

CIRCULAR SCHOOL GUIDE

PRACTICAL STEPS
FOR FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS



Edu.Circular

The Circular Schools – Empowering Secondary
Education Students for a Green Future
applying Circularity Thinking Strategies
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CENTER FOR
SYSTEMS
INNOVATION

Welcome!

Dear Students, Families, Teachers, and School Communities,

Welcome to the Circular School Guide!

This guide was created to support schools and families in bringing circular economy principles into everyday learning, decision-making, and action. Whether in the classroom, at home, in the canteen, or in the wider community, each of us has a role to play in reducing waste, using resources more wisely, and building more sustainable habits.

Through ideas, activities, examples, and tools, this guide invites you to explore how circular thinking can become part of school culture and family life.

We hope it inspires collaboration, creativity, and meaningful action.

The Edu.Circular Team



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Introduction to the Guide	
	Introduction	05
	What to expect in this guide	06
02	Guidance for Families	
	Everyday Circular Practices	08
	Learning Activities for Parents & Kids	16
	Local Circular Initiatives	23
03	Framework for Action	
	Area A. Leadership and Governance for Circularity	47
	Area B. Teaching, Curriculum & Professional Development	49
	Area C. Assessment Practices	51
	Area D. Collaboration, Networks and Communication	53
	Area E. Infrastructure and Operations	54
	Implementation Roadmap	57
	Circular School Readiness Assessment	58
	Best Practices Across Europe	60
04	Visual Aids & Resources	
	Weekly Meal Planner Template	63
	Taking Care of Your Devices	64
	Zero Waste Made Simple	65
	Food Waste Infographic	66
	Food Waste Impact	67
	Your Guide to Travelling Sustainably	68

01

Introduction to the Guide



INTRODUCTION

Growing concerns about pollution, climate change, and increasing waste highlight the need for new ways of thinking and acting. One of the most promising approaches is the circular economy.

In simple terms, the circular economy (CE) is a system that aims to keep products, materials, and resources in use for as long as possible. Instead of the traditional “take-make-waste” model, where raw materials are extracted, turned into products, and then discarded after use, circularity focuses on designing out waste from the very beginning. Products are made to be durable, repairable, reusable, and recyclable, so that materials stay in circulation instead of becoming waste.

This approach is already being applied by many circular companies, which rethink how products are designed and used. For example, some offer repair or take-back services for electronics, others use recycled materials in production or provide products as services (such as leasing instead of selling) to extend product life and reduce waste.

For example, in a circular system, a broken phone might be repaired instead of replaced, its parts reused in other devices, or its materials recycled to make new electronics. Clothing can be repaired, swapped, or resold instead of being thrown away. Food waste can be reduced through careful planning, composting, and redistribution of surplus food. Even school furniture can be refurbished rather than replaced, extending its life and reducing both costs and environmental impact.

Schools play a key role in bringing this concept to life for young people. They are not only places where knowledge is learned, but also environments where habits, values, and behaviours are formed. By integrating circular economy principles across subjects and activities, schools help students understand how circularity applies in real life, for instance, analysing waste data in maths, exploring sustainable design in art, or studying consumption patterns in social sciences. In this way, students become active change agents who can apply what they learn beyond the classroom and influence their families, peers, and communities. Schools also act as local hubs for sustainability, modelling circular practices through recycling systems, sharing initiatives, repair activities, and resource-conscious operations.

However, circular learning becomes truly meaningful when it extends beyond school. Families and communities are essential partners in reinforcing these ideas in everyday life. When students learn about reducing waste, reusing materials, or conserving resources at school, these lessons become stronger when they are practiced at home. Families can support this learning by encouraging repair instead of replacement, reducing single-use items, buying second-hand when possible, and participating in local circular initiatives such as swap events, repair cafés, or community gardens.

When schools, families, and communities work together, circular economy education becomes a shared way of living rather than just a school topic. This collaboration helps young people develop lasting habits and a deeper understanding of sustainability, empowering them to contribute to a more resource-conscious and resilient future: one circular action at a time.

What to expect in this guide

This guide is designed to support schools, families, and communities in understanding and applying circular economy principles in practical and meaningful ways. It brings together simple explanations, real-life examples, and ready-to-use ideas that can be adapted to different contexts and age groups.

For schools, the guide offers a framework for embedding circularity into teaching, school operations, and school culture, along with inspiring examples from across Europe. These include initiatives such as zero-waste canteens, repair clubs, sharing systems, and eco-school programmes that demonstrate how circularity can be applied in everyday school life.

For families, the guide provides practical suggestions for introducing circular habits at home, from reducing food waste and repairing items to sharing resources and making more sustainable consumption choices. It also includes simple activities that parents and children can do together, helping learning continue beyond the classroom.

Finally, the guide highlights ways in which schools and families can work together through community-based actions such as repair cafés, swap events, and gardening activities, as well as pointing to useful local and EU-level initiatives and organisations that support circular living. Together, these elements aim to make circular economy education practical, accessible, and engaging.

02

Guidance for Families

Simple actions at home can reinforce what students learn at school and often have the biggest long-term impact. This section helps families turn circular economy ideas into everyday habits.



EVERYDAY CIRCULAR PRACTICES

Circular living at home isn't about being perfect. It's about committing to small, consistent choices. On the next pages, you'll find different areas of everyday life where mindful actions can make a real difference. No one expects you to do everything at once or to stay aware of everything all the time. Sometimes the sustainable option is easy; other times, it takes a bit more effort. The goal isn't to be 100% sustainable every single day. If many families manage to act more consciously most of the time, the collective impact becomes significant.

So here's to doing what we can and doing it consistently!



FOOD

LEFTOVERS FIRST

Establish a **"leftovers shelf"** in the fridge; agree that one dinner per week uses only leftover food.

FIRST-IN-FIRST-OUT

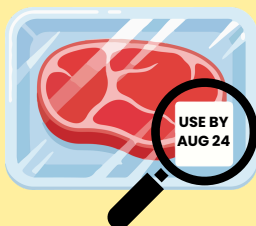
Organise the fridge based on the **first-in-first-out principle**. Newer products should go in the back of the fridge, so that older items are taken out and consumed first.

PORTION AWARENESS

Encourage children to start with **smaller servings** and take more if needed.

DATE LABEL KNOW-HOW

Teach children the difference between **"use by" (safety)** and **"best before" (quality)**. Have them check labels before discarding food.



USE BY

You've got until the end of this date to use or freeze the food before it becomes risky to eat.



BEST BEFORE

You can eat food past this date but it might not be at its best quality.

