

Circular Week 2026



Programme



26–31 October 2026

**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

Last updated: 19 October 2026
Updates available at: cscp.org/our-work/circular-week-2026/

Co-hosted by:



circularweek.com



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**



Photo © BMUKN / Sascha Hilgers

Dear Circular Week participants,

Circular economy is no longer just a peripheral concern, it now holds a prominent place in the public spotlight. It is even discussed in unexpected forums like the Munich Security Conference. After all, a functioning circular economy reduces our reliance on imported critical raw materials. This strengthens our security. Countries that prioritise recycling vital raw materials over importing them not only have an economic advantage, they are also less vulnerable to coercion.

I want Germany to harness the opportunities offered by a circular and resource-efficient economy. A study by the Boston Consulting Group commissioned by the BDI shows that the gross value added by Germany's circular economy could more than double over the next 20 years – rising from 60 billion euros today to as much as 125 billion euros. To pave the way, the German government launched the National Circular Economy Strategy and adopted an action plan this summer. As part of this push, the Federal Environment Ministry is currently designing a funding programme called Circular Economic Future aimed at start-ups, among others.

But that's not all: circular economy affects us all, and everyone should be able to play a role. The "Reparieren statt Wegwerfen" programme (repair instead of throwing away) is a good example. With a total of three million euros, the Federal

Environment Ministry is funding voluntary initiatives that help consumers breathe new life into defective products. This conserves resources, protects the environment and encourages community involvement.

Circular Week 2026 brings together a diverse range of circular economy stakeholders, showcases successful projects and creates opportunities for dialogue and new partnerships. The future of the economy is circular. Circular Week is a great opportunity to work together to build this future.

Carsten Schneider

Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**



Photo © Mark Hermenau

Dear participants of Circular Week,

North Rhine-Westphalia is facing a key challenge for the future: We need to further develop our economy in a way that combines prosperity, innovation and the responsible use of resources. The transformation from a linear to a circular economy is a crucial element in this process.

With the Circular Economy Strategy of North Rhine-Westphalia, we are creating a strategic framework. At the same time, we know that the circular economy cannot be achieved through political strategies alone. It requires people who develop ideas, build partnerships and put new approaches into practice.

This is precisely where Circular Week 2026 comes in. It brings together stakeholders from business, science, politics, public administration and civil society to exchange experiences,

highlight successful approaches and jointly develop solutions for the challenges of tomorrow.

The transformation succeeds where knowledge is shared, partnerships are built and concrete projects are implemented. Whether in municipalities, companies, educational institutions or civil society initiatives: every individual activity contributes to advancing the circular economy in North Rhine-Westphalia.

I am pleased that Circular Week 2026 provides a platform for this exchange and thus makes an important contribution to bringing the objectives of our Circular Economy Strategy to life.

Oliver Krischer

Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**



Photo © MWIKE NRW/Nils Leon Brauer

Dear participants of Circular Week,

North Rhine-Westphalia is a strong industrial and innovation hub. To ensure that our economy remains successful in the future, we need to rethink value creation and prepare our companies for the challenges of tomorrow.

The circular economy offers great opportunities in this regard: it combines resource efficiency with innovation, strengthens the competitiveness of companies and opens up new business models. Particularly for our industrial state, the transition to circular ways of doing business is an important step towards securing value creation in the long term and making it more resilient. This is why we recently presented our first Circular Economy Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia. We want to

further develop our state as a leading location for circular economy in Europe. To achieve this, we are bringing together our industrial strength, the innovative capacity of our SMEs and the expertise of our research institutions.

I am pleased that Circular Week is helping to highlight the potential of the circular economy and to further develop North Rhine-Westphalia as an innovative and future-ready business location.

Mona Neubaur

Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy and Deputy Minister-President of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

Working Together to Advance the Circular Economy in Cities



Why does Circular Week focus on local authorities, cities and regions? Because this is precisely where circular ambitions are turned into tangible changes. Political goals meet those who implement them on the ground: local authorities, businesses, initiatives and the people who shape their cities.

