

Circular Society Action

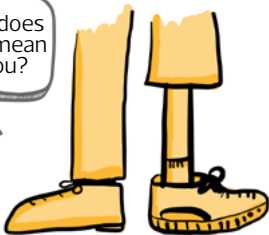


Rethink Work-Life Balance

Circular
Society
Toolkit

Action

What does
work mean
to you?

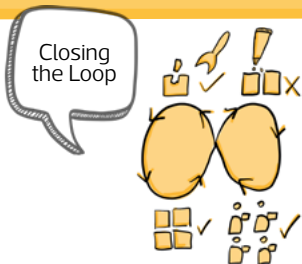


What type of work is essential for a circular society?

What does work actually mean in a circular society? How might we integrate (circular) volunteering into our understanding of work? How might we value it? How might we compensate it?

Circular Design

Action

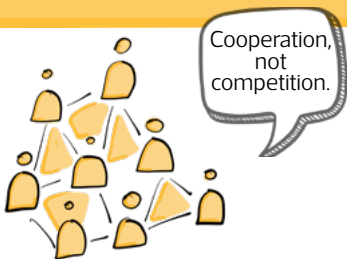


Which products, services, structures, or places could be designed circularly?

Sustainable design considers any product holistically: life cycle, resource flows, conditions of production, (re-) use, end-of-life solutions. Services, structures, or places are considered similarly and can be designed for circularity.

Collaborate Across Disciplines

Action

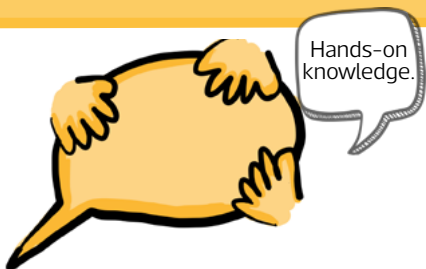


Who needs to collaborate in the development of sustainable and circular solutions?

Our increasingly complex world cannot be navigated individually. Bringing together different skills and perspectives and accounting for various needs and interests is crucial for finding sustainable solutions.

Experiential Learning

Action



How might we help people envision a circular society?

A circular society can only succeed if everyone can understand and participate in it. As theoretical models may be abstract and intangible, the acquisition of circular skills and adoption of circular models must go hand in hand with processes of practical learning.

Promote Renewable Energy

Action



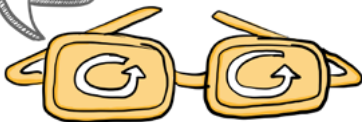
How might we promote renewable energy and sustainable resources?

In the face of the global North's enormous energy consumption, renewable energies like solar and wind increasingly replace fossil fuels leading to more regenerative energy supply.

Discover your Local Circular Society

Action

Embrace
Your Circular
Community!

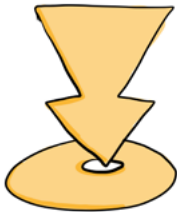


**How might we support circular action
in our surroundings?**

Circular spaces, services and organisations already exist in many places. You just need to discover them. Where is circularity already practiced in your area?

Think Globally, Act Locally

Action



Become
a glocal
hero!

What solutions can be implemented locally that also create value globally?

Local solutions can be more effective, sustainable, and resilient. Local production reduces transport distances and dependence on global events and markets. However: local actions can have global consequences and every local action is strongly influenced by external developments.

Recognise Hidden Value

Action



Value
Beyond
Profit!

How can we make “true value” visible?

Contemporary conceptions of value often emphasize short-term profits at the expense of the environment and intact communities. These potential „losses“ (such as damaged communities or polluted environment) must be accounted for before they are felt.

Share and Swap

Action



What and how can we share and swap?

Exchanging, lending, renting, donating and providing services are all ways of sharing goods. Ownership is increasingly seen as an unnecessary burden and free access becomes the norm.

Zero Waste

Action

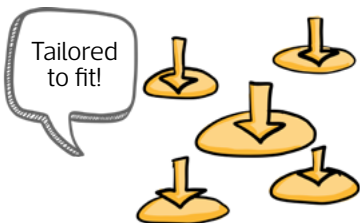


What is stopping us from becoming waste-free? How can we overcome it?

“Zero waste” represents the ideal of a fully waste-free society – be it production, sales, use, or end of life.

Find Localised Solutions

Action



Which unique aspects of your environment have circular potential?

Is there potential for economic symbiosis? Can trade and industry collaborate? How organized and accessible is civil society? A location's unique circumstances always require adaptations for achieving optimal circular solutions.

Repair and Refurbish

Action



What can we fix?

Repairing and refurbishing extend the lifespans of goods but require appropriate tools, skills and infrastructure. The practice of designing things so that they break after a certain period of time, is known as “planned obsolescence”.

Focus on the Common Good

Action

For All,
Not Just
One!



How might we contribute to the common good?

Economic actors, politicians and each of us should not focus purely on their own benefit, but should align their actions with the common good. Individualistic and organizational interests must be countered by commitment to the common good in order to truly benefit people and the environment.

Create Space for Experimentation

Action

Let's try it!
Now!



**Where and how might we
create spaces for learning
and experimentation?**

Experimentation is the foundation of all research and innovation as it enables improvement and rediscovery. It is also the indispensable first step before eventually scaling up.

Use Healthy Materials

Action



Where and how might we use healthy materials?

A material is “healthy” if it harms neither people nor the environment (such as sustainably sourced wood). Most materials currently used are not „healthy“ in this way. How do different materials affect our bodies or the environment when we use, recycle or throw them away?