SMART STORAGE

Learn which foods should go in the fridge and which should not (e.g., tomatoes, potatoes). Check out this guide on how to store different foods: **[Food Storage Guide](#)**. Keep foods in their correct sections to help prevent them from spoiling.

Top Shelf

- Cooked meals, leftovers, 3-4 days
- Dairy products and plant-based alternatives, 5-10 days
- Jams and preserves, up to 3 months

Middle Shelf

- Cheese, 1-4 weeks
- Cold cuts and sausages, 3-7 days
- Eggs, up to 3 weeks

The Fridge Door

Sauces like ketchup, mayo, mustard and soy sauce, up to 6 months after opening.

Bottom Shelf

- Raw meat, 1-3 days
- Fish and seafood, 1-2 days

Fruit and Vegetable Drawers

- Root vegetables, 1-4 weeks
- Other fresh vegetable produce, 5-7 days
- Fruits, 1-3 weeks

COMPOSTING

Collect organic waste such as fruit peels and coffee grounds and compost them if possible. If you can't compost yourself, check if your neighbourhood has any community composting options.

MEAL PLANNING

Plan 2-3 meals together each week; your children can help list ingredients and check what is already at home to avoid duplicates. Check out the printable **[meal planner template](#)** in the Resources section.

CONSUMPTION

PAUSE BEFORE YOU BUY

Encourage a 24-hour pause before non-essential purchases.

Ask: Do we really need this?

MINIMISE PACKAGING



Choose products with **minimal packaging** or **refill** options.



SECOND-HAND FIRST

Explore **second-hand shops**, online marketplaces, or **swap events** before buying new products. (e.g. [Vinted](#))

CHOOSE QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

When possible, buy **durable** and **repairable products** instead of cheaper, short-lived ones.

SUPPORT LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE

Choose **locally produced** or **sustainably made** goods when possible.



AVOID SINGLE-USE ITEMS

Replace disposable products (e.g., plastic bottles, paper towels) with **reusable alternatives**.

YOUTH AS "ECO DETECTIVES"

Encourage children to **check packaging labels for recyclability symbols** and lead the family's choices.

Plastic Recycling Codes

1 PET	2 HDPE	3 PVC	4 LDPE	5 PP	6 PS	7 OTHER
Polyethylene Terephthalate (widely recyclable)	High-Density Polyethylene (widely recyclable)	Polyvinyl Chloride (more difficult to recycle)	Low-Density Polyethylene (more difficult to recycle)	Polypropylene (hard or not possible to recycle)	Polystyrene (hard or not possible to recycle)	Other , usually a mix of different plastics (unlikely to be recyclable)
						
Food containers, plastic bottles, polyester fibers	Plastic bags, detergent bottles	Flooring, window frames, plumbing pipes	Plastic bags, squeeze bottles, frozen bags	Disposable cups, takeaway and yoghurt containers	Styrofoam, insulation, takeout containers	Bioplastics, CD, reusable bottles

ECO-LABELS: USEFUL CLUES FOR RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

In a circular economy, the first question is whether a new purchase is necessary. Reuse, sharing, repair, and second-hand purchasing will likely have a lower impact than replacing a usable product. When purchasing something new is necessary, environmental and sustainability labels can help compare alternatives. However, labels have different scopes: some consider several life-cycle impacts, while others address a particular issue such as energy, organic farming, forestry, textiles or fisheries.



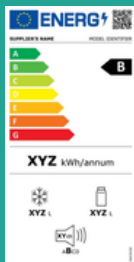
EU Ecolabel

The EU's official voluntary environmental label. Products and services meet independently verified criteria addressing important impacts across their life cycle.



EU Organic Logo

Identifies food certified according to EU organic-production rules. It concerns agricultural production and processing, not the product's complete environmental footprint.



EU Energy Label

Compares energy-related performance, usually from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). What is preferable? Choose the highest practical class and the lowest energy consumption, expressed as kWh. Compare products of a similar size and capacity: a larger A-rated appliance may still consume more electricity than a smaller B-rated one. Also check water use, noise, battery life or repairability where shown.



Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

A globally recognised certification for textiles made with organic fibres. It covers environmental and social requirements throughout textile processing and manufacturing.



FSC and PEFC

International certification systems for paper, wood, packaging and other forest-based materials from certified, controlled or recycled sources. FSC Recycled contains 100% recycled forest-based material; FSC 100% comes from FSC-certified forests; FSC Mix combines certified, recycled and/or controlled sources.



Rainforest Alliance Certified

Commonly found on coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas and other agricultural products. The seal indicates that the product (or a specified ingredient) comes from farms or supply chains working under the scheme's sustainability requirements.



MSC Blue Label

Identifies wild-caught seafood from fisheries independently assessed against environmental requirements concerning fish stocks, ecosystem impacts and fishery management.



Fairtrade Mark

A broader international sustainability and ethical-trade certification. It covers social, economic and environmental requirements for participating producers, workers and supply chains.

BORROW INSTEAD OF BUY

For rarely used items (tools, machinery, sports equipment), consider borrowing from friends, community libraries or rental companies. Below you can check out the rental options in your country to borrow rarely used items.

Estonia

- Household and garden machinery: [Cramo](#), [toolscab](#), [Tallinna Raamatukogud](#)
- Sports equipment and outdoor games: [Tallinna Raamatukogud](#)
- Exercise machines: [Kodusport](#), [Velomarket](#)

Italy

- Household and garden machinery: [Obi](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [Decathlon](#), [Intersport](#), [Rent and go](#)

Hungary

- Cars: [RentBen](#)
- Household and garden machinery: [Obi](#), [Praktiker](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [Decathlon](#)

Bulgaria

- Household and garden machinery: [Всичко под наем](#), [King Rentals](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [RedRock](#), [Rent-A-Tent](#), [Basecamp](#)

TURKIYE

Türkiye

- Household and garden machinery: [Bizero](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [Akdağ Spor](#), [Kadıköy Outdoor](#)

Spain

- Household and garden machinery: [Toolquick](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [Decathlon](#), [Rent and Roll Madrid](#)

Greece

- Household and garden machinery: [InCommOn](#), [Goethe Institute Athens](#)
- Sports and camping equipment: [SNECC](#)

HOME HABITS

REPAIR BEFORE REPLACING

Try **fixing broken items** (clothes, small electronics, furniture) before buying new ones. **iFixit** offers detailed **repair guides** with photos and videos and you can also purchase certified spare parts: <https://www.ifixit.com/>

REUSE CREATIVELY

Repurpose jars, containers, and packaging for storage or crafts.



CREATE A "FIX-IT BOX"

Keep **basic repair tools and materials** (needle, thread, glue, tape) easily accessible.



SHARE & BORROW

Borrow tools, equipment, or rarely used items from neighbours or friends instead of buying them.



