

# Decent and inclusive work in the circular economy

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**How can the CE help to advance climate goals at the same time as other SDGs?**

**What can the social economy teach us about achieving SDG 8 with the CE?**



## TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

The world is consuming



100 billion tonnes of materials



and has warmed up by 1 degree.

**At our current, we will  
need 3-5 earths to  
sustain us...**





**Millions are still  
without work or  
experience in-work  
poverty**

# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY OFFERS A PROMISING SOLUTION





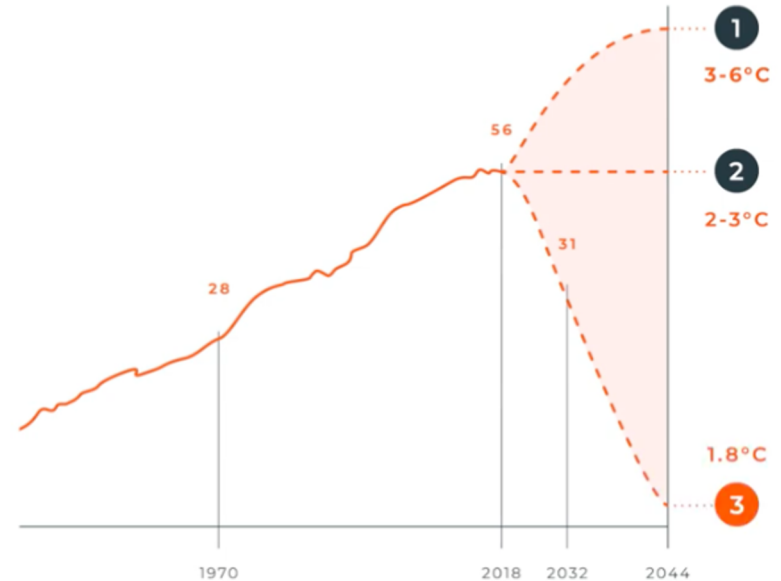
**ENACTED GLOBALLY,  
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
CAN CLOSE  
THE EMISSIONS GAP**

In a business as usual scenario expected GHG emissions will warm the earth 3 to 6 degrees by 2050

If implemented, current NDCs will only close 15% of the emissions gap

Combined with the NDCs, a circular economy can carry us the rest of the way

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# CIRCULAR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Worldwide: 3% increase in employment in 2030

*Wiebe, K.S., Harsdorff, M., Montt, G., Simas, M. S. & Wood, R. 2019*

- European Union: 700,000 jobs by 2030

*European Commission, 2018*

## JOB CREATION POTENTIAL FOR PROCESSING

*10,000 Tonnes of Used Goods*



1 job

**INCINERATION**



6 jobs

**LANDFILL**



36 jobs

**RECYCLING**



296 jobs

**REUSE**

New business models and forms  
of employment



Avoid trade-offs between targets  
*(Schroeder et al, 2018)*



**Cooperatives and social enterprises embodies many of the values the CE needs to be truly transformative**



Goodwin Brown, Sosa, Bachus,  
Schröder & Bozkurt (2020)




**Use democratic  
processes to promote  
equitable patterns of  
income or profit  
distribution**



**Rich history of  
stabilising & formalising  
workers engaged in  
environmentally-friendly  
forms of work**





**Promote education,  
empowerment and  
value-led leadership**

## **Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)**

- Global network
- Empowers the working poor in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods, including in waste management
- Improves statistics and knowledge; builds networks and capacity among informal worker organisations; influences local, national and international policies



## **Payoga-Kapatagan**

- Cooperative in Isabela Province, North Philippines
- Strengthens the voice of farmers and provides livelihood opportunities using organic farming methods and technology
- Local leaders and partnerships with government agencies have helped to develop and increase access to their programmes