Share Knowledge and Resources

Action

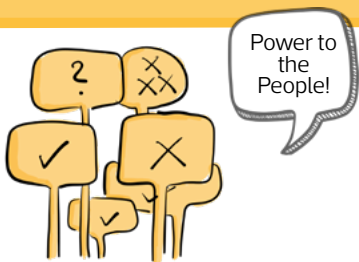


How might we make knowledge or resources available to others?

A lot of knowledge and resources are privately owned and only accessible to a few. The “open source” approach and tools like product passports aim to unveil the black box of production processes by sharing product information across the value chain – including data on raw material extraction, production, recycling, etc.

Strengthen Participation

Action



How might we actively take part in our circular communities?

Participation is about involving individuals or groups in the process of making decisions and implementing actions that directly affect them and thereby empowering people to contribute their unique perspectives. For many projects, involving stakeholders in the process of decision making is crucial because they bring new ideas and insights.

Create Transparency

Action



What I
don't know
can hurt
me.

In which organizations would you like to see full transparency? How might we guarantee transparency?

Acquiring the relevant knowledge and information is always the first step in transitioning towards more circular and sustainable practices. Making organizations and processes transparent enables more people to potentially take this first step.

Rethink Indicators of Success

Action



What does success mean to you?

In some way “success” is important to all of us. But how we define success can vary according to our values and can change over the course of our lives. Are the people who make the most money the most successful? Or does more success imply bigger contribution to society?

Minimalist Living

Action



Simplicity
brings
happiness!

Where could you start tomorrow?

Minimalism is a way of life where ownership and consumption are reduced to the bare essentials and emphasizes deliberately cutting back on the unnecessary. Minimalism can also be practised on a business level.

Redistribute Resources

Action

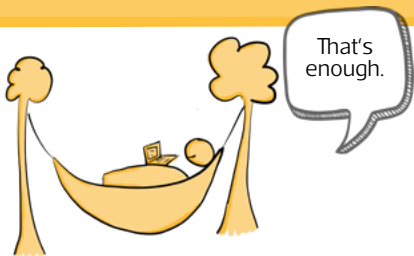


What resources could be redistribute?

We all begin our lives in socially and financially different situations. Knowledge, power and money can be redistributed to allow fairer access to education, work and politics. As power dynamics always influence the flow of discourse a just circular society must empower all its members in a way that allows for productive and fair discourse.

Discover Frugality

Action

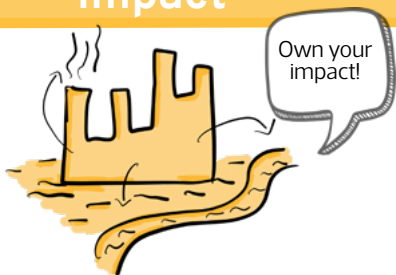


Do you really need this?

Being frugal means being content with and appreciative of what you have and not continuously striving for more. We live in a consumer society that tempts us to buy new things, even if we don't need them. At the same time many people are never satisfied with their new purchases for long. How can you encourage frugality?

Reduce Negative Impact

Action



How might we do something about our or others' externalised costs?

When people or companies create costs for others or nature that these “producers” do not have to shoulder themselves, we speak of “externalised costs”. An example of this is when CO₂ is emitted or water is polluted, but no payments are made for cleaning up the pollution or the consumption of the resource.

Take Responsibility

Action



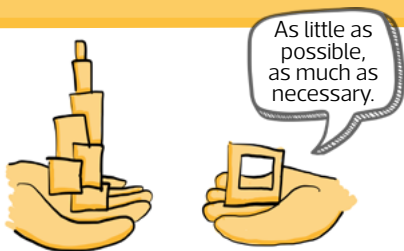
I will take
care of it!

How might we take responsibility for our actions?

Taking responsibility means being prepared to accept the consequences of your decisions. It involves making decisions and considering their impact on others. We are responsible for our actions, so to a large degree we are also responsible for the impact we have on our fellow humans.

Reduce Materials

Action



Where and how might we save resources?

Using less material typically results in lower energy consumption. Ideally, we can meet our needs while at the same time reducing environmental pollution. Especially when raw materials are scarce (e.g. phosphorus, oil, cobalt), it is crucial to reduce their use and promote sustainability.

Nature: a Provider

Action



Nature
speaks, we
must listen.

How might we “pay” for nature’s services?

What nature provides is generally taken for granted: clean air, clean water, fertile soil and all kinds of materials. Instead of conserving and regenerating nature, humanity exploits nature for her services. Ecological slavery, one might say.

PROsuming instead of CONsuming

Action



What can you and would you like to produce yourself?

“Prosuming” means that you are a consumer and also a producer at the same time: for example when you produce energy in your own home or 3D print your own products. The traditional distinction between producer and consumer is becoming blurred.

Recycle and Upcycle

Action



Which materials can be recycled or upcycled?

Recycling is an important part of resource use: things are broken down or shredded to make new material. However, even if we sort our waste well most materials are not recycled. Upcycling is the process of turning used items into new products.

Promote Diversity

Action

Embrace
differences!



Where would you like to see more diversity?

Different people have different lifestyles, cultures and ideas. This diversity enables us to develop varied solutions to problems – in business, technology or society. As nature proves: only through (bio-)diversity can we adapt to a changing environment.

Use instead of Own

Action

Borrow,
don't buy!



What can you rent or borrow rather than own?

Renting allows you to use something without having to own it. You pay for a service, not a product. This gives companies more incentive to make durable products because they still own them. Customers save on buying products that are only used for a short time.