



Do robots play football? How A.I. think that micro-plastic issues should be handled

RE-PLAN CITY LIFE is the ETRA project aiming to raise awareness among Technicians of P.A., stakeholders, and policymakers on the use of Recycled Tyre Materials (RTMs) in buildings, urban areas, and **Sports Infrastructures**.



The Working Group on Sport has devoted its attention to the issues of Microplastics which could lead to a ban on the use of rubber granulate infill material, creating major problems for the turf sector and compromising the whole tire recycling value chain.

The Members of the WG have examined the issue from many different perspectives. Hundreds of documents, studies, articles, reports, and opinions have been written and published over the years. The number of documents makes it possible that according to the interest of different lobbies involved the "blanket" is pulled in one direction or the other.

In order to obtain an objective opinion on the micro-plastics issue The Working Group on Sport of RE-PLAN CITY LIFE decided to submit two simple questions to high powerful A.I. machine.

It is known that **Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems.** Specific applications of AI include expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition, and machine vision.

The scope was to obtain a qualified independent position, owing to the fact that computers are able to process millions of data beyond any human capacity, they do not have emotions and do not respond to any field of interest.

The responses are interesting and would suggest a serious reflection by all those who are pushing for extreme decisions.

A.I. Opinion on microplastics

FIRST QUESTION - *What are 5 key points to use in a safe and sustainable way recycled rubber infill material in artificial turf to avoid the release of granulates into the environment?*

A.I. RESPONSE

1. Proper Installation: The installation process should be done correctly to ensure that the recycled rubber infill is securely in place and does not easily escape. Proper installation techniques, such as the use of appropriate adhesives and edging systems, can help reduce the release of recycled rubber infill into the environment.



Installing artificial turf

2. Regular Maintenance: Regular maintenance, such as brushing and vacuuming, can help keep the recycled rubber infill in place and prevent it from being released into the environment. Regular monitoring and inspection can also help identify areas where the recycled rubber infill may have become dislodged, so that appropriate corrective action can be taken.

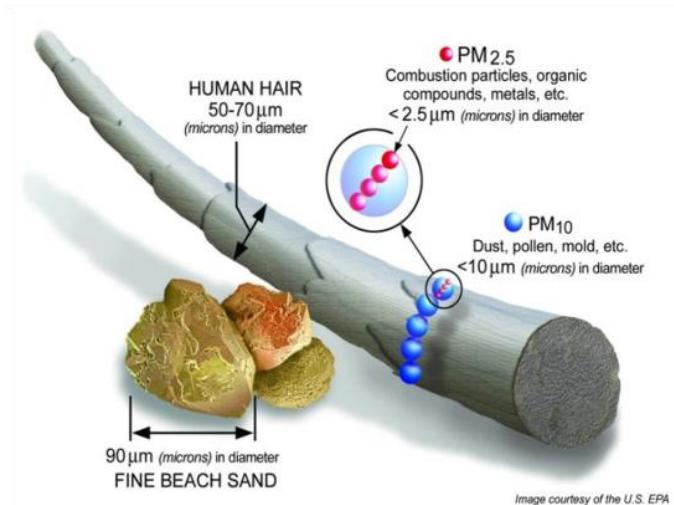
3. Use of Containment Systems: The use of containment systems, such as fences or barriers, can help prevent the release of recycled rubber infills into the surrounding environment. These systems can be particularly effective when combined with proper maintenance and monitoring.

4. Proper Disposal: Proper disposal of waste, including old recycled rubber infill, can help minimize the release of rubber particles into the environment. This can include recycling the material or disposing of it in a safe and secure manner.

5. Education and Awareness: Education and awareness about the impact of recycled rubber infill on the environment can help encourage the safe and sustainable use of the material. This can include educating stakeholders on the importance of proper maintenance and disposal and promoting the use of alternative materials where appropriate.

In conclusion, implementing these five key points can help ensure that recycled rubber infill is used in a safe and sustainable manner, reducing the risk of release into the environment and minimizing its impact on the environment and public health.

SECOND QUESTION - What are the 5 key points that make inconvenient and not effective the infill ban to limit the release of rubber granulate from artificial turf into the environment?



A.I. RESPONSE

- 1. Lack of alternatives:** A ban on rubber infill may be inconvenient and not effective if there are no readily available and cost-effective alternatives to rubber infill. This can result in the continued use of rubber infill, despite the ban, or the use of less desirable alternatives that may not perform as well or have other environmental impacts.
- 2. High cost of replacement:** Replacing existing artificial turf fields with alternative infill materials can be expensive, especially for large facilities such as sports fields and parks. The high cost of replacement can make a ban on rubber infill impractical for many communities and organizations.
- 3. Difficulty in Enforcement:** Enforcing a ban on rubber infill can be difficult, as it may be challenging to monitor and enforce compliance with the ban. This can result in the continued use of rubber infill despite the ban, leading to increased release of rubber granulate into the environment.
- 4. Economic impact:** A ban on rubber infill can have a significant economic impact on the industry, as well as on suppliers and manufacturers of rubber infill. This can result in job losses and reduced economic activity, which can have broader social and economic implications.
- 5. Resistance to change:** There may be resistance to change from stakeholders who have invested in artificial turf fields with rubber infill and are familiar with the product. This resistance can make it challenging to implement a ban on rubber infill and encourage the use of alternative materials.

In conclusion, while a ban on rubber infill may seem like a straightforward solution to limit the release of rubber granulates into the environment, it can be inconvenient and not effective due to various challenges, including the lack of alternatives, high cost of

replacement, difficulty in enforcement, economic impact, and resistance to change. A multi-faceted approach that considers these factors is likely to be more effective in reducing the impact of rubber infill on the environment.

Do we need robots to restore common sense?

RE-PLAN CITY LIFE Working Group will meet you in Brussels on 29th March 2023 during the ETRA Conference to propose other and more sophisticated methods of analysis and discuss further together the possible solutions to adopt.