During Circular Week, we bring these perspectives together and invite participants to share experiences, learn from one another and jointly develop concrete courses of action.

I would like to extend my special thanks to all the partners, organisations and initiatives helping to shape Circular Week 2026. Together with INNOWO and thanks to funding from the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, we are linking activities in NRW with stakeholders and initiatives from across Europe, thereby creating space for exceptional exchange and concrete ideas.

I look forward to a week full of new connections and shared inspiration for circular cities and regions.

Michael Kuhndt,
Executive Director CSCP



**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



Photo by Nerea Marti Sesarino auf Unsplash

Meet the Circular Week Network



Ministerium für Umwelt,
Naturschutz und Verkehr
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Umwelt, Energie und Klimaschutz



Meet the Circular Week Network



BERGISCHE
STRUKTUR- UND
WIRTSCHAFTS-
FÖRDERUNGS-
GESELLSCHAFT



creative.nrw



neueffizienz



Comparative
Research
Network:



ecosign
akademie für
nachhaltiges
design



everwave

ergodesign



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 programme:**

- 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.

→ **Register now:**
<https://tinyurl.com/4xmjae9z>



27 October 2026, 9.15–15.30

Time	Resilience and Infrastructure	Regulate Repair Redesign	Engaging Citizens	CE Future Skills	Levers for Circular Cities
9:15–9:30	Welcome to the Circular Week				
9:30–10:30	Städte als treibende Kraft der Circular Economy 				
10:30–11:30	Growing Tomorrows Economy – Bio Based and Blue Solutions for a Circular Future  10:20–14:00	Sustainable Development in Logistics and Supply Chains – Time Matters  10:00–12:00	Circularity Made Easy: From Consumer Awareness to Better Everyday Offers 	Wie wird eine ganze Region CE – fit? Qualifizierung als Gemeinschaftsprojekt 	Vom Konzept zur Wirkung: Wie Städte Wohnungstauschprogramme erfolgreich skalieren 
	Der Preis der Unabhängigkeit: Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor 	Redesign in Practice: How Companies Are Rethinking Products for the Circular Economy 	Playing for Active Citizenship – Gamification for Participation and Sustainable Neighbourhoods 	Circular Innovations for Inspiration 	Rethinking local systems: Industrial-Urban Symbiosis and Circular Hubs 
	Resilient Bioeconomy in the Context of Polycrisis 	Rent, Reuse, Rethink: Models beyond ownership for Local Authorities 		AI × DPP: Driving Circular Business Model Innovation in Cities 	Circular Economy als Gemeinschaftsaufgabe: Niedersachsens Weg von der Strategie zur Umsetzung 
11:30–12:30	Resilience, Reconstruction and Circularity in War – Project Examples from Ukraine 	Auf dem Weg zur Kreislaufgesellschaft: Welche Infrastrukturen und Orte wir jetzt schaffen müssen 	Beyond Delivery: Can Logistics Enable Circular Consumption 	CircularCities.NRW in action: Die Dos and Dont's der zirkulären Lösungen für Kommunen 	Zirkuläre öffentliche Beschaffung: Im Spannungsfeld von Vergabepaxis, Leitmärkten und globaler Verantwortung 
		Making ICT infrastructure circularity a reality 		Future-Proof Business: Mit CIRCO die Circular Economy in marktfähige Lösungen übersetzen 	Building the Loop: Pioneering Startups in Circular Construction 

Please note: Some sessions will be recorded.

