

Circular Week 2026



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

Program



26–31 October 2026

Last updated: 7 September 2026
Updates available at: cscp.org/our-work/circular-week-2026/

Co-hosted by:



circularweek.com



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

Turning Europe's

Circular Ambition

into Urban Reality

What will it take for cities to become the driving force behind Europe's circular transition?

Circular Week 2026 brings together a full week of events, exchange, and innovation around the Circular Economy — across Europe, Germany, and NRW.

Join circular changemakers from cities, governments, businesses and the public.



26–31 October 2026



Meet the Circular Week Network

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Ministry of the Environment,
Nature and Transport
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



RUNDER TISCH
Zirkuläre Wertschöpfung
Nordrhein-Westfalen



Circular Valley



ENGAGEMENT
GLOBAL



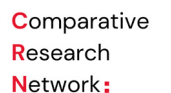
BertelsmannStiftung



Meet the Circular Week Network



Photo by Fabian Friedrich on Unsplash



Circular Week 2026

Online Conference

What if cities became the driving force of Europe's circular future?

Find the answers at the Circular Week Online Conference.

Meet leading changemakers shaping the future of circular cities:

- **Policy & Government**
(European Union, national and regional ministries)
- **Cities & Municipal Leaders**
(Mayors and city representatives)
- **Business & Pioneers**
(Entrepreneurs and innovators)
- **Civil Society**
(Makers and thought leaders)



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How Does the

Online Conference

Work?

5 themes, 3 formats:

- Mind-opening sessions:
New perspectives & fresh inspiration
- Pioneering sessions: Practical examples & innovations
- Networking sessions: Exchange & discussion

Build your own experience within our program:

- Choose your favorite sessions
- Switch freely between parallel streams
- Create your personal timetable

Your conference. Your choice.
After the opening session, you can choose what matters most to you.

This is not just another online conference—it's your personal Circular Economy experience.



27 October 2026, 9.30–15.30

Time	Resilience and Infrastructure	Regulate Repair Redesign	Engaging Citizens	CE Future Skills	Levers for Circular Cities
9:30–10:30	Opening Session: Welcome to the Circular Week Städte als treibende Kraft der Circular Economy 🇩🇪 <i>9:30–10:30</i>				
10:30–11:30	Der Preis der Unabhängigkeit: Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor 🇩🇪 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	Redesign in der Praxis: Wie Unternehmen Produkte für die Kreislaufwirtschaft neu denken 🇩🇪 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	Circularity Made Easy: From Consumer Awareness to Better Everyday Offers 🇬🇧 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	Wie wird eine ganze Region CE – fit? Qualifizierung als Gemeinschaftsprojekt 🇩🇪 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	Vom Konzept zur Wirkung: Wie Städte Wohnungstauschprogramme erfolgreich skalieren 🇩🇪 <i>10:30–11:30</i>
	Resilient Bioeconomy in the Context of Polycrisis 🇬🇧 <i>10:30–11:30</i>			Circular Innovations for Inspiration 🇬🇧 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	
				AI × DPP: Driving Circular Business Model Innovation in Cities 🇬🇧 <i>10:30–11:30</i>	
11:30–12:30	Resilience, Reconstruction and Circularity in War – Project Examples from Ukraine 🇬🇧 <i>11:30–12:30</i>	Auf dem Weg zur Kreislaufgesellschaft: Welche Infrastrukturen und Orte wir jetzt schaffen müssen 🇩🇪 <i>11:30–12:30</i>	Beyond Delivery: Can Logistics Enable Circular Consumption 🇬🇧 <i>11:30–12:30</i>	CircularCities.NRW in action: Die Dos and Dont's der zirkulären Lösungen für Kommunen 🇩🇪 <i>11:30–12:30</i>	Zirkuläre öffentliche Beschaffung: Im Spannungsfeld von Vergabepaxis, Leitmärkten und globaler Verantwortung 🇩🇪 <i>11:30–12:30</i>
	How circularity, ecodesign, and resilient systems can transform products, business models, and building technologies for a sustainable future 🇬🇧 <i>11:30–12:30</i>			Future-Proof Business: Mit CIRCO die Circular Economy in marktfähige Lösungen übersetzen 🇩🇪 <i>11:30–12:30</i>	Building the Loop: Pioneering Startups in Circular Construction 🇬🇧 <i>11:30–12:30</i>