DECLUTTER RESPONSIBLY

Donate, swap, or sell items you no longer use instead of throwing them away.

ENERGY & WATER AWARENESS

Encourage habits like **turning off lights, unplugging devices**, and taking **shorter showers**.



TREAT YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS RESPONSIBLY

Pay attention to the **correct maintenance of your personal items**. Below you can check out our recommendations on how to care for your **electronic devices** or **clothing items**.

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DEVICES



1. CLEANING

Dust and dirt build up faster than most people think, especially on screens, keyboards, and vents.

- Before cleaning, always turn the device off and unplug it. Use a soft **microfiber cloth** to wipe surfaces. If there are smudges or sticky spots, slightly dampen the cloth with a small amount of **alcohol-based cleaner**. **Never apply liquid directly to the device!**
- For hard-to-reach areas like charging ports or between keyboard keys, compressed air works well.
- **Avoid paper towels or harsh cleaning products**, as they can scratch or damage surfaces.
- As a general rule, **wipe down your device weekly** and do a more thorough clean about once a month.

2. TEMPERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Electronic devices don't handle heat well. Over time, high temperatures can shorten their lifespan and affect performance.

- Try to use devices on hard, flat surfaces so air can circulate properly. Laptops, in particular, can overheat if used on beds or cushions where vents get blocked.
- Keep devices out of direct sunlight and avoid leaving them in hot places like cars. At the same time, very damp or humid environments can also cause damage, so a cool, dry space is ideal.
- If a device feels unusually hot, give it a break and let it cool down.

3. BATTERY CARE

Batteries naturally wear out, but how you charge them makes a difference.

- It's best not to let the battery drain completely on a regular basis. Charging when it drops to around 20% and unplugging somewhere around 80-100% helps reduce long-term wear.
- Using the correct charger (original or certified) is also important. Cheap or incompatible chargers can damage the battery over time.
- You don't need to worry about this constantly. Just avoid extremes like always running to 0% or leaving it plugged in every night or for days at a time.

4. PHYSICAL PROTECTION

A large number of device problems come from simple physical damage.

- Using a case and screen protector can prevent a lot of issues, especially for phones and tablets. When carrying devices, a padded bag or sleeve adds another layer of protection.
- Try to keep liquids away, and avoid placing heavy objects on top of devices like laptops.
- It sounds obvious, but handling devices carefully in everyday use goes a long way.

5. SOFTWARE AND STORAGE

Even though it's not visible, software maintenance is just as important as physical care.

- Keep your device updated when updates are available. These often fix bugs and improve performance. From time to time, remove apps or programs you no longer use and clear out unnecessary files.
- Leaving some free storage space (10-20%) also helps the device run more smoothly.
- Restarting your device occasionally can help keep things running properly.



How To Care For Your Clothes

Taking care of clothes isn't complicated, but most people wear them out faster than necessary just from everyday habits. A few small changes can keep things looking good for much longer. To learn more about how to wash and remove different stains from clothes, you can check out [Kind Laundry's How-To](#) page.

1. Washing smarter (less is better than more)

The biggest mistake people make is washing clothes too often. Not everything needs to go straight into the laundry after one wear.

- If something isn't dirty or doesn't smell, it can usually be worn again. Items like jeans, sweaters, and jackets can usually be worn multiple times. **Airing clothes out** or **spot-cleaning** small marks is often enough. Washing too frequently causes fabrics to fade, stretch, and wear out faster.
- **When you do wash:**
 - Separate light and dark clothes
 - Check the label (it really does matter)
 - Turn clothes inside out to protect the fabric
 - Use cold water whenever possible
- Around 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes toward heating water. **Using cold water** significantly reduces energy use and is gentler on fabrics.
- **Try to wait until you have a full load, but don't overload the machine.** Clothes should still be able to move freely for proper cleaning.
- You also don't need as much detergent as you think. Using too much can actually damage fabrics over time.

2. Choose better products

What you wash with matters as much as how you wash.

- Research suggests that wastewater from laundry contributes to microfiber pollution, especially from synthetic fabrics. **Washing less** and **using gentler** cycles can help reduce this.
- Many conventional detergents contain strong chemicals that can be harsh on fabrics and harmful to the environment. Choosing a **milder, eco-friendly detergent** can help protect both your clothes and your skin.
- Look for products that are:
 - biodegradable
 - free from dyes and heavy fragrances
 - designed to work in cold water

3. Dry with care

Dryers are convenient, but they're hard on clothes.

- Whenever possible, **let clothes air dry** (on a rack, hanger, or clothesline). This helps fabrics keep their shape and last longer. BUT make sure to **avoid direct sunlight** for long periods when drying, as it can fade colours.
- If you do use a dryer: **use lower heat settings & don't over-dry**

4. Treat stains early

The sooner you treat a stain, the easier it is to remove.

- Letting stains sit often means more aggressive washing later, which increases wear on the fabric. In many cases, simple spot cleaning with water and a small amount of detergent is enough if done early. Also, important to note that **most stains set permanently if you apply heat (e.g. hot water)**. So, make sure to remove the stain as much as possible before washing, drying or ironing it.
- Check out this **guide on how to remove different types of stains:** [How to Remove Every Type of Stain in a Few Simple Charts](#)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS & KIDS

One of the best ways to learn about the circular economy is by putting ideas into practice. While discussions and lessons are important, hands-on experiences help children and young people better understand how their everyday choices affect the environment and the resources around them.

The activities in this section are designed to help families explore circular thinking together through creativity, problem-solving, and reflection. They encourage children to take an active role, build practical skills, and discover that reducing waste and using resources wisely can be both meaningful and enjoyable.

Most of the activities require little preparation and can be adapted to different ages and interests. There is no right or wrong way to complete them. The goal is to learn, experiment, and have fun together while developing habits that support a more sustainable future.





WASTE SORTING CHALLENGE

Time: 1 week

This activity helps families become more aware of the amount and types of waste they produce in daily life. The goal is not only to sort waste correctly, but also to understand consumption habits and identify opportunities for reduction.

Before starting

Prepare clearly labelled bins or containers for different waste categories such as paper, plastic, organic waste, and mixed waste. Place them in a visible and accessible location so that all family members can participate easily. Explain the categories to children and agree on how waste will be sorted throughout the week.

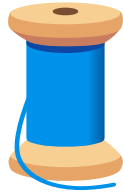
During the week

- Observe and collect all household waste
- Sort items together daily, involving children in decision-making
- Encourage questions about where different materials belong and why

At the end of the week, review the collected waste together.

Discuss

- Which type of waste did we produce the most?
- Were there any surprises in what we threw away?
- What changes could help us reduce waste next week?
- Are there items we could have reused or avoided entirely?



