

# Media Information

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## Sustainable additional qualification for trainees in Cologne

### Circularity-Scouts: IHK Köln und Interseroh+ machen Azubis fit für die Kreislaufwirtschaft

- Project of the Cologne Chamber of Industry and Commerce enables free qualification for trainees from all professions
- Cologne-based environmental service provider Interseroh+ supports the promotion of "Circularity Scouts"
- Initiator Markus Müller-Drexel: "Sensitize trainees to circular economy at an early stage"

Köln. Basic knowledge for the circular economy of tomorrow: With the "Circularity Scouts" project, the Cologne Chamber of Industry and Commerce is offering trainees the opportunity to obtain a free additional qualification in the field of circular economy for the first time this year. Together with other partners from the region, Interseroh+, the recycling alliance of Interzero, Europe's leading provider of circular solutions, is also participating in the initiative to promote young talent.

"It is very important to us to sensitize trainees to this essential topic of the future at an early stage," says Markus Müller-Drexel, CEO of Interseroh+, Chairman of the Environment and Energy Committee of the Cologne Chamber of Industry and Commerce and initiator of the project. "Only if we succeed in motivating and involving employees in the SME sector can we successfully drive the change to a sustainable circular economy."

The project is so far unique in Germany.

With some of the events at :metabolon in Lindlar – formerly a landfill, now a research and innovation centre for material conversion and environmental technologies – the organisers have chosen the right location. In five full-day modules, participants from various industries acquire basic, practice-oriented know-how about circular economy, resource efficiency and climate protection. Interseroh+ has already contributed a workshop on packaging recycling and design for circularity; further technical input comes from the NRW Efficiency Agency, various universities and the VDI Centre for Resource Efficiency, among others. In addition, skills in project management and communication are taught.

On the basis of the training courses, the trainees should be able to develop project ideas for sustainable process optimization in their own company and implement them in practice. "Following the example of the already established energy scouts, the circularity scouts also take on an important function in the companies," says Markus Müller-Drexel. "With their knowledge, they will be able to lead the way in closing loops in the future and contribute, for example, to saving waste disposal costs, resources and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."

The current project, under the patronage of Mona Neubaur, Minister of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, will run until June 2023.

At a closing event on June 7 at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Cologne, the projects developed by the trainees will be **presented** and evaluated in front of a jury. The winning teams with the best ideas will receive, prize money totaling 2,400 Euros and sponsored by NRW. Bank, as well as certificates from the minister.

#### **About Interseroh+:**

Interseroh+ is the Recycling-Alliance of the recycling service provider Interzero. The offer of Interseroh+ GmbH is aimed at all companies that not only want to fulfill their legal obligation to license packaging, but also take responsibility for closing recycling and raw material cycles – for this purpose, they can jointly become members of the Recycling-Alliance. Further information on Interseroh+ can be found at [www.interseroh.plus](http://www.interseroh.plus).

#### **About Interzero:**

Interzero is one of the leading service providers in the field of closing product, material and logistics loops as well as innovation leader in plastics recycling with the largest sorting capacity in Europe. Under the guiding principle of “zero waste solutions”, the company supports over 50,000 customers throughout Europe on the responsible handling of recyclable materials, thus helping them to improve their own sustainability balance and conserve primary resources. With about 2,000 employees, the company achieves a turnover of over one billion euros (2021). According to Fraunhofer UMSICHT, Interzero’s recycling activities will save one million tonnes of greenhouse gases compared to primary production and more than 12.5 million tonnes of primary raw materials in 2021 alone. Further information can be found at [www.interzero.com](http://www.interzero.com).

Under [www.interzero.de/presse](http://www.interzero.de/presse), all Interzero press releases can be subscribed to as RSS feeds. Please also note our online portal with information on raw materials and recycling: [www.recyclingnews.de](http://www.recyclingnews.de).

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