

Develop and agree policies to promote a circular economy

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In a circular economy minimal waste is generated as the surplus from one process becomes the raw material for another. Products are designed to be upgradable, easily disassembled and the parts put back into the economy. The longer products last the fewer are needed and the less carbon is required. As well as environmental benefits, a circular economy can support economic growth, creating jobs, encouraging community engagement, self-reliance and general health and well-being.
- 1.2. To achieve a circular economy, measures must be far reaching and cross-sectoral and for this reason it may be beneficial to use a flexible definition. Business models are an important part of facilitating a circular economy, for example around lease, sharing and other service based approaches. Adopting new business models relies on business participation and only can be influenced by Government.
- 1.3. A suggested definition for a circular economy which meets the local context of the Isle of Man is:
"A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life" (WRAP 2018; Bulkeley et al., 2007).
- 1.4. Government can play a key role in supporting the transition to a circular economy through awareness raising, supporting the development of a business case, and through grant support for example. Barriers can sometimes be mitigated through effective partnership working and genuine consultation, engagement and shared decision making and financing models.
- 1.5. Suggested actions to support the development of a circular economy include learning from transferable best practice, considering incentives and developing a regulatory framework to support compliance. This includes getting the right balance of government support, private sector innovation and economic activity.

2. SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- 2.1. Agree on a definition for a circular economy for the Isle of Man through engagement with key stakeholders including the Department for Enterprise and the Chamber of Commerce.
- 2.2. Seek to establish plans on a sector by sector basis regarding how they seek to transition to a circular economy.

- 2.3. Establish a set of indicators and targets to measure and guide the transition, for example resource productivity, waste generated and food waste.
- 2.4. Consider the feasibility of introducing a Green Public Procurement Programme with a circular economy focus to help drive the market.
- 2.5. Consider the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or alternative policy instruments to drive greater circularity for packaging, Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), batteries, vehicles, textiles and furniture.
- 2.6. Explore the feasibility of government providing incentives to encourage circular economy models, using existing schemes.
- 2.7. Consider the feasibility and desirability of the development of a Circular Economy Bill. Review existing regulatory frameworks to penalise those continuing with wasteful and carbon emitting practices.

3. REFERENCES

Bulkeley, H., Watson, M. and Hudson, R., 2007. Modes of governing municipal waste. *Environment and planning*, 39(11), pp.2733-2753.

WRAP (2018). What is a circular economy?. [online] WRAP. Available at: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/about-us/about/wrap-and-circular-economy><http://www.wrap.org.uk/about-us/about/wrap-and-circular-economy> [Accessed 19 Dec. 2019].

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scotland - The Scottish Government policy on the Circular Economy are our Circular Economy Strategy, Making Things Last, published in 2016: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/making-things-last-circular-economy-strategy-scotland/>

Zero waste Scotland - <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/>
Are well established and support a circular economy approach.

The Remade Network - <https://remade.network/> The Edinburgh Remakery is a social enterprise which supports a circular economy.

Another social enterprise example is CRNS <http://crns.org.uk/> again in the Circular Economy space.

Glasgow Wood Recycling <https://glasgowwoodrecycling.org.uk/> and Move On Wood <https://www.moveon.org.uk/what-we-do/move-on-wood-recycling> combine circular economy and employability in their social enterprise model.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation - <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

Ireland - A networking group promoting the circular economy in Ireland have been identified as representing many social enterprises <https://www.crni.ie/>