Time	Resilience and Infrastructure	Regulate Repair Redesign	Engaging Citizens	CE Future Skills	Levers for Circular Cities
12:30–13:30	Chemie ohne Öl: Regionale und zirkuläre Stoffkreisläufe für die Industrie 🇩🇪 12:30–13:30	Digital, verlässlich, schnell: Wie müssen Reparaturangebote gestaltet sein um, eine Alternative zum Neukauf zu sein? 🇩🇪 10:30–11:30	Zirkulär im Alltag: Wie digitale Werkzeuge Orientierung und Beteiligung schaffen 🇩🇪 12:30–13.30	Der Mensch macht's!? Wie die zirkuläre Transformation in Städten gelingen kann 🇩🇪 12:30–13:30	Anforderungen und Rahmensetzungen für die gelingende Gestaltung von Circular Cities 🇩🇪 12:30–13:30
13:30–14:30	Kreislaufwirtschaft unter Strom: Warum Resilienz bei der Energie beginnt 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30	Vom verlängerten Produktleben bis zum Recycling: Wie neue Allianzen die Kreislaufgesellschaft voranbringen 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30	CoP Circular Cities NRW: Zwischen Anspruch und Alltag: Wie zirkuläres Verhalten alltagstauglich wird 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30	Reparatur als kommunale Aufgabe – welche Fachkräfte braucht eine Reparaturwirtschaft und woher sollen sie kommen? 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30	Are Cities and Regions Equipped to Leverage the Circular Economy Transformation? 🇬🇧 13.30–14.30
	Krise? Keine Katastrophe: Entwicklung einer resilienten (Stadt-) Gesellschaft 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30			Zirkulär mit allen Sinnen 🇩🇪 13:30–14:30	
				From Circular Economy to Decent Work: Learnings from Circle Economy's work in employment and cities 🇬🇧 13:30–14:30	
14:30–15:30	Vor der Krise Köpfe kennen: Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor – Vernetzungs-Session 🇩🇪 14:30–15:30	Circular Ecosystems: Welche Allianzen und Netzwerke brauchen wir für echtes Ecodesign? – Vernetzungs-Session 🇩🇪 14:30–15:30	Gemeinsam mehr erreichen – die große Vernetzungssession 🇩🇪 14:30–15:30		

Welcome to the **Circular Week**

9:30–10:30



Städte als treibende Kraft der Circular Economy 🇩🇪



Michael Kuhndt
CSCP



Mario Hecker
Gemeinde Kalletal



Miriam Scherff
Stadt Wuppertal



Ulla Griepentrop
Stadt Aachen

Wenn die zirkulären Ambitionen Europas irgendwo Wirklichkeit werden, dann in den Städten – dort, wo Politik auf Alltag trifft. Doch keine Kommune kann die Kreislaufwirtschaft allein gestalten: Verwaltung, Unternehmen, Wissenschaft und Bürger:innen müssen zusammenarbeiten.

Diese Session eröffnet die Circular Week mit der zentralen Frage, wie Politik auf städtischer Ebene die unterschiedlichsten Interessengruppen für die Kreislaufwirtschaft gewinnen und befähigen kann. Im Gespräch geben Bürgermeister:innen aus großen und kleinen Kommunen Einblick, wie sie den Wandel vor Ort anstoßen – von der Großstadt bis zur ländlichen Gemeinde. Ein inspirierender Auftakt, der zeigt: Die zirkuläre Transformation beginnt im Rathaus, aber sie gelingt nur gemeinsam.

Resilience & Infrastructure

What happens when the systems cities depend on can no longer be taken for granted? Disrupted supply chains, geopolitical tensions, energy insecurity and crises are exposing the vulnerabilities of today's urban systems. Resilience can no longer mean simply withstanding disruption—it means becoming more adaptable, flexible and capable of transforming in the face of change.

What this track is about

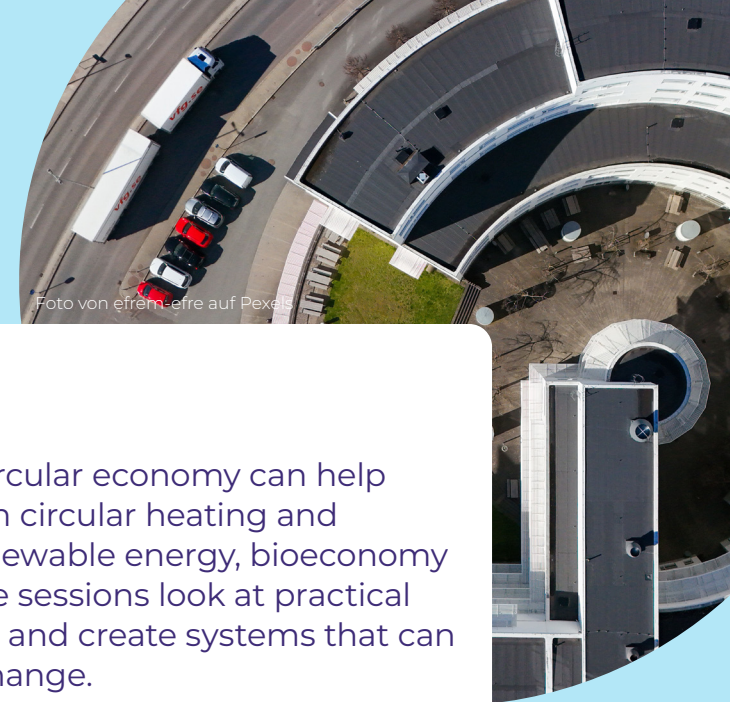
This track explores how the circular economy can help cities build that capacity. From circular heating and regional material cycles to renewable energy, bioeconomy and resilient communities, the sessions look at practical ways to reduce dependencies and create systems that can adapt when circumstances change.

