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REDISCOVERY CENTRE

Good afternoon,

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. Therefore, we have compiled this Update to keep you informed about the latest development 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.

LATEST NEWS:

- The European Commission has published its new [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), a strategy to guide future policy on food production and consumption. The Strategy, which is part of the larger European Green Deal, highlights the need to implement a circular bio-economy and reduce food loss and food waste.
- Minister Bruton has joined several European ministers, businesses, sector representative bodies, investors, and NGOs in the Green Recovery Alliance [Call to Action](#) to demand that a recovery from COVID-19 take into account environmental and social needs.
- On 7th May, the Rediscovery Centre, together with the EPA, hosted a webinar on the European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan. The webinar included a stimulating and exciting discussion with Philip Nugent, Ladeja Godina Košir and Cillian Lohan. If you missed it, the session was recorded and can be watched [here](#). Two shorter videos are also available, including a summary of [Webinar Highlights](#) and [The Circular Economy and Social Enterprise](#).
- CIRCULEIRE, the Irish platform for circular manufacturing, is looking for interested organisations and individuals to join their thematic working

is midnight on 27th May.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Social Innovation has launched the [‘Innovate Together’ Fund](#), in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development. The €5 million fund supports innovative responses to the Covid-19 crises that will be part of the “new normal”. Non-profit entities can apply for cash grants starting at €20,000 and business supports. One of the main areas supported is the Circular Economy, specifically on solutions for the efficient re-use and recycling of materials. Deadline is the 27th May, 5pm.
- The EPA’s Green Enterprise – Innovation for a Circular Economy Fund will be opening up again soon to support innovative practical applications and solutions that target the priority thematic areas: plastics, construction and demolition waste, food waste, and resources and raw materials. Keep an eye on the [EPA website](#).
- The EU’s LIFE funding programme is still open, with an extended deadline until 14th July. The [Environment subprogramme](#) has clear priorities for circular economy and resource efficiency projects.

HIGHLIGHTED RESEARCH:

- The Urban Agenda Partnerships on Circular Economy and on Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-based Solutions have released a [Handbook for the Sustainable & Circular Re-use of spaces & buildings](#).
- Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office, on behalf of the three Regional Waste Management Offices, carried out the Northwood Brown Bin Project. The final report on the Dublin Apartments Brown Bin Project and the pilot’s results can be found [here](#).
- The Interreg North-West Fibersort project has published its [final report](#) exploring the key barriers and opportunities to textile waste sorting and recycling.
- Circle Economy has published a report [Exploring the Environmental and Socio-economic effects of pursuing a Circular Economy](#).
- The European Policy Centre has published [The circular economy: Going digital](#), a report on the linkages between digitalisation and the circular economy, as well as opportunities through digitally-enabled solutions.

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

With the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, many events might be postponed (e.g. the [World Circular Economy Forum](#) and the [Circular Economy Stakeholder Forum](#)) or are offered online, including:

- On 29th May, InterTradelreland together with their partners (DAFM, Marine Institute, DAERA NI, AFBI NI and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation) are hosting an information session and partnering opportunity via [webinar](#) which will explore the 2020 BBI JU call priorities and discuss Bio-economy opportunities within the island of Ireland. Advance booking is essential and can be done [here](#).
- The [Keep Learning: Global Green Building](#) virtual learning programme is aimed at built environment professionals. Starting on 1st June, it will highlight green building practices and case studies.
- On 25th-27th August, GreenBiz is hosting the [Circularity20](#) online event, broadcast live from Atlanta, with a range of diverse programme offerings around business models innovation, design and materials, food and water systems, logistics, packaging and stakeholders.
- The [This is Climate Tech](#) webcast on 28th May will look into how technology can be used for climate action.
- Finnish network *Telaketju* offers networking webinars on textile circular economy research. The webinar series started in March and plans to host further webinars in the coming weeks. Previous editions can be found and watched on the [website](#).

SPOTLIGHT: Circular Economy online learning

Skills for the circular economy are a pivotal part of a circular transition. As COVID-19 demands that many of us stay at home, we might find time to learn new skills and broaden our knowledge base. We have compiled a short list of free online courses on the Circular Economy and specific sectoral transitions. While not exhaustive, we hope it might provide interesting starting points for further learning about the circular transition:

- TU Delft hosts a basic [Circular Economy: An Introduction](#) course that was co-created with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and provides an introductory insight into the CE and its principles.
- The [Circular Economy: An Interdisciplinary Approach](#) MOOC offered by Wageningen University looks into the systemic change of a circular transition and links in with other MOOC's on a circular and biobased economy.

industry to move to a circular economy.

- This MOOC on [Circular Fashion: Design, Science and Value in a Sustainable Clothing Industry](#) is hosted by Wageningen University and covers new textiles and materials, circular design and business models.
- Another course offered by TU Delft specifically looks at [Sustainable Packaging in a Circular Economy](#), highlighting how circular design can be applied to closed loop packaging and what best practice case studies can teach.
- The [Circular Economy – Sustainable Materials Management](#) MOOC is hosted by Lund University and EIT RawMaterials together with other project partners. It looks into circular materials, business models and closing the loop.
- Leiden University offers [A Circular Economy of Metals: Towards a Sustainable Societal Metabolism](#), a MOOC that covers the challenge of metals in our society and how a CE can provide a solution.
- While the deadline for registering for the first edition has passed, a second edition of the [Circular Economy and the 2030 Agenda](#) course offered by the United Nations System Staff College will be available online for free in November and December 2020. The 5-week online course looks at how to apply CE practices to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Happy learning!

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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