

## One Planet programmes and Circular Economy – session at Coordination Desk meeting 29 May

At the Coordination Desk meeting 29 May there will be a session on Circular Economy. At this session we would like to explore what programmes can do and how the program can join forces and collaborate on this issue. Circular Economy is an issue that creates interest among most of the actors and collaboration on CE can help positioning the network in order to raise more interest and possible funding.

We only have 45-60 minutes for the session on Circular Economy and with this brief we want to give some information before hand on what CE means for respective Programme, what the programmes have done so far, what the outcome of the discussion could be and ideas for collaboration with other programs. This will allow the discussions to focus on next steps – what the programmes plan to do and possible together.

Circular economy is fast gaining importance on the policy agenda (although with different degrees in different world regions). Some Asian countries opened the way already nearly 15 years ago with, for instance, the 3R initiative in Japan (reduce, reuse, recycle), then taken up by the G7. Today the circular economy approach is going beyond the end of life of products and waste management by including other important life-cycle stages such as consumption and production and closing the loop by addressing the market for secondary raw materials. This is for instance the concept of the EU, presented in the EU Circular Economy Action Plan which was adopted in December 2015.

A key approach to address the decoupling challenge in every economic sector is circularity, a concept which is rooted in circular economy thinking and explores opportunities to move from linear to circular SCP patterns, promoting closed material loops and enhanced resource efficiency with a system-wide approach along the entire value chain. Embracing circularity implies robust measurement and monitoring of the sustainable development impacts of economic activities and a constant rethinking and optimizing of performance through the use of innovation and technology.

### Consumer information program and CE

#### What does CE means for our program?

There is a growing awareness about the importance of the role of consumers for a successful transition towards the circular economy. In the public debate producers often point out that they need a demand for producing “circular economy products” e.g. longer-lasting or including more recycled materials. They also need “educated consumers” – the value of a product (including the materials and the resources used to produce it) could be wasted if the consumer does not practice circular economy principles (e.g. throwing away prematurely a long lasting product, not recycling it properly, or not handing it over for reuse/refurbishment/remanufacturing). On the other hand consumers can also “educate” producers about their expectations about higher quality products (e.g. avoiding premature obsolescence, ensuring The circular economy is getting higher on the political agenda (top down). But it is not yet very well

known by the average citizen. Yet in some cases consumers are doing circular economy without knowing, e.g. sharing economy initiatives (grassroots, bottom-up) or applying reuse/recycling practices in for example rural areas.

Therefore issues related to consumer behaviour and information are very important. However this is quite a new topic and we lack knowledge. The circular economy requires more reliable, harmonised, comparable and verifiable consumer information and can produce a lot of consumer information, which can lead to confusion of the consumers, proliferation of labels, misleading “green claims” etc.

### **What has the program done so far?**

The CI-SCP’s work around this issue has so far focused on product lifetime extension – a report (The Long View) with policy recommendations was published in 2017, and a collection of good practices (including infographics and video), with a focus on engaging consumers in the topic, is currently underway, led by Akatu Institute.

### **What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other programs?**

Draft CI-SCP work plan/ activities 2018-2019:

- Develop supplement to the Guidelines for providing product sustainability information on CE (comprehensive, covering all CE models; focus on selected sectors, e.g. textiles, electronics, toys)
- Research how consumers are already participating in CE and develop communications around this
- Continue work on product lifetime extension (awareness raising to consumers and making the business case through good practices)
- Collaborate with One Planet SLE program (e.g. guidance for teachers, link to ‘the good life 2.0’ from WBCSD), and other Programs as relevant
- Raise awareness on the topic at events, e.g. HLPF, WCEF 2018, WRF Conference 2019, PLATE conference 2019

## **Sustainable Tourism program and CE**

### **What does CE mean for our Programme?**

While the application of this evidence-based approach towards circularity has led to positive results and sustainable business models in other sectors, it is still incipient within tourism, as a service-oriented sector, which could make good use of the opportunities to replicate and implement existing best practices across its transversal value chain.