Your host

“When cities plan for adaptivity instead of only robustness, they turn resilience from a defensive concept into a driver of sustainable urban innovation. Circular economy can help cities become more adaptable, flexible and sustainable in the face of change.”



Dr. Esther Heidbüchel is a CSCP Senior Project Manager and works at the intersection of the circular economy, resilience and sustainable transformation.



Resilience & Infrastructure

10:30–11:30



Kopfföhrer Session:
Der Preis der Unabhngigkeit – Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor 🇩🇪



Prof. Stephan Bayer
German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rainer Wallmann
EDG Entsorgung Dortmund



Nadine Braun
E.ON



Prof. Dr. Henning Wilts
Wuppertal Institut fr Klima, Umwelt, Energie

Krisen, unterbrochene Lieferketten, geopolitische Abhngigkeiten: Was gestern noch selbstverstndlich war, ist heute keine sichere Gre mehr. Diese Session fragt, welche Rolle die Kreislaufwirtschaft dabei spielt, Stdte und Unternehmen widerstandsfhiger zu machen – lokal, regional und national.

Wie hngen Geopolitik und zirkulre Lieferketten zusammen, und welche Akteure und Stoffstrme mssen wir knftig gemeinsam denken? Wir schauen auf konkrete Lsungsanstze fr wahrscheinliche Szenarien wie Stromausflle oder gestrte Lieferketten – und darauf, was Resilienz eigentlich kostet. Klar wird: Unabhngigkeit gibt es nicht zum Nulltarif, aber Kooperation ist der Hebel, der sie bezahlbar macht.

Resilience & Infrastructure



Pioneer Sessions

Session 1: Resilient Bioeconomy in the Context of Polycrisis

Speakers:

- **Martin Behrens** – Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FNR)
- **Kartika Anggraeni** – CSCP

10:00–11:00

Session 2: Resilience, Reconstruction and Circularity in War – Project Examples from Ukraine

Speakers:

- **Bart Gruyaert** – NeoEco
- **Viktoriia Tkachouk** – NeoEco

10:00–11:00

Session 3: How circularity, ecodesign, and resilient systems can transform products, business models, and construction

Speakers:

- **Dr. Jonas Huether** – Wilo
- **Jahanzeb Tariq** – Viessmann Climate Solutions
- **Elliana Jensen-Abieva** – CircularTech Forum

11:30–12:30

Session 4: Chemie ohne Öl? Möglichkeiten regionaler und zirkulärer Stoffkreisläufe für die Industrie

Speakers:

- **Prof. Dr. Klaus Kümmerer** – Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
- **Timothy Glaz** – Werner & Mertz
- **Stefan Balk** – Verbio

12:30–13:30

Resilience & Infrastructure



Pioneer Sessions

Session 5: Kreislaufwirtschaft unter Strom – Warum Resilienz bei der Energie beginnt 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- **Patrick Bottermann** – Yellostrom
- **Vanessa Wickel** – ENBW
- **Daniel Kolle** – Energiepark Dortmund Nordost

13:30–14:30

Session 6: Krise? Keine Katastrophe – Entwicklung einer resilienten Stadtgesellschaft 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- **Niko Gramenz** – takeKONTROL
- **Carolin Engwert** – Verbraucher Initiative Berlin

13:30–14:30

Session 7 (Vernetzungssession): Vor der Krise Köpfe Kennen – Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor 🇩🇪

Speaker:

- **Dr. Esther Heidbüchel** – Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP)

14:30–15:30

Regulate, Repair, Redesign

What would it take to make repair the obvious alternative to buying new? A truly circular economy will not emerge from individual choices alone. It requires new regulation, new infrastructure and new forms of collaboration that make keeping products in use longer not only possible, but economically attractive.

What this track is about?

This track explores how we can build the conditions for a repair and circular society, from the policies and market structures that shape business decisions to the places, services and networks that make repair, reuse and sharing part of everyday life.

