share expertise and learnings, leveraging collective knowledge to drive progress.

Unified Voice: RCI provides a collective voice to shape holistic policies, ensuring that diverse perspectives are represented.

Enhanced Credibility: The presence of large companies, innovative start-ups, and trusted partners increases RCI's visibility and reliability. Well-known brands serve as significant door openers, enhancing credibility.

Influence and Validation: The more prominent and numerous the members, the greater the weight of RCI's voice. Moreover, the alignment of diverse sectors and companies behind RCI's vision serves as proof that transformation is realistic and achievable, underscoring the necessity of all three pillars.

All members should be heard, in addition to working groups, PAB or round table – 1:1 meetings are crucial.

For concrete involvement, please see Chapter 7.3 and Chapter 7.4.

Becoming an RCI member

Any company or institute committed to the mission of defossilising the chemical and material sectors by replacing fossil fuels with renewable carbon can apply for membership via the application form (https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/join/). Applicants must also agree to the twelve principles of RCI (see Chapter 2).

Members of the RCI will be widely visible in the context of Renewable Carbon and receive the following benefits

- Participation in the General Meeting (with all members)
- Being part of the RCI communication, visible as pioneers, part of networking
- Access to planned activities and budget flow
- Participation in working groups on specific topics
- Right of proposal for activities and strategies
- Option to apply for Board membership

RCI has three different member groups and yearly fees

Large-sized enterprises

The category of large-sized enterprises (LEs) is made up of enterprises which a) is made up of enterprises which a) have an annual turnover exceeding 50 million Euro and/or b) employ over 250 employees. Large enterprises are further divided into brand owners and large suppliers.
Annual membership fee: 12,500 €/year

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including research institutes)

The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises (and research institutes) which a) have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million Euro and/or b) employ fewer than 250 persons.
Fee: 6,250 €/year

Start-Ups

A start-up is a company or project set up by an entrepreneur to seek, develop, and validate a scalable economic model. While entrepreneurship refers to all new businesses, including self-employment and businesses that never intend to become registered, start-ups refer to new businesses that intend to grow large beyond the solo founder.
Fee: 2,500 €/year

A potential increase of the annual fee will be discussed with and decided by the RCI Board (see Chapter 6.4)

Satisfaction with the RCI structure and governance

Every year after the summer break, the RCI office conducts a survey with about five to six questions. The results are presented at the General Assembly and are used as an early warning system. The summer 2024 survey clearly showed that RCI members view the structure and governance positively. 94% agreed that RCI's structure is effective in achieving its goals. The first question in the summer 2025 survey was an evaluation of "awareness and satisfaction of RCI's work." The results showed that 86% answered "good" (81%) and "very good" (5%). The full results are available in the RCI internal area, to which all members have access.

Minor update of "Membership Terms and Conditions"

https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/membership-terms-and-conditions/

Old:
§4.1. Membership may be terminated with three months' notice at the end of the membership period.
§4.2. The membership is automatically cancelled if payment is not received in time.

New:
§4.1. Membership may be terminated with three months' notice at the end of the membership period.
§4.2. If membership payments are not received by end of February, access to RCI's internal activities and services can be revoked. Members will no longer be able to access the internal data space, receive the monthly internal RCI newsletter, nor will they be able to join working groups, project advisory boards, board meetings, or round tables. Once the payment is received, all rights will be activated again.

The reason for the change is: The new version more precisely reflects what was originally meant by §4.2. The old version was often misunderstood and interpreted as an additional way to terminate membership.

6.2 The Role of RCI Partners

The partners are industrial associations, interest groups, and environmental and climate groups that share the RCI mission. RCI and its partners support and promote each other. Partners are invited to provide advice on specific topics. They can also be invited to join working groups, project advisory boards, and round tables.

6.3 The RCI Office and the Role of nova-Institute

nova-Institute is the initiator and scientific backbone of RCI. RCI is represented by nova scientists who are the driving force for this mission across a broad range of sectors and industries. The reputation ("thought-leading") of nova experts is RCI's key to success in advocating on behalf of the initiative in Brussels and across the Member States.