DIY REPAIR AFTERNOON

Time: 1-2 hours

This activity introduces children and adults to the idea that broken items are not automatically waste. Instead, they can often be repaired, reused, or repurposed, extending their life and reducing environmental impact.

How to start

Start by choosing one or more broken or damaged items from home. These can be clothes, toys, books, small appliances, or furniture items. The goal is not perfection, but participation and experimentation.

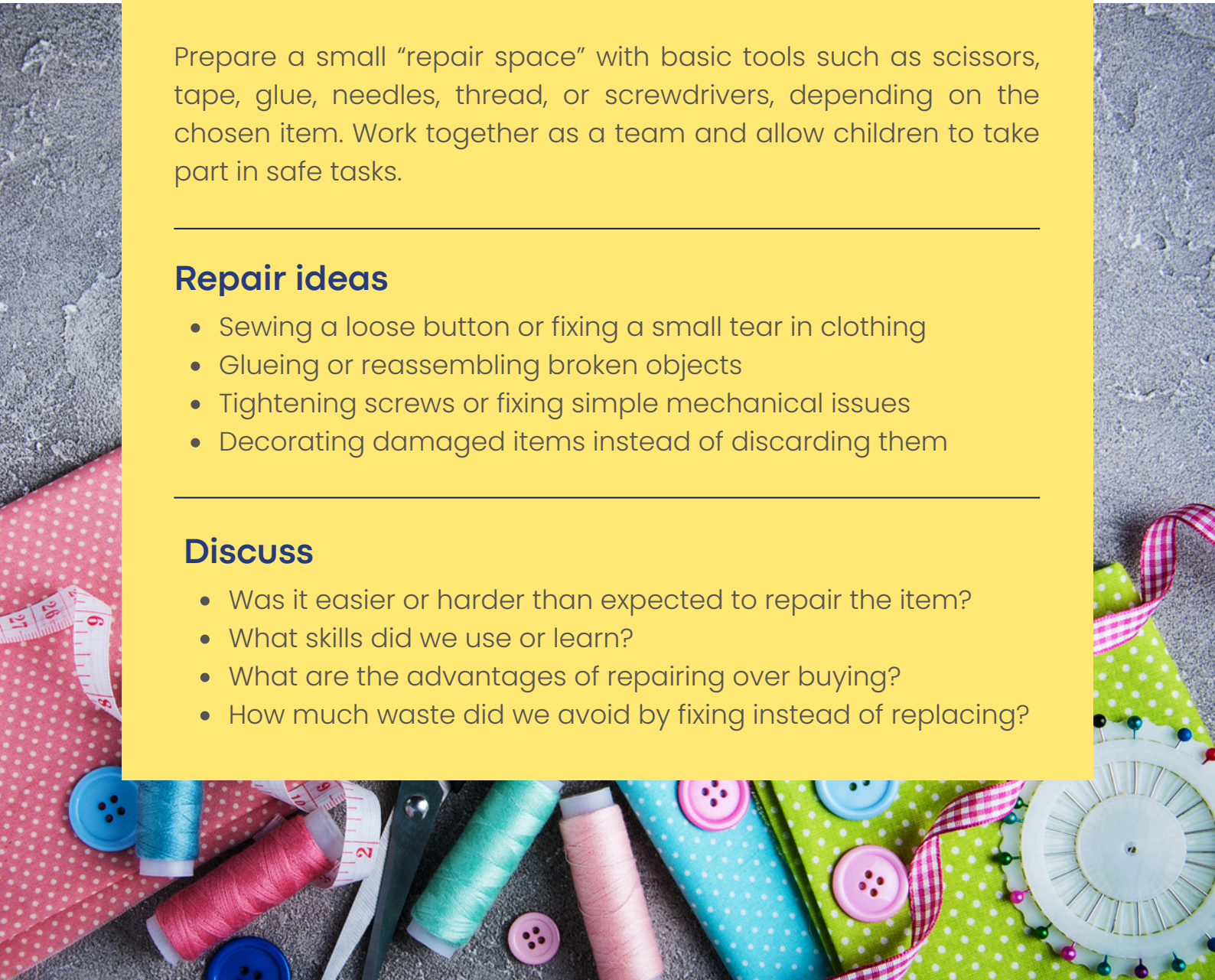
Prepare a small “repair space” with basic tools such as scissors, tape, glue, needles, thread, or screwdrivers, depending on the chosen item. Work together as a team and allow children to take part in safe tasks.

Repair ideas

- Sewing a loose button or fixing a small tear in clothing
- Glueing or reassembling broken objects
- Tightening screws or fixing simple mechanical issues
- Decorating damaged items instead of discarding them

Discuss

- Was it easier or harder than expected to repair the item?
- What skills did we use or learn?
- What are the advantages of repairing over buying?
- How much waste did we avoid by fixing instead of replacing?





CREATIVE UPCYCLING PROJECT

Time: 1-2 hours

Upcycling encourages creativity by turning items that are no longer used into something new and useful. This activity helps children see “waste” as a resource with potential value.

How to start

Begin by collecting unused materials from around the house (old clothes, glass jars, cardboard boxes, packaging, or broken objects) that can still be safely handled. Then choose one item to transform together. Allow children to lead the creative process while adults support with tools or safety guidance.

Example ideas

- Old T-shirt → reusable shopping bag or cleaning cloth
- Glass jar → candle holder, storage container, or plant pot
- Cardboard → toy house, organiser, or art project
- Plastic bottles → plant watering system or pencil holder



Discuss

- What materials did we reuse today?
- What surprised us during the process?
- What other objects at home could be upcycled?



NO-BUY WEEKEND

Time: 2 days (a weekend)

This challenge helps families to reflect on their consumption habits and realise how often purchases are made out of habit rather than necessity.

Before the weekend

Plan meals, activities, and basic needs in advance to avoid unnecessary shopping.

The rule is simple: no non-essential purchases for two days.

During the weekend

- Use only food and items already available at home
- Get creative with meals, entertainment, and daily needs
- Avoid online and physical shopping unless essential

This is a great opportunity to explore the nature in your area or cosy up and watch a movie together. Families can also turn this into a fun “resourcefulness challenge” by inventing games, activities, or meals using existing items.

Discuss

- What did we actually need during these two days?
- Did we miss anything we thought we would need?
- What did we discover about our consumption habits?
- Could we apply this idea more often in daily life?



FOOD RESCUE CHALLENGE

Time: Ongoing (1 week)

This activity focuses on preventing food waste by actively using ingredients that are close to expiry or often forgotten in the fridge.