Your host

“Repair used to make economic sense because resources were more precious than labour. The same can be true again. By shifting the policies and price structures that shape today’s markets, we can make repair not just sustainable, but a real market requirement and a strong business case for companies.”

Stephan Schaller, is a CSCP Senior Expert with more than 20 years of experience in sustainability, circular economy, products and services, and sustainable business models.



Foto von carter-yocham auf Unsplash

Regulate, Repair, Redesign

11:30–12:30



Kopfföfner Session:

Auf dem Weg zur Kreislaufgesellschaft –
Welche Infrastrukturen und Orte wir jetzt schaffen müssen 



Monika Lichtinghagen-Wirths
Bergischer
Abfallwirtschaftsverband (BAV)



Katrin Meyer
Runder Tisch Reparatur



Dr. Carsten Benke
Zentralverband des
deutschen Handwerks



Dominique Rotondi
toom Baumarkt

Tauschen, Teilen, Reparieren? Klingt gut – aber wo geschieht das eigentlich? Solange die nächste Möglichkeit weiter weg ist als der Neukauf um die Ecke, bleibt die Gesellschaft im Einwegmodus. Eine Kreislaufgesellschaft entsteht durch Angebote und Infrastruktur: durch Orte zum Tauschen, Teilen und Reparieren, die so alltäglich werden wie der Besuch des nächsten Supermarkts oder der Stadtteilbibliothek.

Diese Session fragt, welche Infrastruktur die Kreislaufgesellschaft jetzt braucht und an welchen Aufenthalts- und Konsumorten sie entstehen sollte. Dafür bringen wir vier Perspektiven zusammen, die diesen Wandel maßgeblich mitgestalten (können). Wir diskutieren mit Vertreter*innen der kommunalen Abfallwirtschaft, des Handels, des Handwerks und des Runden Tisches Reparatur, der sich seit über einem Jahrzehnt für mehr Reparatur engagiert. Wo müssen wir Rollen und Geschäftsmodelle ändern? Wo können Städte wirkungsvoll ansetzen? Wir suchen die Synergien – und die konkreten Beiträge, die jede und jeder leisten muss, damit aus Einzelinitiativen ein tragfähiges System wird.

Regulate, Repair, Redesign



Pioneer Sessions

Session 1: Digital, verlässlich, schnell – Wie müssen Reparaturangebote gestaltet sein um, eine Alternative zum Neukauf zu sein? 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Dr. Monika Hauck – RepairRebels
- Sebastian Daus – FixFirst
- Prof. Dr. Christa Liedtke – Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie

12:30–13:30

Session 2: Redesign in der Praxis – Wie Unternehmen Produkte für die Kreislaufwirtschaft neu denken 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Werden noch bekannt gegeben

10:30–11:30

Session 3: Vom verlängerten Produktleben bis zum Recycling – Wie neue Allianzen die Kreislaufgesellschaft voranbringen 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Jochen Stiebel – Neue Effizienz
- Ramona Hempen – Zero Waste Fachstelle
- Inés Alberico – Right to Repair Europe
- Canan Köllner – CIRCULAR REPUBLIC
- Nicole Haas – Gründerschmiede Remscheid
- Sandra Hiller – iFixit

13:30–14:30

Session 4 (Vernetzungssession): Circular Ecosystems – Welche Allianzen und Netzwerke brauchen wir für echtes Ecodesign? 🇩🇪

Speaker:

- Stephan Schaller – Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP)

14:30–15:30

Engaging Citizens

A circular future cannot happen without people. The challenge is to move beyond just asking citizens to change their behaviour and into creating the conditions, services and systems that make circular choices simple, affordable, trustworthy and attractive.

What this track is about?

This track explores what it takes to put people at the heart of the circular transition. From the way products and services are offered to the role of digital tools, education, logistics and local initiatives, it looks at how we can remove barriers and create everyday opportunities for people to act.

Your host

“A circular future only works if people see themselves in it. The real question is therefore not just how to involve citizens, but how to give them a genuine stake in shaping the cities and systems they depend on and making everyday life better in the process.”



Rosa Strube, is Head of Sustainable Lifestyles at CSCP, working for decades at the intersection of sustainable consumption, behaviour and systems change.



Foto von Luba Glazunova auf Unsplash

Engaging Citizens

10:30–11:30



Mind-opening session:
**Circularity Made Easy – From Consumer Awareness to
Better Everyday Offers** 🇬🇧



Ladeja Godina Košir
Circular Change | Co-Chair,
European Circular Economy
Stakeholder Platform (ECESP)



Brigitte Mouligneau
Circular Flanders



Silvia Barlassina
BEUC – The European Consumer
Association



Miranda Beckett
Ellen MacArthur Foundation



Sibel Sever
IKEA Germany

Let's stop blaming the consumer. When the sustainable choice costs more, takes longer and demands a research project before every purchase, "just choose better" isn't a strategy – it's wishful thinking. Circular living shouldn't require heroism; it should be the path of least resistance.

