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Valorizzazione termochimica dei rifiuti plastici: utilizzo del char come vettore per il reinserimento del carbonio in filiera.

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Nicola Vecchini



Methods of valorization of waste

1

PHYSICAL

Mechanical extraction
Pelletizing
Distillation

2

CHEMICAL

Hydrolysis
Transesterification
Solvent extraction

3

BIOLOGICAL

Anaerobic digestion
Fermentation
Enzymatic hydrolysis

4

TERMOCHEMICAL

Combustion
Gasification
Liquefaction

Pyrolysis

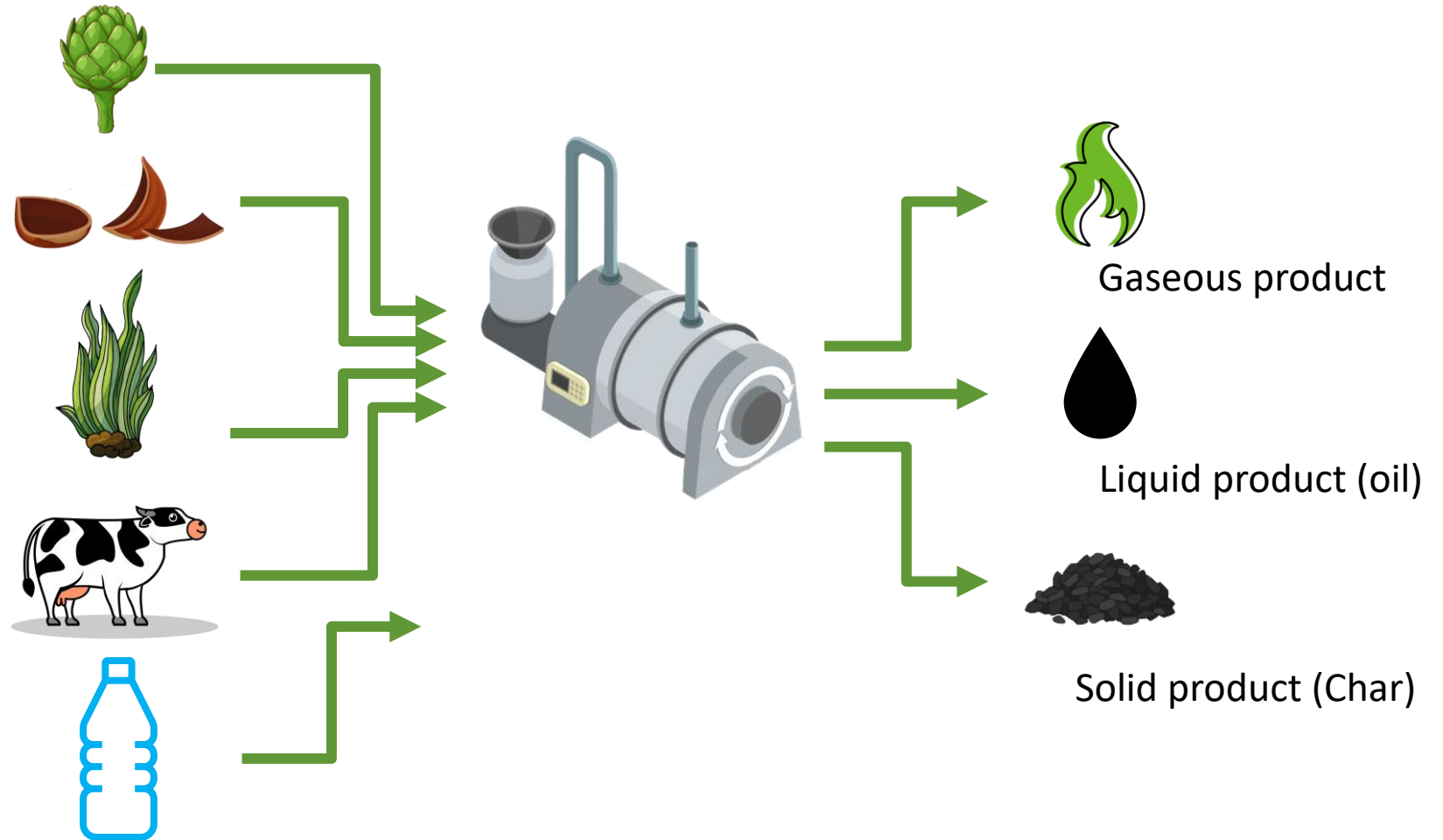