Most nova scientist are specifically invited and involved as experts in RCI projects, workings groups and round tables. (see Chapter 7.3 and Chapter 7.4)

Four nova experts are running the **RCI office,** with two executive managers (Christopher vom Berg, Michael Carus), an organising project manager (Verena Roberts) and a scientific coordinator (Anke Schwarzenberger). The RCI office is responsible for organising all RCI activities, including board meetings, round tables, general assemblies, project proposals, project launches, and quality management. The office also publishes monthly newsletters, press releases, and LinkedIn posts. See Chapter 7 for more details.

For the RCI office it is important to delineate the two entities (RCI and nova) clearly. For all RCI activities, the four experts should only use the (new) dedicated email address for RCI executive office: firstname.lastname@renewable-carbon-initiative.com

- All official business and communications related to RCI will be handled exclusively through the new email addresses
- Stakeholders, clients, and partners will be able to easily identify which entity is communicating with them
  - **In official meetings:** The dual role as nova scientists and RCI representatives gives a unique influence in Brussels. But: The RCI office have to pay close attention to ensuring that they always differentiate between what they say as RCI and what they say as nova experts.
- This helps to:
  - reduce potential confusion and mix-ups
  - enhance transparency
  - strengthen the distinct identity in all official correspondence

Additional individual experts from nova-Institute may be granted a designated official email address, a matter to be discussed with the Board. This recognition is intended for individuals who play a significant role in RCI advocacy and representation. For the year 2026, the board has initiated this process for Lara Dammer, who leads RCIs Working Group Policy.

FAQ on the foundation of RCI

Who created the Renewable Carbon Mission?

- nova scientists first published the concepts of embedded and renewable carbon (bio, CO_2, and recycling) in 2014. Since then, the concept has been further developed, and the term “defossilisation” has been introduced.

Where can additional information on all these terms be found?

- The glossary on the initiative’s website provides an overview of the most essential terms related to the concept of renewable carbon. The Renewable Carbon Initiative has done its best to provide its understanding and helpful definitions of common terms in the field of renewable carbon, with the goal to harmonise terminology and improve understanding. https://renewable-carbon-initiative.com/about-us/#glossary

How was the Renewable Carbon Initiative created?

- Eleven leading companies from six countries founded the RCI on 23 September 2020, with nova-Institute with its more than 40 scientists from a wide spectrum of expertise as the initiator, executive office and scientific backbone. Three years later, RCI has grown to nearly 70 members and 11 partners, including well-known large suppliers and brands.
- The RCI mission is based on the nova concept of renewable carbon, which was further developed in detail. See Chapter 2 und Chapter 3.

How is the relation between nova and RCI today?

- nova scientists support the RCI mission with their expertise in working groups, position papers, round tables and projects (see also Chapter 7.3 and Chapter 7.4).
- Four nova experts built the RCI office and organising all activities of RCI.

6.4 The Role of the Board – Function, Responsibility, Capabilities – Ensure Efficient Involvement

Main function & responsibilities of the board are:

- **Strategic direction**: Strategic discussion and **setting of priorities** of future topics.
  While the General Assembly determines the priority topics, the board discusses and agrees on the order in which to address these priorities. The board also decides whether the RCI office and board need to adjust priorities due to urgent demand. The adjustment will be explained at the next General Assembly.
- Control instance / approvals
  - **Budget**: The RCI board approves all RCI budget allocations to the RCI Office, publications, positions, working groups and all types of projects and activities, prepared, documented and monitored by the RCI Office.

- **Publications**: The RCI board approves all RCI publications – press releases, position papers and background reports.
- Decision on **additional board members**
- Decision on **yearly budget split** (see chapter 8 for details)
- Decision on **single activities/project budgets above 20,000 €** (see chapter 8 for details)
- **Every decision for publication of a scientific background report or position paper has to receive a 2/3 majority**
- **Board accountability mechanism**: If the board is not satisfied with the work of the RCI office or if there is significant mistrust, it may escalate matters directly to the CEO of nova-Institute, who is accountable for its management.
- Every January the **document "Structure and Governance"** will be evaluated and, if necessary, updated. The document and related RCI structure and processes will be revisited yearly by the RCI board to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Changes will be presented in a webinar to all members.

