



REDISCOVERY CENTRE

Good afternoon,

We hope you are well and safe in these unprecedented times. As Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy, the Rediscovery Centre aims to be a resource to all who wish to engage in the circular economy. In better times this is delivered through conferences, workshops and casual conversations over coffee, but in the absence of that, we thought you might appreciate an email update on what we have been thinking about, talking about and reading about.

This Circular Economy Update summarises some of the latest developments on the circular economy in Ireland, Europe, and around the world. Providing access to recently published research, funding opportunities, new initiatives and projects, and developments in the circular economy sector.

If you have anything you would like us to include in future updates, please give us a call or email us at cemovement@rediscoverycentre.ie.

We have only sent this email to key stakeholders and collaborators on research & policy initiatives who we thought might be interested. If you do not want to receive updates like this from us in future, please just let us know.

LATEST NEWS:

- In March, the European Commission released the new [Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe](#). The Rediscovery Centre welcomes the plan as an ambitious blueprint for Europe's transition to the circular economy and looks forward to working with the Irish government and stakeholders to implement the policy proposals. An analysis has been published by the Institute for European Environmental Policy and the Stockholm Environment Institute (see Highlighted Research below).
- Several European environmental ministers have called for the [European Green Deal to be placed at the heart of the recovery](#) from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reaction to the ministers' open call, a ['Green Recovery Alliance' was launched](#) in the European Parliament that includes 79 Members of the European Parliament, civil society groups, business associations, NGOs, think tanks and large business, including the CEOs of IKEA, H&M and Unilever.
- Together with the EPA, the Rediscovery Centre is hosting a webinar on the European Commission's recently released Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP). On May 7th 11am Irish time, the webinar '*Circular Economy Action Plan – Moving forward*' will include an introduction session setting the scene by Mary Frances Rochford (EPA), a short summary of the policy actions proposed in the CEAP and a discussion with expert speakers, including:
 - Philip Nugent (Assistant Secretary, Department of Communications, Climate

Action and Environment)

- Ladeja Godina Košir (Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change)
- Cillian Lohan (Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and CEO of the Green Economy Foundation).

You can register [here](#).

- The EllenMacArthur Foundation have started a 10-week online programme, [From Linear to Circular](#), on 15th April. The webinar series aims at improving the understanding of the circular economy and features experts from the field, Q&As and interactive challenges. Videos are recorded and can be accessed through the Foundation's social media channels.
- The European Environmental Agency has [released a message](#) from Executive Director Hans Bruyninckx on Europe's climate-neutrality ambitions in context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, emphasising the need for a just transition and outlining why the environmental benefits of major economies shutting down are neither long-lasting nor worth the extremely high societal cost.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- LIFE Programme Funding: [The LIFE Programme](#), the EU's fund to support the environment and climate has opened its 2020 call for projects. With funding available for any registered organisation in the EU (private entities, public bodies, and NGOs), the programme will accept applications for projects relating to environment and climate action, including funding for environment and resource efficiency projects, environmental governance and information, and climate change mitigation.
- Enterprise Ireland has [approved funding to drive collaborative projects between innovative companies and the public sector](#). The Small Business Innovation Research programme offers five Challenges for enterprises to become involved, including solution to innovate a circular economy for soft plastic waste in Ireland. The Challenges are to be published in May 2020.

HIGHLIGHTED RESEARCH:

- The European Environmental Agency has released its 2019 report on the state of the circular economy in Europe. The report provides an overview of policies, approaches and targets across 32 European countries: [Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe – even more from less](#).
- The Institute for European Environmental Policy and the Stockholm Environment Institute have published an analysis of the Circular Economy Action Plan and its impacts on planetary sustainability: [Delivering a circular economy within the planet's boundaries](#).
- Circle Economy, a Dutch circular economy think tank, has recently published a new report on the skills and work transition connected to a circular economy: [Jobs & Skills in the Circular Economy: State of Play and Future Pathways](#).
- The European Academies Science Advisory Council has released a report on how to implement a circular economy for plastics packaging. Based on an 18-month long investigation reviewing state-of-the-art research, the authors have

formed policy suggestions for moving circularity in plastics packaging along in Europe: [Packaging plastics in the circular economy](#).

- The French National Institute for the Circular Economy (Institut National de l'Economie Circulaire) and the association Oree have published a report about circular economy networks across Europe, including the Rediscovery Centre: [Major Circular Economy Networks in Europe](#).

Further interesting Circular Economy publications can be found in the Rediscovery Centre's [Resource library](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

With the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, many upcoming events have unfortunately been postponed or cancelled. Postponed events include:

- The [Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference](#) scheduled for March and hosted by the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform has been postponed.
- [Environ 2020](#), the Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium, has been rescheduled to October 2020 from its original dates 27th-29th April.
- The *Youth Dialogue on the Irish Circular Economy* hosted by the Rediscovery Centre, in partnership with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and the Young Voices project with key policymakers has been postponed and will be rescheduled shortly.

While some events have been postponed, others have been moved to online webinars:

- ECOS, the European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation, webinar on [The Positive Side of Batteries](#) takes place on 13th May at 9.30am Irish time.

SPOTLIGHT: Circular Economy and social distancing

During the times of physical distancing, it can be difficult to maintain a circular economy lifestyle. The Rediscovery Centre has put together resources to help everyone live sustainably while staying safe:

- The Rediscovery Centre has released a list of tips on how to live sustainably while physical distancing, check it out [here](#).
- Rediscover @ Home is a series of online videos that are going behind the scenes at the Rediscovery Centre and sharing tips on sustainability and upcycling, providing online tours of the centre and delivering curriculum-led educational tutorials. You can find them on our website (<http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/news/rediscover-home-series/>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RediscoveryCentre>) and Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/RediscoveryCentre>).

CRNI and VOICE have also co-produced a press release to help everyone '[Reuse while staying Safe at Home: Tips for circular economy continuity during this time of uncertainty](#)'.

This space will highlight the work of organisations and businesses driving the transition to the circular economy. If you know of or are involved in any projects you would like to see included in the spotlight, please email details to cemovement@rediscoverycentre.ie.

Stay safe and take care,

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