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 	Digital, verlässlich, schnell: Wie müssen Reparaturangebote gestaltet sein um, eine Alternative zum Neukauf zu sein? 	Zirkulär im Alltag: Wie digitale Werkzeuge Orientierung und Beteiligung schaffen 	Der Mensch macht's!? Wie die zirkuläre Transformation in Städten gelingen kann 	Anforderungen und Rahmensetzungen für die gelingende Gestaltung von Circular Cities 
	How circularity, ecodesign, and resilient systems can transform products, business models, and building technologies for a sustainable future 			From Upcycling to Social Impact – The European Circular Online Museum 	
13:30–14:30	Kreislaufwirtschaft unter Strom: Warum Resilienz bei der Energie beginnt 	Vom verlängerten Produktleben bis zum Recycling: Wie neue Allianzen die Kreislaufgesellschaft voranbringen 	CoP Circular Cities NRW: Zwischen Anspruch und Alltag: Wie zirkuläres Verhalten alltagstauglich wird 	Reparatur als kommunale Aufgabe – welche Fachkräfte braucht eine Reparaturwirtschaft und woher sollen sie kommen? 	Are Cities and Regions Equipped to Leverage the Circular Economy Transformation? 
	Krise? Keine Katastrophe: Entwicklung einer resilienten (Stadt-) Gesellschaft 	Obviously Awesome?! Erfolg und Circularity bei Messen und Events 		Zirkulär mit allen Sinnen 	
				From Circular Economy to Decent Work: Learnings from Circle Economy's work in employment and cities 	
14:30–15:30	Vor der Krise Köpfe kennen: Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor – Vernetzungs-Session 	Circular Ecosystems: Welche Allianzen und Netzwerke brauchen wir für echtes Ecodesign? – Vernetzungs-Session 	Gemeinsam mehr erreichen – die große Vernetzungssession 		

Please note: Some sessions will be recorded.

Städte als treibende Kraft der Circular Economy 🇩🇪

9:30–10:30



Bettina Hagedorn

Bundesministerium für Umwelt,
Klimaschutz, Naturschutz und
nukleare Sicherheit



Alexandra Landsberg

Ministerium für Umwelt, Natur-
schutz und Verkehr des Landes
Nordrhein-Westfalen



Miriam Scherff

Stadt Wuppertal



Mario Hecker

Gemeinde Kalletal



Ulla Griepentrog

Stadt Aachen



Felix Heinrichs

Stadt Mönchengladbach



Moderation:

David J. Becher

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

Zum Auftakt der Circular Week diskutieren wir, was Städte für die erfolgreiche Umsetzung der Circular Economy brauchen. Bürgermeister:innen berichten von ihren Erfahrungen, Prioritäten und Herausforderungen. Ergänzt wird die kommunale Perspektive durch den Blick auf die politischen Rahmenbedingungen auf Bundes- und Landesebene. Im Mittelpunkt steht die Frage, wie die verschiedenen Ebenen zusammenwirken können, um die zirkuläre Transformation vor Ort zu beschleunigen.

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. Dr. Stefan Bayer
German Institute for Defence
and Strategic Studies



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



Moderation: **Alexander Mannweiler**
CSCP



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: Growing Tomorrows Economy – Bio Based and Blue Solutions for a Circular Future

Live Stream der Circular Week Veranstaltung in Warschau aus der deutschen Botschaft in Polen

10:20–14:00

Session 3: Resilience, Reconstruction and Circularity in War – Project Examples from Ukraine

Speakers:

- Bart Gruyaert – NeoEco
- Viktoriia Tkachouk – NeoEco
- Dr. Robin Dietsch – Bergischer Abfallwirtschaftsverband
- Alex Nemyrovskiy – UASILICA

11:30–12:30

[Register Now](#)

Session 2: Resilient Bioeconomy in the Context of Polycrisis

Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Raimund Bleischwitz – Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung (ZMT)
- Sari Koivula – Regional Council of North Karelia, Finland
- Martin Behrens – Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FNR)
- Salvador Samitier – Department of Agriculture, Catalan Regional Government
- Kartika Anggraeni – CSCP

10:30–11:30

Session 4: 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

12:30–13:30

Resilience & Infrastructure



Pioneer Sessions

Session 5: 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
- Dr. Esther Heidbüchel – CSCP

12:30–13:30

Session 6: Kreislaufwirtschaft unter Strom – Warum Resilienz bei der Energie beginnt 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Patrick Bottermann – Yellostrom
- Vanessa Wickel – ENBW
- Daniel Kolle – Energiepark Dortmund Nordost
- Alexander Mannweiler – CSCP

