The Circular Economy - an essential part of a low carbon transition: London's theory and practice James Close Head of the Low Carbon Circular Economy Programme

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Current Trajectory of Warming



Source: IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, Chapter 1 – Technical Annex 1.A, Fig. 12

Global greenhouse gas emissions



Consumption Based Emissions: Tackling Overlooked Emissions



https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Completing The Picture How The Circular Economy- Tackles Climate Change V3 26 September.pdf?utm source=newsletter&utm medium=email&utm content=2019-10-07&utm campaign=greenbuzz



London's Policy Landscape

- Ambition to be the leading low carbon circular city
- London Environment Strategy and London Plan (final expected spring 2020)
- In 2016, local authorities collected 3.7 million tonnes of waste – enough to fill more than 1,500 Olympic-size swimming pools
- Recycling rates have dropped back down to the levels seen in 2010
- In 30 years, local authorities will need to collect an extra one million tonnes of waste - equal to an additional 500,000 refuse trucks of rubbish each year
- Circular Economy Statement proposed for all major developments



London's municipal waste today





Where have we come from?

Originally set up with a focus on waste infrastructure and recycling, LWARB has traditionally had a strong audience amongst London's boroughs and waste management stakeholders.

This has meant that the language and priorities of policy makers and 'end of pipe' processes has led our communications – but over the past three years, this has started to change as our focus has expanded into both the inner and outer loops of circular economy.

How are we set up?

LWARB has three objectives, prescribed by the GLA Act:

- > To promote and encourage, so far as relating to Greater London:
 - the production of less waste;
 - an increase in the proportion of waste that is re-used or recycled and;
 - the use of methods of collection, treatment and disposal of waste which are more beneficial to the environment.

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the Board may provide financial assistance to any person towards or for the purposes of:

- the provision of facilities for or in connection with the collection, treatment or disposal of waste produced in Greater London;
- conducting research into new technologies or techniques for the collection, treatment or disposal of waste;
- securing, or assisting in securing, the performance of any function of a London borough council or the Common Council relating to waste.









"This is LWARB's vision for London – a circular city which capitalises on these opportunities to become a more resilient, resource-efficient and competitive city of the future (2017)."





Built environment



The circular economy opportunities in the built environment will add £3-5bn to GDP by 2036.

Example interventions include:

- innovations like modular construction.
- more effective utilisation of buildings.
- design for building disassembly, material management and re-use.



The circular economy opportunities in the textiles sector are over £1bn by 2038.

Example interventions include: • increasing the lifetime of clothes through design and innovative technologies.

- increasing the usage of clothes through renting or leasing.
- increasing the re-use, repair and recycling of clothes via incentivised return schemes.



The circular economy opportunities in the plastics sector will be at least £200m by 2036.

- Examples interventions include:
- activities to reduce plastic use.
- increasing the recycling rate.
- innovative recycling technologies.

Sector-Based Approach



The circular economy opportunities in the food sector will add £2-4bn to GDP by 2038.

Example interventions include:

- raising consumer awareness and knowledge.
- reducing avoidable food waste.
- using unavoidable food waste to create energy/compost.



The circular economy opportunities in the electrical and electronic equipment sector will be at least £900m by 2038.

Example interventions include:

- sharing, renting and product as service business models.
- Increased re-use/effective recycling rate.
- designing better products that enable longer product life.

Working in partnership

- Greater London Authority
- 33 London Boroughs
- National Government
- EU
- WRAP
- Businesses
- Delivery partners
- Investors



Promoting behaviour change

- London Recycles: 55% of target audience have seen the campaign in the last year and remember the messages. 21% of our target audience have both seen the campaign and say they are recycling more as a result.
- #LoveNotLandfill: We have no really compelling behavioural stats around this one, but we have research which shows that 32% of 16-24 year old Londoners recognise and know about the campaign.
- Small Change, Big Difference (TRiFOCAL): Borough waste comp analysis pre- and postproject shows an average 9% reduction in food waste arising in the target boroughs we've worked with.



BusinessGreen Leaders Awards 2019 FINALIST



Commercial potential

We work with businesses and investment funds to provide support and finance to business.





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Advance London

Circular SME Business Support programme Helping circular SMEs to grow and succeed and linear businesses to transition to circular models.

~150	Businesses in the portfolio	
30	Jobs created	
20	Products launched	





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Defining audiences

Who?	Why do we need them?	What do they need from us?
Partners & London waste authorities	We need their vision and support, and commitment to help us deliver against the direction they set. We need access to their networks & resources.	To help them reduce waste and increase recycling in the most efficient way, share learning and promote London as a global circular city.
Corporates & funders (current & potential)	We need partnerships to deliver real change. We need business insight and learning. We need funding.	To help them thrive through effective resource management and to become leading circular businesses.
Waste industry & sustainability community	We need to retain our expert industry knowledge and networks through working with them. We need their support, collaboration and ability to deliver projects.	To involve them in industry transformation work.
SMEs & start-ups	We need their creativity. We need to inspire innovators and entrepreneurs to grow circular business in London.	To provide them with networks, expertise and support to grow.

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 Environmental campaign groups, sustainability

community

consultancies, EMF etc.

Sustainability

Waste industry

 Private waste contractors, specialist consultancies, trade media etc.

> London waste authorities & GLA family

 Boroughs, JWDAs and wider network of partners

SMEs & start-ups

- Innovators and
 - entrepreneurs -
 - both circular and
 - traditional with circular ambition

Partners

• Mayor of London & the

• Both partner & audience for

communications - and co-

creators of content where

London councils

possible

Corporates

- Businesses involved in
 existing funded projects
- Potential new business partners and funders

Trusts, foundations, funding bodies

- EU, WRAP, C&A Foundation
- Potential new funding bodies

Showcasing London

In order to **raise the profile** of London's achievements and LWARB's expertise on cities amongst priority audiences, we will:

Build our presence

- Attending events (globally) as speakers and panelists
- Hosting seminars and workshops on topical and technical themes
- Proactively placing articles and interviews in targeted media

Grow CE Week

- Hosting a week-long celebration of CE in London every June
- Growing reach and impact through targeted PR and promotional activity
- Targeting businesses and decisionmakers – regional, national and multinational

Publish annual (impact) report

- Publishing annual review of London, LWARB and programme achievements
- Using as credentials document for new partnerships
- Sharing proactively through networks, social media and PR

Implications for Barcelona

- "Best location for the circular economy"
- 6 areas of action RESOLVE
- Initiatives and organisations related to the Circular Economy: public authorities that drive projects and initiatives, organized clusters, universities, technology centres and other stakeholders, trade shows and International, networks
- Effective mapping of the circular economy
- Investment in the circular economy, incentives and tax breaks
- International collaboration





Some lessons

- Who's got the skills to invest?
- How do targets drive strategy and scope?
- What's optimal and what's realistic?
- What are the international collaborations?
- Where is the data and analytics?
- Who can help and how?



