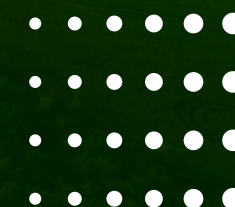


TRANSITION FROM LINEAR TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A Step-by-Step Guide



INTRODUCTION TO THE LINEAR ECONOMY

A linear economy is pretty straightforward: you take resources, make a product, use it, and then toss it. It's a one-way street that ends in a landfill.

- ✓ Raw materials are extracted to manufacture products.
- ✓ Products are used and eventually discarded as waste.
- ✓ There is no thought along the line regarding recycling or reuse.

THE LINEAR ECONOMY CHALLENGE

A linear economy is inherently unsustainable in the long term because it doesn't consider the finite nature of resources or the capacity of the environment to absorb waste.

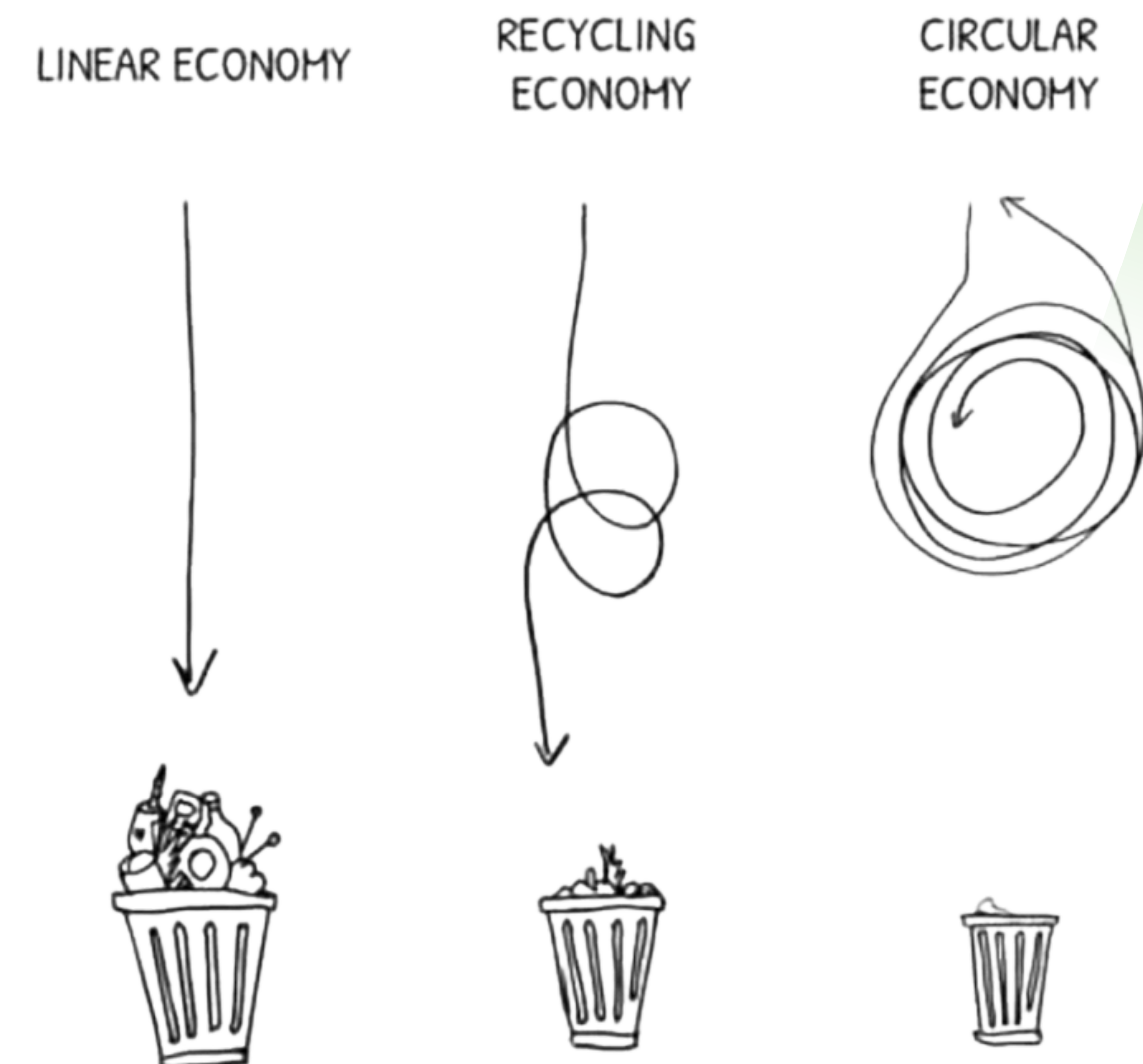
CIRCULAR ECONOMY ≠ RECYCLING ECONOMY

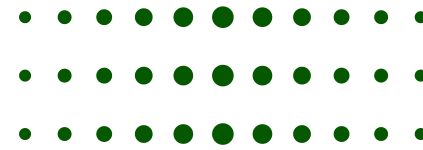
The circular economy is more than the recycling economy. While recycling is an important part of the circular economy, it's only one component.