At the beginning of the week

Check the fridge, freezer, and cupboards together and identify ingredients that need to be used soon. Plan meals around these items instead of buying new ones.

Encourage creativity in cooking and allow children to help choose or design meals based on available ingredients. This helps them understand that cooking can be flexible and resourceful.

During the weekend

- Prioritise ingredients that are close to expiry
- Combine leftovers in new and creative ways
- Track how much food is saved from being wasted
- Search for recipes on [Supercook – Zero Waste Recipe Generator](#)

Discuss

- How much food did we manage to “rescue”?
- What new meals or combinations did we discover?
- Was it difficult or fun to cook this way?
- What products do we tend to let expire? Why?
- How can we reduce food waste in the future?



48-HOUR DIGITAL DETOX

Time: 2 days

Our phones are a valuable tool, but they can also take up more time and attention than we realise. This challenge invites you to take a short break from non-essential screen time and replace it with activities that are creative, practical, and connected to the real world.

Before the detox

Take a little time to prepare so the weekend feels fun rather than restrictive. Let friends and family know that you'll be spending less time online, so they understand why you may reply more slowly. Plan a few enjoyable offline activities in advance, such as cooking together, going for a hike or bike ride, playing sports, reading, baking, doing a puzzle, playing board games, making something creative or visiting a museum. The goal is not to avoid technology completely, but to become more aware of how you spend your time and make space for fun, meaningful activities.

During the detox

- Cut down non-essential screen time for 48 hours
- Do the activities you planned for the weekend :)



Bonus idea: Invite a friend or family member to join

Discuss

- How much of your free time is usually spent on your phone?
- Which activities did you enjoy most during the challenge?
- Did you discover any new hobbies or interests?
- How did spending more time offline affect your mood, energy, or focus?

LOCAL CIRCULAR INITIATIVES

Circularity is not something we achieve alone. Across Europe, communities, schools, municipalities, businesses, and civil society organisations are working together to reduce waste, extend the life of products, and create more sustainable ways of living and consuming.

Getting involved in local circular initiatives is a great way for families and schools to put circular economy principles into practice. Whether it is participating in a community garden, attending a repair café, joining a swap event, or taking part in a local environmental campaign, these activities provide opportunities to learn new skills, meet like-minded people, and contribute to positive change in your community.

There are many initiatives that families and schools can explore. We have included a few examples below in the Edu.Circular partner countries as a starting point, but we encourage each school community to look further: local municipalities, environmental NGOs, youth organisations, community centres, libraries, universities, and social media groups are often good places to discover circular activities. Students can also help map circular initiatives in their neighbourhood, turning the search itself into a learning activity and identifying new opportunities for school-family collaboration.



BULGARIA



Repair Café Sofia

Repair Café Sofia is a volunteer-driven community initiative that organises regular repair events where citizens can bring broken electronics, household items, textiles and small appliances. Skilled volunteers help repair items while teaching participants repair skills, extending product lifetimes and reducing waste.



Sofia, Bulgaria



<https://rcafe.eu/>



Zero Waste Sofia

Zero Waste Sofia promotes waste prevention, reuse and refill practices through public campaigns, workshops, corporate training and community events. The organisation advocates for circular consumption models and supports zero-waste businesses and citizens.



Sofia, Bulgaria



<https://zerowastesofia.com/>



Reuse Centre Bulgaria

Reuse Centre Bulgaria collects furniture, electronics, clothing and household goods, refurbishing and redistributing them to people in need or reselling at affordable prices. The initiative combines waste prevention with social inclusion and job creation.



Sofia, Bulgaria



<https://openbulgaria.org/post/recycling-in-bulgaria/>



Humana Bulgaria

Humana Bulgaria operates second-hand clothing shops and textile collection systems. It extends the life of garments, reduces textile waste and reinvests profits into social and environmental causes.



Various cities in Bulgaria



<https://www.humana-bulgaria.org/>

BULGARIA



Remix

Remix Global EAD, based in Sofia, Bulgaria, operates as an online retailer specializing in second-hand and outlet branded fashion across Europe. The company supports a circular economy model aimed at minimizing fashion waste and was acquired by thredUP in 2021.

 National (Bulgaria) - online

 <https://remixshop.com/bg>



Trash clothing

Located in the central part of Sofia at 7-11 Karnigradska Street, Trash clothing offers a different perspective on urban fashion. The boutique is distinguished by its specialization in selected second-hand clothing and accessories, emphasizing the combination of contemporary style and sustainability. The store offers high-quality branded clothing, often preserved in excellent condition, some of which have original labels, and all this at affordable prices.

The assortment includes finds for both women and men of different ages and sizes, which provides variety and the opportunity for everyone to find a suitable offer for their everyday style. The store's employees are distinguished by an individual approach in the selection and consultations, creating a pleasant atmosphere during shopping. New additions to the collections appear constantly, offering customers the opportunity to always discover something different and original. Trash clothing is establishing itself as a preferred place for connoisseurs of vintage fashion who value uniqueness and quality.

 Sofia, Bulgaria

 <https://www.facebook.com/trashsofia/>



BG Be Active – Active Cities

BG Be Active integrates circular economy principles into urban community projects, including shared public spaces, reuse of materials, and citizen-led sustainability actions within cities.

 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

 <https://bgbeactive.org/en/projects/>

BULGARIA



TimeHeroes

TimeHeroes is Bulgaria's largest volunteering platform, supporting initiatives related to repair, reuse, food redistribution, environmental clean-ups and circular education.



National level, Bulgaria



<https://timeheroes.org/bg/>



Greenpoint logistics

The first CO2-neutral logistics company in Bulgaria for delivering shipments with a fleet of fully electric vehicles. Optimization and ecology in transport and logistics in the last mile, without harmful emissions in the urbanized city environment, where business and people are concentrated! And where finally one will not harm the other!



National level, Bulgaria



<https://gplogistics.bg/>



Foodobox

Foodobox Bulgaria connects restaurants, bakeries and shops with consumers, offering surplus food at reduced prices via a mobile app. The initiative reduces food waste while making food more affordable.



Sofia (and other cities), Bulgaria



<https://foodobox.com/bg/>

ESTONIA



Canteen Competition

Daily, Estonia's largest school caterer, runs a competition to reduce food waste in school canteens. During the competition, which lasts for one week, the amount of food waste generated in nearly 70 Daily school canteens across Estonia is monitored. The amount of discarded food is weighed at the end of each day and recorded on a public chart in the school canteen. At the end of the week, the school with the least amount of food wasted per student is announced as the winner.

Few years ago, the Tallinn French Lyceum won the competition by wasting the smallest amount of food per student - only 6 grams per day.



