



# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME

The Driving Force  
for Ireland's Move to  
a Circular Economy



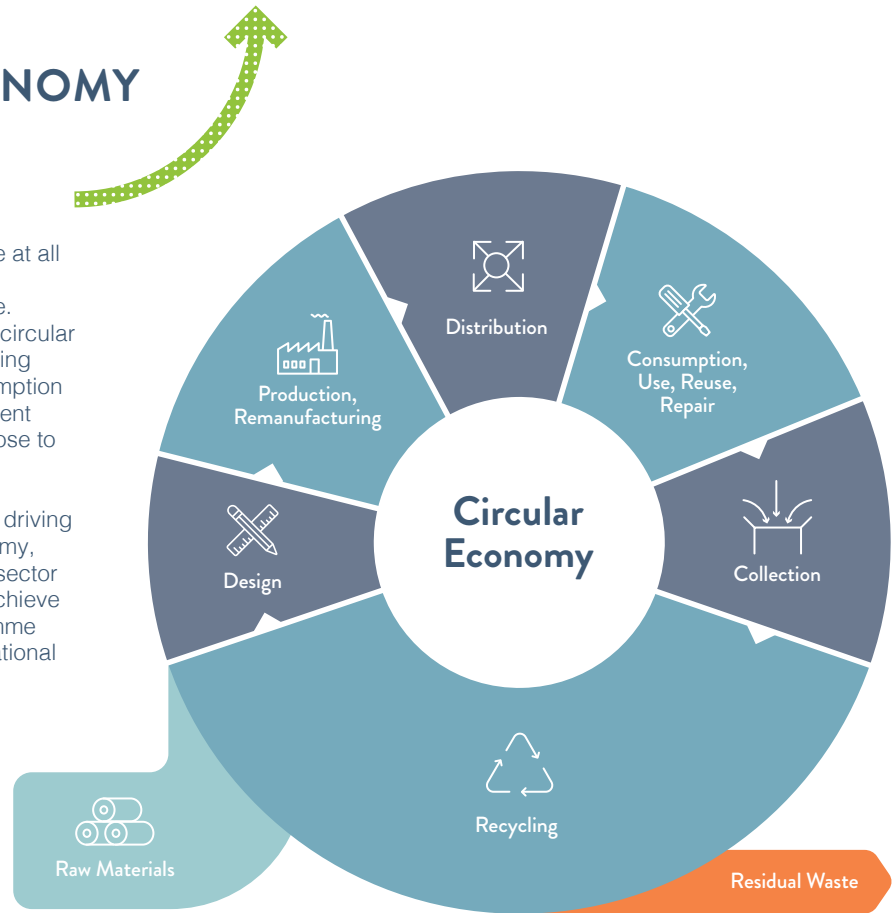
Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN IRELAND

The circular economy aims to reduce waste at all stages of the economic cycle and ensure materials are used as efficiently as possible. Waste prevention, a central concept of the circular economy, challenges us to review our existing design, production, distribution and consumption of products. This will move us from the current linear model of Take > Make > Use > Dispose to a more efficient and low-carbon economy.

**The Circular Economy Programme** is the driving force for Ireland's move to a circular economy, where businesses, citizens and the public sector reduce resource use, prevent waste and achieve sustainable economic growth. The programme incorporates and builds on the previous National Waste Prevention Programme to support national-level, strategic programmes.

The EPA-led Circular Economy Programme supports the whole of government Circular Economy Strategy to provide leadership and co-ordinate circular economy activity to ensure maximum impact at national, regional and local level.



# CIRCULAR CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## CHALLENGES

OVER  
**100 million**  
tonnes of materials  
are used annually in Ireland's economy

Inefficient consumption and missed opportunities for reuse and recycling lead to high waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste generation in Ireland continues to be closely linked to economic activity indicating limited progress towards a circular economy.

By **preventing waste** and **driving the circular economy** we can make the most of our resources while protecting the environment.

