

Kick-off webinar on Greening
skills development for
technical higher education
institutions

Circle Economy

July 31st, 2025

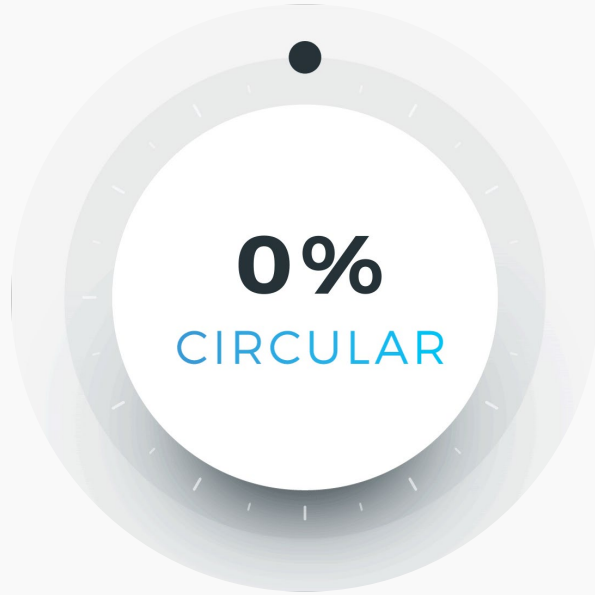


We are a fast growing non-profit impact foundation with an international team of passionate experts based in Amsterdam. We empower businesses, cities and nations with practical and scalable solutions to put the circular economy into action.

Our vision is an economic system that ensures the planet and all people can thrive.

To avoid climate breakdown, our goal is to double global circularity by 2032.

WE GUIDE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY TOWARDS A CIRCULAR SYSTEM



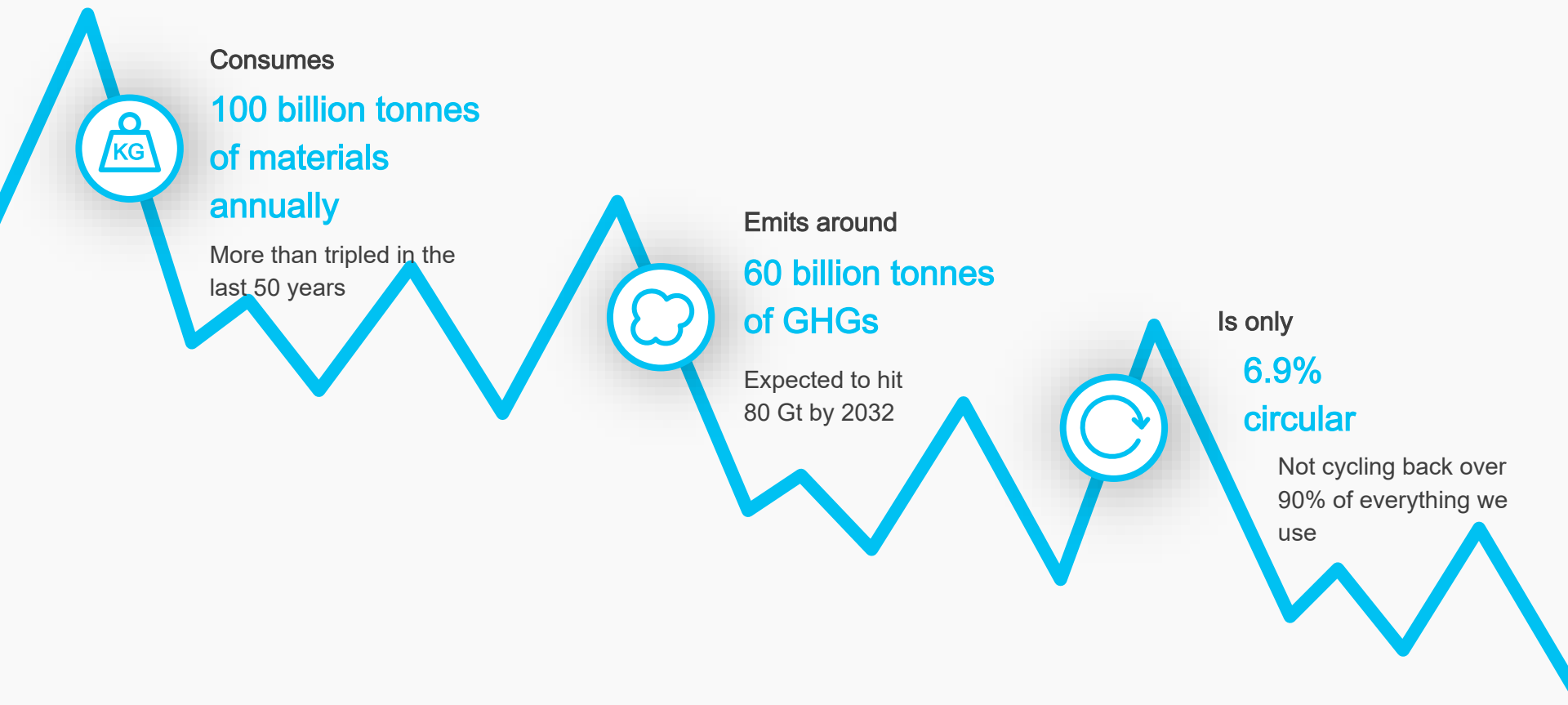
Driving impact by enabling decision makers to **embed circularity** at the heart of their social, economic and environmental strategies.