13:30–14:30

Session 7: Krise? Keine Katastrophe – Entwicklung einer resilienten Stadtgesellschaft 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Niko Gramenz – takeKONTROL
- Carolin Engwert – Verbraucher Initiative Berlin
- Bo Tackenberg – BBK
- Dr. Esther Heidbüchel – CSCP

13:30–14:30

Session 8 (Vernetzungssession): Vor der Krise Köpfe Kennen – Kreislaufwirtschaft als Resilienzfaktor 🇩🇪

Speaker:

- Dr. Esther Heidbüchel – CSCP

14:30–15:30

[Register Now](#)

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.



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)



Dr. Carsten Benke
Zentralverband des
deutschen Handwerks



Moderation:
Michael Kuhndt
CSCP



Katrin Meyer
Runder Tisch Reparatur



Dominique Rotondi
toom Baumarkt

Tauschen, Teilen, Reparieren? Kling 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:

Sustainable Development in Logistics and Supply Chains – Time Matters 

Speaker:

- Agata Horzel – GSI Polska
- Bärbel Krauss – Zufall Logistik Group
- Marek Sekieta – Polish Central Logistics Business Network
- YanYing Li – ALICE Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe

10:00 – 12:00

Session 2:

Redesign in Practice: How Companies Are Rethinking Products for the Circular Economy 

Speakers:

- Katarzyna Śliwa – Ergodesign
- Nelly Nodem – Kompetenznetzwerk Umweltwirtschaft.NRW
- Clemens Feigl – everwave GmbH
- Matthias Thesing – rhinopaq GmbH

10:30–11:30

Session 3: Rent, Reuse, Rethink: Models beyond ownership for Local Authorities 

Speakers:

- Christian Eichenberger – Rent.Group
- Erica Locatelli – ICLEI Europe
- Leona Silberstein – City of Helsinki
- Shirin Betzler – CSCP

10:30–11:30

Session 4: Making ICT infrastructure circularity a reality 

Speakers:

- Diego F. Murillo Celis - Telefónica
- Magali Blaise - Orange
- John Spear - epi Consulting

11:30-12:30

[Register Now](#)

Regulate, Repair, Redesign



Pioneer Sessions

Session 5: 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
- Stephan Schaller – CSCP

12:30–13:30

Session 6:
Obviously Awesome?! Erfolg und Circularity bei
Messen und Events

Speaker:

- Sandra Henze – mac brand spaces GmbH
- Harald Hüser – meplan GmbH
- Bernd Draser – ecosign Akademie für nachhaltiges Design

13:30–14:30

Session 7: Vom verlängerten Produktleben
bis zum Recycling – Wie neue Allianzen die
Kreislaufgesellschaft voranbringen

Speakers:

- Jochen Stiebel – Neue Effizienz
- Ramona Hempen – Landeshauptstadt München
- Inés Alberico – Right to Repair Europe
- Canan Köllner – CIRCULAR REPUBLIC
- Nicole Haas – Gründerschmiede Remscheid
- Sandra Hiller – iFixit
- Stephan Schaller – CSCP

13:30–14:30

Session 8 (Vernetzungssession):
Circular Ecosystems – Welche Allianzen und Netz-
werke brauchen wir für echtes Ecodesign?

Speaker:

- Stephan Schaller – CSCP

14:30–15:30

[Register Now](#)

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.



Engaging Citizens

10:30–11:30



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



Brigitte Mouligneau
Circular Flanders



Silvia Barlassina
BEUC – The European
Consumer Association

Sibel Sever
IKEA Germany



Miranda Beckett
Ellen MacArthur Foundation



Ileana Izverniceanu
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



Moderation:
Ladeja Godina Košir
European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP)

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: Playing for Active Citizenship – Gamification for Participation and Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Speakers:

- Krisztina Keresztely – CRN Participatory Lab
- Andrea d'Andrea – A-D Sign Studio & On the Edge organisation

10:30–11:30

Session 3: 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
- Rosa Strube – CSCP

12:30–13:30

[Register Now](#)

Session 2: 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 4: 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
- Rosa Strube – CSCP

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.