This session flips the question from "how do we change people?" to "how do we change the offer?" What makes circularity effortless, affordable and trustworthy enough to win by default? With voices from retail, consumer protection and regional transition policy, we confront an uncomfortable truth: as long as the wasteful option is the easy one, awareness alone will never be enough. The real work is making the better choice the obvious one.

#EUCircularTalk

Engaging Citizens



Pioneer Sessions

Session 1: Beyond Delivery – Can Logistics Enable Circular Consumption?

Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Ani Melkonyan-Gottschalk – Clausthal University of Technology
- Johan Leveque – La Poste Groupe, ALICE-ETP, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Sergio Barbarino – FIT Consulting srl
- Paola Cossu – Fit Consulting srl
- Pietro D'Arpa – Procter & Gamble

11:30–12:30

Session 2: Zirkulär im Alltag – Wie digitale Werkzeuge Orientierung und Beteiligung schaffen

Speakers:

- Dr. Imke Schmidt – Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie
- Sarah Keller – Circular Berlin
- Nick Völker – BUGA Wuppertal

12:30–13:30

Session 3: CoP Circular Cities NRW Zwischen Anspruch und Alltag – Wie zirkuläres Verhalten alltagstauglich wird

Speakers:

- Mirjam Schüller – Verbraucher Initiative
- Anna Kloss – Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart
- Hanna Feuser – Kunststoff-Institut für die mittelständische Wirtschaft NRW

13:30–14:30

Circular Economy Future Skills

The circular transition requires more than new technologies and business models: it calls for new skills, new ways of thinking and new forms of collaboration. From repair and craft skills to systems thinking, digital competence and the ability to turn circular ideas into viable solutions, cities, companies and communities need the capabilities to put circularity into practice.

What this track is about

This track explores what people and organisations need to become truly circular-ready. It looks at how skills can be developed across entire regions, how cities can respond to growing workforce shortages, and how organisations can create the conditions for innovation and collaboration. At the same time, digital tools, AI and data can open up new possibilities, but only when people have the knowledge and confidence to use them effectively.

Your host

“Technology can enable circularity, but people need the skills to make it work. From repair and craft skills to systems thinking and data literacy, we need to explore the capabilities that cities, companies, and people will need in order to drive the circular transition.”



Marc Böker, is a CSCP Senior Expert focusing on capacity building, organisational transformation and collaborative approaches to change.



Foto von tima miroshnichenko auf Pexel

Circular Economy Future Skills

12:30–13:30



Kopfföffner Session:
**Der Mensch macht's!? Wie die zirkuläre Transformation in
Städten gelingen kann 🇩🇪**



Susanne Kadner
CIRCULAR REPUBLIC



Yvonne Zwick
BAUM



Dorothee Lauter
Wirtschaftsförderung Bottrop

Kreislaufwirtschaft klingt nach Technik, Materialien und Prozessen, doch vor allem Menschen entscheiden, ob sie gelingt Welche Fähigkeiten und Kompetenzen braucht eine Stadtgesellschaft eigentlich, um zirkulär zu werden? Diese Session rückt den oft übersehenen Faktor in den Mittelpunkt:

die Menschen, die Veränderung tragen. Wir fragen, wie digitale Tools sie dabei unterstützen können, wie sich unterschiedlichste Akteure – von Verwaltung über Wirtschaft bis Zivilgesellschaft – für den Wandel gewinnen lassen und welche Organisationsformen es jetzt braucht. Und wir stellen die ehrliche Frage, die in fast jeder Kommune mitschwingt: Wie geht man all das an, wenn gleichzeitig Fachkräfte fehlen und die Budgets knapp sind?

Circular Economy Future Skills



Pioneer Sessions

Session 1: AI × DPP – Driving Circular Business Model Innovation in Cities

Speakers:

- **Elliana Jensen-Abieva** – CircularTech Forum
- **Jens Mühlner** – T-Systems International
- **Peter Hoelz** – MediaMarktSaturn
- **Armando Garcia Schmidt** – Bertelsmann Stiftung

10:30–11:30

Session 2: Circular innovations for inspiration

Speakers:

- **Ines Rainer** – creative.nrw
- **Vaishnavi Tolety** – Circular Valley
- **Rebecca Kruppert** – Circular Valley

10:30–11:30

Session 3: Wie wird eine ganze Region CE-fit? Qualifizierung als Gemeinschaftsprojekt

Speakers:

