

Luxembourg Circular Economy Monthly Briefing

Provided by the Luxembourg Government
www.circular-economy.lu

December 2023

TOPICS

- ▶ [Circular Solutions & Business Models](#)
- ▶ [Innovation & Technology](#)
- ▶ [Bioeconomy & Renewable Resources](#)
- ▶ [Public Policy & Regulation](#)
- ▶ [Funding & Investment](#)
- ▶ [Outreach & Training](#)

Circular Solutions & Business Models



Bruxelles Environnement develops tools for reversible building design

Bruxelles Environnement, the Environment and Energy Administration of the Brussels-Capital Region, has developed a checklist and guide for reversible and circular building design, targeting public project owners and professionals involved in building design, real estate development, and property promotion. These practical tools, part of the European innovation project BAMB, are freely available for download. Ongoing discussions aim to integrate spatial reversibility ambitions into regional urban planning regulations. The tools offer support throughout the project, from initial conception to implementation, encompassing spatial and technical strategies for reversible design.

Best source: [Bruxelles Environnement](#)

FCRBE project lays groundwork for reuse practices in north-west Europe

The Facilitating the Circulation of Reclaimed Building Elements project has concluded, paving the way for a 50% increase by 2032 in the number of recoverable construction

elements in circulation in north-west Europe, a region where until recently only 1% of building materials were reused. The project, led by the Brussels-based association Rotor with 11 partners from five countries including the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), Bruxelles Environnement, Buildwise, Embuild, TUDelft, CSTB, Bellastock and the University of Brighton, created a roadmap to promote reuse practices in the construction sector and a recovery toolbox. Key outcomes include a reclamation audit method, a guidebook on procurement strategies, a collection of material sheets, practical guides for contractors, a method to set, measure and report on reuse objectives, insurance guidelines for reused building materials, and a comprehensive directory of professional reclamation and salvage dealers in north-west Europe. The project has also developed resources to address questions about reusing building materials and introduced the Truly Reclaimed label to verify the authenticity of reclaimed products.

Best source: [Bruxelles Environnement](#)

See also: [LIST](#)

Reusable beverage packaging could eliminate trillions of single-use plastic items

A 10-percentage-point increase in reusable beverage packaging by 2030 could take more than a trillion single-use plastic bottles and cups out of circulation and prevent 153 billion plastic containers from entering oceans and waterways, according to a report by ocean advocacy group Oceana. The report stresses the inadequacy of simply adding recycled content to bottles and cups, advocating instead for the replacement of single-use plastic with reusable packaging. Large-scale reusable packaging systems like TURN, r.World, and Re-uz are already operational in the US and EU.

Best source: [Circular](#)

See also: [Oceana](#)

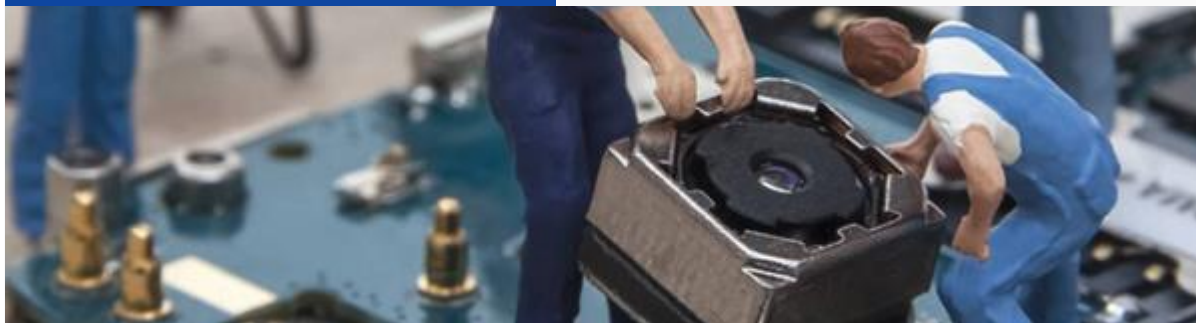
Shifting focus in construction sector towards reducing carbon emissions

Efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the construction sector are shifting towards incorporating sobriety in building design and regulating the life cycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions, says Lee Franck, CEO of LEEN. With Luxembourg preparing to regulate the GHG Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in the coming years, the trend is changing as the industry now focuses on CO2 emissions from building materials, known as embodied carbon, which account for over 60% of total emissions in new buildings. While using low-emission materials like wood can help, the emphasis is on early-stage reduction opportunities and rethinking construction standards and contracts, Franck says, noting that it is also important to consider the philosophical aspect of sustainable building and take into account the cost of development of low-carbon materials - an additional challenge amid already elevated housing prices. LEEN works with clients and design teams to develop a

range of strategies to explore how to build less, boost the reuse of existing material, use more effective structural form and optimise the quantities of materials.

Best source: [Info Green](#) (in French)

Innovation & Technology



European start-ups innovate circular solutions for hard-to-recycle items

European start-ups are rapidly advancing the reuse of hard-to-recycle items, from clothes and mattresses to cigarette butts. Green Alley Award's 2023 cohort showcased some of these pioneering innovations. Among 2023's cohort are: Human Maple, which repurposes cigarette filters into insulating padding; S.Lab, which developed a biodegradable polystyrene alternative; and MATЯ, which produces 99% recyclable mattresses with a lower carbon footprint, exemplifying the circular economy's potential to transform waste into valuable resources. The Green Alley Award 2024, which offers a €25,000 prize, have now closed with a record number of 330 start-ups from 29 European countries applying to compete.

Best source: [Positive News](#)

See also: [Green Alley Award](#)

UK government allocates £65m for heating network using waste heat from data centres

The UK government has announced £65m in funding for five green heating projects, including a first-of-its-kind heat network in London that will utilise waste heat from data centres to heat thousands of homes. The project, supported by £36m in funding, aims to connect 10,000 new homes and 250,000m² of commercial space, complementing £122m in funding already awarded to support 11 new heat network projects across the country under the Green Heat Network Fund. Meanwhile, in Finland waste heat from a new Microsoft data centre complex will supply district heating for up to 100,000 residents in the Helsinki metropolitan area. Heat pumps will provide cooling to the data centres, recover the waste heat generated, and transfer the recovered energy into the local district heating network.

Best source: [Circular](#)

See also: [Cooling Post](#)

Solarcells to produce Luxembourg's first domestic photovoltaic panels by year-end

Solarcells Luxembourg, a joint venture between Luxembourg's Socom and Belgian producer Evocells, is on track to meet its goal of producing the first PV panels made in Luxembourg by year-end. The factory will initially produce two ranges of panels, with plans to eventually produce up to 200,000 units by 2024. The company aims to ensure high-quality installations in the domestic market and has already sold most of its initial production. Solarcells also plans to implement circular practices, such as the use of custom wooden containers for shipping and reuse of these containers. The company aims to offer higher performance and stricter quality controls at a competitive price compared to Chinese products. The factory is expected to operate with an initial team of eight people, with plans to double the workforce as production ramps up.

Best source: [Info Green](#) (in French)

Bioeconomy & Renewable Resources



Biomodel4Regions initiative seeks regions to develop Europe's bio-based economy

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, in collaboration with ICLEI Europe, seeks regions in Northern, Mediterranean, Eastern, or Central-Western Europe to develop their own bio-based economy strategy. The Biomodel4Regions project aims to foster innovation, guide strategic initiatives at regional and national levels, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals. Selected regions will gain knowledge-sharing opportunities, access to a network of bio-based clusters, and hands-on experience in crafting sustainable bio-based economy strategies.

Best source: [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

Public Policy & Regulation



European Parliament adopts position on packaging waste legislation amid criticism

The European Parliament has adopted its position on new EU-wide rules on packaging to reduce waste and set targets on reuse and waste prevention. The legislation aims to reduce overall packaging and plastic packaging by 10% by 2030, 15% by 2035, and 20% by 2040, including a proposed ban on very lightweight plastic carrier bags and restricting certain single-use packaging formats. However, the most stringent measures such as bans on unnecessary packaging and setting reuse targets were removed, leading environmental organisations to question how waste reduction targets will be achieved in practice. Plastics Europe called the vote a missed opportunity and accused members of the parliament of being influenced by lobbying. Negotiations with EU member states will now commence to finalise the law.