Estonia



<https://www.sustainable-public-meal.eu/en/tools/food-waste-measurement/>



The Things – Kuhuviia.ee

Founded in 2013, The Things Foundation started with the vision of cataloguing all man-made objects and later developed Kuhuviia.ee, a digital platform helping Estonians find where to take unwanted items.

Through partnerships with organisations and ministries, it has become a key sustainability actor, running campaigns, advising policymakers, testing digital services and supporting greener events. Today, it helps organisations and businesses address sustainability challenges and build practical circular solutions.

The Foundation has also supported over 40 Estonian businesses and organisations in developing circular products, services and strategies through Circular Design Masterclasses and Green Tiger Academy Design Sprints.



Estonia



<https://things.ee/>
<https://kuhuviaa.ee/>



KIUD - Sustainable packaging

KIUD creates reusable packaging from textile waste for businesses committed to the circular economy. Its mission is to turn discarded textiles into eco-friendly packaging that offers a sustainable alternative to conventional cardboard.

By reducing reliance on single-use cardboard, KIUD supports the idea that trees should remain in forests and contributes to a greener, more resource-conscious future.



Estonia



<https://www.sustainable-public-meal.eu/en/tools/food-waste-measurement/>

ESTONIA



RINGO - Keeping our nature clean

Ringo's mission is to eliminate disposable packaging waste. Ringo develops an open platform for reusable packages. Every retailer, restaurant or food producer can join the platform with their reusable packages. Ringo Eco provides collection, washing, deposit handling.

For end-users, Ringo Eco provides collection services for reusable packages. Ringo return bins can be ordered by office buildings, restaurants, apartment buildings, private houses, etc. There are 164 return points in Tallinn and many return points in Estonia.



Estonia



<https://ringo.eco/>



REET AUS COLLECTION

Reet Aus, PhD, is a sustainable fashion designer and founder of REET AUS COLLECTION®. She developed an industrial upcycling approach that turns leftover fabrics from mass production into high-quality clothing, reducing waste and environmental impact.

Using the UPMADÉ® methodology, created with the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre, the brand produces carbon-neutral, ethical garments from virgin surplus materials. This certified system is also used by other brands and factories to support more responsible fashion production.



Online



<https://www.reetaus.com/>



GreenCCircle

GreenCCircle supports Cultural and Creative Industries in adopting sustainable practices, green skills and circular economy principles. Through its Living Lab methodology, the project encourages collaboration, experimentation and practical learning.

Aligned with the EU Green Deal, GreenCCircle helps creative professionals and organisations address environmental challenges, integrate sustainability into their workflows and become more competitive in changing markets.



Estonia



<https://greencircle.eu>

ESTONIA



Eesti Toidupank

The Estonian Food Bank helps redirect edible food that would otherwise be discarded from stores to people in need. Companies can donate unsold but safe-to-eat products to local Food Banks, supporting communities while reducing food waste.

Individuals can also donate through food donation machines in grocery stores across Estonia, using long-lasting, intact products in original packaging that do not need refrigeration. Donations are also possible through online stores such as Barbora.ee and Rimi e-shop.



Estonia



<https://www.toidupank.ee/>



Uuskasutuskeskus (Reuse Centre)

The Reuse Centre was established in 2004. It directs clean and usable items back into circulation and looks for ways to give old things a new life.

Reuse is the extension of the lifespan of items, giving them new value and meaning. In the UK, it becomes a smart circulation where beloved things keep moving. Some give things away, others find a new favourite, and the cycle continues. It is a conscious lifestyle that brings joy and promotes sustainability. Every item that moves forward reduces overproduction and saves resources.



Estonia



<https://uuskasutus.ee/>



Fibenol Technology

Fibenol Technology is a 100% private equity-based company that focused on creating sustainable biomaterials. They offer novel products from a renewable source to open new frontiers for many industries. They produce sustainable biomaterials from renewable secondary use biomass that create novel value chains that don't just replace but redefine the relationship between waste, production, and value creation.



Estonia



<https://fibenol.com/technology>

GREECE



Kyklos – Circularity Hub

Kyklos is a community-based circularity hub operating in the center of Thessaloniki, focusing on reuse, repair, and sharing practices. The initiative hosts regular Repair Café events where citizens can repair small appliances, electronics, and household items with the help of volunteers. It also operates a “Library of Things”, allowing people to borrow tools and equipment instead of purchasing new ones. Kyklos places strong emphasis on community engagement, education, and behavioral change toward sustainable consumption. Workshops, talks, and hands-on activities are organized to promote circular economy principles in everyday life. The project targets both environmental impact reduction and social cohesion by encouraging collaboration and knowledge sharing among citizens.



Thessaloniki, Greece



<https://www.incommon.gr/en/project/kyklos/>



Repair Café Kypseli

Repair Café Kypseli is a local circular initiative hosted at the Kypseli Municipal Market in Athens. It brings together volunteers with technical skills and citizens who want to repair broken items instead of discarding them. Typical items repaired include small electrical devices, clothes, bicycles, and household objects. The initiative aims to extend product lifespans, reduce waste generation, and raise awareness about overconsumption. Repair events are open to the public and free of charge, creating an inclusive environment for all age groups. Beyond repairs, the project promotes a culture of care, maintenance, and responsibility toward material goods.



Athens, Greece



<https://circulargreece.gr/el/repair-cafe-epanekkinisis/>



Epanekkinisis Social Cooperative

Epanekkinisis is a social cooperative in Athens that repairs and reuses electrical and electronic equipment. It promotes the circular economy while creating green jobs and training opportunities. Repaired devices are either resold or donated to vulnerable groups, alongside services and awareness activities on e-waste.



Athens, Greece



<https://epanekkinisis.gr>

GREECE



LIFE-IP CEI-Greece

LIFE-IP CEI-Greece is a large-scale national project supporting the implementation of circular economy policies across Greece. The initiative works with ministries, regions, municipalities, businesses, and citizens to promote waste prevention, reuse, repair, and recycling. It includes pilot actions such as reuse centers, repair parks, awareness campaigns, and digital tools for circular economy monitoring. A strong focus is placed on capacity building and stakeholder engagement. The project aims to transition Greece from a linear to a circular economic model through coordinated, long-term actions.



Souli, Greece



<https://ypen.gov.gr/life-ip-cei-greece-efarmogi-tis-kyklikis-oikonomias-stin-ellada/>



Recycle at Source – Repair Café

The “Recycle at Source” Repair Café in Patras is a local initiative promoting waste prevention through repair and reuse. It organizes repair events where citizens can fix household items with the support of trained volunteers. The project is part of a broader municipal strategy encouraging waste separation and circular practices. Educational activities accompany the repair sessions to inform participants about sustainable consumption. The initiative strengthens community involvement while reducing unnecessary waste. It also supports skill development and local collaboration.