## OPPORTUNITIES


**Food Waste**  
We waste over  
**1 million**  
tonnes   
of food every year

**Construction & Demolition**  
**Millions**   
of tonnes of resources  
could be recovered every year  
avoiding demand for virgin raw  
materials and reducing the carbon  
footprint of construction

### Green Public Procurement

The Irish public sector spends over

**€21 billion** on   
goods and services  
each year. By implementing Green Public  
Procurement, there's an opportunity to  
reduce the environmental footprint of  
purchases made with public money.

**Agriculture**  
Resource efficient  
farms have  
**lower costs**  
and reduced  
climate  
impacts 

**Resource  
& Raw Materials**  
**Reuse & Repair**   
reduces our  
consumption  
of raw materials

**Textiles**  
We discard around  
**110,000**   
tonnes  
of clothing, footwear  
and other textile  
products as waste  
every year.

**Plastics**  
Less than a  
**1/3**  
of plastic  
packaging   
is recycled

# CURRENT PROGRAMMES & PARTNERSHIPS

We partner with the **Irish Universities Association** on a campus living labs sustainability project



We support **Circuléire** the national platform for circular manufacturing



We provide guidance on **Waste Prevention & Best Practice** for the Construction & Demolition sector



The national **Food Waste Prevention Programme** works across the three core areas of households, the supply chain and hospitality



We gather data to provide evidence and insights on the Circular Economy to **influence policy and prompt behaviour change**



We support research and fund innovation & demonstration projects that facilitate a **green and circular economy**



We support **reuse & repair** through supporting Community Resources Network Ireland and [www.repairmystuff.ie](http://www.repairmystuff.ie)



We partner with the **Rediscovery Centre** as the National Centre for the Circular Economy



**Stop Food Waste** is the national campaign to raise awareness on food waste and solutions to help reduce it



We have a regulatory role for **circular economy activities**, including end-of-waste and by-products



**Smart Farming** helps farmers to manage resource-use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions



We support **Education & Training** for businesses, citizens and the public sector



We partner with **Enterprise Associations** to deliver Circular Economy actions with impact and scale



We partner with the **Local Authority sector** on Circular Economy activities



We provide guidance and training to suppliers and public bodies on **Green Procurement**





## OUR VISION

An Ireland where the Circular Economy ensures that everyone uses less resources and prevents waste to achieve sustainable economic growth.

# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME - HOW WE WORK

## Advocacy, Insights, Data & Coordination



We communicate solutions for the Circular Economy based on expertise, data and behavioural insights. We gather evidence to inform robust policy development. We provide advice, assessments and national statistics to support the development and implementation of national policy.

## Innovation & Demonstration



We have targeted funding programmes to support the development of novel solutions for the circular economy. We share learnings and showcase best-practice for enterprises and organisations in moving to the circular economy.

## Delivering through Partnerships



We collaborate with other influential national organisations to deliver programmes and solutions for the circular economy in Ireland. Working with and through others we extend our reach and influence.

## Regulatory Framework for Circularity



Through our regulatory role and experience, we will develop responses to circular economy challenges, while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment.

## OUR PRIORITY AREAS



Packaging



Plastics



Textiles



Food, Water & Nutrients



Construction & Buildings



Electronics & ICT



Batteries & Vehicles

## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH US

We work with others to drive Ireland's Circular Economy through **national-level, strategic programmes** with high visibility and influence. We want to engage with:

Industry &  
Enterprise

Research &  
Innovation  
Organisations

Public Sector  
Bodies

Representative  
Bodies &  
Networks

Product  
Designers

We have opportunities for innovation funding, networking and partnering through our priority areas:



Packaging



Plastics



Textiles



Food, Water  
& Nutrients



Construction  
& Buildings



Electronics  
& ICT



Batteries  
& Vehicles

**TO FIND OUT MORE:**

Email us: [cep@epa.ie](mailto:cep@epa.ie)

Check our website: [www.epacirculareconomy.ie](http://www.epacirculareconomy.ie)

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: [@epalreland](https://twitter.com/epalreland)

Follow us on LinkedIn



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