

CIVER Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Can Circular Economy thinking transform the water sector?

Europeans (only) need between

2-3 planets worth of resources

to sustain their lifestyles

Earth Overshoot Day Comes Sooner Every Year

Share of year remaining after Earth Overshoot Day (1970–2018)



(C) (1) (=) @StatistaCharts Source: Earth Overshoot Day







Ove Arup



FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICES: FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A CIRCULAR BUILT ENVIRONMENT







THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPPORTUNITY FOR URBAN & INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION IN CHINA





Beyond the current "take, make and dispose" extractive industrial model, the Circular Economy is restorative and regenerative by design



Renewables and finite materials



Minimise systemic leakage & negative externalities

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AS A STRATEGY

Need For Urgent Action



During the 20th century the use of natural resources rose at about twice the rate of population growth³



In the last decade we have seen a recoupling of economic growth with material use, with more materials being used per unit of GDP⁴



We extract over 84 billion tonnes of materials per year to meet the functional needs of society. Yet, only 9% of these materials are cycled back into our economies⁵



Estimates suggest that by 2050, if current trends continue, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean⁶



Diseases caused by pollution were responsible for more than 9 million premature deaths in 2015 – 16% of deaths worldwide or three times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined⁷

Promising Solution



Circular economy provides a \$4.5 trillion opportunity by 2030 through avoiding waste, making businesses more efficient and creating new employment opportunities⁸



The Circular Economy is an important strategy to achieve SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and is also critical to delivering on 6 further related SDGs



Reducing or reusing just one fourth of the current amount of food waste can feed 870 million hungry people in the world⁹



Circular Economy has been shown to almost half the number of years of anticipated water shortages in water stressed regions of California¹⁰



Circular Economy in India could lead to 82% less consumption of virgin materials in transportation & vehicle manufacturing by 2050¹¹

* Adopted from WEF/PACE

Circular



Avoiding waste



Economy

Everything else

Our start of the journey towards a CE



Arup's Circular Pavilion @London Design Festival (2016)

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People's Pavilion @Dutch Design Week Eindhoven (2018)

IMPACT VIRTUAL SUMMIT

INVESTING IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

November 20-21, 20

ONE TRILLION REASONS Why We Need a Circular Economy

The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) has announced its intention to provie equity investment offering funding for venture and growth stage businesses that can I circular economy activities in London.

CIRCULAR

ECONOMY

GUIDELINES

The expectation is that the new fund's focus will be on nnovative technologies that improve waste management and new asset-light circular economy business models.

nnovative and new ideas often find securing investment challenging. The development of this private equity fund is based on the confidence that circular economy approaches do work, and that early stage investment is an important barrier to overcome.



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So what about the water sector?

Climate change: Water shortages in England 'within 25 years'

() 19 March 2019

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Within 25 years England will not have enough water to meet demand, the head of the Environment Agency is warning.

Genesis of Cities and their Water Systems

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White Paper Working Group



Principle 1: Design out waste externalities

(For systems interfacing with water)

- Optimise the amount of energy, minerals, and chemicals use in operation of water systems in concert with other systems.
- Optimise consumptive use of water within sub-basin in relation adjacent sub-basins (e.g. use in agriculture or evaporative cooling)
- Use measures or solutions which deliver the same outcome without using water

Principle 2: Keep Resources in Use

(For systems interfacing with water)

• Optimise resource yields within water systems (water use & reuse, energy, minerals, and chemicals).

• Optimise energy or resource extraction (organics, minerals, etc) from the water system and maximise their reuse.

• Optimise value generated where water systems connect with other systems, such as 'water + energy' and 'water + food'.

Principle 3: Regenerate Natural Capital (For systems interfacing with water)

• Maximise environmental flows by reducing consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water.

• Preserve and enhance the natural capital by river restoration, pollution prevention, and ensuring quality of effluent

• Ensure minimum disruption to natural water systems from human interactions and use.

The difference in Circular Economy (CE) thinking

System Without CE thinking

System With CE Thinking



© Adapted from Arup/EMF/Antea report

Avoid Use

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Water is used as a service.

Through rethinking products and services it would be possible to eliminate ineffective uses.



Reduce Use

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Water is used as a service.

The amount of water use can be reduced through

- demand management,
- efficiency measures, and
- better resource allocation and management.

Reuse

Water is used as a resource or carrier

Pursue opportunities to reuse water or nutrients within an operation (closed loop) and for external applications within the surrounding vicinity or community.

Recycle

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Water is used as service

Water recycling within internal operations and/or for external users.

For example, municipal recycled water

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Opportunity

Replenish

Water as a service, to the environment and future users

Efficiently and effectively returning water to the basin.

For example Managed Aquifer Recharge to replenish groundwater

Holistic view of multiple Circular Economy opportunities across a municipal water system

Circular Economy Assessment Framework

- With Ellen MacArthur Foundation, AbInBev, Antea Group, Coca Cola, Danone, Dell, Google, Heineken, Hera Gruppo, Suez, and Veolia
- Scalable approach/ application
- Building, industrial estate, district, city, water utility, basin.
- Identify and evaluate opportunities

Thank you

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