

Luxembourg Circular Economy Monthly Briefing

Provided by the Luxembourg Government

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Circular Solutions & Business Models



EU should prioritise biomass use to avert supply crunch: study

The EU's transition to net zero emissions will cause demand for biomass to exceed supply by between 40% and 70% by 2050, according to a study by Material Economics. The analysis, the first to model the union's 2050 demand for biomass feedstocks in comparison to realistic supply, underscores the need for urgent action to prioritise exploitation of future resources, focusing on the most valuable uses - where the properties of biomass make it the greatest contributor to a net zero economy, or where other alternatives are not economically viable. The study estimates that a net zero transition with more targeted biomass use is feasible and cost-effective, requiring the effective deployment of alternatives to bioenergy across a wide range of applications, resource efficiency and circular solutions.

Best source: [Sitra](#)

Financial statements need to incorporate long-term sustainability factors: Circle Economy

Sustainability and the circular economy are the financial focus of the 2020s and businesses need to find the value of circular impact and integrate it into financial reporting and governance, according to a report by Amsterdam-based Circle Economy, the Royal Netherlands Institute of Chartered Accountants and Invest-NL. The report says that with financial statements currently failing to fully reflect the short- and long-term constraints and impact of non-financial issues such as resource depletion, social inequalities and climate change, different assessment frameworks that consider factors such as employee wellbeing, pollution and scarce materials use are required to measure companies' long-term sustainability.

Best source: [Circle Economy](#)

Shift to circular clothing model could boost sector job creation by 25%: Dutch report

Transitioning Dutch fast fashion to a circular clothing industry could boost job creation by 25%, according to a report by Circle Economy's Circular Jobs Initiative. The researchers outline three elements to drive the transition - changing consumption patterns, prioritising reuse and repair, and upscaling textile-to-textile recycling - and say that in addition to the impact on employment, the greatest benefits would come from boosting clothing reuse and repair. To become fully circular the industry needs commitment from the Dutch government, private sector stakeholders, academics and education institutions, the Circular Jobs Initiative says.

Best source: [Circle Economy](#)

Fairtrade Lëtzebuerg launches country's first FairFashion Lab

Non-governmental organisation Fairtrade Lëtzebuerg is launching the first FairFashion Lab with six local artists to offer unique clothing and accessories made from Fairtrade-certified cotton. The collaborative project, part of the Rethink your Clothes awareness campaign and backed by the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of Luxembourg's foreign ministry, seeks to link local design with cotton producers and textile industry employees in Asia and Africa. The artists, Antoine Lesch, Lynn Cosyn, Cathy Thill, Mia Kinsch, Alain Welter and Irina Moons have created unique designs, with a new one to be unveiled reach month and available for pre-order at fairfashion.rethink.lu.

Best source: [Wort](#) (in German)



IKEA prioritises ease of dismantling in search for circular solutions

The company that made assembling flat-packed furniture a global preoccupation says it has been obliged to rethink its approach by incorporating guidelines for disassembly into new designs. IKEA has been seeking innovative solutions to prolong the life of its products, including enhancing consumers' ability to repair, upgrade and move items. However, the company acknowledges that embracing circular design is an evolving process, and it is onto its third version of circular design principles. IKEA says products that use less material are better positioned for circular flows, in tandem with standardising fittings, finishes and sizes.

Best source: [Circulate News](#)

Luxembourg partners showcase circular innovations in food waste and construction

Three projects funded under the EU's Interreg programme with Luxembourg participation have shown significant progress in developing circular innovations, leveraging cross-border co-operation between private and public partners to develop improved value chains and material cycles. The Bioval project, involving the Luxembourg Institute of Health, has developed green chemistry and biotechnology solutions to generate added-value products from organic waste from the brewing industry; the Digital Deconstruction initiative, involving three Luxembourg-based partners, has designed open-source software to enhance the reuse of material from renovation and demolition projects in the construction sector, including defining a sustainable and economic reuse strategy for the dismantling of the Ettelbrück railway station; and SeRaMCo, in collaboration with the University of Luxembourg, which focuses on replacing primary raw materials in the production of cement and concrete with high-quality recycled material.

Best source: [Luxembourg government](#) (in German)

See also: [Luxembourg government](#) (in French)

Lego creates new toy brick prototype using PET plastic from bottles

Danish toy manufacturer Lego says it has made a breakthrough in the design of its popular bricks with a prototype that uses PET plastic from recycled bottles, following years of testing

more than 250 variants of PET and other plastic materials. The latest prototype is the first to meet the company's strict health and safety requirements combined with the strength and durability to last for decades. Lego says it designs products to remain useful as long as possible, but advanced recycling technology could enable the PET plastic material to be reused again when the bricks reach the end of their life.

Best source: [Fast Company](#)

See also: [Waste Management World](#)

Peintures Robin tackles construction sector waste paint with loop system

Leftover paint from the construction sector can now be reused in new coatings thanks to a project launched by Luxembourg paint supplier Peintures Robin in collaboration with environment-friendly waste management organisation SuperDrecksKëscht. Amid resource shortages and rising costs in the construction sector, the Robin Loop system has so far been used to produce 4,000 litres of fresh paint, reformulated and reconstituted from waste that would otherwise have been incinerated. Currently the Robin Loop paint is only available for commercial customers in white, but other shades are due to be added in the future.

Best source: [Paperjam](#) (in French)

See also: [InfoGreen](#) (in French)

Public Policy & Regulation



Irish government approves draft circular economy legislation

The Irish government has approved a Circular Economy Bill to act as the legal basis for a new Circular Economy Strategy, providing a national policy framework for Ireland's transition to a circular economy through changes in production and consumption for individuals, businesses and public bodies. The legislation will give local authorities greater powers to clamp down on illegal dumping and encourage prevention of food waste, while providing incentives for sustainable products.