- **Leon Diel** – CirQualityOWL plus
- **Sarah Kleinhans** – CirQualityOWL plus
- **Nicole Bendsen** – Circular Berlin
- **Benjamin Haag** – IHK Aachen
- **Paul Szábo-Müller** – Hochschule Ruhr West

10:30–11:30

Session 4: CircularCities.NRW in action – Die Dos and Dont's der zirkulären Lösungen für Kommunen

Speakers:

- **Werden noch bekannt gegeben**

11:30–12:30

Circular Economy Future Skills



Pioneer Sessions

Session 5: Future-Proof Business –
Mit CIRCO die Circular Economy in marktfähige
Lösungen übersetzen 

Speakers:

- Linda Dierke – Effizienz-Agentur NRW
- Nadine Tiedemann – Effizienz-Agentur NRW

11:30–12:30

Session 6: Reparatur als kommunale Aufgabe –
welche Fachkräfte braucht eine Reparaturwirtschaft
und woher sollen sie kommen? 

Speakers:

- Katrin Meyer – Runder Tisch Reparatur

13:30–14:30

Session 7: Zirkulär mit allen Sinnen 

Speakers:

- Dr. Daniela Simpson – triple innova
- Prof. Dr. Brigitte Biermann – triple innova

13:30–14:30

Session 8: From Circular Economy to
Decent Work – Learnings from Circle Economy's
work in employment and cities 

Speaker:

- Prashant Kumar – Research Analyst

13:30–14:30

Levers for Circular Cities

Circular transformation does not happen through singular programmes, policies, or funding instruments. It happens when **governance creates space for innovation, financing supports action, procurement creates new markets, and partnerships connect people and organisations to turn ideas into lasting change.**

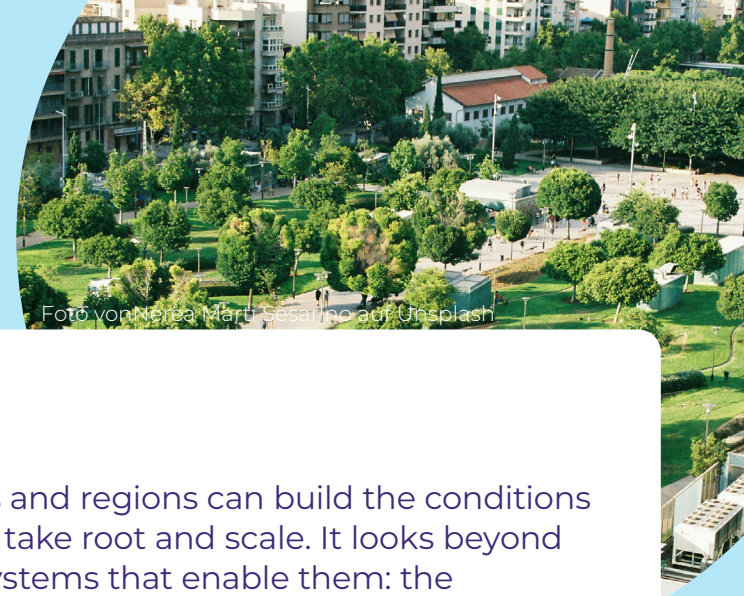
What this track is about

This track explores how cities and regions can build the conditions for circular transformation to take root and scale. It looks beyond individual measures to the systems that enable them: the governance structures, financing mechanisms, procurement practices, partnerships and organisational capabilities that can turn circular ambitions into tangible impact.

Your host

“We often discuss individual levers such as financing, procurement, governance or advisory support in isolation. In reality, progress depends on how these levers work together. Even the best funding programme or procurement strategy will have limited impact if governance structures are fragmented or organisations lack the flexibility to experiment, learn and adapt.”

Cristina Fedato is Head of Sustainable Infrastructure, Products and Services at CSCP, with two decades of experience in corporate sustainability, sustainable procurement and supply chains.



Levers for Circular Cities

10:30–11:30



Mind-opening session:
Are Cities and Regions Equipped to Leverage the Circular Economy Transformation? 



Cornelius Laaser
Ministerium für Umwelt,
Naturschutz und Verkehr NRW



Elmar Willems
Circular Flanders



Lucie Blondel
Circular Cities and Regions
Initiative, European Commission

Cities and regions are where Circular Economy ambitions meet implementation. Strategies can provide direction and build long term commitment, but turning them into lasting transformation requires the right conditions. This session asks whether cities and regions are equipped to accelerate the circular transition and what it takes to move from strategic ambition to sustained action.

Which governance structures, financing approaches and partnerships help cities implement and scale circular solutions? And are enough cities moving fast enough to create broader change? Bringing together European, regional and state perspectives, from the EU level through Flanders to North Rhine Westphalia, the discussion explores how different levels of government can enable Circular Cities and what is needed to increase the pace and impact of implementation.