How to ensure the efficiency of the RCI board? The focus of the board meetings should be mainly on strategic discussions and priority setting – less discussions on administrative topics, lower frequency of voting:

- **Board meetings shall be focused mainly on strategic discussions and priority settings** → see below
- **Adaptation to board voting,** reduce the number of voting:
  - **Budget voting only above a certain threshold:** Minor changes/additional budget of e.g. up to €20,000 could be decided independently by the RCI Office. **This will of course be documented and presented in detail prior to (board meetings) and during the General Assembly.** This avoids e.g. voting on minor items like booking of rooms, electric equipment, etc. (see also Chapter 8)
  - **Voting system:** Board votings allow for the options of YES, NO or abstention.
  - In case of abstention, the vote of the abstaining board member will not be counted for the calculation of the required 2/3 majority for a decision (reason: in the beginning of RCI, abstentions were allowed but frequently delayed decisions significantly)

Structure and topics RCI board meeting

- **The board meetings** will refocus on the key role of the board – the exchange of views and the **discussion and development of strategies, projects and policy options for the defossilisation process**. The RCI board should function as a **think tank** within RCI.
- Power Point Presentation: Slides for the board meetings shall provide an overview of activities, events and project progress, but **a critical focus shall be on content and strategy**. The presentation will be shared with the board by Monday afternoon, before the board meeting on Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. Sharing earlier would result in missing the latest developments and quality management.
- RCI office will **provide updates on projects, working groups, publications, meetings** at the board meetings – in short form.
- **RCI office keeps administrative discussion lean and efficient,** financial details will be published and discussed before and at the General Assembly, and in the context of each activity/project budget decision above 20.000 €, or i.e. when strictly necessary.

- **Financial decisions are streamlined**, and expenditures below the limit of 20,000 € will not require board approval through voting → Overall simplification of RCI budget distribution, no voting needed for minor budgets. (see Chapter 8)
- **The workload of the board shall be kept manageable and efficient –** by avoiding discussions on aspects with comparatively low relevance – and instead utilise the board's expertise for the key role of guiding the RCI in properly addressing the relevant topics and retaining their strong position.

Composition and Election of the board?

Who is/becomes board member?: The board is set up of all RCI members who wish to play an active part in shaping RCI. The existing board decides on the application by 2/3 majority voting. Every active / interested member may apply for board membership three months after joining. Board members pay the normal annual RCI membership fees (for clarification: no additional costs).

This has proven effective: members who strongly support the concept of renewable carbon are most likely to join the board.

- This system guarantees, that (1) the board membership is mainly linked to the activity of the member – so far, every member, who wants to be active and shape RCI, became a board member – and (2) if a new application raises concerns within the existing board, it can decline the application.
- **The principal limitation is that the board has a maximum of 20 members.** The existing structure can manage a board size of up to 20 members efficiently. Should more than 20 members wish to join the RCI board at some point, it may consider adopting an election format while maintaining balance among the different sectors. The RCI office will organise the election.

7 The Activities of RCI

7.1 The General Assembly

The purpose of the General Assembly is to bring all members together.

Main representatives of RCI form the General Assembly: all members are asked to nominate 2-3 main representatives – Go-To contacts for the RCI office. They receive all communication and are invited to the General meeting.

General Assembly meeting: One physical RCI General Assembly per year (between September and November) in Cologne or Brussels, proposal from RCI office.

The General meeting **includes**

- Looking back to activities, projects, position papers and consultations of the running year
- Memberships and financial situation, status and outlook

- Hot topics for next year: Strategic discussions
- Discussions and voting on project proposals for next year
- Room for members to present their new projects and activities on renewable carbon

7.2 Setting priorities

How are priorities determined by RCI: prioritisation of e.g. key issues, most relevant background reports and position papers, public consultations

Basic principle: Prioritisation should be framed with all members, but flexibility should be retained throughout the year to respond to urgent topics.

The process for setting and adjusting priorities throughout the year has a focus on ensuring that all members feel heard and valued in the decision-making process. Priorities are set by:

- **The General Assembly** (High-level / strategic annual plan)
- The **RCI Board + Office** (more granular, fine-tuning throughout the year at the board meetings)
- **All members** via the RCI Office and RCI meetings in general e.g. RCI board, working groups, PAB, round tables, 1:1 meetings

