

Workshop

“What role can local authorities play in meeting the challenge of developing the circular economy?”

24 June 2014

14:00-17:30

Brussels

Programme

14:00 - 14:30	Welcome coffee
14:30 - 14:35	Introduction to the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Christiane Maurer, Energy Cities, Project Manager
14:35 - 15:15	What’s behind the circular economy approach? <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Nicolas Imbert, Green Cross France et Territoires , Executive Director» Questions/Answers
15:15 - 15:45	Brussels-Capital Region on the path towards circular economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Marion Courtois, Bruxelles Environnement/IBGE, Manager of the Transition Economy Department <p>“The Employment-Environment Alliance” <i>Local and regional authorities, business associations, public interest organisations, trade unions, educational service providers build together action plans to meet the challenge of developing a green economy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Sebastiaan de Neubourg, ResilieNtWeb <p>“Waste recycling in the urban food system”</p> <p><i>ResilieNtWEB is a strategic support programme for SMEs to help them increase their resilience: The key elements of a winning business strategy in our economic system are using creativity, collaboration and as few natural resources as possible.</i></p> <p>http://resilientweb.eu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Questions/Answers

15:45 - 16:15	Circular Economy in Växjö, the Greenest City in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Bo Frank, Mayor of Växjö, Sweden <p><i>“Växjö Re-use village” aims at encouraging people to give goods a second life (leave, repair, re-design, buy, exchange, borrow...). The village will become a friendly place for sharing knowledge and developing cooperation around sustainable development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Questions/Answers
16:15 - 16:45	INTERFACE company : “Zero Scherpenzeel” <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Laure Rondeau, INTERFACE, External Sustainability Manager – Europe <p><i>INTERFACE is a global manufacturer of carpet tiles. In its European production units, the company has reduced the energy use by 40% (compared to 1996 levels), has replaced 43% of its raw materials with biobased or recycled materials and has gone 100% renewable on its production site of Scherpenzeel.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Questions/Answers
16:45 - 17:30	Discussion with the participants Conclusion of the workshop Nicolas Imbert, Green Cross France et Territoires, Executive Director

Background information

The circular economy model is based on a production, exchange and sharing system aiming at encouraging social progress, protecting natural resources and ensuring sustainable economic development. It allows for economic growth and the depletion of natural resources to be decoupled. This model notably focuses on new ways of using and consuming, on making our products and services “live” longer, and on reusing and recycling components (source: Green Cross).

This is a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach of the circular economy which does not only focus on waste and waste management but also other important aspects of ecosystem management like biodiversity, water protection, land use and the crucial social criteria. But there are different approaches of the circular economy concept and countries have developed different strategies towards a new and more resource-efficient society.

Energy Cities & “Green Cross France et Territoires”

Energy Cities has recently prepared ‘Proposals for the energy transition of cities and towns (www.energycities.eu/energy-transition) which notably include the concepts of ‘Making the best use of energy and material flows by encouraging synergies between players’ and ‘Making better use and share what already exists instead of always buying more resources’.

“Green Cross France et Territoires” is the French branch of Green Cross International, which is a NGO founded by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993. This organisation considers the circular economy model as an approach that gets businesses, territories and civil society together to take action in favour of a local transition, responding to the expectations of consumers and citizens, making the best of fossil and renewable resources, minimising the impact on climate and providing a better quality of life.

Energy Cities and “Green Cross France et Territoires” share the will to unite energy and territory in one single dimension to question the circular economy challenge.

www.energy-cities.eu

<http://gcft.fr/>

Venue

Mundo b – The Sustainable House

Rue d’Edimbourg 26
1050 BRUSSELS

www.mundo-b.org

[How to get there?](#)

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