# ENABLERS AND BARRIERS FOR SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

1. Visibility & networks
1. Funding & partnerships
1. Regulations and labour market policies
1. Political context




| CORE STRATEGIES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY   |   | TYPE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANISATION   |              |
|---|---|---|--------------|
|   |   | Social enterprises  | Cooperatives |
|  Prioritise regenerative resources       | DESI Power, India<br>Local provision of renewable energy  | Energy Revolt, Luxembourg<br>Local provision of renewable energy                        |              |
|   | Smallholder Farmers Alliance, Haiti<br>Promotion of negative farming practices                  | Payoga-Kapatagan, Philippines<br>Production of fertilizer from farm waste               |              |
|   | Barefoot Power, Sub-Saharan Africa<br>Provision of solar powered assets                         | Coopérative Taitmatine, Morocco<br>Production and sale of argan-based products          |              |
|  Preserve and extend what's already made | SOFA Project, UK<br>Repair and sale of second-hand furniture                                    | Muebles Tandil, Argentina<br>Repair and sale of second-hand furniture                   |              |
|   | Cycle Salvation, Canada<br>Repair and sale of second-hand bikes                                 | Koopera, Spain<br>Collection, reuse and upcycling                                       |              |
|   | De Kringwinkel, Belgium<br>Sorting, sale and repair of second-hand goods                        | Cooperativa Sociale Insieme, Italy<br>Waste collection and sale of second-hand products |              |
|  Use waste as a resource                 | Humana Nova, Croatia<br>Production and sale of products from recycled fabrics                   | Cooperativa Atres, Cuba<br>Production of lumber from recovered plastics                 |              |
|   | Kabadiwalla Connect, India<br>Technology-based solutions for integrating informal waste pickers | El Álamo, Argentina<br>Organising informality in resource management sector             |              |
|   | Makers Unite, The Netherlands<br>Upcycling discarded materials into new products                | Pravaranagar Sugar Cooperative, India<br>Bioenergy and fuel production                  |              |

Table one: Examples of social enterprises and cooperatives engaged in core activities of the circular economy, as defined in Circle Economy's [Key Elements framework](#).

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# ENABLERS AND BARRIERS FOR SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## Regulations and labour market policies

### Strengths

- Strong welfare states
- Public referrals and matching
- Active labour market policies
- Circular procurement

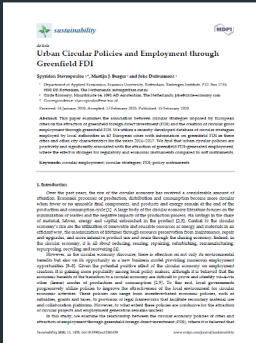
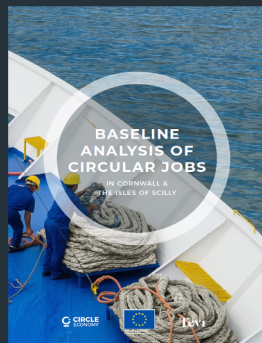
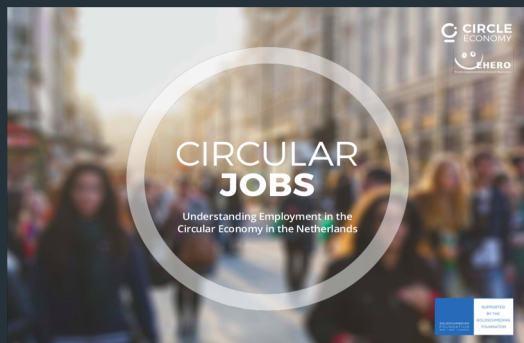
### Challenges

- Lack of CE regulatory framework
- Policy constraints that impact the quality of engagement
- Lack of market for circular products or services

## ACTIONS FOR UNITING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDAS

- **Better integration of social organisations in the circular economy** could appeal to both the demand and supply labour requirements of the circular economy.
- Recognise the social economy as a key **partner for innovating circular economy policy**, not only alleviating social issues.
- Work with social economy orgs to design and implement the right **mix of demand and supply side policy interventions** that make circular jobs available to underserved groups alongside genuine opportunities for skills development.
- **Create visibility** for social organisations creating employment in circular activities through public support services.
- Develop **common and binding strategies and roadmaps** to give this work direction and visibility form and unite local and regional multi-sectoral ecosystems.

# OUR RESOURCES



Explore the [Circular Jobs Monitor](#)





## CIRCULAR JOBS INITIATIVE

<https://www.circle-economy.com/circular-jobs-initiative>

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