

The Circular Economy

A Guide for Greater Manchester



What is the Circular Economy?

The Circular Economy is a system built on reduction, reuse and recycling because waste is considered a **valuable resource**. Used and broken products can be repaired and used again, some products can be reused directly and everything else is recycled.

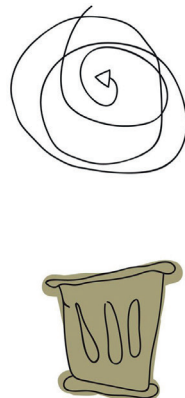
Linear



Recycling



Go Circular!



Three principles of the Circular Economy:

1. Design out waste

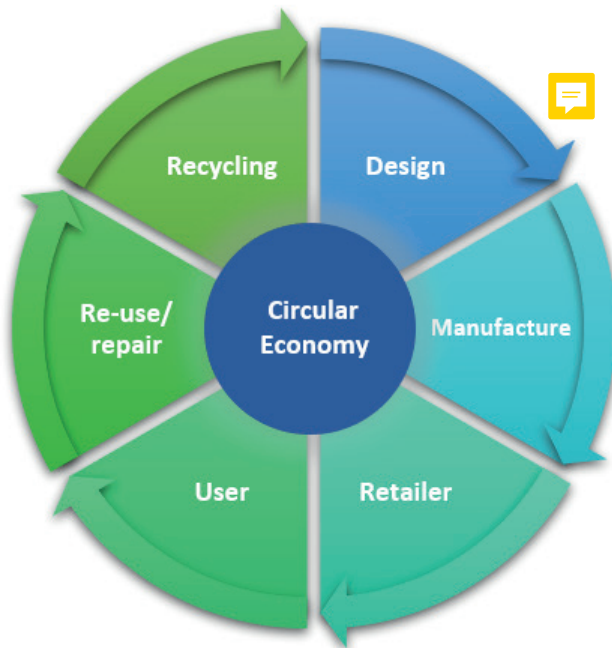
The biological nutrients can be simply composted. Technical nutrients—polymers, alloys, and other man-made materials are designed to be used again with minimal energy and highest quality retention (upcycling).

2. Keep products and materials in use

The products have to be designed so they can be reused, repaired and remanufactured.

3. Regenerate natural systems

By returning valuable nutrients to the soil and other ecosystems, we can enrich our natural resources.



Why is the Circular Economy important?

Implementation of the circular economy will help to:

- Reduce waste
- Enhance the productivity of resources
- Consider waste as valuable product
- Enhance recycling of valuable materials
- Minimise the environmental impact from production and consumption

Circular Economy examples in Greater Manchester



The Good Life is a shop based in Stockport that purchases food products in bulk and sells them from bins and dispensers. To reduce the amount of waste and packaging used, customers are encouraged to bring their own containers to fill, weigh, pay and then reuse over again each visit. Shops offering a service such as this are popping up around Manchester including larger supermarkets like Waitrose.

<https://thegoodlifeheatons.com>



Open Kitchen Manchester is a waste food catering social enterprise. With the UK producing ~15 million tonnes of food waste each year which equates to 10% of the UK's carbon footprint, Open Kitchen Mcr aims to save this food and provide a catering service instead. Open Kitchen Mcr also works with Beer Nouveau producing a range of beers made using fruit and herbs that would otherwise go to waste.

<https://www.openkitchenmcr.co.uk>



Stitched Up is a not-for-profit co-operative based in Chorlton in South Manchester and has been running since 2011. More than half of fast fashion items are disposed of in under 12 months. 300,000 tonnes of this goes to landfill in the UK annually, costing our economy ~£82 million. Stitched Up aims to slow down the fast fashion industry by offering sewing and upcycling workshops, clothes swaps and sustainable fabric sales. They also run educational events and film screenings.

<https://stitchedup.coop>



Gigacycle is a company that specialises in the destruction of digital data, i.e. it destroys personal data kept on computers. They operate a 0% landfill policy, recycling and/or reusing every piece of IT related equipment. Their first aim is to reuse equipment saving energy, however if the equipment is broken or is deemed unusable they will deconstruct it to raw materials such as plastic, aluminium, steel and copper and glass. These are then used to manufacture new products.

<https://www.gigacycle.co.uk/>



How can I go Circular?



Food waste

- ✓ Make a shopping list and stick to it!
- ✓ Make the most of your freezer
- ✓ Measure portions
- ✓ Use up your leftovers



Glass and plastic bottles

- ✓ Take drinks from home in reusable bottles
- ✓ Buy refills – you can buy refills for things like washing detergents, herbs and spices, coffee and hand wash
- ✓ Recycle



Paper and cardboard

- ✓ Stop junk mail
- ✓ Use paperless tickets and order paperless bills
- ✓ Subscribe online
- ✓ Recycle



Packaging waste

- ✓ Try to buy products with less packaging
- ✓ Go reusable not disposable e.g. tupperware tubs
- ✓ Buy in bulk



Textiles

- ✓ Caring and repairing
- ✓ Refashion and upcycle
- ✓ Sell and swap
- ✓ Donate and recycle



Electronic devices

- ✓ Sell or repair them
- ✓ Bring them to the closest electronic shop for recycling



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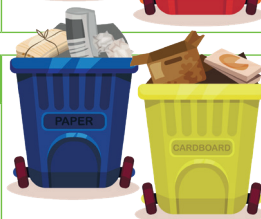
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