Levers for Circular Cities



Pioneer Sessions

Session 1: Vom Konzept zur Wirkung – Wie Städte Wohnungstauschprogramme erfolgreich skalieren 

Speaker:

- **Silke Küstner – WWF**

10:30–11:30

Session 2: Building the Loop.
Pioneering Startups in Circular Construction 

Speaker:

- **Rebecca Kruppert – Circular Valley**

11:30–12:30

Session 3: Zirkuläre öffentliche Beschaffung –
Im Spannungsfeld von Vergabep Praxis, Leitmärkten
und globaler Verantwortung 

Speakers:

- **Kathrin Graulich – Öko-Institut**
- **Marc Wolinda – Bertelsmann Stiftung**
- **Marie-Luise Lämmle – Servicestelle Kommunen in der Einen Welt**

11:30–12:30

Session 4: Anforderungen und
Rahmensetzungen für die gelingende
Gestaltung von Circular Cities 

Speakers:

- **Dr. Marc-Oliver Pahl – Ministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Verkehr des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen**
- **Dr. Peter Queitsch – Städte- und Gemeindebund NRW**
- **Dr. Klaus Reuter – LAG 21 NRW**
- **Mona Rybicki – LAG 21 NRW**

12:30–13:30

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Stefan Balk
Verbio SE



Agnieszka Sznyk
President of INNOWO



Prof. Dr. Klaus Kümmerer
Leuphana Universität
Lüneburg



Timothy Glaz
Werner & Mertz



Prof. Dr. Stefan Bayer
GIDS
Foto © Bundeswehr, Pieter-Pan Rupprecht



Hanna Feuser
Kunststoff-Institut
für die mittelständische
Wirtschaft NRW



Dr. Imke Schmidt
Wuppertal Institut
für Klima, Umwelt, Energie



Mirjam Schüller
Verbraucher Initiative



Sarah Keller
Circular Berlin



Anna Kloss
Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart



Dr. Daniela Simpson
triple innova



Katrin Meyer
Runder Tisch Reparatur
Foto © Melanie Wong



Linda Dierke
Effizienz-Agentur NRW



Nadine Tiedemann
Effizienz-Agentur NRW



Nicole Bendsen
Circular Berlin

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Prof. Dr. Brigitte Biermann
triple innova



Rebecca Kruppert
Circular Valley



Susanne Kadner
CIRCULAR REPUBLIC



Vaishnavi Tolety
Circular Valley



Yvonne Zwick
BAUM



Peter Hölz
MediaMarktSaturn
Retail Group



Monika Lichtinghagen-Wirths
Bergischer
Abfallwirtschaftsverband



Dr. Klaus Reuter
LAG 21



Marc Wolinda
Bertelsmann Stiftung



Silke Küstner
WWF

You can find more speakers
on the registration page:

Explore the highlights of the

Circular Week

Program

Germany

Aachen

26 October 2026

Opening Event

Online

27 October 2026

Online Conference

Duisburg

28 October 2026

Circular Day Rhein.Ruhr

Lindlar

28 October 2026

From Landfill to Hub of Innovation

Hagen

28 October 2026

Circularity in Urban Neighborhood Development

Wuppertal

29 October 2026

Circular Cities, Secure Food

Wuppertal

31 October 2026

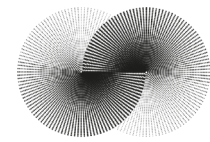
Repair & Share Festival

NRW

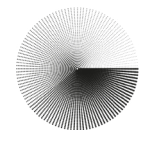
October 2026

Repair World Record

Opening Event



**CIRCULAR
CITY HUB
AACHEN**
KREISLAUFWIRKSTATT



**URBAN
MINING
HUB**
CIRCULAR
CITY
AACHEN

Circular Week 2026



Aachen

Kick-off Circular Week 2026 with an inspiring opening event.

What to expect:

- Keynotes from politics and leading experts
- Opening of Urban Mining Hub
- First insights into the week's themes
- Networking with participants and partners



26 October 2026, 11.00–17.00

Photo by Canva AI 2.0



Circular Day Rhein.Ruhr



Duisburg

Connecting Circular Economy Stakeholders in the Rhine-Ruhr Region:

- Networking with stakeholders from local governments, business, academia, and politics in the Rhine-Ruhr Region
- Insights and presentations on regional initiatives for circular innovations and approaches, including in the construction sector and logistics
- Exchange on implementation experiences, challenges, and success factors of the circular transformation in the region



28 October 2026, 9.00 – 15.00

Photo © Stadt Duisburg

From Landfill to Innovation Hub



Lindlar

Discover how a former landfill site has been transformed into a centre of innovation and expertise for circular economy, research, and knowledge transfer that is recognised throughout Europe.