Pyrolysis

Thermochemical or heat decomposition, in an inert atmosphere (400–800°C).

The distribution and composition of the products depend on:

- waste composition
- Heating temperature
- Heating speed





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Chemical Recycling: Hoop

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6000 t/y secondary
raw material from
plastic waste



10 % w r-GAS

80 % w r-OIL

10 % w r-Char



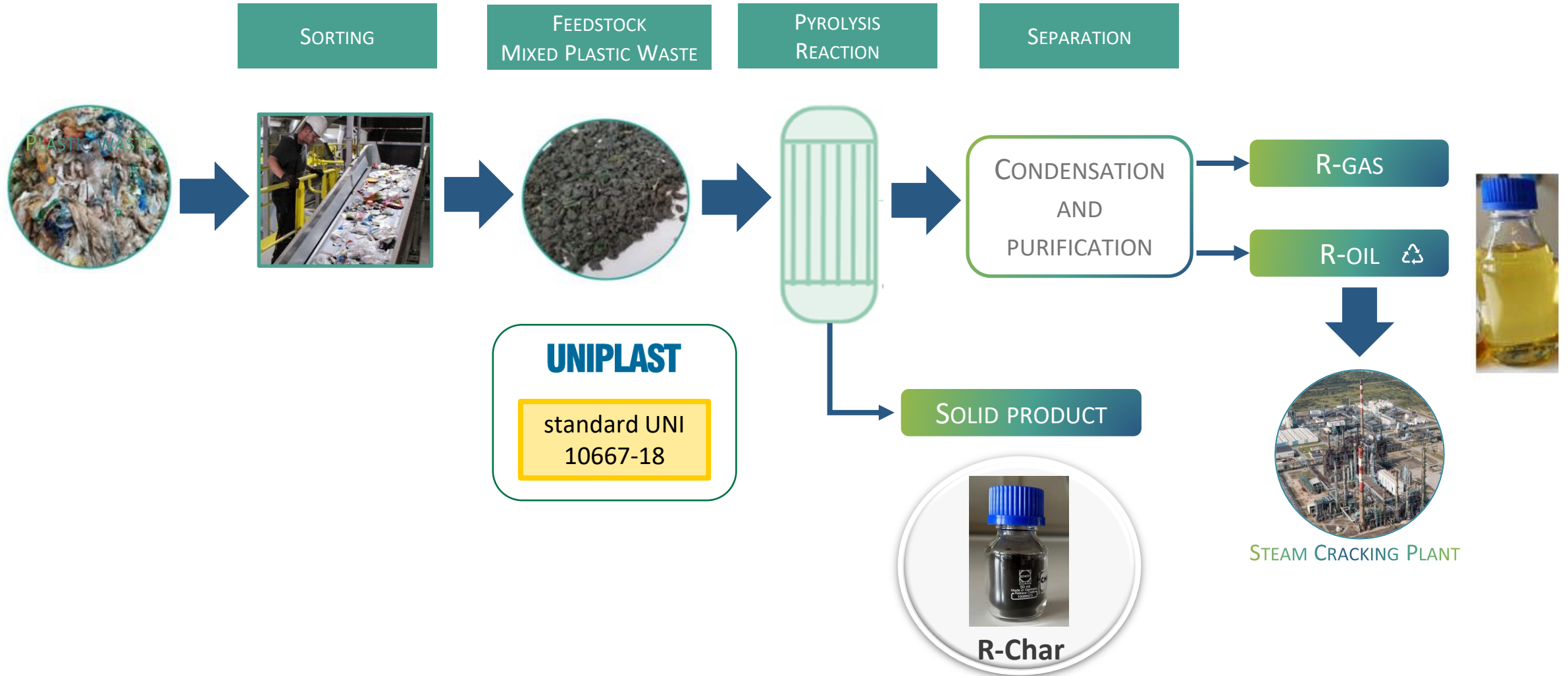
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Chemical Recycling: Hoop Process