Therefore, moving away from the classic focus on linear flows and adapting more systematic circular production patterns that are accelerators for sustainability of the sector, represent a transformation process that is key to the long-term health and resilience of tourism activities, and thus the sector as a whole. Additionally, through this approach the tourism sector benefits from the opportunity to advance in addressing additional issues of environmental concern, such as the use of plastic or food waste, and therefore places tourism as an agent of change triggering positive impact on and beyond the sector,

contributing to meet the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically SDG12.

The STP aims at showcasing how circular economy solutions in the tourism sector can accelerate the shift to SCP and the implementation of SDG 12 while contributing to sustainable and resilient societies.

### **What has the program done so far?**

In December 2017, STP organised its International Symposium and Annual Conference under title “Empowering Tourism Destinations’ Sustainability through Innovation”. One of the four topics under discussion was “Circularity in tourism value chains: Supporting the Paris Agreement through a low carbon transition”. Panel’s objective was to explore how circularity within tourism value chains may allow accelerating the implementation of climate global goals. Circularity opportunities within tourism industry were explored from different perspectives of destination managers, policy makers, transportation sector and hoteliers.

STP actors followed these discussions with great interest. UNWTO, STP lead actor and the French co-lead agreed to pursue the work on this strategic topic in 2018. Within this frame, the UNWTO and UN Environment signed an agreement aiming to reinforce the two UN agencies’ collaboration on circularity. This collaboration will result in development of a position paper on circularity models in tourism and of a cycle of webinars on circularity within the tourism value chains.

First webinar was organized in March 2018 in collaboration with SBC program and was followed with great interest by members of the two networks. The recording of the webinar may be consulted here: <http://sdt.unwto.org/webinars-10yfp-stp>

STP and SBC also partnered and applied jointly to organize an HLPF 2018 side-event “Tourism & Construction: Circular Economy solutions for SDG12”.

### **What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other programs?**

Cross-program collaboration should be a project that would strengthen sense of belonging to a One Planet network; the project should also give modern, dynamic image of the network. It can be also an opportunity to target broader audience of “consumers”, while most of the programmes are used to work with sustainability professionals and experts. Such project may be a cycle of podcasts on circular economy (30-minute talks). Programs can also collaborate on series of webinars, but this format is more rigid and less creative.

## **Sustainable Buildings and Construction Program**

### **What does CE mean for our Programme?**

It means:

- minimizing construction waste and using waste as a raw material
- design for disassembly and recycling and seeing buildings as material banks
- lifetime optimization of buildings and infrastructure
- adaptable spaces and structures, sharing economy applications and business models

- showcasing demonstration projects/case studies so benefits are clear

### **What has our Program done so far?**

#### Recent events

- World Circular Economy Forum, Helsinki, Finland 5-7 June 2017 [wcef2017.com](http://wcef2017.com)
- Collective Impact for Sustainable Consumption and a Circular Economy session 6 June 2017 With other 10YFP Programmes
- World Urban Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 7-13 February 2018 [wuf9.org](http://wuf9.org)
- Circular Economy in Built Environment Networking Event 11 February 2018 <https://redbooth.com/f/0e933ee1b75cc0b6>

#### Webinars

- Circularity in Buildings and Procurement 19 December 2017 with BAMB project and SPP programme <https://redbooth.com/f/35e09eb3eb309e75>
- Sustainable Business Models on Circularity in the Built Environment 28 March 2018 with STP programme and BAMB project <http://sdt.unwto.org/webinars-10yfp-stp>
- Videos
- Circular Economy in Buildings and Construction video <https://vimeo.com/219586890>

#### Publications

- Circular Economy in the Built Environment (Affiliated activity), 23 p. <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/circular-economy-versio-7.11.2017-pdf.pdf>
- Book chapter underway for publication (Affiliated activity)

### **What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other Programmes?**

Commitment on e.g. joint

- event organization
- material production (publications, videos, marketing material, ...)
- fund raising
- project preparation
- network extension
- monitoring and evaluation of existing initiatives to understand application in other context/s and countries
- Mapping of present and future use of materials and components; plus LCA
- institutional strengthening
- circular economy expert database
- Podcast series