Best source: [Irish government](#)

See also: [Irish government](#)

France to enforce new waste rules for building renovation from next year

France will require plans for significant renovation work on buildings to be accompanied by a waste-management analysis detailing how discarded material, fittings and equipment will be handled in order to maximise reuse, recycling and circular solutions for construction waste. The legislation, which imposes similar requirements to those already applicable to demolition work, is due to take into effect next January. It will affect all renovation projects of buildings exceeding 1,000 square metres or structures used for agricultural, industrial or commercial activity that have been used to store or manufacture hazardous substances.

Best source: [French government](#) (in French)

See also: [Citae](#) (in French)

US Plastics Pact unveils roadmap to achieve 2025 packaging goal

Nearly 100 US organisations have backed a national strategy to ensure all plastic packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. The Roadmap to 2025 strategy was unveiled by the US Plastics Pact, a consortium of companies across the plastics packaging industry, along with research entities, universities, NGOs, start-ups, and state and local governments.

Best source: [Waste Management World](#)

Luxembourg's Product Circularity Data Sheet to become ISO standard

The International Organization for Standardization plans to make Luxembourg's Product Circularity Data Sheet a future ISO / NP 59040 standard for communicating the circular properties of products. Launched in 2018 by the Economy Ministry as part of a national strategy to promote the data economy and the circular economy, the open-source data sheet describes all circular information relevant to a product, helping consumers and manufacturers make educated choices. Economy minister Franz Fayot says ISO's decision paves the way for Luxembourg's initiative to become an international standard for the declaration, audit and exchange of circular properties of products, supporting a shift towards a future that is more respectful of resources.

Best source: [InfoGreen](#) (in French)

See also: [PCDS](#)



Financial industry executives back call for increased investment in circular transition

More than 30 banking and financial services executives whose organisations oversee \$18trn in assets under management have backed a report calling on financial institutions, businesses and governments to collaborate on efforts to expand the circular economy sector. According to the report, from the Ellen Macarthur Foundation, investors, banks, and other financial services groups that support businesses to make a circular shift have an opportunity to capitalise on new and better growth opportunities. The authors say investment in funds targeting circular economy initiatives has grown 22 times over the past two years, boosting assets to nearly \$7bn last year, and that on average they outperformed category benchmarks by five percentage points in the first half of last year.

Best source: [Asset Finance International](#)

UK Exploration fund offers £150,000 incentive for sustainable projects

A £150,000 incentive is on offer to UK organisations working on projects to reduce the environmental impact of packaging, batteries and electric waste in the second round of the Exploration Fund, launched by producer compliance scheme Ecosurety. Applications can come from academic institutions, non-profit organisations and the public sector, and cover technical innovation, awareness campaigns, material development and research into system or behavioural change. Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency has launched the Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy fund, a €625,000 initiative targeting enterprises with innovative circular business models.

Best source: [Circular Online](#)

See also: [Circular Online](#)

National Research Fund project explores circular and sustainable regional development

Luxembourg's National Research Fund is progressing with its AltFin project to better understand regional economic development at the interface of the circular economy and sustainable finance in France, Germany and Luxembourg, where national and regional

initiatives have started to support circular endeavours. The project, which dovetails with the launch of the €250m European Circular Bioeconomy Fund focused exclusively on the bioeconomy and circular bioeconomy in Europe, seeks to develop a new framework of institutional change and key mechanisms and practices to strengthen regional economies and their sustainable development through sustainable finance and alternative economic models.

Best source: [FNR](#)

See also: [ECBF](#)

Outreach & Training



Luxembourg government launches Circular Economy Portal

Luxembourg's ministries of energy and land use planning, economy, environment, climate and sustainable development, and finance have launched the [Circular Economy Portal](#) to share information about the country's circular economy strategy and practical steps by public and private sector organisations. The portal will be ultimately available in Luxembourgish, French, German and English, and is aimed at individuals, businesses, municipalities and public bodies. The ministries are also planning a circular economy awareness campaign on social media.

Best source: [Luxembourg government](#) (in French)

Circularity 21 conference showcases business shifts including rental furniture and clothing resale

Representatives of global businesses such as Apple and Amazon, along with small businesses, start-ups, students and activists, identified new business concepts that may engage better with younger consumers at the GreenBiz Group's virtual Circularity 21 conference last month. Speakers highlighted a shift toward renting goods and services from traditional ownership models, in sectors ranging from clothing to furniture. Second-hand clothing has emerged as a global business worth \$28bn in 2019, stimulating the growth of

resale platforms such as Poshmark, Depop, Mercari and TheRealReal, as well as 'recommerce' initiatives from retailers such as Patagonia and COS.

Best source: [GreenBiz](#)

See also: [GreenBiz](#)

Skills growth crucial for UK waste sector to embrace circular models: report

Material and chemical engineering, product design, data and IT are among key skills required by the UK's waste sector over the next decade, according to a report by the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management. With the resources and waste sector set to be at the heart of initiatives to create a circular economy, the Skills for the Future report highlights the need for skills growth through training, mentoring and development. The report also emphasises the importance of fostering collaboration and building stronger connections and working relationships with specialists in other industries.

Best source: [Circular Online](#)

See also: [Circular Online](#)

World Circular Economy Forum 2021 to focus on catalysing systemic change

The World Circular Economy Forum 2021 will focus on system-level changes to accelerate the transition to a circular economy that is prosperous, inclusive and equitable, highlighting how seizing circular opportunities requires transformational change and collective efforts involving businesses, policymakers and civil society. The event, organised annually by Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, will be hosted online from Canada from September 13 to 15.

Best source: [World Circular Economy Forum](#)

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