

igus initiates first recycling program worldwide for energy chains

Recycling used chains is good for the environment

What happens when a plastic energy chain reaches its maximum service life? Usually, it is simply disposed of and incinerated with other plastic waste. With its "igus green *change* recycling program", the motion plastics specialist igus is now doing something completely new: users can send their plastic chains to igus for recycling – completely irrespective of the manufacturer. They can eliminate disposal costs and also receive a voucher for making purchases from igus. Customers and the environment both profit from this.

Only around 16 per cent of the plastic waste produced in Germany is reused for new products, according to the Plastikatlas 2019¹. Even though a long-lasting plastic energy chain is not comparable with daily throwaway products such as plastic packaging, the question of how to dispose of it still arises at the end of its service life. Normally, the chain is disposed of together with other plastic waste. Recycling rarely occurs as the cost of separating the different materials in a product and recycling them to make usable granulate (grinding) is too high. In most factories, the usual procedure is therefore to remove energy chains from their machines and throw them into industrial waste skips. In most cases, the plastics are then incinerated. igus is now offering an environmentally friendly alternative in the form of the "igus green *change* recycling program".

Recycling made easy

The aim of the program is to recycle the plastic from energy chains and reuse it for new products. To this end, users can send their old out-of-use plastic energy chains to igus after cleaning them – completely irrespective of the chain's actual manufacturer. The plastics are then sorted, cleaned, shredded and packed. After this, they can be reused by igus or other companies for the production of high-quality technical products. In return, the customer receives

¹ Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung & Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND), PLASTIKATLAS 2019, https://www.bund.net/fileadmin/user_upload_bund/publikationen/chemie/chemie_plastikatlas_2019.pdf

a voucher amounting to 0.78 euros per kilogram. "igus takes on this responsibility and, with its *chainge* recycling program, is aiming to make a contribution towards a reduction of plastic waste and an improvement of the recycling process", says Frank Blase, CEO of igus GmbH, adding: "This is not something new for us. As the world's biggest manufacturer of plastic energy chains, we already recycle 99 per cent of the plastic waste occurring in production in order to reuse it as re-granulate. The *chainge* program is now the next important step in the direction of sustainable business operations." The igus green *chainge* recycling program will be rolled out worldwide in the coming weeks. First, igus is starting the program in Germany and it will soon be implemented locally in many other markets such as China, the USA, Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

You can find further information on the igus *chainge* recycling program at www.igus.eu/recycling and in the video at <https://youtu.be/k3q1PYCY4Yk>

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ABOUT IGUS:

igus GmbH is a globally leading manufacturer of energy chain systems and polymer plain bearings. The Cologne-based family business has offices in 35 countries and employs 4,150 people around the world. In 2018, igus generated a turnover of 748 million euros with motion plastics, plastic components for moving applications. igus operates the largest test laboratories and factories in its sector to offer customers quick turnaround times on innovative products and solutions tailored to their needs.

The terms "igus", "Apiro", "chainflex", "CFRIP", "conprotect", "CTD", "drylin", "dry-tech", "dryspin", "easy chain", "e-chain", "e-chain systems", "e-ketten", "e-kettensysteme", "e-skin", "e-spool", "flizz", "ibow", "igear", "iglidur", "igubal", "kineKIT", "manus", "motion plastics", "pikchain", "plastics for longer life", "readychain", "readycable", "ReBeL", "speedigus", "triflex", "roboLink", and "xiros" are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.

Photo captions:



Picture PM7119-1

How plastic granulate is produced from old chains: 1. Clean the chains 2. Weigh them 3. Record quantity and contact us 4. Dispatch the chains to us (Source: igus GmbH)



Picture PM7119-2

"igus takes on this responsibility and, with its *change* recycling program, is aiming to make a contribution towards a reduction of plastic waste and an improvement of the recycling process." says Frank Blase, CEO of igus GmbH. (Source: igus GmbH)