### **For discussion at the session**

### **What do we intend to do in the coming 2 to 5 years?**

#### Coming Events

- Workshop on **Information Management in Circularity** in WASCON Conference, Tampere, Finland 7 June 2018 (*still under planning*) <http://www.ril.fi/en/events/wascon-2018/program/workshops/circular-economy-in-building-and-construction.html>
- Joint Seminar on **Circular Economy** with BAMB project in Brussels 20 September 2018 focusing on three themes: material passport digitalisation, circularity assessment and circular procurement that BAMB project has developed. Our intention is to explore the pan-European opportunities of the work done in Europe.

SBC can act as a development platform for Circular Economy. Possible SBC Initiatives on CE can be

- Work Streams dedicated to a particular aspect/life cycle stage in buildings and construction
- SBC Fund focusing on Circular Economy
- Global Survey on Circular Economy in Built Environment
  - focus on data and benefits
  - contribution to (and/or is informed by) other important construction themes e.g. energy consumption, climate change, embodied energy, LCA, water conservation, GVA and economic growth, employment & skills
  - public versus private sector
- Initiating regional implementation projects (e.g. one in each of Europe, SE Asia, LAC, Africa etc)
- Common project with SPP program concerning public procurement
  - look at CP in construction across the same regions as defined above
  - Development of CE construction communities of practice?
- SBC (One Planet Network) expert network on Circular Economy
- CE indicators and evaluation for the built environment.
- Mapping of present and future use of materials and components; plus LCA
- Institutional strengthening
- Material Database
- Guideline development & database

##### **5. What could we do with the other Programmes that adds value?**

Outreach events, implementation projects and building common knowledge base on selected topics of joint interest and communication/promotion through the One Planet network.

## **Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Program and CE**

### **What does CE mean for our Programme?**

Some implications of CE to SLE programme and partners:

- support for businesses whose business model and operations depend on a minimal amount of virgin or non-renewable materials and whose products and services have minimal negative externalities;
- encourage production and products or services which allow for a significant percentage of their parts and materials to be easily reintroduced into the supply chain;
- promote development of accessible and convenient facilities and infrastructures that make it easy for consumers and producers to opt out of consumerism or to participate in reuse and recycle schemes;
- guiding public policies and programmes that encourage well-being of citizens
- engage with communities that are less materialistic and that encourage mutual trust, mutual support and sharing schemes, and meaningful social interactions.

## What has the program done so far?

## What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other Programmes?

- Outputs/outcomes for collaboration:
- address the confusion over keywords and competing mandates: clarity on linkages between (especially policy mandates) for circular economy and SCP, including how these can be reflected in programme activities;
- ideas to provide some guidance to producers: agreement for a framework of demand-side principles for circular economy products and services, to ensure that individual and social perspectives are factored into design of market and public options claiming to adhere to CE;
- support programmes to promote CE: capacity development scheme and resources for programmes to engage partners and carry out activities that link SLE and other programme mandates to CE;

## Sustainable Public Purchasing

### What does CE mean for our program ?

By buying environmentally friendly goods and services, EU governments can develop a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient circular economy.

Public procurement – the buying of works, goods or services by public bodies – makes up around 14 % of the EU's GDP, accounting for about €2 trillion annually. This makes it a great lever to give a boost to sustainable goods and services, as well as to better equip public authorities in meeting evolving environmental challenges. For example, by purchasing low-emission buses for better air quality, using low-impact materials for buildings and roads, and buying toxic-free cleaning products, local, regional and national authorities across Europe can help foster a greener, more sustainable and efficient economy.

Green public procurement (GPP) has been recognized as a vehicle for green growth in a number of EU policies, including the Circular Economy Package adopted in December 2015. While the political case for GPP is easily made, there are obstacles to its proper implementation in procurement procedures. Often, procurers struggle to define what a green product is or to verify 'green' claims and are afraid of higher costs.