Best source: [Euractiv](#)

See also: [Circular](#)

See also: [Euractiv](#)

EU proposes new recycling goals for permanent magnets in white goods and wind turbines

The EU is advancing new legislation to improve the reuse and recycling of rare earths found in permanent magnets, used in wind turbines, electric vehicles and household appliances. The proposed Critical Raw Materials Act aims to enhance the EU's self-sufficiency in minerals essential for the green and digital transitions, introducing targets for extraction, processing and recycling of key raw materials to reduce reliance on imports. Automakers and wind turbine manufacturers have expressed concerns, while the European recycling industry is calling for a ban on metal exports from used electric car batteries. The EU also plans to introduce a 'product passport' to extend product lifetimes and improve recyclability.

Best source: [Euractiv](#)

Funding & Investment



€120m available for circular economy research and innovation under Horizon Europe

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, has announced that Horizon Europe Cluster 6 is seeking proposals for research and innovation activities to promote the circular economy. The call for proposals will be open until February 2024, with €120m in grants available for projects focusing on safe, integrated circular solutions at regional and sectoral levels. The funding aims to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient circular economy and sustainable bioeconomy.

Best source: [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

Outreach & Training



Terra Matters launches website to promote circular traceability

Terra Matters, an economic interest group (GIE) created by the Ministry of the Economy and the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in December 2022, has launched its website terramatters.net. The organisation's main objective is to commercialise at international scale the Product Circularity Data Sheet, a communication system developed in Luxembourg that provides access to trustworthy information about a product's circular properties - enabling it to be reused, repaired or recycled as necessary. Terra Matters aims to support European

companies in their green transition by promoting the circular economy, as well as supporting the implementation of best practices, scalable and inexpensive IT solutions in the circular economy field and the implementation of cost-effective circular business models.

Best source: [Terra Matters](#) (in French)

See also: [Paperjam](#)

Luxembourg launches new climate engagement platform with klima.lu website

The Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity (formerly Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development) has launched an online platform, klima.lu, dedicated to Luxembourg's climate engagement. The platform offers comprehensive information on climate-related issues and allows users to compare their carbon footprint with the national average. It also features the ClimABC initiative, providing a range of resources from public and civil institutions, international sites, scientific information and COP-related content. The platform aims to promote climate awareness and action, in line with the ministry's motto: 'The beginning of engagement is information'.

Best source: [klima.lu](#)

See also: [Info Green](#) (in French)

Chambre des Métiers Luxembourg enhances sustainability training programme for construction sector

The Chambre des Métiers Luxembourg has been providing ongoing training to professionals in the construction sector, focusing on energy renovation, circular economy, and selective deconstruction to meet the climate objectives of the Grand Duchy. According to Gilles Reding, director of counsel and services, the aim of the training courses is to shift Luxembourg's construction away from fossil fuels and insulation materials such as polystyrene and polyurethane towards sustainable materials. The programme also includes an eight-hour cycle on selective deconstruction to promote circular economy methods.

Best source: [Chambre des Métiers](#)

See also: [Info Green](#)

EU-funded project launches survey on support for circular economy initiatives

The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, in collaboration with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy and the Green Economy Coalition, is conducting a survey to understand how organisations support circular economy initiatives. The survey, part of a new EU-funded project on accelerating the global transition to a green and circular economy, aims to identify

key circular economy initiatives at national, regional and global levels and facilitate knowledge sharing and engagement activities.

Best source: [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

*This briefing is powered by **VitalBriefing**, providing essential media monitoring curated by expert journalists.*



You are receiving this newsletter as a subscriber to past circular economy content from VitalBriefing or because you have shown interest in the topic. This monthly briefing supports the deployment of the circular economy strategy of Luxembourg. If you no longer wish to receive it you can [unsubscribe here](#)

Our mailing address is:

VitalBriefing
43, Avenue Gaston Diderich
Luxembourg L-1420
Luxembourg

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
[View this email in your browser](#).