An aerial photograph of a park with winding red dirt paths, green lawns, and trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. A white car is parked on a path, and a person is walking nearby. In the bottom left corner, a tennis court is visible. In the top right corner, there is a small white logo that looks like a stylized 'C' or 'G'.

1

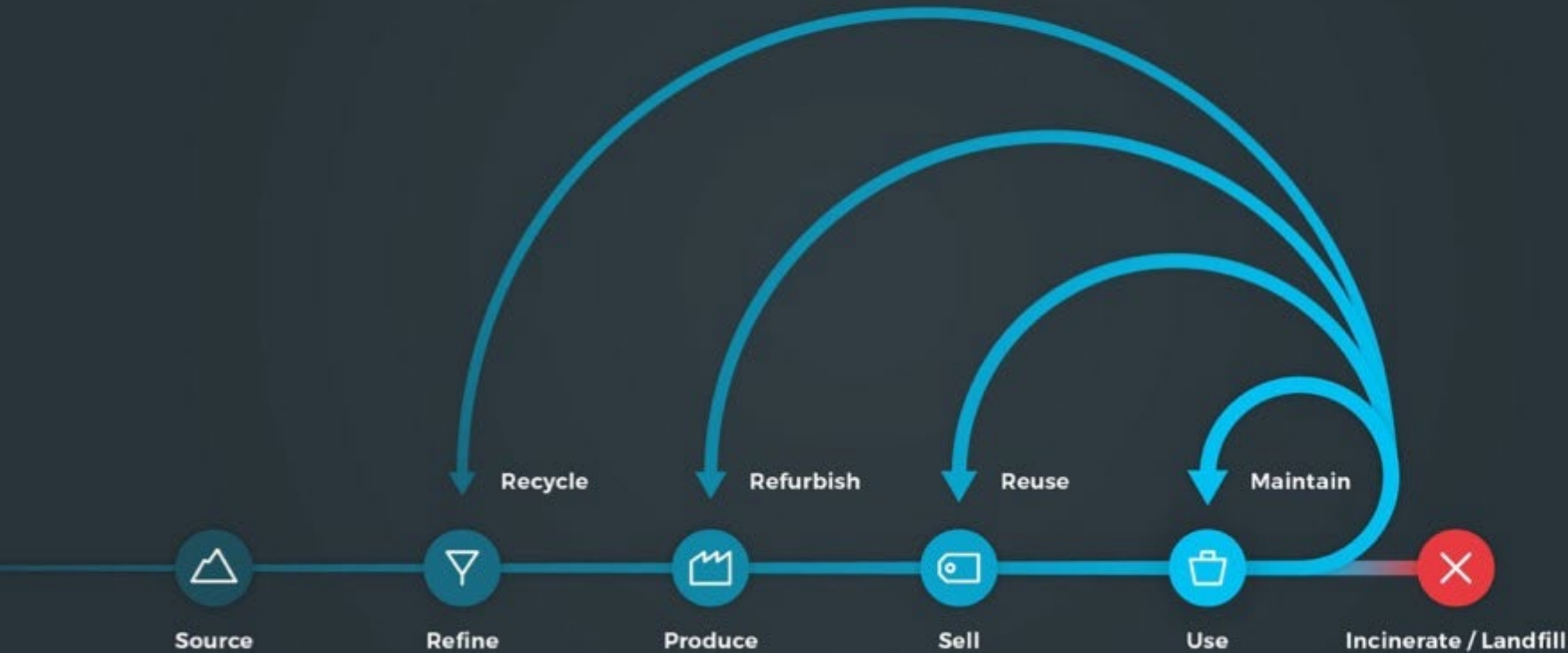
THE LINK BETWEEN THE GREEN TRANSITION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

