



## FACT SHEET

# SUPPORTING TOOLS FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### TOOLS AND GUIDES

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#### BSI STANDARD “FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ORGANIZATIONS – GUIDE”

The British Standards Institution has published the standard “Framework for implementing the principles of the circular economy in organizations – guide” (BS 8001) in 2017.

An executive briefing of the standard can be found here:

[www.bsigroup.com/Sustainability/BS8001\\_Executive\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.bsigroup.com/Sustainability/BS8001_Executive_Briefing.pdf)

The fee required standard can be purchased here:

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/BS8001>

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#### CIRCULARECONOMY PRACTITIONER GUIDE

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Circular Economy Cluster have published a [CircularEconomy Practitioner Guide](#)<sup>1</sup>. This website is very well structured and can be **highly recommended**.

The guide distinguishes between six different sections:

**DESIGN – BUY – MAKE – SELL – DISPOSE – FINANCE**

**In which section are you interested in?** If you are interested e.g. in DESIGN, the Practitioner Guide will introduce 14 different practices (e.g. biomimicry, design for disassembly, green chemistry, life cycle thinking, design for maintainability) to you.

For more information visit: <http://ceguide.org/Strategies-and-examples>

In addition, the website provides you with other [Resources and Tools](#)<sup>2</sup> (circular economy publications, calculators and more).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ceguide.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ceguide.org/Resources-and-tools>

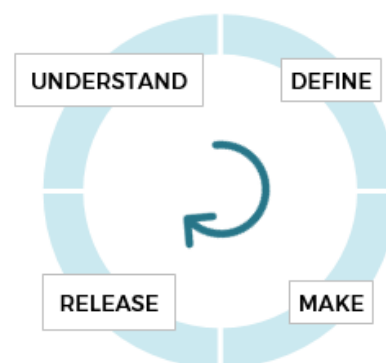


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## CIRCULAR DESIGN GUIDE

The Circular Design Guide is a collaboration between the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)<sup>3</sup> and [IDEO](#)<sup>4</sup>. The guide “line[s] [...] up a number of activities to help [to] [...] understand, define, make, and release circular innovations.”<sup>5</sup> Each of the four phases (Understand – Define – Make – Release<sup>6</sup>) defines six sections: e.g. Understand:

- “Understand Circular Flows
- Regenerative Thinking
- Service Flip
- Insides Out
- Inspiration: Digital Systems
- Learn from Nature”<sup>7</sup>



We highly recommend this guide. So, check it out here:

[www.circulardesignguide.com](http://www.circulardesignguide.com)

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## CIRCULARITY INDICATORS

“The Circularity Indicators Project provides companies with a methodology and tools to assess how well a product or company performs in the context of a circular economy, allowing companies to estimate how advanced they are on their journey from linear to circular. [...] The developed indicators consist of the [Material Circularity Indicator](#)<sup>8</sup>, measuring how restorative the material flows of a product or company are, and complementary indicators that allow additional impacts and risks to be taken into account. The indicators may be used by product designers, as well as for internal reporting, procurement decisions and the evaluation or rating of companies.”<sup>9</sup>

For more information visit:

[www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/programmes/insight/circularity-indicators](http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/programmes/insight/circularity-indicators)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ideo.com/eu>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.circulardesignguide.com/methods>

<sup>6</sup> Graph is based on <https://www.circulardesignguide.com/methods>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.circulardesignguide.com/methods>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/insight/Circularity-Indicators\\_Methodology\\_May2015.pdf](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/insight/Circularity-Indicators_Methodology_May2015.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/programmes/insight/circularity-indicators>



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## CIRCULAR ECONOMY TOOLKIT

The [Circular Economy Toolkit](http://www.circulareconomytoolkit.org)<sup>10</sup> provides general information on Circular Economy, a Toolkit, an Assessment Tool as well as Workshops. This Circular Economy Toolkit Project was implemented by different actors, e.g. from the Centre for Industrial Sustainability in Cambridge and the Institute for Manufacturing of the University of Cambridge.

