

Better Knowledge



Circular Resource
Management
Roadmap

Action 8 - Develop a 'Circular Resource Management' Roadmap for cities

Identifying and understanding material stocks and flows is important to transform linear resource flows into circular flows. Cities and regions are essential partners in realising the circular economy, and need more knowledge on how to map and understand material flows.

Barriers

Most cities are mainly focused on transporting household waste out of the city as quickly as possible and at the lowest costs. The same applies for businesses. Furthermore, cities only have partial insight (household waste) in the resource flows in their city. Information on resource flows is scarce and fragmented and cities only have legal duties with regards to household waste.

Drivers

Only a few cities and regions had developed a structural approach towards a circular economy. Making this knowledge and experience available and translate it into a practical roadmap would enable more cities to contribute to the transition towards a circular economy.

Scope and working method

A structured transition to efficient resource management based on circular principles consists of three working area's: creating insight in the cities resource metabolism, development of brokerage activities and monitoring. Concrete steps connect the three pillars, ensure structured execution and can be repeated after completion in order to continue to shape the transition to a circular economy.

Product

The roadmap provides cities and regions a step by step approach and assessment framework to implement a tailor-made resource efficiency plan. The roadmap is available as a report on paper and as an interactive pdf.

Potential impact

- Social – the roadmap will realize higher resource efficiency within cities and thus create jobs and additionally contribute to an inclusive economy;
- Financial – involvement of stakeholder increases not only implementation power increases but also the activation of chains and generation of (new and more) circular business opportunities within the cities. On the other hand, it reduces costs of waste processing for municipalities and businesses and increases profits from using secondary resources;
- Environmental – a circular resource efficiency plan focusses on achieving a (local or regional) circular economy, by promoting waste prevention, reducing use of virgin materials, stimulating usage of environmentally friendly and secondary materials and renewable energy, and therefore will reduce environmental impact.

The necessary next steps

The roadmap is not meant to sit on a shelf. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Therefore, the next necessary step will be to develop proof of concept and to test the roadmap in practice in order to:

- generate user experiences and incorporate these into the roadmap;
- identify possibilities and the added value of standardizing actions that will frequently be selected and applied, like for example material passports, resource exchange platforms;



- develop a final prototype that is fit for implementation.

Recommendations from the Partnership to the EU Commission

The roadmap is a potentially very strong tool for cities to systematically implement resource efficiency and waste prevention through the increased use of waste as secondary resources. It is a way for cities to significantly contribute to a greener and more inclusive European economy. That is why the Urban Agenda Partnership recommends to:

- facilitate the continuation of this action by supporting the next steps for prototyping as mentioned above with the necessary resources in terms of funding and knowledge;
- Incorporate the concept of the circular resource management roadmap as developed by the Urban Agenda Partnership in future EU strategies, policies and legislation.

How will this help the new Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Commission?

The roadmap promotes and offers a tool for a structured approach to circular resource management at the urban level. By making the roadmap readily available and by supporting its use with the appropriate resources in terms of funding, knowledge and legal frameworks, this will strongly support the goals of the working program and the recently presented Green Deal.

At the same time the structured approach offered by the roadmap will contribute to the objective of strengthening the urban dimension of the post 2020 framework for EU Cohesion Policy. This not only is true for the more general goals of physical sustainable urban development, but also touches upon issues like capacity-building, education and employment and innovative investment strategies for the urban transition to a circular economy.

Connection to the SDGs and contributions to better governance



Better Governance: The roadmap assists cities in developing a circular resource efficiency plan together with different stakeholders, like businesses, NGO's, knowledge institutes and others to work in common understanding and corporation in the transition towards a circular economy.

