

Circular Cities Declaration

Facilitating the transformation to a circular economy

Background

As European cities face the challenges of climate change, increasing resource use and waste production, as well as social issues such as inequality, unemployment and insecurity, it is evident that our current linear economic model of “make, use, dispose” can no longer be sustained.

We need to move towards a circular economy – one which meets society’s material needs while respecting environmental boundaries, one which maintains the value of products and materials for as long as possible, one which maximises the recovery, reuse and recycling of resources, and minimises environmental footprints and resource consumption.

To meet this challenge, cities must innovate – we need to find new, smarter ways of doing business, innovative processes and technological solutions, and new partnerships with stakeholders between the public and private sectors, and knowledge institutions to help enable these developments.

Local and regional governments have a critical role to play in achieving this transition to a circular economy. From urban planning and zoning regulations to waste management approaches, from public infrastructure and construction projects to the public procurement of products and services, public authorities can act as a catalyst, a role-model, a service provider, a regulator and facilitator to support the transition to a circular economy.

Whilst this role is clear, much more work needs to be done to help understand how it can be most effectively employed. What are the key levers and tools available to local and regional governments, and how can we ensure that these align to achieve circular economic outcomes, which minimise environmental impacts and benefit society as a whole?

Our commitment

On behalf of <XXXX> I hereby declare our commitment to:

- Play an active role, within our scope of influence, to encourage the transformation to a circular economy, through the policy and regulatory levers available to us
- Initiate a series of innovative pilot and demonstration activities, to help identify the most promising solutions, better understand how to maximise our impacts, and provide models for others to replicate
- To actively share our knowledge and experiences with other European local and regional governments
- To seek to build a wider circular cities coalition with key stakeholders and initiatives across Europe to help create a strong and coherent support framework for this transition