For more information visit:

[www.circulareconomytoolkit.org](http://www.circulareconomytoolkit.org)

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## CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION TOOLBOX

The Circular Academy has launched a [circular economy transition toolbox](http://www.circular.academy/toolbox)<sup>11</sup>. It “is designed to meet the needs of the coached company. Each tool is a stand-alone module that can be used separately or in combination with other tools in a tailored session.”<sup>12</sup> “Circular Academy Scandinavia is managed by [Ecovala](http://www.ecovala.eu)<sup>13</sup> [...] [and] Circular Academy Benelux/France is managed by [Ecores](http://www.ecores.eu)<sup>14</sup>[.]”<sup>15</sup>

For more information visit:

[www.circular.academy/toolbox](http://www.circular.academy/toolbox)

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## CIRCULAR ECONOMY BUSINESS TOOLKIT

The [Circular Economy Business Toolkit](http://www.nzwc.ca/focus/circular-economy/toolkit/)<sup>16</sup> provided by the National Zero Waste Council of Canada “is a how-to guide for businesses of all sizes, and sectors, beginning to explore the opportunities of circular modes of production and service. [...] The toolkit covers [the] three key areas: BUSINESS STRATEGY[,] [...] DESIGN INNOVATION [...] [and] STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT[.]”<sup>17</sup>

For more information visit:

[www.nzwc.ca/focus/circular-economy/toolkit/](http://www.nzwc.ca/focus/circular-economy/toolkit/)

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.circulareconomytoolkit.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.circular.academy/toolbox/>

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.circular.academy/portfolio\\_page/venice-art-pavilion/](http://www.circular.academy/portfolio_page/venice-art-pavilion/)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ecovala.eu/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.ecores.eu/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.circular.academy/contact-us/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.nzwc.ca/focus/circular-economy/toolkit/Documents/CircularEconomyBusinessToolkit.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.nzwc.ca/focus/circular-economy/toolkit/Documents/CircularEconomyBusinessToolkit.pdf>



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## MOVECO CIRCULAR ECONOMY TOOLBOX

The [Circular Economy Toolbox](#)<sup>18</sup> was developed within the EU co-funded project MOVECO. The toolbox comprises Information Support materials, a Qualification Programme, Collaboration Tools and Financing Tools. This mix of different tools and materials support the implementation of circular economy and unleash its potential for sustainable economic growth.

For more information visit:

[www.interreg-danube.eu/moveco/section/circular-toolbox](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/moveco/section/circular-toolbox)

[danube-goes-circular.eu](http://danube-goes-circular.eu)

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## THE DISRUPTIVE DESIGN METHOD

“The [Disruptive Design Method](#) is a 3-part process for activating social change by design, developed by Leyla Acaroglu after a decade of research and practice in sustainable design and creative change-making.”<sup>19</sup>

For more information visit:

[www.leylaacaroglu.com/disruptive-design-method](http://www.leylaacaroglu.com/disruptive-design-method)

## ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

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### LIFE CYCLE THINKING (LCT) AND LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

“Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) is about going beyond the traditional focus on production site and manufacturing processes to include environmental, social and economic impacts of a product over its entire life cycle. The main goals of LCT are to reduce a product’s resource use and emissions to the environment as well as improve its socio-economic performance through its life cycle. [...]”

A product life cycle can begin with the extraction of raw materials from natural resources in the ground and the energy generation. Materials and energy are then part of production, packaging, distribution, use, maintenance, and eventually recycling, reuse, recovery or final disposal.”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/section/circular-toolbox>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.leylaacaroglu.com/disruptive-design-method/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/what-is-life-cycle-thinking/>



**Environmental Life Cycle Assessment (E-LCA)** “is a time[-]tested assessment technique that evaluates environmental performance throughout the life cycle of a product or from performing a service. The extraction and consumption of resources (including energy), as well as releases to air, water, and soil, are quantified throughout all stages. Their potential contribution to environmental impact categories is then assessed. [...]

According to the [ISO 14040<sup>21</sup>](#) series, LCA is structured in four phases. [...] Types of LCA include environmental LCA ([E-LCA<sup>22</sup>](#)), social LCA ([S-LCA<sup>23</sup>](#)), and life cycle sustainability assessment ([LCSA<sup>24</sup>](#)).”<sup>25</sup>

More information can be found on the website of the **Life Cycle Initiative** hosted by UN Environment, for instance, an [interactive map<sup>26</sup>](#) on LCA databases:

[www.lifecycleinitiative.org](http://www.lifecycleinitiative.org)

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## CRADLE TO CRADLE CERTIFIED™ PRODUCT STANDARD

“The [Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard<sup>27</sup>](#) guides designers and manufacturers through a continual improvement process that looks at a product through five quality categories – material health, material reutilization, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship, and social fairness. A product receives an achievement level in each category - Basic, Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum - with the lowest achievement level representing the product’s overall mark.

