Preface

Plastics are one of the most inexpensive and at the same time valuable materials made by humankind. The production of plastics is well established, and the virgin material is virtually adaptable to any requirement rendering them impressively versatile. The omnipresence of plastics establishes most people's constant contact with this material. In fact, one could not imagine a life without plastics. These materials have helped develop our economy, our society, and our life, because plastics are truly valuable.

However, during the work for this book, it became clear that many companies are not (yet) rational and far sighted enough, or are too focused on money and growth to realize their chance to transform their business for the better through implementing holistic ecological sustainability. The current path is very unlikely to be sustainable in the long term. In fact, we have to act right now, because nature will continue to thrive, likely in new forms, despite humanity changing the circumstances. Will we continue to thrive as well? Environmental degradation might not be the end result, but human degradation.

The enormous garbage patches in the oceans, plastic waste in the streets of India, and even microscopic plastic particles in your own body. Humanity has still to learn how to treat plastics, since the current usage is very unfortunate indeed. Now, we need to step up and change the way we deal with plastics. Let us start by introducing the recycling renaissance, starting with the automotive sector.

Graz/Linz, Austria — David Schönmayr

> Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.
>
> —Barack Obama

http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-57399-1

Automotive Recycling, Plastics, and Sustainability
The Recycling Renaissance
Schönmayr, D.
2017, XXIV, 184 p. 82 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-57399-1