That is why the Commission has developed support measures for public bodies, including the EU GPP criteria for priority product groups like construction, food and catering, IT equipment and transport. In addition, there is a 'Buying green!' guide, GPP helpdesk, and over 100 best practice cases.

Numerous successful actions taken by public authorities in Barcelona, Copenhagen, Ghent and Vienna show that it is possible to have a real impact with strong political commitment, a professional procurement workforce, and good forward planning. Good knowledge of the market and a thorough analysis of a public authority's needs can also often lead to significant financial savings.

The Circular Economy Package sets out several key actions on GPP, such as including requirements on durability and reparability in the EU GPP criteria, and providing training on the circular economy. The Commission will also lead by example in its own procurement.

To add further impetus, in April 2016 the Dutch EU presidency and the Commission co-organised the first international congress on circular procurement, highlighting the great potential of GPP in the circular economy. The second congress was organized in Tallinn in October 2017, during the Estonian presidency. The Commission will continue to help EU cities and regions to mainstream green considerations in their purchasing decisions.

### **What has our Program done so far?**

We have included product service systems in our first biennial work plan (2013-2015) and have produced the following report: [Using Product Services Systems to Enhance Sustainable Public Procurement](#).

During our second biennial work plan we have produced a [training module](#) on Circular procurement and have organized a webinar on the subject that is accessible [here](#).

Rijkswaterstaat filed an initiative on circular procurement entitled: [Green Deal Circular Procurement](#).

### **What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other Programmes?**

Collaborate with the One Planet SLE programme with SPP programme (e.g. awareness rising and training of procurers on CE and other programs as relevant).

Pursue collaboration with the SBC programme on circular procurement in the construction sector.

## **Sustainable Food systems**

### **What does CE mean for our program ?**

Ecosystems services is one of the driving factors in Circular Economy schemes, linked to: Waste disposal; Energy use; Waste re-use; Water re-use, Resource efficiency (including recycling) Energy use and Energy generation from waste; Materials re-use and waste disposal, production and recycling of packaging.

A large part of the current food system is linear: a one-way nutrient flow, powered by fossil energy, that leads to carbon emissions, pollution, degraded land, and other negative impacts. Every year, USD 1 trillion worth of food is wasted across the globe; our cities throw away 600 million tonnes of organic materials annually.

It is widely agreed that we need to rethink our approach to food production and consumption if we want a more regenerative, effective global food system. Transitioning to a more circular food system will help address many of today's issues. By redesigning urban food systems - based on the principles of a

circular economy - we can facilitate the closing of nutrient loops from food growing areas to cities and back to food growing areas. Localised production, food innovation, new value streams, and other circular interventions, could have a significant social impact by reconnecting citizens with food, creating jobs, and inducing potential health

### **What have the program done so far?**

The program has not had any discussions within the SFS Programme on the specific topic of circular economy, other than the input we provided for last year's World Circular Economy Forum. However, we have two focus themes in the SFS Programme that seem particularly relevant to the concept of circular economy: one is "sustainability along all food value chains" and the second one is "reduction of food losses and waste".

The SFS Programme promotes a holistic approach looking at the entire food system. This food systems approach is in many ways very similar to the circular economy approach; maybe that is part of the reason why we are not using the terminology of "circular economy" very much within the SFS Programme, while it seems that our network members are actually working on it through their respective initiatives.

For each of the two above-mentioned themes the SFS Programme has a core initiative that may exhibit circular economy elements: the value chain initiative, for example, seeks to establish short circuit food value chains between producers and consumer (e.g. community-based agriculture), and the food losses and waste initiative, well, aims at reducing the waste of resources at all stages of the food system.

### **What could be the outcome of the discussion – ideas for collaboration with other Programmes?**

Maybe it could be useful to have a discussion in order to strengthen our common understanding of circular economy, what it means in the context of the 10YFP and our programmes, and how it is useful to us as a tool to promote the implementation of our programmes. Within the SFS Programme coordination desk we do not currently have much capacities to take on additional work. But if CE may help us establish linkages and synergies among existing work across the six programmes, that could be very useful.