Property technology developed to start since 2020 in collaboration with SRS (Servizi di Ricerche e Sviluppo)

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Uses of char

1

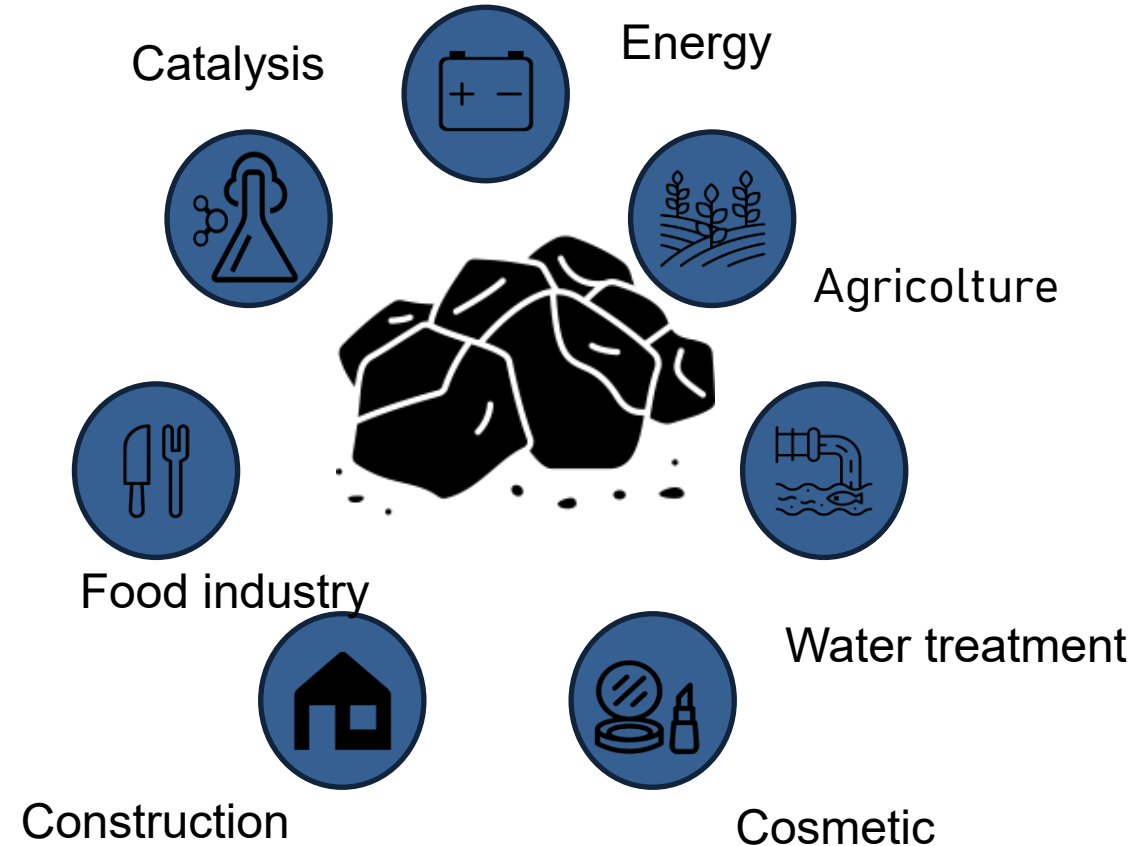
Waste chars can be used as catalytic supports, as anodes for lithium batteries, in cosmetic applications and more...