OUR CURRENT LINEAR ECONOMY IS NOT SUSTAINABLE





THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY OFFERS A PROMISING SOLUTION





THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY CHANGES THE WAY WE PRODUCE AND CONSUME MATERIALS

Enabling us to...

1

prevent climate
breakdown

2

create future-
proof
businesses

3

create decent jobs



GREEN TRANSITION, JUST TRANSITION, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

GREEN TRANSITION

The **process towards a new development model** that ensures **environmentally sustainable and fairer societies**.

What is a pathway to the green transition?

How do we ensure this transition is fair and inclusive?

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

It is the opposite of the linear model (take -make -waste). It is an economic system where waste is designed out, everything is used at its **highest possible value** for as long as **possible** and natural systems are regenerated.

JUST TRANSITION

Greening the economy in a way that is **as fair and inclusive as possible** to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind .



An aerial photograph of a park with winding paths and trees in autumn colors. The paths are reddish-brown and curve through green lawns and clusters of trees with yellow and orange foliage. A white car is parked on one of the paths. In the bottom left corner, a tennis court is visible. In the top right corner, there is a small white logo that looks like a stylized 'C' or a camera lens.

2

GREEN AND CIRCULAR JOBS AND SKILLS



AFRICA COULD GENERATE 3.3 MILLION NEW GREEN JOBS BY 2030

- Based on a study by **FSD Africa** and **Shortlist**.
- The study prioritised **green value chains** which will yield the **most jobs** in the **next 5 years**, based on **Africa's comparative advantage** and **employment intensity** :
 - Energy and power
 - Mobility and transportation
 - Agriculture and nature
 - Construction and real estate
 - Manufacturing and materials





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Can you guess which sector has the highest job potential (is expected to generate the maximum number of jobs)?





AFRICA COULD GENERATE 3.3 MILLION NEW GREEN JOBS BY 2030, LED LARGELY BY **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

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- The study prioritised **green value chains** which will yield the **most jobs** in the **next 5 years**, based on **Africa's comparative advantage** and **employment intensity**:
 - Energy and power
 - Mobility and transportation
 - Agriculture and nature
 - Construction and real estate
 - Manufacturing and materials
- The **renewable energy sector** will generate about 70% of jobs, and roughly 1.7m (57%) will be in **solar power**.
- **Agriculture and nature** are forecasted to generate 25% of the jobs, with more than half of those jobs in **climate -smart technology**.