Patras, Greece



<https://recycleatsource.gr/repaircafe/>



Boroume – Food Saving Initiative

Boroume is a well-established Greek non-profit organization dedicated to reducing food waste and food insecurity. It operates by rescuing surplus food from supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, and food producers and redistributing it to social welfare organizations. Through its coordinated logistics and volunteer network, Boroume prevents large quantities of edible food from becoming waste. The initiative also runs educational campaigns and awareness actions targeting both businesses and households. By combining social solidarity with circular economy principles, Boroume addresses environmental, economic, and social challenges simultaneously. Its impact is nationwide and continuously expanding.



Athens, Greece



<https://www.boroume.gr>

GREECE



The Green City

The Green City is a social enterprise in Athens promoting upcycling, environmental education, and circular design. It runs workshops that teach people how to turn waste into useful or artistic products and works with schools, municipalities, and companies to spread circular economy ideas.



Athens, Greece



<https://thegreencity.gr/>



ReWeee

ReWeee is a Greek system for managing and recycling electronic waste (WEEE). It works with municipalities, retailers, and recyclers to ensure proper collection and treatment, while also supporting reuse and refurbishment of usable parts. Through awareness campaigns, it promotes responsible e-waste disposal and contributes to Greece's circular economy.



Kalithea, Greece



<https://www.reweee.gr/>



Wise Greece

Wise Greece is a social enterprise that promotes small Greek producers using sustainable food practices. It sells ethically sourced, low-impact products while reinvesting part of its profits into social causes. The initiative supports local production, reduces food waste, and encourages more responsible consumption through education and storytelling.



Athens, Greece



<https://www.wisegreece.com/>



Open Farm

Open Farm is a Greek initiative promoting sustainable agriculture and circular food systems. It connects farmers, producers, chefs, and consumers to encourage transparency, local sourcing, and waste reduction. Through events and farm visits, it supports seasonal eating, shorter food chains, and stronger local food communities.



Athens, Greece



<https://openfarm.gr/>

HUNGARY



Felelős Gasztrohós Alapítvány

Founded in 2012, the Heroes of Responsible Dining Foundation (Felelős Gasztrohós Alapítvány) is a Hungarian non-profit promoting sustainable, environmentally responsible food practices through gastronomy, education, and awareness.

 Hungary

 <https://gasztrohos.hu/>



Munch

Munch is a Hungary-based platform focused on reducing food waste by connecting users with restaurants, bakeries, and shops that have unsold food (and other products) at the end of the day. Through its mobile app, customers can purchase these surplus meals at discounted prices, making sustainable choices both accessible and affordable.

 Many cities in Hungary

 <https://munch.eco/hu>



Beeco

A mobile app and community platform that promotes environmentally conscious lifestyles by helping users discover sustainable places, events, and services, while also offering eco-friendly discounts and practical tips. Through features like a “green map,” educational content, and reward systems, Beeco encourages everyday actions that support a more sustainable future.

 Budapest, Hungary

 <https://www.beeco.hu/>



Zero Hero - a zero waste webshop

An online shop focused on sustainable, low-waste living, offering products like reusable household items, natural cosmetics, and eco-friendly everyday essentials. Its selection emphasizes recycled, recyclable, and plastic-free alternatives.

 Hungary

 <https://zerohero.hu/>

HUNGARY



Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete

A Hungarian non-profit organization that promotes environmentally and socially responsible consumption. Through product tests, educational content, and campaigns, it helps consumers make informed, sustainable choices in their everyday purchases. You can also sign up for their newsletter to stay updated on the latest news and insights.



Online (Hungary)



<https://tudatosvasarlo.hu/>



Ecohero

A platform focused on promoting sustainable living through practical tools, content, and community engagement. It provides news, trends, and useful information about eco-friendly lifestyles, related to topics from fashion and everyday living to home design and construction.



Online (Hungary)



<https://ecohero.hu/>



MOL Bubi

Budapest's public bicycle-sharing service, that allows users to rent bikes from docking stations across the city and return them at any other station, making short urban trips fast, flexible, and eco-friendly. With hundreds of stations and thousands of bikes, it has become an integrated part of everyday mobility in Budapest.



Budapest, Hungary



<https://bkk.hu/en/visiting-budapest/mol-bubi-public-bikes/>



Repair Café Budapest

Repair Café Budapest is a community-based workshop where people can bring broken items, such as electronics, clothes, or household objects, and fix them together with volunteer experts.



Budapest, Hungary



<https://repaircafebudapest.hu/>

ITALY



Vestireciclo - Shop

Vestireciclo collects, sorts, sanitises, and resells used and vintage clothing, combining environmental sustainability with social care. Its proceeds support people in difficulty, especially women, through projects that promote autonomy and local inclusion. Vestireciclo has also supported local initiatives such as the “wall of kindness” for winter coats and healthcare projects at Pinerolo’s Agnelli Hospital.



Pinerolo (TO), Greece



https://www.facebook.com/VESTIRECICLO/?locale=it_IT

https://www.instagram.com/vestiriciclo_piazzasandonato/



“Fa’ la cosa giusta” Project

The Fa’ la cosa giusta! School Project is designed to offer students and teachers of all levels a free, engaging educational opportunity rich in stimulus and insight. Through interactive workshops, themed visits, and meetings with experts, classes can explore central topics such as environmental sustainability, the circular economy, social justice, and responsible innovation.

Schools can participate in two ways: by freely visiting the fair to explore exhibit spaces, exhibitions, and stands; or by choosing one activity among themed visits, expert talks, and educational workshops — with free access to the fair always guaranteed.



Fiera Milano Rho (MI), Italy



<https://www.falacosagiusta.org/progetto-scuole/>



Ecomondo

Ecomondo is a major international trade fair in Rimini focused on ecological transition, circular economy and green technologies. It brings together companies, researchers, policymakers, institutions and innovators to discuss sustainable solutions for industry, cities and resource management.

Ecomondo Off is the programme that extends Ecomondo beyond the Rimini Expo Centre and into the city. It includes cultural, educational and public events designed to involve citizens, schools, institutions and local communities in the ecological transition.

While the main fair focuses on business, innovation and professional networking, Ecomondo Off makes sustainability more accessible through talks, workshops, exhibitions, performances, city initiatives and awareness-raising activities.



