

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
**Time:** 10:00-11:45  
**Venue:** Virtual



# MINUTES

## Waste Management Topic Support Network: The Circular Economy Jigsaw

**Attendees:**

Jackie	Beresford	Dundee and Angus College
Claire	Lorimer	SRUC
Michael	Cook	Circular Communities Scotland
Amy	Ledger	APUC
Paulo	Cruz	Glasgow Caledonian University
Trudy	Cunningham	University of Dundee
Andy	Anderson	APUC
Steven	Giannandrea	City of Glasgow College
Derek	Cowie	Inverness College UHI
Fiona	Vine	University of Edinburgh
Kath	Harper	Ayrshire College
Lucy	Wishart	University of St Andrews
Merryn	Haines-Gadd	University of Exeter
Pauline	Donaldson	Forth Valley College
Scott	Bryson	University of Strathclyde
Vicky	Shanley	APUC
Matthew	Woodthorpe	EAUC Scotland

**Apologies:**

Rory	Hill	EAUC Scotland / West Lothian College / Forth Valley College / Borders
Chris	Larkins	Heriot-Watt University

	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p><i>Trudy Cunningham, University of Dundee and Waste Management TSN Co-Convenor</i></p> <p><i>Paulo Cruz, Glasgow Caledonian University and Waste Management TSN Co-Convenor</i></p>	

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## **Supporting the Circular Economy in the Community and Key Asks for the upcoming Circular Economy Bill**

*Michael Cook, CEO Circular Communities Scotland*

Presented on Circular Community Scotland's (CCS) thoughts on the circular economy, what a strong Circular Economy Bill would look like, and how institutions can engage with CCS and its member on the circular economy supply chain.

### **Introduction:**

CCS see circular economy as being about 4 P's – people (job creation, health and wellbeing); pounds (economic benefit); planet (carbon and ecological footprint); place (community wealth building; local connections).

CCS now has 230 members and this is consistently growing (115 in March 2019).

### **Legislative asks:**

CCS top 10 policy asks / areas of focus to support the Circular Economy:

- National reuse targets
- Statutory circular economy body
- Statutory reuse requirement
- Investment in local authority sites
- Reuse credits
- Right to repair
- Socially responsible EPR
- Ban product destruction
- Circular public procurement
- Single use products

For further details see CCS's [Policy Paper for Scotland's Circular Economy: A Once In A Generation Opportunity](#)

### **Q&A:**

PC – lots of opportunities for the sector for greater engagement. At GCU we don't seem to have the skill to repair older furniture, but there is still opportunity to repair goods. Would welcome a chat on how CCS could help with that.

MC – CCS have just received £310k funding for a 3-year project to run a Share and Repair network – we are open for membership. Our target is to have 100 Share and Repair libraries/cafes across Scotland by the end of the project. There are 3 or 4 members already in Glasgow. So CCS's role would be to broker a relationship between those cafes and the institution.

[For more information on newly launched Share and Repair Network](#)

PC – We also have materials but also space to support this work. In addition to repairing items we could improve sourcing of

	<p>refurbished materials. Getting CCS members on our Warp-It systems would be great.</p> <p>SB – There are quite a few institutions in Glasgow that use Warp-It and there are discussions about getting that started again, alongside wider public bodies (NHS, Council etc). Space and storage is an issue to be looked at. But I feel there will be massive appetite for supporting CCS's work and the share and repair network.</p> <p>MC – please get in touch with any items you're looking to get reused elsewhere, with details of what it is, any time constraints, and CCS can put that out to our members. We don't need to be the exclusive client, just add us to your contact list.</p> <p>LW: What particular role do you see universities and colleges having in supporting CCS's work?</p> <p>MC: Donating items, either facilities or student-owned items, we can facilitate that getting to our members; purchasing reuse items – run a pilot with the consortium, don't jump in the deep end; beyond that I'm available to explore partnerships with you, for example linking up with the Share and Repair Network. We're about to kick off a Bike Reuse Project that institutions could help support.</p> <p>To follow up with Michael, please use this email address: michael@circularcommunities.scot</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Procurement and the Circular Economy</b> <i>Andy Anderson, Head of Estates and Facilities, APUC</i></p> <p><i>Vicky Shanley, Supply Chain Manager – Estates and Facilities Category, APUC</i></p> <p>Presented on the ways in which procurement can support a circular economy approach and actions APUC have taken to increase opportunities and adoption within FHE supply chain spend.</p> <p>Part of APUC's procurement process is to map good and services against their Life Cycle Impact – this is made up of obtaining new materials; manufacturing and logistics; use of products or works and delivery of services; re-use/re-manufacture and final disposal. This helps identify social and environmental impacts. APUC has a role in setting requirements of supply chains to measure and minimise embodied carbon of goods and services.</p> <p>Circular Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular design</li> <li>• Optimising lifetime and use</li> </ul>	

- Extend lifetime
- Product as a service or leasing
- Resource recovery

Tips for embedding Circular Procurement include:

- Embedding circular procurement in policies
- Early stakeholder engagement
- Identify hot spots, opportunities and gaps in the market
- Communicate your sustainability objectives

Case studies of circular economy best practice were provided, including:

- IT Recycling Framework Agreements;
- Reusing and Refurbishing Furniture and the Sustainable Furniture Framework (launched Feb 2022);
- Waste Management Services;
- PPE, Work and Sportswear;
- Cleaning materials and chemicals;
- Trade materials;
- Road surfacing services

**Q&A:**

PC: The audience here is mostly sustainability professionals who deal with the end product of purchased goods, and securing circular procurement isn't necessarily our responsibility. What is APUC or embedded APUC teams doing to highlight these circular procurement opportunities to buyers within institutions?

