

## Circular Economy 101: An introduction to sustainable resource & waste management

### Link:

<https://www.iema.net/resources/event-reports/2020/08/14/circular-economy-101-an-introduction-to-sustainable-resource-waste-management>

**14.08.20**

Question Asked	Answer Given
<p>Is there any PhD program dedicated to the economic implications of Circular Economy in Business.</p>	<p>A good place to check for advertised PhDs is: findaphd.com. Regards specifically those looking at the economic implications of CE in business, I'd suggest going direct to the Business Schools who offer CE modules / courses (e.g. Edinburgh, Bradford, Exeter, Cambridge Judge, Said Oxford)</p>
<p>Thanks for the interesting webinar! Question - terms such as sustainability, climate change, zero-waste ect have become buzz words in recent years. Do you think the circular economy and its principles will become a mainstream buzz word and what will cause that? Thanks, from Josie</p>	<p>I think you are asking whether the word will become part of our normal understanding in business and how? I do think that thanks to the focus by the EU (CEAP, Green Deal, etc) and SME projects commissioned by ZWS, LWARB, etc, this is starting to happen. Incidentally, I was in the wilds of Scotland last week and the white water rafting guide (who is a graphic designer by night) knew about CE! So, in Scotland, we are clearly getting there!</p>

<p>technology changes so quickly that hardware rapidly does not meet the requirements of innovations, how can the problems this causes for re-use be addressed?</p>	<p>The repairability requirements adopted by the EU Commission (right to repair) in October 2019 help to enable people to repair and upgrade their products. As part of this, from 2021 all TVs, monitors, fridges, freezers, washing machines, washer-dryers, dishwashers and lighting products placed on the EU market will have to meet minimum repairability requirements aimed at extending their lifetime. Some organisations like Ricoh, already design their products with future upgrading in mind and business models like product as a service can mean that products are designed with upgradability in mind.</p>
<p>Does the board know of any companies who will take on used plasterboard &amp; sell on as recycled to sites/contractors?</p>	<p>All of the major plasterboard manufacturers take back material from reprocessed waste plasterboard and recycle it into the manufacture of new board.</p>
<p>Any graduate and opportunities that would help us to kick start careers as I am just on my last module of my masters in environmental management</p>	<p>If you are in Scotland then have a chat with Bright Green Business - <a href="https://www.brightgreenbusiness.org.uk/">https://www.brightgreenbusiness.org.uk/</a>. They organise paid placements for grads/ post grads</p>
<p>Can social value be measured in a circular economy easily? If so it might better allow public bodies to include more easily in tendering for works and services.</p>	<p>Indicators and metrics in CE generally is a developing area and there is a lack of standardisation still around the social size. It's worth having a look at the work by Kate Rayworth (Donut Economics). Also, ZWS prepared a note (Let's be social: how can circular economy interventions improve lives?) which could help.</p>

<p>What safety considerations were given for the hotel sofa beds - fire regs etc?</p>	<p>Each sofa bed was subjected to a thorough inspection. All those that met the required standard and retained their fire-resistant health and safety sticker were taken into stock. Those with minimal damage were also retained by BHF so they could be reworked using materials from other damaged sofas to bring them up to the required resale standard. The remaining sofa beds that could not be resold or reworked were rejected and ultimately sent to landfill.</p>
<p>I'm curious as to what are the differences between "zero waste" principles and "circular economy"? The zero waste principle has been around for 15-20 years or so. What is "wrong" with it or where is it broken? I ask this because in lots of jurisdictions "zero waste" is embedded in legislation and regulations (for example some Australian States).</p>	<p>To an extent, it's just terminology but the term "zero waste" generally refers to the elimination or significant reduction of waste (particularly waste to landfill). In practice, it is often not possible to achieve actual zero waste through the application of the waste hierarchy alone - e.g. due to the production of some amount of hazardous waste which, even if incinerated, results in residual. In addition, the hierarchy also includes a heavy reliance on recycling. Circular economy includes at its heart designing out waste so that it never exists in the first place.</p>