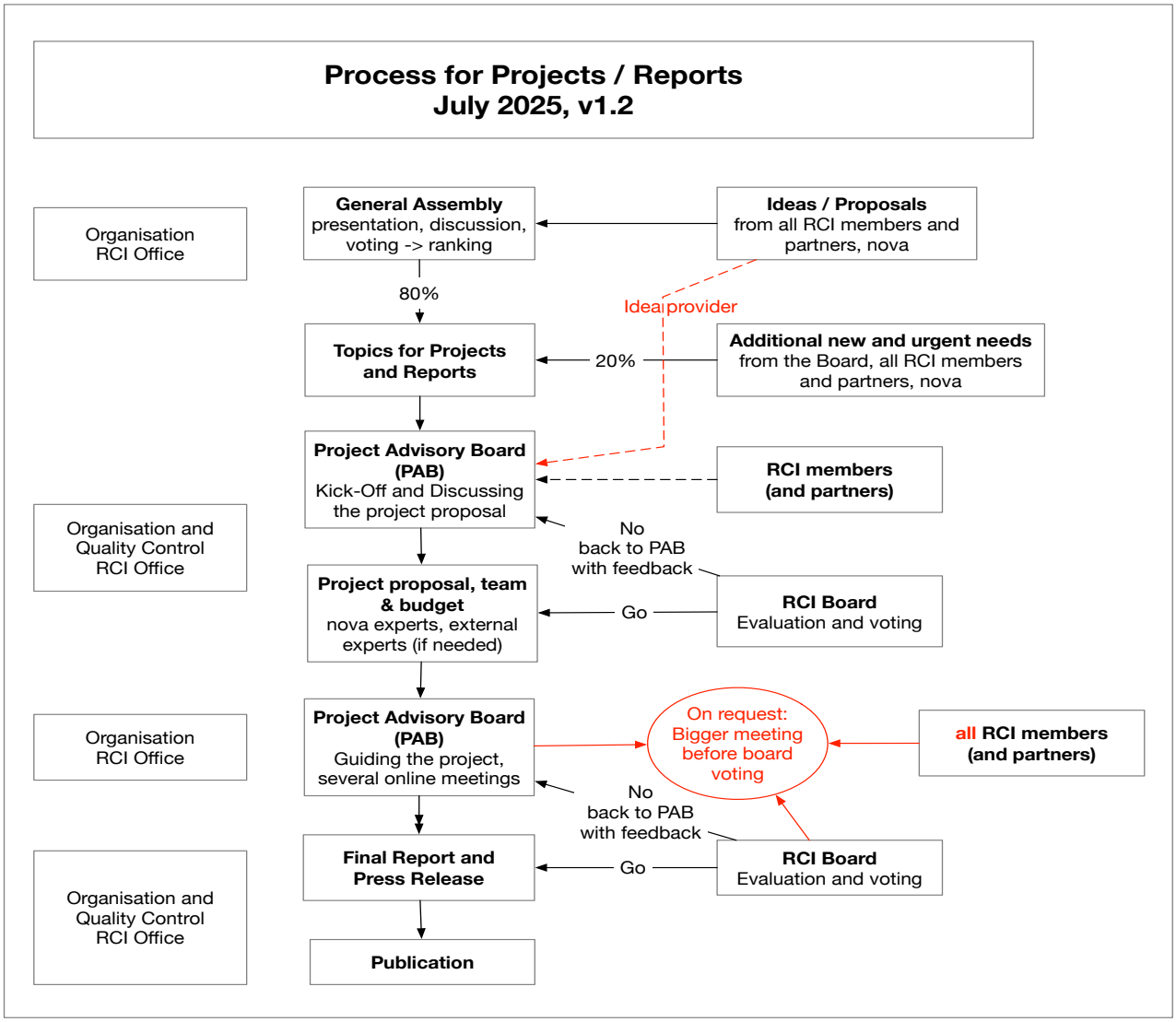
7.3 Involvement of Members and Partners in Projects (PAB)

Members are involved in RCI projects from idea to publication. The process has been adapted based on member feedback and is now documented in detail.

All details are shown in the graphic. The structure of the process for RCI projects / reports that has evolved since 2020, based on experience and feedback from members. RED: Final changes from the board. Some changes/details are highlighted here:

- RCI partners can content-specifically join the PAB.
- The RCI board can approve project report publications if they have been reviewed and agreed on by the project advisory board (PAB).
- The RCI board is the final control before publication but does not assess content. If the board (with a 2/3 majority) rejects a report, it returns to the PAB for further discussion with dissenting board members.
- Board members cannot make content changes without PAB approval; this also applies to position papers in working groups. Please see next subchapter.
- It is essential that publication is only voted on after PAB approval, preventing late-stage content changes and ensuring transparency.
- The board can still block a publication if standards are not met or it conflicts with the RCI mission.