AA: Every framework APUC does has a buyer's guide which really promotes sustainability aspects of good and services. We also hold engagement events for procurement teams. The biggest challenge APUC find is a lack of demand from the sector – for example with furniture, all suppliers have take-back facilities yet very few institutions include that in their mini-competitions. So there's a culture we need to address.

APUC also has the Climate Emergency Procurement Working Group that has put together the new **University and College Sectors Supply Chain Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy: 2022 to 2030** which has been signed off by all college and university Principals. So we have the top-down recognition, now we need that bottom-up drive as well to meet in the middle. There's lots of further opportunities for work in this area, but APUC need to demonstrate demand to suppliers from the sector.

PC: There is so much opportunity through APUCs work to improve what we buy, but as sustainability professionals we often hear of things through the grapevine. There's also strong resistance from staff at times, for example buying staff requesting a Prince2

	<p>evaluation first to look at buying Fairphones over other smartphones.</p> <p>AA: We need to work on understanding where the communication barriers are and work at both sides to link up – through APUC, procurement teams and sustainability teams.</p> <p>PC: The challenge for waste managers and sustainability leads is then to support and enable those improved connections internally and with APUC.</p> <p>AA: Without circumnavigating procurement colleagues, if you have a question always feel free to contact me and the team at APUC will tell you what’s available.</p> <p>To follow up with Andy, please use this email address:  aanderson@apuc-scot.ac.uk</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Learning, Teaching and Research and the Circular Economy</b></p> <p><i>Dr Merryn Haines-Gadd, Research Fellow, Exeter Centre for Circular Economy (University of Exeter)</i></p> <p>University of Exeter over the last 10 – 15 years has been positioning itself as a leader in circular economy, climate science and sustainability research. The Exeter Centre for Circular Economy is based within the Business School and was launched in 2018. ECCE’s vision is to be:</p> <p>“the leading UK centre for Circular Economy engaging in innovative research, knowledge transfer and executive education projects. We engage in projects that develop Circular Economy theory and practice designed to transform our economy, creating regenerative wealth and well-being”.</p> <p>ECCE is the strategic education partner of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and has delivered training to over 2,000 leaders and managers, engaging with over 200 global businesses.</p> <p>ECCE deliver its aims through three key pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Business outreach – primarily regional focussed e.g. Welsh European Funding Officer Circular Revolution; Accelerating Circular Skills for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly</li> <li>2. Research – e.g. CE-HUB is a 4-year £30m research programme ongoing; 5 areas of focus on textiles, construction materials, metals, technology metals and chemicals</li> <li>3. Education – e.g. Executive education – CE Masterclass; 6 week and 4 week online learning classes to support organisations implement CE theory. Also engaged in Exeter MBA Programme – Design and CE module; includes 3 day design sprint, 6 week CE masterclass and 1 week corporate circular economy challenge; and finally, 3 month client-led thesis projects with CE focus offered.</li> </ol>	

	<p>Provided case studies of ECCE’s impact in action. Case studies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAM Bamboo Clothing – just launched 3 new clothing products that are from 100% recycled materials and are 100% recyclable</li> <li>• Circular Revolution – business-led collaboration between riversimple, Swansea University and University of Exeter – focussed on leased hydrogen fuel cell cars and engaging on business outreach and research &amp; innovation research streams. Helping local companies through funding bid writing; circular economy roadmaps; teaching tools and methods; waste stream analysis; product life cycle analysis; understanding consumer behaviour change</li> </ul> <p>To follow up with Merryn, please use this email address: m.s.haines-gadd@exeter.ac.uk</p>	
5	<p><b>Call for evidence: Tackling consumption of single-use food containers and other commonly littered or problematic single-use items</b></p> <p><i>Matt Woodthorpe, EAUC-Scotland</i></p> <p>Presented on the Call for Evidence from Scottish Government on single-use food containers and other single use items. Responses to previous Scottish Government consultation on the single-use plastic regulations showed almost unanimous support for the consideration of market restrictions on a number of additional priority items, in addition to the items covered by the Regulations.</p> <p>Response deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>5 key questions for sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you have any evidence of effective actions taken in Scotland or other nations to reduce consumption of single-use (plastic or non-plastic) food containers [and wider items]?</li> <li>2. Do you have any evidence of barriers to implementing policy measures to reduce the consumption of single-use food containers [and wider items]?</li> <li>3. Do you have any evidence related to the impact on businesses (positive or negative) that policy measures to reduce the consumption of single-use food containers could have [and wider items]?</li> <li>4. Do you have any evidence of the impact that policy measures to reduce the consumption of single-use food containers might have on people with protected characteristics or who experience socio-economic disadvantage [and wider items]?</li> </ol>	<p>EAUC-Scotland aiming to submit a response on behalf of the sector to acknowledge progress and actions within the sector to date. <a href="#">Please fill in this survey by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June to be part of the response.</a></p>

	<p>5. Do you have any evidence on what alternatives to single-use items set out in Part 2 of the call for evidence paper are available and any negative impacts (environmental or other) that increased use of these alternatives could have?</p> <p>EAUC-Scotland aiming to submit a response on behalf of the sector to acknowledge progress and actions within the sector to date. <a href="#">Please fill in this survey by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June to be part of the response.</a></p>	
6	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>-</p>	
7	<p><b>Thanks and Close</b></p> <p><i>Trudy Cunningham, University of Dundee and Waste Management TSN Co-Convenor</i></p> <p><i>Paulo Cruz, Glasgow Caledonian University and Waste Management TSN Co-Convenor</i></p>	

Minutes prepared by Matt Woodthorpe, EAUC-Scotland

June 2022