Circular Economy Future Skills

12:30–13:30



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



Susanne Kadner
CIRCULAR REPUBLIC



Dorothee Lauter
Wirtschaftsförderung
Bottrop



Moderation:
Marc Böker
CSCP



Yvonne Zwick
BAUM e.V.



Janna Prager
CSCP

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 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
- Marc Böker – CSCP

10:30–11:30

[Register Now](#)

Session 2: Circular innovations for inspiration

Speakers:

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

10:30–11:30

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

Speakers:

- Lea Trost – Wirtschaftsförderung Mönchengladbach
- Simone Jöhren – Stadt Wuppertal
- Janna Prager – CSCP

11:30–12:30

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

Circular Economy Future Skills



Pioneer Sessions

Session 6: From Upcycling to Social Impact – The European Circular Online Museum

Speakers:

- **Krisztina Keresztely** – CRN Participatory Lab
- **Kata Keresztely** – COTA Art for Society
- **Sara Stolfi** – “il Salone dei Rifiutati” and MOON

12:30–13:30

Session 7: Reparatur als kommunale Aufgabe – welche Fachkräfte braucht eine Reparaturwirtschaft und woher sollen sie kommen?

Speakers:

- **Katrin Meyer** – Runder Tisch Reparatur
- **Dörte Heimann** – Runder Tisch Reparatur e.V.
- **Steffen Vangerow** – Vangerow GmbH

13:30–14:30

Session 8: Zirkulär mit allen Sinnen

Speakers:

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

13:30–14:30

Session 9: From Circular Economy to Decent Work – Learnings from Circle Economy’s work in employment and cities

Speaker:

- **Prashant Kumar** – Circle Economy

13:30–14:30

Register Now

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.



Foto von Nerea Martí Sesario auf Unsplash

Levers for Circular Cities

13:30–14:30



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



Cornelius Laaser

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



Elmar Willems

Circular Flanders



Lucie Blondel

Circular Cities and Regions Initiative,
European Commission



Moderation

Cristina Fedato

CSCP

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
- Prof. Dr. Anika Möcker – Hochschule Mittweida / Institut für Nachhaltigkeits- und Immobilienmanagement

10:30–11:30

Session 3: Circular Economy als Gemeinschaftsaufgabe: Niedersachsens Weg von der Strategie zur Umsetzung 🇩🇪

Speakers:

- Dr. Michal Koska – Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie und Klimaschutz
- Manuela Rieneck – Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie und Klimaschutz
- Dr. Alexander Leiden – Salzgitter AG

10:30–11:30

Session 2: Rethinking local systems – Industrial-Urban Symbiosis and Circular Hubs 🇬🇧

Speaker:

- Chiara Coluccia – ICLEI Europe
- Felix Schumacher – ICLEI Europe
- Christina Zoric Persson – Department of Strategic Community Development, City of Helsingborg
- Marta Anzilotti – European Office, Comune di Prato
- Anna-Marise Rocha – Port of Amsterdam

10:30–11:30

[Register Now](#)

Levers for Circular Cities



Pioneer Sessions

Session 4: Building the Loop. Pioneering Startups in Circular Construction

Speaker:

- **Julia König – Thementisch Zirkuläres Bauen NRW / :bergische rohstoffschmiede**
- **Rebecca Kruppert – Circular Valley**
- **4 circular construction Start-ups**

11:30–12:30

Session 5: Zirkuläre öffentliche Beschaffung – Im Spannungsfeld von Vergabepaxis, Leitmärkten und globaler Verantwortung

Speakers:

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

11:30–12:30

Session 6: 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

Register Now

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Stefan Balk
Verbio SE



Agnieszka Sznyk
INNOWO



Prof. Dr. Klaus Kümmerer
Leuphana Universität
Lüneburg



Timothy Glaz
Werner & Mertz



Prof. Dr. Stefan Bayer
GIDS
Photo © 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



Katrin Meyer
Runder Tisch Reparatur
Photo © 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 e.V.