Product assessments are performed by a qualified [independent organization trained by the Institute<sup>28</sup>](#). Assessment Summary Reports are reviewed by the Institute, which certifies products meeting the Standard requirements, and licenses the use of the **Cradle to Cradle Certified™** word and design marks to the product manufacturer. Every two years, manufacturers must demonstrate good faith efforts to improve their products in order to have their products recertified.”<sup>29</sup>

More information can be found on the website of the “Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, a non-profit organization, administers the **Cradle to Cradle Certified™** Product

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.iso.org/standard/37456.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/life-cycle-approaches/environmental-lca/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/life-cycle-approaches/social-lca/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/life-cycle-approaches/life-cycle-sustainability-assessment/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/starting-life-cycle-thinking/life-cycle-approaches/environmental-lca/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/applying-lca/lca-databases-map/>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.c2ccertified.org/resources/collections/resources-public>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.c2ccertified.org/get-certified/find-an-assessor>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.c2ccertified.org/get-certified/product-certification>



Standard, which was gifted to the Institute by its Founders, William McDonough and Dr. Michael Braungart, in 2010<sup>30</sup>:

[www.c2ccertified.org](http://www.c2ccertified.org)

All certified products can be found here:

[www.c2ccertified.org/products/registry](http://www.c2ccertified.org/products/registry)

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## ECOLABELLING: EU ECOLABEL & OTHERS

“Ecolabelling [...] is a voluntary method of environmental performance certification and labelling that is practised around the world. An ecolabel identifies products or services proven environmentally preferable overall, within a specific product or service category.”<sup>31</sup>

GEN is the Global Ecolabelling Network. [Ecolabelling Programmes](#)<sup>32</sup> around the world are members.

The **EU Ecolabel** is initiated by the European Union. “With about 37,000 products and services on the market, the EU Ecolabel is recognised across Europe.”<sup>33</sup>

More information about this product certification scheme can be found here:

[www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) provides with ISO 14020 an “International Standard [which] establishes guiding principles for the development and use of environmental labels and declarations. It is intended that other applicable standards in the ISO 14020 series be used in conjunction with this International Standard [,] [...] [namely] ISO 14021, ISO 14024 and ISO/TR 14025 [...]”<sup>34</sup>

The fee required standards can be purchased here:

[www.iso.org/ics/13.020.50/x/](http://www.iso.org/ics/13.020.50/x/)

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.c2ccertified.org/about>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.globalecolabelling.net/what-is-eco-labelling/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.globalecolabelling.net/eco/green-certification-by-country/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://flower-grower.com/agriculture/sustainable-agriculture/green-label/eu-ecolabel/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.iso.org/standard/34425.html>



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## INSTRUMENTS (SUPPORTED) BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

“The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme ([EMAS](#)) is a premium management instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance.”<sup>35</sup>

“The European Commission proposed an [Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme \[\(ECAP<sup>36</sup>\)\]](#) to make it easier for SMEs to comply with their obligations and improve their environmental performances.”<sup>37</sup>

“[Green Office Checklist](#) is a [self-evaluation tool](#)<sup>38</sup>, which helps you to assess the actual performance of your office, and gives clear directions for improvement.”<sup>39</sup>

## NEWS ABOUT CIRCULAR ECONOMY & VIDEOS FOR MOTIVATION

- CirculateNews incl. podcasts and article on business:  
[www.circulatenews.org](http://www.circulatenews.org)  
[www.circulatenews.org/category/podcasts](http://www.circulatenews.org/category/podcasts)  
[www.circulatenews.org/2017/03/how-do-businesses-measure-their-progress-towards-the-circular-economy](http://www.circulatenews.org/2017/03/how-do-businesses-measure-their-progress-towards-the-circular-economy)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Re-thinking Progress - The Circular Economy  
[www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/overview/concept](http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/overview/concept)
- EU Environment: Circular Economy – it`s the way forward  
[www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=IK00v\\_tzkCI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=IK00v_tzkCI)
- EU Environment: How to become a Green SME is a CiE?  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1Tszs48xCI&list=UU6K5qD2KWFY8saNG0QpEWtQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1Tszs48xCI&list=UU6K5qD2KWFY8saNG0QpEWtQ)
- AccentureStrategy: Waste to Wealth: Creating Advantage in a Circular Economy  
[www.accenture.com/gb-en/insight-creating-advantage-circular-economy](http://www.accenture.com/gb-en/insight-creating-advantage-circular-economy)

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<sup>35</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm)

<sup>36</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/sme/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/sme/index_en.htm)

<sup>37</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/sme/programme/programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/sme/programme/programme_en.htm)

<sup>38</sup> <http://eugreenoffice.eu/checklist>

<sup>39</sup> <http://greeneconet.eu/green-office-checklist>



- European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform  
[www.circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en](http://www.circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en)
- Platform of the Circular Economy Club (CEC)  
[www.circulareconomyclub.com/](http://www.circulareconomyclub.com/)
- Platform of the Circle Lab  
<https://circle-lab.com/>
- MOVECO: Circular Economy and News  
[www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/section/circular-economy](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/section/circular-economy)  
[www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/news](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/news)