- The science-based background reports are the most important RCI activities in terms of the RCI's reputation in Brussels and among its member states and scientists.



7.4 The Involvement of Members and Role of Working Groups and Position Papers

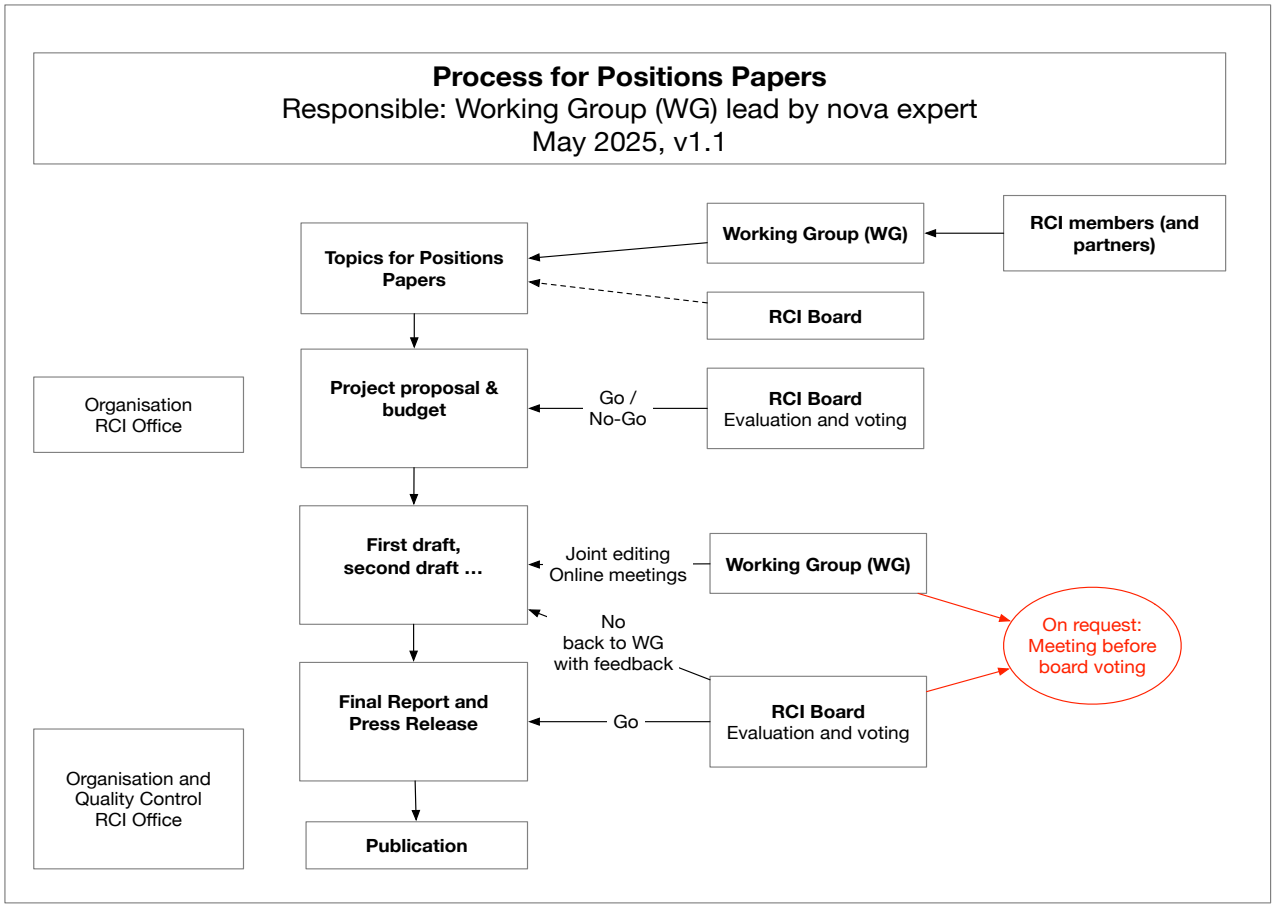
The RCI working groups are **core engines for driving the initiative's overall mission** and a **key pillar for inclusion of all members**, **facilitating exchange** and **finding consensus that lead to the creation of position papers**.