Historically, EU legislation has focused heavily on waste management and recycling targets.

Recent shifts aim to address upstream measures, like:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Eco-design requirements
- Right to repair
- Product passports and durability labeling





KEY CONCEPTS IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY

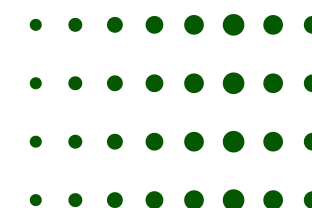
You take resources, make a product, use it, and then recycle or repurpose it. The goal is to keep resources in use for as long as possible, minimizing waste and maximizing value.

✓ Use waste as resource

✓ Stretch the lifetime

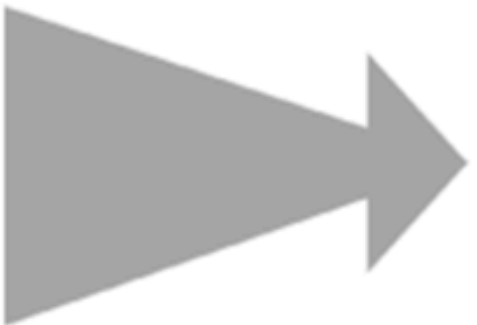
✓ Prioritise regenerative resources





CIRCULAR ECONOMY

PRINCIPLES OF NARROWING, SLOWING AND CLOSING MATERIAL FLOWS

			
LINEAR FLOW <i>This principle aims at taking materials, making products and disposing them when they become obsolete</i>	NARROWING FLOWS <i>This principle aims at using less resources to make and use a product</i>	SLOWING FLOWS <i>This principle aims at long product life, slowing down the flow of materials from initial production up to post-use</i>	CLOSING FLOWS <i>This principle aims at closing the flows between post-use back into use, resulting in a circular flow of materials</i>



BENEFITS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

By reusing and recycling, we can cut down on the amount of stuff that ends up in landfills. Plus, it saves a lot of resources. Instead of always needing new materials, we can use what we already have.

- ✓ Economic Efficiency
- ✓ Environmental Impact Reduction
- ✓ Innovation and Growth

LINEAR VERSUS CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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	LINEAR	CIRCULAR
Approach	Take → Make → Use → Dispose	Reduce → Reuse → Recycle
Goal	Maximize production and consumption	Maximize sustainability and resource value
Resource use	Finite, one-time use	Efficient, continuous loop
Product life	Short, planned obsolescence	Extended through repair, reuse, remanufacture
Waste	High, often landfilled or incinerated	Minimized, seen as a resource
Business model	Focus on products	Focus on products and services





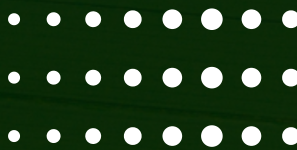
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

01

Environmental Improvements

- Cleaner cities and rural areas through improved waste management (e.g. less littering)
- Reduced air, water, and soil pollution (e.g. reduction of pollution from waste landfilling)





02

Economic Development & Innovation

- Boosts local industries through reuse, repair, and remanufacturing
- Encourages SMEs to innovate with eco-design and circular business models
- Reduces dependency on imported raw materials (important for countries with limited resources)



03

Job Creation & Skills

- New jobs in recycling, maintenance, and repair services (e.g., rise in green job sectors)
- Opportunities for reskilling workers from declining linear industries

04

EU Integration & Funding Access

- Alignment with EU Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan helps meet climate and economic convergence goals
- Access to EU funds and technical assistance (e.g., Cohesion Fund, Horizon Europe) for circular projects

05

Long-term Resilience

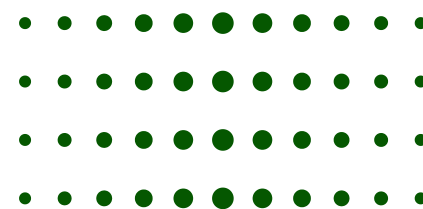
- Builds resilience against global market shocks by localizing resource loops
- Supports energy and material security
- Enhances local level resilience - community cohesion, food resilience, sharing economy



Addressing skills mismatching in the green sector through Digital Upskilling of vet



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