2

The trick is to find the best pyrolysis and activation conditions in order to ad hoc modulate the characteristics of the final material depending on the use you want to make.

3

The fact that the characteristics of char are also a function of the waste itself opens up a lot of possibilities for using it not only as a recycled material but also as a starting material for the creation of new products.





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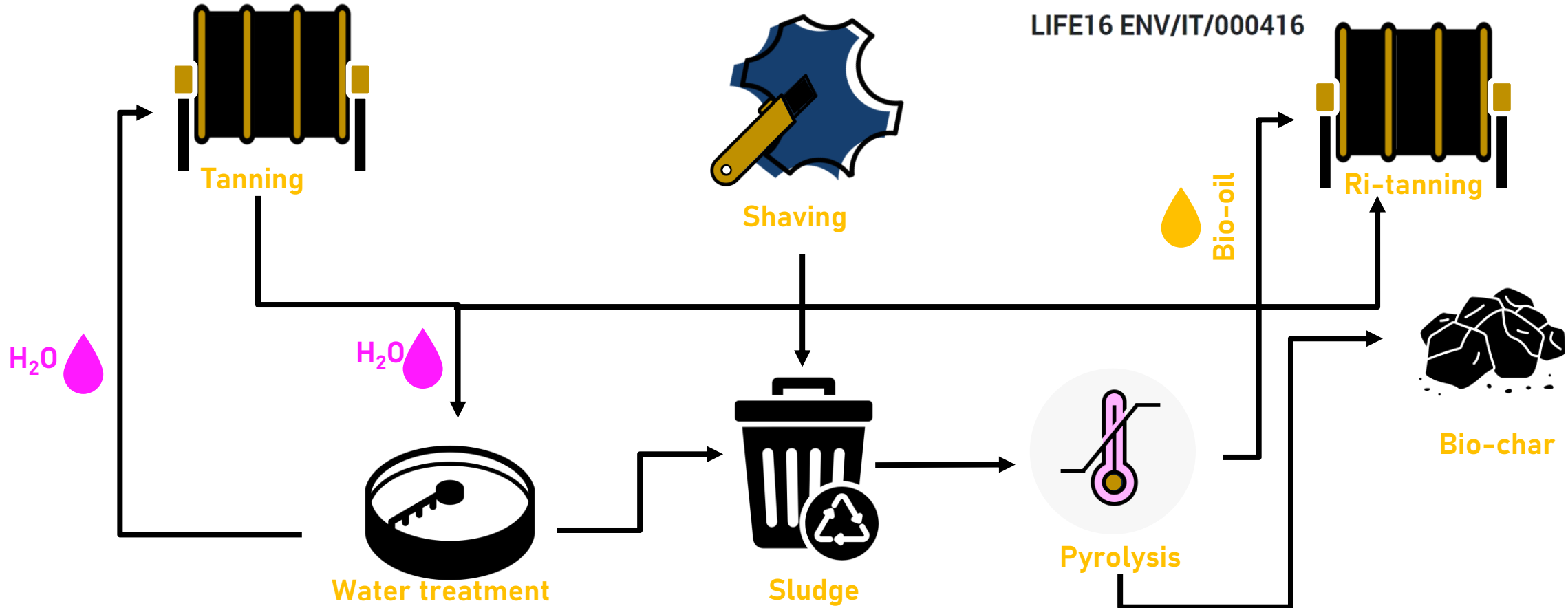
SWM: Smart Waste Management "an example"