- Exclusive insights into the innovation hub :metabolon and its evolution from landfill to real-world laboratory for the circular economy
- Practical examples from research, resource efficiency, and knowledge transfer for a circular future
- Discussions with experts from academia and industry on innovative approaches to the circular economy
- Inspiration for municipalities, companies, and research institutions on how to successfully shape transformation processes

→ [Get more info](#)



28 October 2026, 10.00–13.00

Photo © BAV

Circularity in Urban Neighborhood Development



Hagen & online

Learn how circular processes and climate protection can work together in the neighborhood through the example of the “Climate-positive Wehringhausen” project.

- Insights into the project’s best practices: high motivation, realism, and significant impact
- How materials, as well as volunteer and full-time staff resources, are utilised in a circular manner
- Open discussion on institutional support, funding, and long-term implementation
- Inspiration for circular and climate-friendly neighborhood projects

→ **Registration:**

Email dunja.blau@hatopia.de

→ **Attend in person:**

Hagen-Wehringhausen or via

<https://meet.google.com/smj-rvou-rci>



28 October 2026, 14.00–15.30

Photo by Dunja Blau, Nachhaltigkeitszentrum Hagen e.V.

Circular Cities, Secure Food



Wuppertal

How can cities make their food supply resilient even in times of crisis? Discover and discuss new approaches to circular and crisis-resilient food systems together with experts from business, government, academia, and civil society.

- Developing partnerships for resilient and circular food systems
- Insights into regional supply, decentralised production, and sustainable food cycles
- Interactive co-do! lab format at an inspiring innovation place featuring discussions, a panel discussion, and collaborative idea generation
- Identifying key stakeholders, resources, interdependencies, and gaps in cooperation
- Jointly developing concrete approaches for pilot projects and future collaborations



29 October 2026, 11.00–15.00

Photo ©Juliane Herrmann

European Sustainability

Congress 2026



Warsaw

The European Sustainability Congress 2026 is a leading conference in Poland focused on the circular economy and sustainable development. Through expert presentations, panel discussions, and networking, participants will explore how circular economy principles drive innovation, competitiveness, and long-term growth. The Congress brings together international experts, businesses, policymakers, and innovators to exchange knowledge, showcase circular projects and start-ups, and foster new partnerships.

- Circular business models and strategies for sustainable growth
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and circular supply chains
- Sustainable finance and investments supporting the circular transition
- Innovation in bioeconomy, urban infrastructure, waste management, and plastics
- Future skills, education, and competencies needed for a circular economy



29 October 2026, 9.00–17.00

Photo © INNOWO

Repair World Record



NRW

Throughout October 2026, we in North Rhine-Westphalia want to work together to demonstrate the power of repair, reuse and circular economy.

- Goal: More than 4,000 documented repairs in one month
- Repair initiatives, companies, schools, public institutions, associations, and citizens' initiatives can provide support.
- Participation is simple: repair, register and contribute to the record
- Every repair helps make repair culture more visible and contributes to climate protection
- The campaign culminates in the Repair & Share Festival on 31 October 2026 in Wuppertal

→ Participate



Photo © Juliane Herrmann

Repair & Share Festival



FAB REGION
Bergisches Städtedreieck



Wuppertal

A vibrant festival celebrating repair, reuse, and creativity.
Explore and take part in:

- Repair Café XXL
- Second-hand pop-ups
- Stage featuring live repairers, a children's programme and a 'Future Talk'
- Hands-on activities for all ages, such as a sewing workshop, a fashion challenge and a DIY repair area
- Live countdown and conclusion of the world record attempt for repairs in North Rhine-Westphalia



REPAIR & SHARE FESTIVAL

Dein Tag zum Entdecken,
Selbermachen und Weiterlieben



31 October 2026, 11.00–17.00



Further events during Circular Week



Online

- Auftakt des LebensLänger Unternehmensnetzwerks: Zirkulär Denken. Gemeinsam Handeln. (Netzwerktreffen, online)
- Textilvernichtungsverbot: Was nun? Impulse, Chancen und Austausch für die Branche (Netzwerktreffen, online)
- Lebensmittel nutzen statt entsorgen (Webinar, online)



28 October 2026, 10:30 – 12:00 Uhr

28 October 2026, 13:00 – 15:00 Uhr

29 October 2026, 10:00 – 11:30 Uhr

Foto von Pavel Danilyuk auf Pexels

Be Part of

Circular Week 2026

Want to contribute?

Get in touch:



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

We are still shaping
the program — and there are
many ways to get involved:

Host an event

Become a speaker

Join as media partner