Peter Hölz
MediaMarktSaturn
Retail Group



Monika Lichtinghagen-Wirths
Bergischer
Abfallwirtschaftsverband



Dr. Klaus Reuter
LAG 21
Foto © LAG 21 NRW



Marc Wolinda
Bertelsmann Stiftung
Foto © D. Güthenke



Silke Küstner
WWF
Foto © Kathrin Tschirner



Dörte Heimann
Runder Tisch Reparatur e. V.



Steffen Vangerow
Vangerow GmbH



Prof. Dr. Ani Melkonyan-Gottschalk
Clausthal University of Technology



Armando Garcia
Schmidt
Bertelsmann Stiftung

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Benjamin Haag
IHK Aachen



Dorothee Lauter
Wirtschaftsförderung
Bottrop



Ines Rainer
creative.nrw
Foto © creative.nrw, Bozica Babic



Lea Trost
Wirtschaftsförderung
Mönchengladbach



Sarah Kleinhans
CirQualityOWL plus



Kathrin Graulich
Öko-Institut



Mona Rybicki
LAG 21 NRW



Canan Köllner
CIRCULAR REPUBLIC



Bart Gruyaert
NeoEco



Ramona Hempen
Landeshauptstadt
München



Dr. Jonas Huether
Wilo



Martin Behrens
Fachagentur
Nachwachsende
Rohstoffe (FNR)



Nick Völker
BUGA



Bernd Draser
ecosign Akademie für
nachhaltiges Design

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Julia König
Thementisch Zirkuläres
Bauen NRW / :bergische
rohstoffschmiede
Foto © ecosign



Chiara Coluccia
ICLEI Europe



Christina Zoric Persson
Department of Strategic
Community Development –
City of Helsingborg



Felix Schumacher
ICLEI Europe



Dr. Alexander Leiden
Salzgitter AG



Harald Hüser
meplan GmbH



Kata Keresztely
COTA Art for Society



Krisztina Keresztely
CRN Participatory Lab



Manuela Rieneck
Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Umwelt, Energie und
Klimaschutz



Dr. Michal Koska
Niedersächsisches
Ministerium für Umwelt,
Energie und Klimaschutz



Raimund Bleischwitz
Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine
Tropenforschung (ZMT)



Sandra Henze
mac brand spaces GmbH



Sara Stolfi
“il Salone dei Rifiutati”
and MOON



Dr. Robin Dietsch
Bergischer Abfall-
wirtschaftsverband

Speakers at the Pioneer Sessions



Salvador Samitier
Department of Agriculture,
Catalan Regional
Government



Inés Alberico
Right to Repair Europe



Dr. Daniela Simpson
triple innova



Sari Koivula
Regional Council of
North Kareli, Finland



Paola Cossu
Fit Consulting srl



Andrea d'Andrea
A-D Sign Studio & On
the Edge organisation



Simone Jöhren
Stadt Wuppertal



Clemens Feigl
everwave



Matthias Thesing
rhinopaq



Śliwa Katarzyna
Ergodesign



Nelly Nodem
Kompetenznetzwerk
Umweltwirtschaft.NRW



Ileana Izverniceanu
European Economic and
Social Committee (EESC)



Marta Anzilotti
European Office –
Comune di Prato

You can find more speakers
on the registration page:

Register Now

Explore the highlights of the

Circular Week

Programme

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

30 October 2026

Fab City Gathering

Wuppertal

31 October 2026

Repair & Share Festival

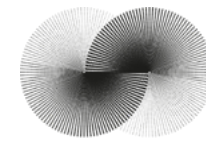
NRW

October 2026

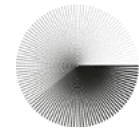
Repair World Record

[Discover the full programme here](#)