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LifeGOAST

LIFE16 ENV/IT/000416



Application of Activated Carbons

✓ The applications of GOAST carbons as ANODE for LIBs

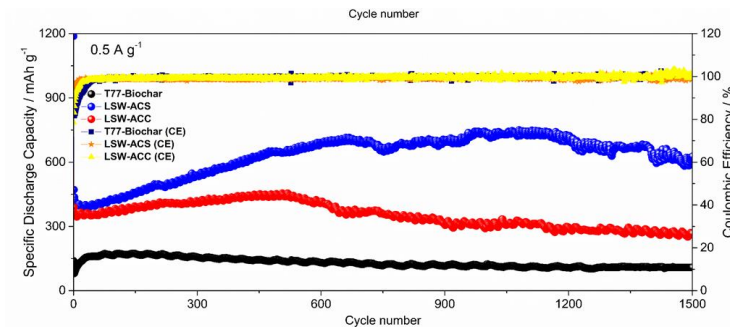
Three carbon materials were tested:

- GOAST biochar ()
- Biochar activated with steam (LSW-ACS)
- Biochar activated with CO₂ (LSW-ACC)

Comparison of the physical/chemical and electrochemical performances of GOAST carbons



Carbons derived from GOAST shaving waste as a sustainable material **alternative to graphite** in half-cell and full-cell lithium batteries



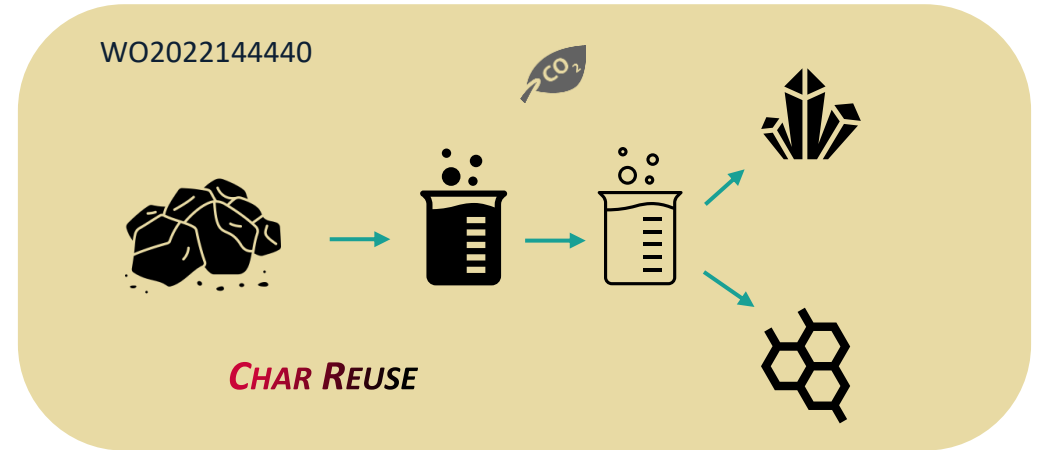
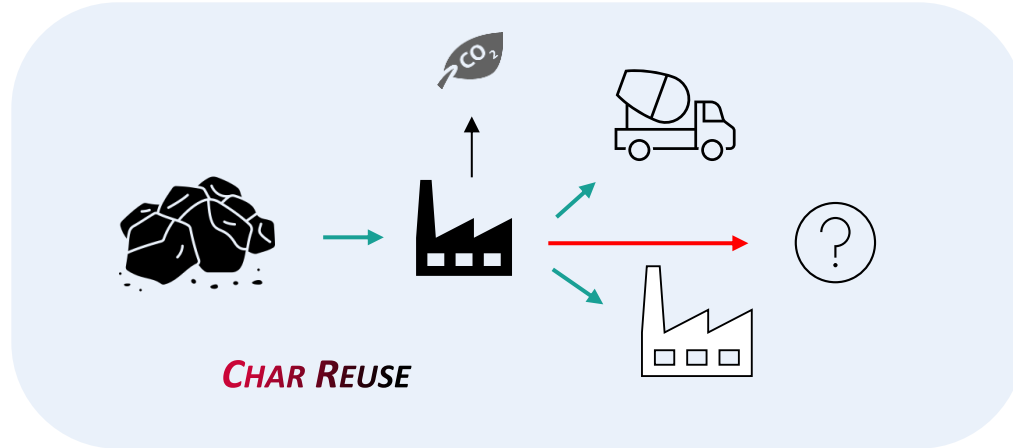
Signoretto et al., *Green Chem.*, 2022, 24, 4119;

