

Circular Economy Plan: Progress 20/21

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A circular economy is becoming an increasingly important concept. It aims to 'design out waste' from our system to improve circulation of resources to maximise their value and reduce our reliance on raw, virgin and often imported materials. WLWA has a unique and key role to play in enabling and facilitating societal changes to close the loop of material lifecycle by acting as a 'resource transformation body' rather than simply a waste disposable authority.

WLWA aims to play a role-model and lead Boroughs and other waste authorities to ensure the future of waste and resource management in West London is joined up locally to support residents and businesses effectively and efficiently to reduce their resource consumption whilst increasing circular material use rate. This WLWA Circular Economy Plan is a transformation plan, which sets up a future-orientated agenda to ensure our business model is streamlined and continued to be fit-for-purpose into a circular economy.

Planning and Engagement

Since December 2020, three monthly workshops were held to engage with internal colleagues, introduce the concepts and to encourage their input into designing stage. Good working relationship with the Policy & Review Manager from LB Richmond and Wandsworth who is leading on the circular economy workstream within the West London Alliance Green Recovery Plan. We will continue to design and plan for a CE in inclusive way.

Vision, Scope & Objectives

We are keen to look into wider engagement with producers/manufacturers and secondary market to unblock barriers to enable systematic change and to improve circularity. We also need to continue lobbying producers to embed practices that reflect circular economy principles. We would like to assist the Boroughs to better support circular economy business models across their operations such as waste management, highway/ground maintenance, supply chain management.

Exploring new options for materials

We've assessed what 'good' looks like in the future for various materials we deal with. We need to continue focusing on increasing recycling rate, reducing waste generation, but also start looking at contribution of recycling materials and local jobs/GVA impact of CE. We will be exploring new opportunities and innovation for materials which are yet to be recycled, or could be diverted more to be repaired/refurbished

Wider Collaborations

We will look to expand our partnership working with our Boroughs widely into other areas of operations, e.g. sustainability team, transportation team, library services etc. to realise wider potential to facilitate a circular economy within West London and support systematic changes for our residents.

Approach to project delivery/management

Since the circular economy programme involves in new, innovative and untested projects, we need to approach this in more agile way. Whilst focusing on a big vision, we need to be flexible, responsive and adaptive in order to make sure we are implementing practical solutions and improvement.