Working groups serve as unique platform to collaboratively identify and engage with key topics, identify and tackle barriers, and build the foundation for renewable carbon **position papers.** They:

- **Are open to all members** with voluntary contribution
- Enable structured **co-creation** with expert input by RCI members
- Incorporate feedback loops to ensure all members can add their voices

Status quo:

- **WG Policy**: Monthly meetings to identify relevant policy items and be able to react to urgent topics in due time
- **WG Sustainability**: Frequent meetings to increasingly discuss relevant sustainability aspects, current focus SBTi and embedded carbon
- **WG Recycling**: Targeted involvement in projects with relevance for recycling (chemical recycling, circularity, potentially upcoming project on MBA)



- **WG Labelling**: Key task of the WG has been achieved, the WG will be shut down. Follow-up work is mainly conducted through the existing Advisory Board for “OK renewable” (next meeting envisioned for Q1 2026).
- Additional Working Groups can be initiated based on RCI member demand.

The following graphic shows the process for a position paper, from ideas/topics to publication. The structure of the process for RCI position papers has evolved since 2020, and is based on experience and feedback from members. RED: Final changes from the board.

7.5 Advocacy and Expert Group Networks

RCI is currently represented in several formal EU bodies and alliances and also participates in various working groups and stakeholder formats. The most important “flagship” engagements are listed below, but far from complete:
Expert Groups, Advisory Boards and Alliances

- **Environmental Footprint Technical Advisory Board (EF TAB):** RCI has been appointed by the European Commission as a member of the EF TAB, which advises on technical issues related to PEF/OEF, PEFCR, and OEFSR. In this forum, RCI contributes perspectives on biogenic carbon, CCU, and recycling to methodological discussions.
- **Ecodesign Forum (ESPR):** RCI is an official member of the Ecodesign Forum, the expert group for implementing the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation. This places RCI directly at the interface of product policy, product passports, information requirements, and material requirements.
- **Critical Chemicals Alliance (CCA*)* is an initiative launched by the** *European Commission,* as part of the **European Chemicals Industry Action Plan – RCI was appointed as a member as of December 2025.**
- **Industrial Carbon Management – WG CCU:** RCI participates in meetings of the working group on Carbon Capture and Utilisation and contributes obstacles, opportunities, and recommendations for industrial CCU applications.

8 RCI Finances

In January, the RCI office prepares the budget for the current year, which must be approved by the RCI board. This serves as a rough, target budget calculation for the respective year, and ensures board awareness and the opportunity to intervene. The RCI office tracks the ongoing financial flow and makes it transparently available to all members. The budget is split into three pools:

- **RCI office**: all organisational and administrative items, internal communication and member meetings (incl. 1:1), overall strategy, general assembly
- **Projects**: RCI projects and science-based reports
- **Advocacy**: working groups, position papers, outreach to policy & public

The table shows the budget split for the last four years, and a proposal for distribution in 2026:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Proposal 2026
RCI office	33%	29%	42%	32%	**30%**
Projects	47%	35%	28%	38%	**35%**
Advocacy	20%	37%	29%	30%	**35%**

Based on these experiences and discussions in the board, the budget split for the year 2026 is proposed as follows:

- RCI office: 30%
- Projects and science-based reports: 35%
- Advocacy: working groups, position papers, outreach to policy & public: 35%

The three budget pools are detailed below:

RCI office: 30%

All expenses will be tracked and access to the tracked expenses will be granted to the board. They will be presented and discussed with the board prior to the General Assembly and then presented to all members at the General Assembly.

For expenses greater than €20,000, the RCI office requires a decision from the RCI board before spending. All expenses below €20,000 can be decided by the RCI office alone, but are of course tracked and available for evaluation.

Employment and physical office costs are not tracked in detail due to the wide range of activities.

Should special demand require changes in budget shares, this will be only possible if the board agrees.

Projects and science-based reports: 35%

The budgets for projects and science-based reports will pe prepared by the RCI office and decided by the RCI board (also for projects below €20,000). Projects can only be conducted in the framework of 35% of the total budget.

All expenses will be tracked and made available to the board. They will be presented and discussed with the board prior to the General Assembly and then presented to all members at the General Assembly.