Signoretto et al. *Energy and Environmental Materials* 2024, 7(2), e12567;

HIGH STABILITY



Examples of char uses and differences compared bio char



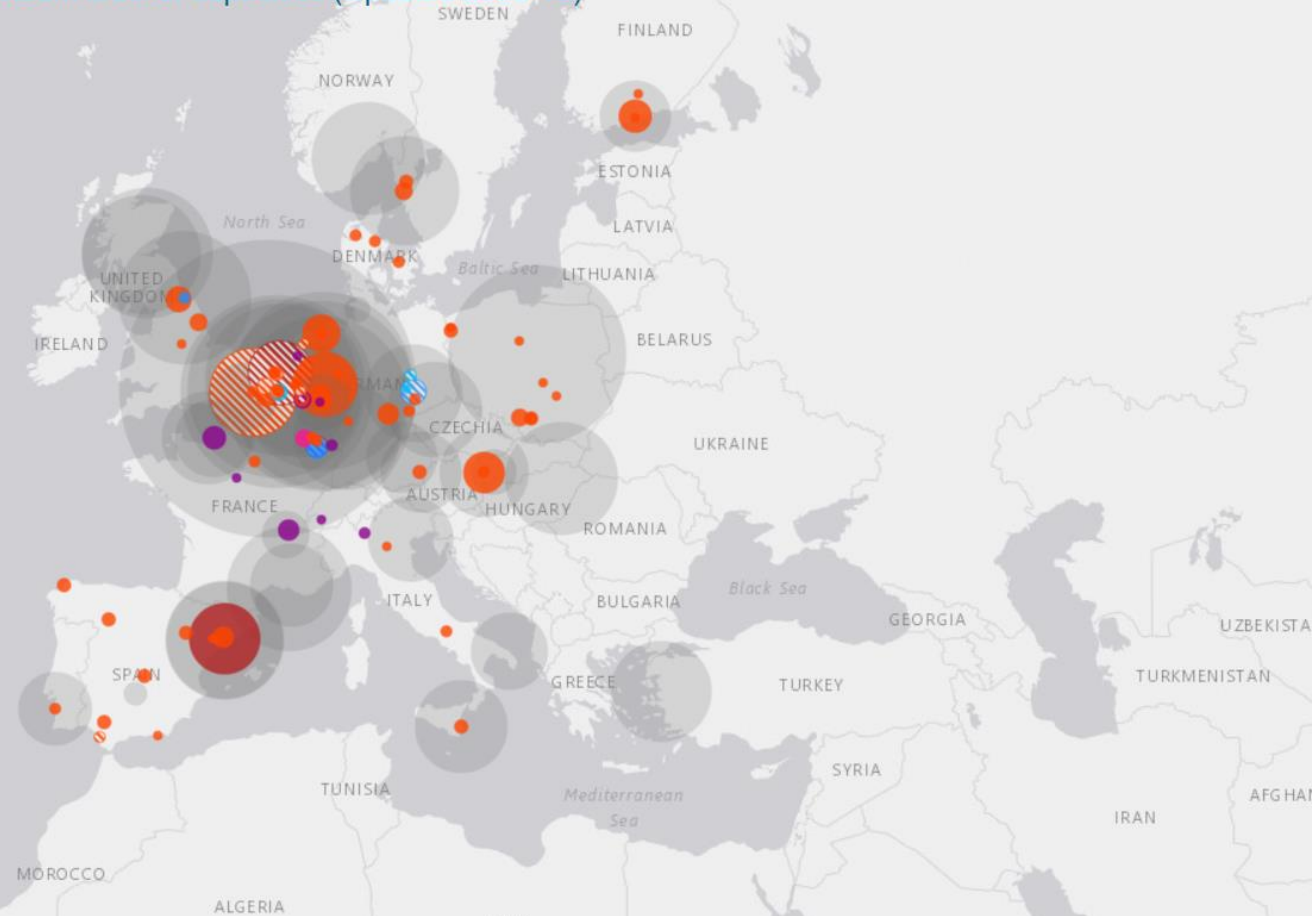
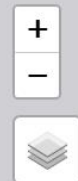
THE **CHAR** FROM PLASTICS'S PYROLYSIS HAS VARIABLE COMPOSITION AND PRESENCE OF INORGANIC COMPOUNDS (ABOUT 50 %) LIKE: CALCIUM CARBONATE, SILICON AND TITANIUM OXIDE, ALUMINUM ETC.



