

Circular Economy at ICLEI



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Leah Lazer

Expert, Circular Economy



Selected publications on urban transportation, ebuses and circular economy:

- **State of Equity in Electric School Bus Adoption**, World Resources Institute, 2024
- **Electric School Bus Data Dashboard**, World Resources Institute, 2023
- **Assessing the Environmental Impact of Shared Micromobility: A Guide for Cities**, New Urban Mobility Alliance, 2023
- **All Possible Commutes: How Micromobility and Realistic Car Travel Times Impact Accessibility Analyses**, New Urban Mobility Alliance, 2023
- **Circular Economy as a Climate Strategy: Current Knowledge and Calls-to-Action**, World Resources Institute, 2022
- **Dataset Of Electric School Bus Adoption In The United States**, World Resources Institute, 2022
- **Electrifying Ride-Hailing in the United States, Europe, and Canada: How to Enable Ride-Hailing Drivers to Switch to Electric Vehicles**, World Resources Institute, 2021
- **Future Mobility Calculator: An electric mobility infrastructure tool**, Siemens, 2021



Circular Economy

A circular economy is one which **maintains the value and utility of products, materials, water, energy and nutrients** for as long as possible.

The Linear Economy

Our over-consuming world...

- **Global resource extraction** = 100 billion tonnes per year (over 12 tonnes per person)
 - Doubled since 2000
 - Expected to **almost double** again by 2060 (190 billion tonnes)
- **EU generation of waste** = 2.2 billion tonnes per year - 27% municipal waste
 - Recycling and composting *slowly* increasing (nearly 50% in 2021)
 - Nearly 20% of waste still landfilled (2020)

...is unsustainable

- The way we **make, use, and dispose** of products and foods accounts for...
 - **50% of global GHG** emissions.
 - **90% biodiversity loss.**

Need to decouple resource consumption from economic growth.



ICLEI's position

ICLEI believes:

- The circular transition is fundamental to our efforts to **tackle the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, waste generation and pollution**, to the benefit of all in society
- **Local and regional governments are critical actors** in driving this transition with a range of levers at their disposal
- The **regulatory framework and financial incentives** structures in many sectors, such as waste management, industry and construction, remain designed for a linear economic model and often **hinder cities' efforts to promote the circular transition**

What can cities do?

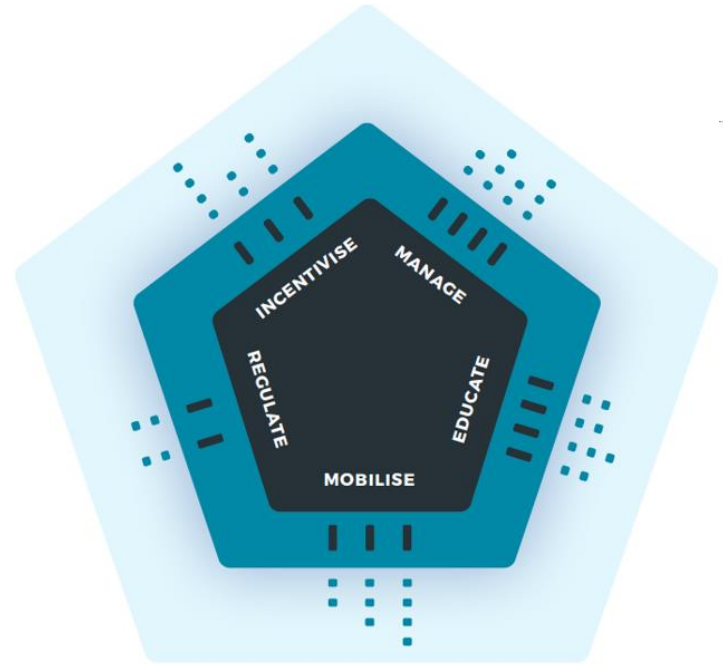
Mobilise – Establish roadmaps and targets, convene stakeholders

Educate – raise awareness, promote research, data collection and knowledge sharing

Manage – Optimise city planning and infrastructure, circular asset management, circular procurement

Incentivise – Provide funding, optimise taxes, charges and subsidies, incubators

Regulate – Bylaws, bans



Circle Economy – Urban Policy Instruments Framework

What we're doing

Initiatives:

- [European Circular Cities Declaration](#) (CCD) - Managed by ICLEI
- [Circular Cities & Regions Initiative](#) (CCRI) Associated Partner
- [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) (ECESP) - Co-ordination Group
- EIB [Circular City Centre](#) (C3) Implementation partner

Projects:

- [CityLoops](#), [Definite-CCRI](#), [CircularInvest](#), [REDOL](#), [SYMSITES](#), [P2GreeN](#), [CircularBiocarbon](#), [CHORIZO](#), [H4C ECoP](#), [BioModel4Regions](#), ...

The Circular Cities Declaration



The **European Circular City Declaration (CCD)** is a commitment document which local and regional governments across Europe can sign to help **accelerate the transition from a linear to a circular economy** in Europe.

Developed and managed by a broad group of **Support Partners**

[Download the Declaration](#)



CCD Signatories



ALBANIA

[Tirana](#)

BELGIUM

[Bruges](#)

[Ghent](#)

[Hasselt](#)

[Leuven](#)

[Liège](#)

[Mechelen](#)

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Frontrunner cities advocacy group

- Initiated by the **City of Amsterdam**, supported by **ICLEI** and the **Ellen MacArthur Foundation**
- **Aim:** To provide a series of **policy recommendations** to the new **European Parliament and Commission** to provide a regulatory and policy framework that genuinely supports the circular transition
- **Participants:** Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Leuven, Malmö, Milan, Porto, Turku, Vitoria-Gasteiz
- Supported by a growing number of further cities and organisations
- To be sent to MEPs and selected Directors-General tomorrow
- Living document - all welcome to support!

Some priority themes

- Promoting a shift towards consumption-based decision-making & target setting
- Moving up the 9Rs hierarchy
- Monitoring progress and impact towards circularity
- Optimising urban planning for circularity
- Optimising the social impacts of the circular transition
- Promoting a circular construction sector
- Promoting circularity in the food and bio-waste sector
- Improving access to finance for local CE projects and businesses



Circularity & Transportation at ICLEI

- Priority area of growth in 2025+
- Community of Practice within the Circular City and Regions Initiative (CCRI) project: “Promoting Circularity in the Transportation Sector” – proposed for launch in early 2025
- CE4CE Advisory Board member
- Actively seeking opportunities for collaboration and project proposal development about **circularity of electric vehicle batteries**, especially reuse of batteries for utility-scale energy storage



Opportunities to participate

Initiatives & projects:

- [Circular Cities Declaration](#) - encourage your city to sign
- Support the **Circular Cities Frontrunner Group open letter**
- Receive capacity building assistance through the [EIB's C3 programme](#)
- Participate in **Communities of Practice** (topics tbd, starting early 2025)
- [Circular Investment Readiness Network \(CIRN\)](#) - join stakeholders helping projects overcome development and financing challenges
- Collaborate on future Horizon Europe **project proposals**

Thank you!

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