Should special demand require changes in budget shares, this will be only possible if the board agrees.

Advocacy: 35%

The budget for working groups, position papers and outreach to policy & public (incl. travelling and hotel costs) is limited to 35% of the total budget. Starting new topics or working groups with a budget of more than €20,000 requires a decision from the RCI board before allocating.

All expenses will be tracked and made available to the board. They will be presented and discussed with the board prior to the General Assembly and then presented to all members at the General Assembly.

Should special demand require changes in budget shares, this will be only possible if the board agrees.

The budget split will be evaluated at the end of the year, and a new proposal will be developed for the following year.

Special nova daily rate

The standard nova daily rate is €1,600 €/day (since 2023), previously it was €1,400/day. Because of the special relationship between nova and RCI, nova offers a 20% discount on the daily rate.

From 2020 until 2025, the discounted daily rate stayed at €1,400/day-20% = €1,100/day, although nova increased the standard rate in 2023 to €1,600/day. From 2026 on, the special rate will be adapted to €1,600/day-20% = €1,280/day.

9 RCI and nova-Institute – Benefits and Synergies

Scientific expertise and objectivity: Using the high recognition and concrete ideas of nova experts for the RCI mission (see above)
Nearly 50 nova experts act as scientific backbone of RCI, sharing the same mission, supporting RCI in every project and presentation

Networks: Usage of the large professional networks of nova-Institute, including press contacts and LinkedIn for RCI.

Infrastructure: Efficient integration of nova's infrastructure; administrative office, IT and graphic team and accounting

Publications: Publication of RCI background reports and position papers in the professional nova publication database "RC news/publications" (https://renewable-carbon.eu/publications/?swoof=1&publication-type=rci-papers)

20% Discount on daily rate of nova experts, for more details see Chapter 8

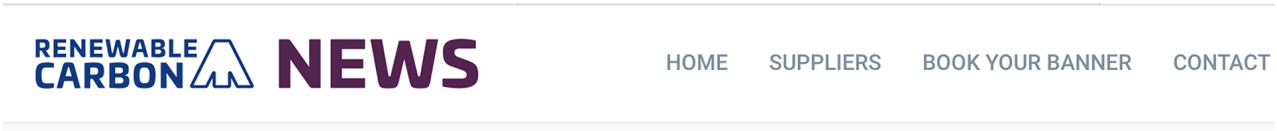
Bilateral projects as an option: Straightforward access to nova experts also for NDA protected bilateral projects (often used by RCI members)

Conferences:

- Priority at the Renewable Materials Conference (presentations, workshops, exhibition)
- nova's Renewable Materials Conference as the meeting point for Renewable Carbon / Defossilisation
- Discount on all commercial nova reports and on all conference tickets

RCI and nova-Institute – RC news & RCI

- All RCI press releases and other news are published on "RC News". nova-Institute has implemented a separate tag and sub-category for RCI, as a service to make it easier to find information on RCI. (see figure below).
- Main RCI updates, reports and position papers are published in RC news, as well as the monthly RCI newsletter, which now totals 119 news items.


RENEWABLE CARBON NEWS
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All news
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CO2-based
Recycling
nova news
RCI
Top news
Suppliers
119 news
Full text search
12 December 2025
A new certificate for the renewable carbon economy: 'OK renewable' from TÜV AUSTRIA
This unique new label shows for the first time the share of fossil carbon in manufacturing and/or in products that has been replaced by biomass, CO2 and recycling, and expresses it as a single, easy-to-understand product property
„OK renewable" von TÜV AUSTRIA – Ein neues Zertifikat für die Chemie- und Materialbranche
Dieses einzigartige neue Label zeigt erstmals, welcher Anteil des fossilen Kohlenstoffs im Herstellungsprozess und/oder im Produkt durch Biomasse, CO2 und Recycling ersetzt wurde, und weist ihn als eine einzelne, leicht verständliche Produkteigenschaft aus
2 December 2025
Monthly News from the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI), November 2025
November Highlights: RCI General Assembly, Upcoming RCI Webinar, ARC Partner Event, New Partner kunststoffland NRW (DE), Upcoming 10th ECP
25 November 2025
Free Webinar: Success Stories RCI 2025 and Outlook to 2026 – Project results and position papers
The Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI) gives another free webinar presenting its past achievements and future goals