Chemical Recycling: Planned investments in Europe

Advanced and Chemical Recycling Facilities in Europe

Planned and installed recycling and steam cracker capacities (Updated 2025-12)



	Pyrolysis	2.419 kt/a
	Solvolysis	286 kt/a
	Solvent-based	68 kt/a
	Gasification	400 kt/a
	Enzymatic	50 kt/a
	Hydrothermal	90 kt/a
	Cracker	25.050 kt/a

Facilities in Operation

Circle size = capacity (linear scale)

Researched, compiled, and visualized by
Fraunhofer UMSICHT Sulzbach-Rosenberg

Leaflet | Tiles © Esri — Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ



Learn more about
**Fraunhofer Research
Activities and Services**
in Chemical Recycling.



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How was born the collaboration between Versalis and Ca' Foscari University

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10/09/21 Forte Marghera (VE)

Lunch before of GIC best doctoral thesis award ceremony





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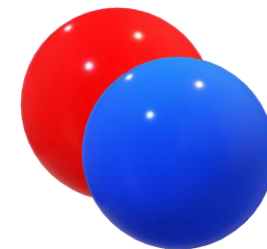
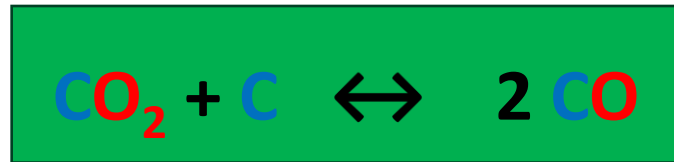
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The Boudouard's Reaction

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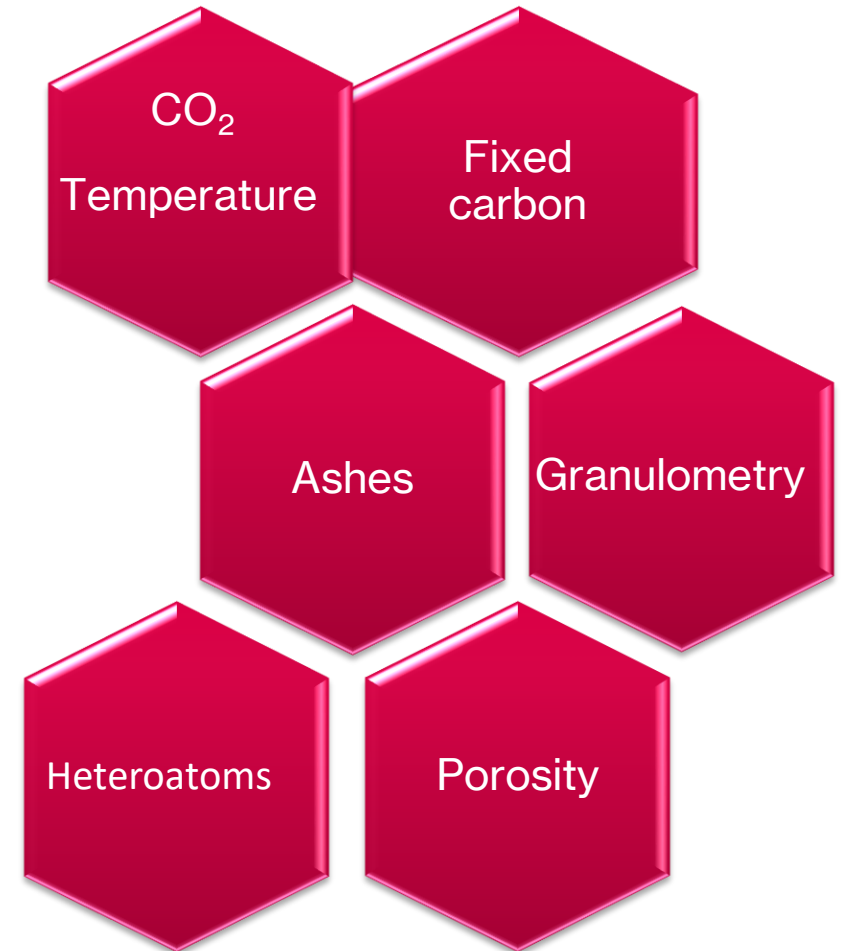
Boudouard, Octave-Léopold
???
(1872-1923)