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

→ Register here



26 October 2026, 11.00–17.00

Photo by Canva AI 2.0



More Events in Aachen



on site

- **Fachtagung „Zukunftsfähig planen – Zirkulär bauen“ (Konferenz)**
27.10.2026, 10:00 – 18:00 Uhr
- **BLE Science Day 2026 – Towards a Circular Built and Lived Environment**
(Konferenz und Workshop)
29.10.2026, 9:00 – 17:00 Uhr
- **CCE Science Day 2026 (Konferenz)**
30.10.2026, 9:00 – 17:00 Uhr

→ More Information:



27 – 30 October 2026

Foto von 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

→ Get more info



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

→ Get more info



29 October 2026, 10.00–13.30

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

→ Learn more



29 October 2026, 9.00–17.00

Photo © INNOWO



AZuR-Kolloquium 2026



Nordhausen

→ Registration



Wissenschaft, Innovation, Kreislaufwirtschaft

Wie können Forschung, Materialentwicklung und neue Technologien dazu beitragen, Reifen und die darin enthaltenen Rohstoffe möglichst lange im Kreislauf zu halten? Die Allianz Zukunft Reifen bringt Forschende zusammen, um aktuelle Ansätze zu diskutieren, Wissen zu teilen und neue Kooperationen für die Reifen-Kreislaufwirtschaft anzustoßen.

- Wissenschaftliche Impulsvorträge zu aktuellen Fragestellungen rund um Circular Economy, Reifen, Kautschuk, Materialien, Recyclingtechnologien und Sekundärrohstoffen
- Besichtigung des Thüringer Innovationszentrums für Wertstoffe an der Hochschule Nordhausen
- Forschungsergebnisse diskutieren, unterschiedliche Perspektiven zusammenbringen, Kontakte knüpfen und Ansatzpunkte für zukünftige gemeinsame Forschungsprojekte entwickeln.

29 October 2026, 10.00–17.00



Fab City Gathering



FAB REGION
Bergisches Städtedreieck



Wuppertal

→ More Info



Connecting Local Action with Global Networks for the Future of Fab Cities and Regions

- Local Production & Global Connectivity – building more resilient and circular cities and regions
- From Fab Labs to Regional Ecosystems – connecting labs, hubs, municipalities, businesses, research & civil society
- Data, Knowledge & Governance – making local resources, infrastructures & capacities visible and actionable
- Shaping the Future Together – sharing international experiences, developing regional approaches & strengthening collaboration
- Exchange between Fab Cities, Circular Cities and other regional models

30 October 2026, 9.00–14.30

Photo © Juliane Herrmann

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

→ More information



REPAIR & SHARE FESTIVAL



Photo von cottonbro on Pexels

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)

→ All Information



28 October 2026, 10:30 – 12:00 Uhr

28 October 2026, 13:00 – 15:00 Uhr

29 October 2026, 10:00 – 11:30 Uhr

Photo von Pavel Danilyuk on Pexels

Further events during Circular Week



Online and on site

- Von der Wegwerfgesellschaft zu einer zirkulären Zukunft – kinderleicht lernen, verstehen und ausprobieren an einem authentischen Lernort (in Lindlar für Kinder von 8–12 Jahren)

→ Registration



27/10 & 29/10/2026, 9:00 – 12:00

- Ressourcen clever nutzen. Wirtschaftlich profitieren. Kreislaufwirtschaft für den Mittelstand – pragmatisch starten, konkrete Chancen erschließen. (Webinar)

Webinar
26/10/2026



Webinar
29/10/2026



26/10 & 29/10/2026, 11:30 – 13:00

Photo von matthew-rm4XRr7210 auf Unsplash

Further events during Circular Week



Online

- “Biobasierte Materialien und zirkuläre Lösungen für die Städte der Zukunft: Forschung und Wirtschaft in Frankreich, Deutschland und Polen im Dialog”
Zenit GmbH

→ Registration



27 October 2026, 11:00 – 12:00



Photo by Declan Sun on Unsplash

Register now for

Circular Week 2026



**CIRCULAR
WEEK 2026**

→ Registration



→ All Information

