



Assessing progress on the development of a Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland

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Progress to date..



Where are we now?

- We use a disproportionate amount of resources.
- Over 90% dependant on virgin resources.
- Northern Ireland's circularity rate: 7.9%
- Three most resource intensive sectors: Agriculture (27%), Construction (23%) and Manufacturing (20%).
- Northern Ireland's material footprint : **16.6 tonnes** per capita per year
- Northern Ireland's carbon footprint figure : **9.1 tonnes** of CO₂e per capita per year
- Environmental indicators – **Water & Biodiversity**





Current barriers to circularity, which must be addressed

- Lack of data collection and measurement to understand material flows and management of waste.
- Lack of supply of required materials, parts, products or services.
- Lack of CE awareness and understanding of the opportunities and benefits for business.
- Unaffordable costs of environmental actions.
- Lack of skills and knowledge to increase circularity of resources across industries.
- General lack of knowledge in terms of making the connection between the demand for raw materials and the impact on the environment and climate and inequality.
- Inadequate research and innovation to identify circular solutions to linear practices.
- Inadequate provision of networks to foster collaboration across sectors.
- Existing waste regulatory framework and classifications restrict the valorisation of materials.



The 'Ask' from industry

- Communication campaigns and case studies to increase awareness and understanding of the benefits of CE.
- Skills development and training to support and empower businesses. To include courses on the regulatory processes to be followed, working with trade associations to address sector specific barriers.
- Provide access to those with expertise to provide business advice and support.
- Greater transparency on the flow of materials with platforms that make secondary materials visible, to help identify strategic opportunities to interlink local supply chains.
- Investment in innovation and infrastructure with sector specific challenge funds.
- Cross border forums and collaborative networks to foster mutually beneficial partnerships and to share best practice.

What could change look like?

CGR SCENARIOS - What do they involve and what are the benefits they bring?

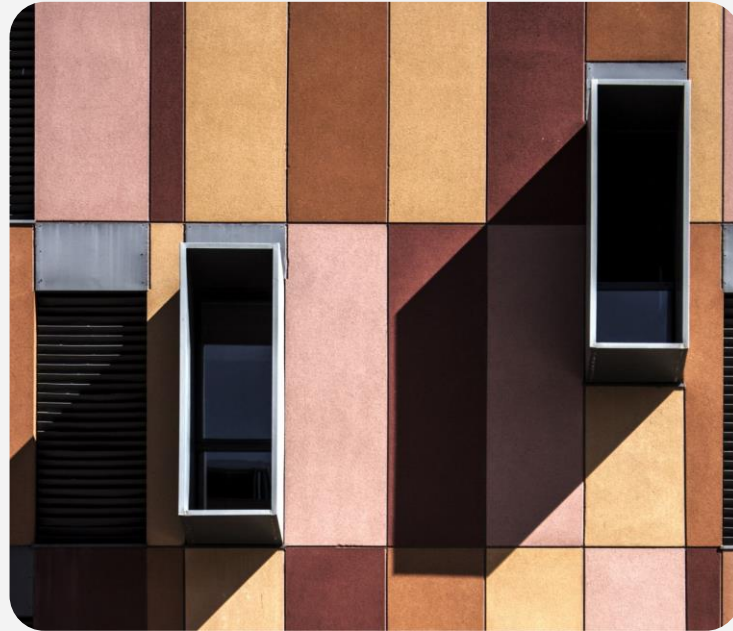
1

Cultivate a thriving
food system



2

Construct a circular
built environment



3

Make manufacturing
circular



Vision

Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economy with responsible production and consumption at its core.

Mission

With people, planet, and prosperity as our priorities, we will collaborate to design a systems approach that addresses our resource use, reduces waste and supports Northern Ireland's goal of Net Zero by 2050. While practicing responsible production and consumption, we will create inclusive economic growth, resilience in business and regeneration of the environment.





Policy Goals

- Collaborate for system change
- Design out waste
- Managing resources to retain value
- Stimulate Systems change with Funding, Incentives and Penalties
- Invest in Innovation, Research and Skills





Collaborate for System Change

1. Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change
2. Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and assist collaboration.
3. Develop an outcome-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework



Design out waste

4. Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement
5. Work with businesses to increase circular design





Manage resources to retain value

6. Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials
7. Maximise the value of materials locally





Stimulate systems change with funding, incentives and penalties

8. Establish a Circular Economy funding programme
9. Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials.



Invest in innovation, research and skills

10. Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of material
11. Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education
12. Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition.

Questions?

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