

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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released the [2019 Annual Report on the National Waste Prevention Programme](#). Fostering a circular economy is critically important in terms of Ireland's green recovery, says EPA.
- Climate activists 'Friend of the Irish Environment' have won their case against the State for failure to produce an adequate plan to tackle climate change. [Climate Case Ireland](#) is the first case of its kind in the country and only the second case in the world in which the highest national court of law has required a Government to revise its national climate policy in light of its legal obligations.
- [Loop](#), a ground-breaking zero waste shopping platform, officially launched its UK pilot e-commerce programme with Tesco as its UK retail partner.
- The European Commission approves support for [production of electricity from renewable sources in Ireland](#), which intends to introduce a new aid measure, called the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme ([RESS](#)), including solar photovoltaic and wind. The Minister of Climate Action announced the [provisional results of the first RESS auction](#).
- [Nestlé Ireland](#) has announced that it will invest €110,000 in [FoodCloud](#), on behalf of its 850 employees in Ireland.
- University College Cork scientists find [small crustacean can fragment microplastics](#) in just four days. Their findings have significant consequences for the understanding of microplastics in our environment and could have implications for the food chain.
- A [new Government of Ireland campaign](#) has been launched to tackle a growing littering issue throughout the country.

FUNDING:

- WeDesign launched [Future Fashion Now](#) in collaboration with the UN and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in order to rethink how the fashion industry works. The competition is opened to all, with different categories and prizes and closes on the 30th September.
- The EPA Research Programme will consider applications for the [financial support](#) of small workshops, seminars, and other events which showcase current Irish research by the organizers and EPA funded-groups. The amount of funding per event will not exceed €3,000 and the next deadline is 30th September.
- Applications for the [Sustainable Development Goals Action Awards](#) remain opened until October 9th. The 2020 edition is seeking creative, scalable and transformative initiatives worldwide that mobilize, inspire or connect.

- To respond to the urgency and ambition of the European Green Deal objectives, [Horizon 2020](#) will soon launch a call worth close to €1 billion. Call for proposals opens mid-September and closes end of January 2021.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Irish Manufacturing Research is looking to recruit a [Senior Circular Economy Researcher](#) and [Circular Economy Researchers](#) in Dublin, to work in support of a variety of projects related to circular manufacturing.
- The 3 Counties Energy Agency is currently seeking an [EU Project Officer](#) in Kilkenny to assist with the delivery of their European focused projects. Applications must be submitted before 4th September.

RESEARCH & REPORTS:

- In response to the Covid-19 crisis, the following recent publications agree in highlighting the circular economy for a better recovery:
 - Ellen MacArthur Foundation provides [10 circular investment opportunities to build back better](#).
 - Zero Waste Scotland also set out [Principles for sustainable resource use in a wellbeing economy](#).
 - A new report from the National Economic & Social Council examines [the opportunity of Covid-19 context for developing sustainability](#).
 - The OECD has published a brief '[Building Back Better: A Sustainable, Resilient Recovery after COVID-19](#)'.
 - WRAP explains [how moving to a circular economy can help the UK to build back better](#).
 - CIRCULÉIRE published a [Policy Summary on EU Circular Economy Action Plan and COVID-19 Recovery](#).
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released the [2019 Annual Report on the National Waste Prevention Programme](#). Fostering a circular economy is critically important in terms of Ireland's green recovery, says EPA.
- REPAK investigates for the second year its member's plastic pledge in its [Report for 2019](#).
- Life Cycle Initiative, from the United Nations Environmental Programme, has launched a [report on single-use plastic bottles](#).
- A report '[Improving resource efficiency and the circularity of economies for a greener world](#)' has been published by the OECD.
- The Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ released [Breaking the Plastic Wave](#), which confirms that circular economy is the only way to address plastic waste and pollution at the source.
- The European Commission opened a roadmap for [feedback](#) on an initiative to reducing 'greenwashing', deadline is 31st August.
- The recent report of Wrap and WWF calls for accelerated progress to [halve food loss and waste in the eu by 2030](#). Especially as [the easing of lockdown measures could see increased levels of wasted food in the UK](#), warns WRAP.
- The Ellen MacArthur Foundation created the [Circular Design Resources](#), a toolkit for those who want to learn, apply, and contribute to bringing circular design to life.
- RREUSE has published its [Activity Report 2019](#), which outlines the network's contribution to a more circular and social economy in Europe.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Greenbiz organize [Circularity 20](#), a leading online event on circular economy, between 25th and 27th August. The Ellen MacArthur will lead the opening plenary session and discuss the state of circularity in the post COVID-19 world.
- The second [Life Cycle Innovation Conference](#) will be hosted virtually from Berlin, on 26-27-28th August.
- On 31st August 2020, the 5th edition of the Circular Change Conference organises its second event on [Stewarding Sustainability Transformations](#) in Slovenia In partnership with Bled Strategic Forum, in the perspective of Post-COVID-19 Green Recovery.
- [Baltic Circular Procurement Congress “A Step Forward Circular Europe”](#) goes online, on 2nd and 3rd September.
- Cré will provide a [breakfast meeting on food waste for businesses](#), as an online event at 9am to 10am (IST) on 3rd September.
- The Irish Nutrient Sustainability Platform is hosting its [inaugural meeting](#) on 3rd September to mark the launch of the platform, a stakeholder-led coalition that envisions waste as a valuable nutrient resource and advocates for its sustainable reuse.
- Cardiff University will organize its 4th workshop on Circular Economy, '[Creating the Loop – How can we design a new system that is truly circular?](#)', on 9th September.
- The third edition of the [World Bioeconomy Forum](#) will be broadcast live from Ruka, Finland, on 10th September.
- This year, the London Design Festival takes place from 12th to 20th September and organizes a new [Circular Design Project](#). The festival is online and free to attend.
- On 16th September, The OECD will organize a new webinar of its [Green Talk Live series](#) about chemical substances.
- The [Social Entrepreneurs Showcase](#) by the Startup Network Europe will feature some of Ireland's most exciting Social Enterprises, on 16th September.
- The [EPA National Waste Event 2020 Online Conference titled "Circular Economy"](#) will be held on 16th & 17th September. Registrations are open.

SPOTLIGHT: Circular economy and the Irish hospitality sector

The tourism industry is one of Ireland's most important sectors and it is vital to the Irish economy. It is estimated to be worth €9.3 billion in 2019 and it supports approximately 260,000 jobs throughout Ireland. While Covid-19 has undoubtedly had a negative impact on the Irish tourism and hospitality industry, the Rediscovery Centre states that integrating the principles of a sustainable and circular economy is vital to [the sustainable growth and recovery of the Irish hospitality sector](#).

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