The Boudouard Reaction

Factors determining the reactivity of chars





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WO2024141843A1 PROCESS FOR TREATING CHAR FROM RECYCLED PLASTICS

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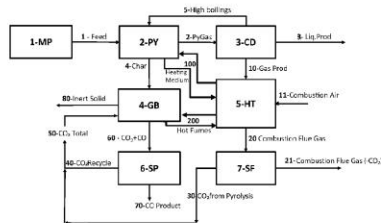


Fig. 1

WO 2024/141843 A1

(57) Abstract: A process for recovering the carbon contained in a char (solid carbonaceous residue) from a pyrolysis of mixed plastic waste or secondary raw material obtained from the recycling and/or treatment of plastic wastes is described, said process comprising the following steps: (A) heating said char in a gasification reactor and in the presence of carbon dioxide to reach a given temperature comprised in a range lower than 950°C and higher than 600°C, preferably lower than or equal to 850°C; (B) continue heating said char in the aforementioned temperature range, preferably in the range from 750 °C to 850 °C, in the presence of CO₂, for a given residence time of said char in said reactor producing an outflow gas stream (effluent) comprising CO in addition to unreacted CO₂, and possibly H₂; (C) sending at least a part of the gas stream (effluent) leaving the reactor

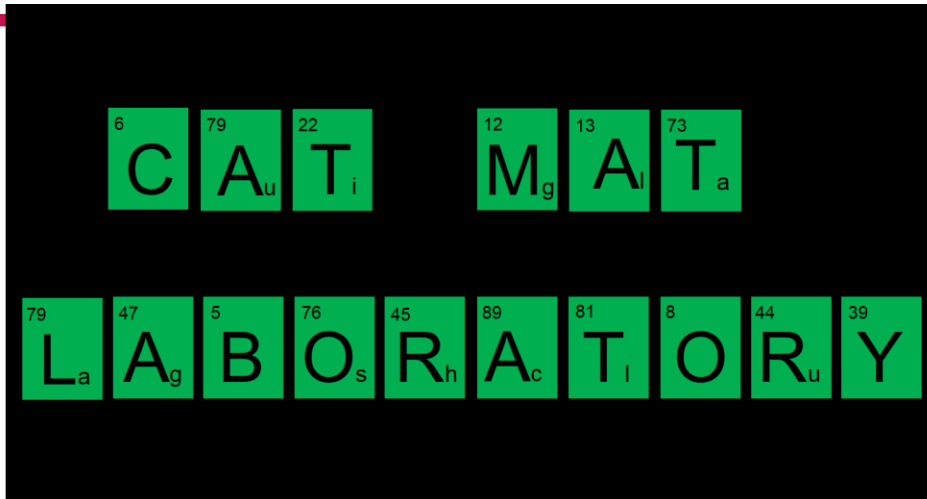


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CHEMISTRY BY PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE