

everwave

Impact-Linked Finance Transaction Snapshot
everwave



Enterprise profile



[everwave](#) is a Germany-based clean tech enterprise addressing waste pollution in rivers before it reaches the oceans. The enterprise operates river-based waste collection solutions, including boats and barrier systems, to remove waste from waterways in Europe and emerging markets.

everwave works with corporate partners through innovative 'Plastic Credits', enabling the financing of verified waste removal with transparent impact reporting. The enterprise focuses on river systems and coastal regions with high waste leakage and insufficient waste management infrastructure, where cleanup efforts are often considered commercially unviable. everwave addresses these challenges through scalable solutions, partnerships with municipalities and corporates, and the creation of local employment opportunities.

Challenge



Rivers are major transport routes for waste and pollution from land into the world's oceans. Globally, an estimated 19–23 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into aquatic ecosystems each year, alongside large volumes of other solid waste and pollutants. A significant share of this waste is transported downstream through river systems toward the sea. Rivers also carry high concentrations of microplastics and debris, posing significant risks to freshwater and marine ecosystems. Without effective interception in rivers, waste continues to flow into the oceans, causing long-term environmental and economic damage.

Sources:

- (1) <https://www.unep.org/plastic-pollution>, dated July 2023
- (2) <https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastics/>, dated October 2023

Company Facts & Figures

Founding year	2018
Country of operation	Germany
Business focus	Clean tech environmental solutions
Main target groups	Corporates and partners purchasing plastic credits; environmental stakeholders
Growth stage	Scaling

Customers



everwave’s customers are primarily corporate partners and public-sector organisations seeking to reduce their plastic footprint and support measurable environmental action.

Through its ‘Plastic Credit’ system, everwave enables companies to finance waste removal from rivers before it reaches the ocean, offering a transparent and certified way to demonstrate impact and integrate it into sustainability strategies.

Transaction



As part of its financing round, everwave received a mezzanine loan from the European Social Innovation and Impact Fund (ESIIF). The loan stipulates a maximum repayment of two times the capital (2x). The repayment obligation will be reduced based on achievement of pre-agreed impact targets. If fully meeting these targets, the repayment cap will decrease from 2.0x to 1.8x, effectively "earning" financial incentives of 0.2x the capital provided.



Impact-Linked Finance Rationale

everwave has a strong track record in river-based waste collection through technology and high operational standards. The incentives align financial rewards with everwave’s long-term impact strategy, supporting scale, quality, and best practices in the sector.

Metric 1 aims to retain everwave’s focus on its core activity by rewarding waste collection carried out in line with current or higher quality standards. This metric directly links incentives to measurable environmental outcomes and supports the enterprise’s ambition to responsibly scale its impact.

Metric 2 incentivizes the analysis of waste using AI-based systems, enabling efficiency gains and data-driven operations. This metric complements the core activity by supporting scalability and innovation.

Metrics

#1	Waste collected (80% weighting)
#2	Waste analyzed with AI (20% weighting)
Maximum payments / reductions	Repayment cap reduction of 0.2x (from 2.0x to 1.8x).
Period	2025 - 2029



With Plastic Credits, we have a product that combines impact and revenue in a highly direct and scalable way. Seeing this reflected and further strengthened in our financial structure is extremely promising and, importantly, much needed in the market.

Impact-driven business models should not be a “nice to have”—they should also have clear advantages when it comes to financing mechanisms. With this model, we have demonstrated that this is not only possible, but commercially viable.

Clemens Feigl, CEO and Co-Founder



Key takeaways



- The first Impact-Linked Finance (ILF) transaction in Germany under the *Ready for Impact-Linked Finance* program, structured by Roots of Impact, with support from FASE and investment from the [ESIIF](#).
- everwave’s business model is an excellent fit for ILF, with impact directly embedded through clearly measurable waste-collection activities.
- Readily available impact data highlighted the importance of consistent data collection for target setting and transparent measurement and reporting.

Program & Partners



Ready for Impact-Linked Finance (in German: *Fit für Impact-Linked Finance*) is the first program in Germany preparing impact-driven entrepreneurs for using and securing Impact-Linked Finance.

Funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy under the *Nachhaltig Wirken* umbrella and implemented by the Social Finance Academy, an initiative of Roots of Impact, the program offers a three-pillar, practice-oriented support in impact measurement & management to strengthen the readiness of German impact enterprises for innovative financing with integrated impact incentives.

More details



Program website: <https://social-finance-academy.org/ready-for-ilf/>

Contact: krodriguez@roots-of-impact.org





We guide entrepreneurs on their impact journeys

Das Programm „Nachhaltig wirken – Förderung gemeinwohlorientierter Unternehmen“ mit seinen Projekten wird durch das Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie und die Europäische Union über den Europäischen Sozialfonds Plus (ESF Plus) gefördert.

Mit der Durchführung der Fördermaßnahme beauftragt:

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union

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des Deutschen Bundestages

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