

Reinhold W. Lang graduated with a Dipl.-Ing. degree in Polymer Engineering and Science in 1978 (University of Leoben, A) and obtained a PhD degree in 1984 (Lehigh University, USA). From 1985 - 1991 he joined BASF AG (D), holding a research and then a group leader position in the field of advanced composites. In 1991 he became Full Professor for Materials Science and Testing of Plastics at the University of Leoben (A), acting as Director of the Polymer Competence Center Leoben (PCCL) from 2002 - 2008.

From 2009 – 2022 he held the Chair of Polymeric Materials and Testing at the Johannes Kepler University (JKU) Linz (A).

As of October 2022 he is Emeritus Professor at JKU Linz continuing his work as academic-political activist in the field of “Plastics & Sustainable development”. As a polymer material scientist, his expertise is in the area of Plastics and Polymer Based Composite & Hybrid Materials.

His research focus is in the fields of

- (1) Mechanics, Fracture and Fatigue of Plastics and Polymer Composites,
- (2) Polymeric Materials for Solar Energy Technologies, and
- (3) Mechanical Recycling of Plastics.

Since the early 1990ies, he has also strongly been engaged with the broad and transdisciplinary-transformative topic “Polymer Technologies for Sustainable Development”.

Society & business relevant “Third Mission” activities (currently active)

- since 2020: member of the Advisory Committee of PlasticsEurope, the European Association of Plastics Producers
- since 2020: member of the Board of the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA)
- since 2019: co-initiator & speaker of #forumFUTURE, an expert forum for Sustainable Development in Politics, Economics & Society [inspired and motivated by the school strike movement Fridays for Future and their call for scientific support]
- since 2019: member of the Steering Committee of the project ‘UniNetZ – Universities for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’, with 16 Austrian universities participating
- since 2019: spokesperson of the JKU university-wide focus field ‘Sustainable Development – Responsible Technologies & Management (JKUsustain)’
- since 2017: member of the Advisory Board des EU Flagship Project H2FUTURE (Coordinator: VERBUND; consortium partners: voestalpine, Siemens et al.)
- since 2013: member of the Scientific Board of the Plastics K-Fare Düsseldorf, the world-largest and most important performance exhibition of the world plastics industry, taking place every three years. Spokesperson and responsible for the K-Lead Topics ‘Plastics and Global Change & Challenges’ and ‘Plastics for Sustainable Development’ at the K2016 and the K2019, respectively.
- since 1995: member of the Scientific Alliance of the University Professors of Polymer Technology – WAK (‘Wissenschaftlicher Arbeitskreis Kunststofftechnik’), Germany