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REDISCOVERY CENTRE

Good morning,

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. This Circular Economy Update provides insights into the latest development on the circular transition in Ireland, Europe, and around the world. 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.

LATEST NEWS:

- The European Commission is asking for input into their policy revision for the Circular Economy Action Plan:
 - Their [consumer policy aimed at strengthening the role of consumers in the green transition](#) is open for feedback until 1st September.
 - The Commission will also [review the requirements on packaging and packaging waste](#) in the EU to reduce packaging waste. Feedback can be provided until 6th August 2020.
- In the UK, a [green economic recovery package](#) totalling £100 billion could create 1.8 million new green jobs in industries such as energy, transport and housing, while helping to cut Britain's climate-heating emissions, a new report published by Greenpeace UK suggests.
- Irish Manufacturing Research have launched the [CIRCULEIRE platform for circular manufacturing](#) with resources for Irish manufacturers interested in a circular transition.
- The European Action platform '[Close the Glass Loop](#)' has been launched with Irish platform partner Repak.

FUNDING:

aims to seek solutions to reduce the amount of single-use plastic packaging used in school meals and to reduce the carbon footprint of schools by cutting plastic packaging waste. The deadline is 19th August. An online briefing event will take place on 16th July (11am - 12.30pm) and provide an opportunity to hear about the challenge. To join the briefing, register with a.murphy@epa.ie.

- The [EPA Green Enterprise funding](#) is still open for applications until 14th August. Proposals are welcome in the following thematic areas: Plastics; Construction & demolition; Food; Resources and raw materials (electrical & electronic equipment, textiles, furniture).
- Ecclesiastical has launched their [Movement for Good awards](#) with £50,000 (or € equivalent) awarded to 10 charities across Ireland and the UK, in education; citizenship or community development; art, culture or heritage sectors. The deadline for application is 24th July.
- ECOS has launched a [call for tenders for the ecodesign of textiles](#). Proposals are asked to look into material efficiency and responsible design and can be submitted until 17th August (12pm CET) for a budget of €15,000, excluding VAT.
- Science Foundation Ireland launched two new Future Innovator Prize challenges, both worth €2M. The deadline for submissions is 25th September:
 - The [SFI Food Challenge](#) supports the development of novel, sustainable STEM-led solutions to reduce food loss and waste from “farm to fork”.
 - The [SFI Plastics Challenge](#) supports the development of innovative STEM-led solutions that will enable the sustainable use of plastics in a circular economy.
- The European Commission opened its [Innovation Fund](#) with capital expenditure above €7.5 million. The first call, open until 29 October, will fund clean energy and clean industry innovative investments.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- We are hiring!
The Rediscovery Centre is looking for a [Research & Policy Officer](#) to work with the Centre's circular economy and research projects. Applications are welcome until 10th August.
- The European Commission (EC) has launched a [call for applications to select members of the Platform on Sustainable Finance](#). The platform will support the EC in preparing delegated acts as set out in the Taxonomy Regulation by providing advice. The deadline for applications is 16th July.

RESEARCH & REPORTS:

- The European Environment Agency has published and commissioned a range of relevant new research, including:
 - A report on [Electronic Products and Obsolescence in a Circular Economy](#) providing an overview of the production and consumption of electronics in Europe.
 - An analysis of the potential of [Bio-waste in Europe](#) for reducing and recycling food and garden waste to boost Europe's circular economy.
 - A final report on the limits of recycling in [Emerging Challenges of Waste Management in Europe](#), compiled by Trinomics.
 - Compiled by Rambol, the study on [Decarbonisation Benefits of Sectoral Circular Economy Actions](#) finds that circular construction can cut building GHG emissions by up to 61%.
- A new OECD report investigates [the effects of a resource efficiency and circular economy transition on international trade flows](#).
- Researchers from Leiden University published a study on [How to close the global circularity gap?](#)
- The European ESPON programme has published a stocktaking and assessment of [typologies of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy Initiatives](#).

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- An online conference on [Women in Industry and Innovation](#) is organized by UNIDO from 15th to 17th July. One of the three themes is "Empowering Women in the Circular Economy: Bridging the Gender Gap".
- ECOS has postponed the conference on [Circularity in Construction](#) to 29th September, in Brussels. It will explore how the construction sector can deliver the ambition of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan.
- The [World Circular Economy Forum](#) will take place online on 29th and 30th September. It will dive into why and how a circular economy can help reboot and build resilience in the economy.
- The [EU Green Week 2020](#) is now scheduled for 19th to 22nd October 2020, on the theme of nature and biodiversity.

Conference themes will focus on breakthrough innovations of 7 societal challenges, including circular economy.

- The annual [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference](#) will take place on 3rd and 4th November. It will focus on the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the first phase of its implementation. The location of the conference is yet to be announced.

INSIGHT:

Following the recent forming of a new Irish government and the release of its Programme for Government '[Our Shared Future](#)', the Rediscovery Centre's CEO, Dr. Sarah Miller, has issued a [statement on the ambitions and implications of the programme for the Irish circular economy](#).

This newsletter highlights 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, please email details to cemovement@rediscoverycentre.ie.

Stay safe and take care,
The Rediscovery Centre



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