A SKILLED GREEN WORKFORCE IS BOTH A **FOUNDATIONAL INPUT** AND A **SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME** TO ACCELERATING GREEN INDUSTRIES ACROSS AFRICA

- Specialised and advanced skilling investments should be focused in **solar** , **agriculture** and **nature** , and **waste remediation** and **recycling** value chains
- In **solar** : jobs will be concentrated in installation and deployment

Job Taxonomy	Manual work	Specialised Skills	General/Admin Skills	Advanced Skills
<i>Illustrative jobs</i>	Casual labourers	• Installers • Electricians • Technicians	• Production managers • QC inspectors	• Engineers (mechanical, electrical) • Project developers
Employment impact	direct jobs (40%)	direct jobs (30%)	direct jobs (20%)	direct jobs (10%)



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- In **climate smart agriculture** : demand for sales and installation jobs.

Job Taxonomy	Manual work	Specialised Skills	General/ Admin Skills	Advanced Skills
<i>Illustrative jobs</i>	Casual labourers	• Installers • Technicians • Operators	• Sales agents • Accountants	• Engineers • Project managers
Employment impact	direct jobs (40%)	direct jobs (30%)	direct jobs (20%)	direct jobs (10%)



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3

ADDRESSING SKILL GAPS: TRAINING PATHWAYS AND STAKEHOLDER ROLES

We need to adopt green and circular skills to meet
new labour demands and support a just, green and
circular transition



FROM LEARNING TO ACTION: TRAINING PATHWAYS FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Formal Education & Training

Delivered through **TVET institutions, HEIs, universities**, and accredited training bodies.

Curriculum reform to integrate circular economy and greening.

Sector -specific green skill certifications (e.g., solar technicians, sustainable agriculture).

Dual education models linking theory to practical experience.

Example: In South Africa, in Brickfields Campus, training in solar water heating is integrated into curricula

Non -Formal Training

Short courses, workshops, and microlearning often delivered by NGOs, foundations, or private providers.

Micro -credentialing in CE topics (e.g., waste valorization, circular entrepreneurship).

Digital learning platforms and **capacity building** targeting underserved youth.

Example: African Circular Economy Network's non -formal CE training programs for youth - led enterprises in Nigeria.

Informal Learning

Learning that occurs through **work experience, peer -to -peer learning, and community -based practice**.

On-the -job training and apprenticeships with circular businesses.

Peer led/ voluntary **mentorship programs** pairing youth with green entrepreneurs.

Example: **Circular Economy Club (CEC) meetups**

IT TAKES A SYSTEM: HOW STAKEHOLDERS SHAPE GREEN LEARNING PATHWAYS

Formal Education & Training

Governments/Ministries of Education : Design policy frameworks, fund green curriculum development, incentivize public –private partnerships, and align national education plans with sustainability goals.

TVET & HEIs : Integrate greening and circular economy into programs; partner with industry for real –world exposure and curriculum co –creation

Industry: Identify in –demand skills; contribute to curriculum development; offer internships and practical exposure.

Accreditation Bodies : Develop, approve, and quality –assure green and circular economy certifications.

Non -Formal Training

NGOs & Development Partners : Deliver targeted training for youth, women, and informal workers, often outside traditional education systems.

Industry : Co-develop short courses; offer on -the -job training or simulations aligned with company needs.

Local Governments : Support local delivery through community centers, youth hubs, or cooperatives.

Accreditation Bodies : Design and recognize micro –credentials or modular qualifications linked to green skills frameworks.

Informal Learning

Industry : Offer apprenticeships, job shadowing, and mentoring; create workplace environments that support learning –by -doing.

Local Networks & Cooperatives : Facilitate peer learning, informal upskilling, and practical knowledge exchange.

Civil Society & Foundations : Provide community –based learning, awareness campaigns, and grassroots skills -building.

Governments: Foster enabling environments, Recognize and validate learning outcomes from informal pathways