# THE RECYCLING OF CARBON FIBRE COMPOSITES

Innovation and excellence serving the environment







# CARBON FIBRE GIVEN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE IN THE MOTOR VALLEY

One of the **first plants in Europe to recycle carbon composite materials** has been established in the heart of the Motor Valley, near the Imola Circuit (officially called the Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari).

Regenerated fibres, free from the resin and additives added during moulding and forming, retain their well-known properties of **lightness** and **high durability**, and are ready to be reused in a potentially infinite repeatable cycle.

#### A SOLUTION DEDICATED TO THE EXCELLENCE OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

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BUILDING

COMPOSITE MATERIALS

PROCESSING





## THE LEADING ITALIAN OPERATOR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

The carbon fibre recycling plant was set up by the Herambiente Group, the national leader in waste treatment and recovery. After a three-year experiment carried out in collaboration with the Toso Montanari Department of Industrial Chemistry of the **University of Bologna** and its technology partner **Curti**, a leading manufacturer of automatic machines for industrial applications, Herambiente started construction on an industrial scale (it will be fully operational from early 2024), also obtaining funding from the European Union as part of the National Resilience and Recovery Plan (M2C1.1.1.2) which recognised the innovative character of the technology used and the strategic relevance of the materials involved.

### HERAMBIENTE GROUP FIGURES

Our plants treat all types of waste. We offer integrated and sustainable solutions to help develop circular economy processes (together with client companies) that are also opportunities and tools to reduce costs or develop new revenues.

Investment in innovation and cutting-edge technologies is crucial for Herambiente and the Hera Group, with more than  $\in$  1.5 billion invested over the past 20 years in upgrading its plant network (the only one of its kind nationwide), which deals with the treatment and full exploitation of waste materials.





#### 95 CERTIFIED PLANTS

19 of which deal with industrial waste recovery

#### ABOUT 1,600 SPECIALISED Operators

#### **OVER 6 MILLION TONNES**



of waste treated, of which 1.2 million is industrial waste

#### **OVER 4 MILLION TONNES**

of waste marketed



### **SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT** OF CARBON FIBRE COMPOSITE WASTE

#### BECOME A PARTNER OF HERAMBIENTE. GIVE US YOUR WASTE

**EDUCATION** 



We enter your company and train your staff in high-quality separate waste collection We guarantee our customers maximum security and the opportunity to have the best partner at their side for waste collection, from which we will recycle new carbon fibre. We take charge of the waste and scrap collection phase directly at the companies, with specialised means and methods for sorting the materials and training the personnel in charge of this process.

BY ENTRUSTING US WITH YOUR IMPREGNATED OR CURED SCRAPS, MOULDS, OFF-SPEC PRODUCTS AND END-OF-LIFE PRODUCTS, IN COMPOSITE MATERIALS, YOU ENABLE QUALITY RECYCLING, THEREBY REDUCING LANDFILL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.



STORAGE



START OF RECOVERY PROCESS

On-site management of sorted waste micro-collection

We organise the procedure for sending carbon fibre waste to the recovery plant in Imola We regenerate by thermal treatment carbon fibre composites such as **pre-pregs**, **curing and finishing scraps**, **and endof-life moulds** in the plant

Scraps and end-of-life moulds of carbon fibre composites

## RECYCLED CARBON FIBRE IS THE SOLUTION FOR YOU

### **BUY OUR CARBON FIBRE**



Carbon fibre composites are used in numerous high-tech sectors: from automotive to aerospace, from nautical to furniture, from textiles to wind power.

And **regenerated carbon fibre** is ready to be **rewoven and impregnated for all the typical uses of virgin fibre**, for autoclave, press and moulding processes: non-woven, patchwork, carbon mills, short fibres, smc and bmc, and much more.

WE PRODUCE REGENERATED CARBON FIBRE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, WHICH IS ENTIRELY SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY.



We retrieve, after treatment, the best high-purity carbon fibre, preserving intact all its mechanical properties

### **INNOVATIVE ADVANCED PYRO-GASIFICATION PROCESS**

PYROLYSIS AND GASIFICATION



We remove the resin from carbon fibre which is more resistant to heat

**ENERGY RECOVERY** 

The decomposed resin in gaseous form is re-used to generate part of the energy needed for the process, thus maximising energy saving FINISHING OF RECOVERED FIBRES



Any dust remaining in the fibres is vacuumed and sent to the abatement system

# FROM MANUFACTURER TO MANUFACTURER, TAILOR-MADE

By ensuring **maximum sustainability** and full traceability of the production process, it is possible for our customers to **come full circle**. A fully traceable supply chain guarantees transparency and quality of the entire process: from the collection of materials (also from subcontractors) to their treatment, up to the final return of recycled carbon fibre to the company, ready to be processed again.

A PROCESS TAILORED TO YOUR COMPANY, IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OF RESOURCES.

RECYCLED FIBRE FROM HERAMBIENTE GUARANTEES EXCELLENT MECHANICAL PROPERTIES, COMPARABLE WITH VIRGIN FIBRE: ELASTICITY, STRENGTH AND ELONGATION AT BREAK OF UP TO 95%

(empirical tests carried out by the Toso Montanari Department of Industrial Chemistry of the University of Bologna)

Recycled carbon fibre after the process of recovery, spinning, and weaving for industrial reuse PROCESSING WASTE

### CLOSED LOOP ONE to ONE

THERMAL

PI AN1

REGENERATION

FINAL Manufacturer

PRINTERS

## MAKE YOUR MARK AND IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Why choose recycled carbon fibre? The virgin carbon fibre production process from pitch or PAN (polyacrylonitrile) is highly energy-intensive due to the high temperatures used; it uses fossil raw materials, and the waste from fibre processing is almost exclusively destined for disposal. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) shows that the **energy needed for producing recycled fibres is 75% lower** and **prevents 74% of greenhouse gas emissions**, while significantly reducing disposal in landfills.

#### CARBON FIBRE Recovery

AVERS/ Pregnators

#### INFINITE RECYCLING Potential



### 75% SAVING ON ENERGY CONSUMPTION

compared to that used in production of virgin fibres

REDUCTION OF WASTE DISPOSAL In Landfills

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE Entire life cycle reduced by 74%

in terms of greenhouse gas emissions

to the right: detail of TNT roll of regenerated fibre from pre-preg waste type T300





• THEY HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN THE SERVICES OF HERAMBIENTE GROUP

CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE 800 185 075 AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Herambiente Spa Hera Group's company

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