Rimini, Italy



<https://www.ecomondo.com/en/beyond-ecomondo/ecomondo-off>

ITALY



Library of Things - Bocconi

The Library of Things at Bocconi University in Milan is a pilot sharing project focused on sustainability and community. Run as part of the university's MUSA initiative, it allows students to borrow everyday items — from tools to appliances and leisure gear — completely free of charge, reducing the need to buy rarely used objects and supporting a more sustainable consumption model. Items are accessed through a smart locker system in partnership with the Leila network, enabling reservations and 24/7 use.



Milan, Italy



<https://bocconi.webapp.leila.srl/>



Rifò - Fashion brand

Rifò is an Italian sustainable fashion brand that creates high-quality clothing and accessories from regenerated textile fibres, such as wool, cashmere, cotton, and denim, all made through a local artisanal process. Founded in 2017, Rifò turns old garments and textile waste into new products, reducing resource use and environmental impact while rejecting overproduction and fast fashion. Its pieces are produced within a short local supply chain, minimising transport emissions and prioritising durability and ecological materials. Rifò also supports social impact initiatives and emphasises longevity through repair and responsible consumption.



Prato (PO) Italy



<https://rifo-lab.com/pages/noi-rifo>



ReMida - Recycling Center

ReMida is an international creative recycling center founded in Reggio Emilia, Italy, within the Reggio Emilia educational approach. It collects high-quality industrial scrap materials and turns them into resources for creativity, learning and research.

Open to children, families, educators, artists and designers, ReMida offers workshops, visits, exhibitions and hands-on activities that encourage reuse, experimentation and circular thinking. It connects industry, education and the community, showing how waste can become a cultural and educational resource.



Reggio Emilia, Italy



<https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/remida-the-creative-recycling-centre>

ITALY



Centro del Riuso

The Centro del Riuso, managed by ASCIT, is a community space dedicated to reuse and waste prevention. Citizens can donate or take home items still in good condition, such as furniture, household goods, toys, books and small appliances, giving them a second life instead of sending them to landfill.

The center also promotes sustainable consumption, circular economy principles and environmental responsibility through local awareness activities. By reducing waste and supporting social inclusion, it offers a practical example of circular economy in everyday life.



Lucca, Italy

<https://www.ascit.it/centro-riuso/>



Ingrosso Usato Vicenza

Ingrosso Usato Vicenza is a permanent reuse marketplace dedicated to second-hand furniture, home accessories, and everyday objects. Operating as a circular economy hub, it collects used items, restores them when needed, and reintroduces them into the market at accessible prices.



Vicenza, Italy

<https://ingrossousatovicenza.it/>



Zig Zag Project

The Zig Zag Project is an educational initiative focused on circular economy, textile reuse and creative upcycling, mainly for young people and communities. Through workshops and collaborative labs, participants transform discarded textiles into new objects, garments or artistic creations.



Verona, Italy

<https://giovanivr.it/progetto-zig-zag/>



Lab Barona - Repair Café

Lab Barona Repair Café is a permanent community workshop in Milan dedicated to repair, reuse, and sharing knowledge. Citizens can bring broken or damaged objects (such as small appliances, furniture, bicycles, or clothing) and repair them with the help of tools, equipment, and skilled volunteers.



Milan, Italy

<https://labbaronarepaircafe.com/>

SPAIN



PATIO Campus

PATIO Campus – Circular Economy Innovation Program is an open innovation platform in Madrid that connects startups, companies, public institutions and research organisations to develop circular economy solutions.

Focused on sectors such as mobility, energy, fashion, packaging, construction and industry, the program supports startups through challenges, mentoring, pilot projects and networking. By enabling real-world testing and cross-sector collaboration, PATIO Campus helps scale circular business models and strengthen Madrid's sustainable urban economy.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.patiocampus.org/en/economia-circular#como-participar>



Ecologistas en Acción

Ecologistas en Acción is a confederation of environmental organisations across Spain, with a strong presence in Madrid. It promotes environmental protection, sustainability and circular economy models through activism, education, public awareness and policy advocacy.

Its work focuses on waste reduction, responsible consumption, reuse, material recovery and fair environmental policies. Through campaigns, research, publications and community projects, the organisation helps shape public debate and support a more circular and socially just economy.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/federaciones/comunidad-de-madrid/>



Fundación FUHEM

FUHEM Foundation is a Madrid-based non-profit working on education, social justice and environmental sustainability. Its mission is to promote an ecosocial transition, combining ecological responsibility with social well-being.

One of its key initiatives is the Ecosocial Transformation of Schools project, which helps schools assess their environmental and social impact and integrate sustainability into teaching, daily organisation and school culture. It supports waste reduction, responsible consumption, teacher training and learning materials on climate change, resources and social justice.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.fuhem.es/>

SPAIN



Fundación Juan XXIII

Fundación Juan XXIII is a Madrid-based non-profit that promotes the social and labour inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities through education, training and employment.

Its Circular Strategies in the Agri-Food Distribution Sector project explores how circular economy can create and improve inclusive jobs in areas such as food distribution, waste reduction, reuse of materials and efficient resource management. Through collaborative learning, training and knowledge exchange with companies, professionals and institutions, the initiative shows how environmental sustainability can generate real employment opportunities and greater social inclusion.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.fundacionjuanxxiii.org/disenio-de-jardines-y-huertos>



Ecoembes Empleo

Ecoembes Empleo is an initiative by Ecoembes that offers job opportunities, training and professional support in recycling, waste management, sustainability and the circular economy.

Its offer includes a specialised employment platform connecting candidates with companies in the green sector, as well as training and upskilling resources to develop skills needed for circular economy roles. It also supports networking between employers and professionals, helping students, job seekers and workers access new career paths linked to sustainable production, packaging recycling and environmental management.



Madrid, Spain



www.ecoembesempleo.es



The Circular Campus

TheCircularCampus is an online training initiative created by Ecoembes to help companies understand and apply circular economy principles. Although linked to Ecoembes' innovation ecosystem in Logroño, it operates nationally and is used by organisations in the Community of Madrid.

The platform offers practical knowledge on sustainable packaging, ecodesign, waste regulations, waste reduction and life cycle assessment. Through online resources, case studies and best practices, it supports skills development and helps companies adopt more circular, resource-efficient business models.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.ecoembesthecircularcampus.com/>

SPAIN



Madrid Nuevo Norte

Madrid Nuevo Norte is one of Europe's largest urban regeneration projects and a leading example of circular economy principles in urban planning and construction. Located in Madrid, the project aims to transform a major urban area while reducing environmental impact and improving resource efficiency.

Its sustainability strategy focuses on reusing and recycling construction and demolition materials, including concrete, metals and other recovered components, directly in new buildings and infrastructure. This reduces landfill waste, lowers carbon emissions and limits the need for virgin raw materials.

Beyond waste management, Madrid Nuevo Norte integrates sustainability into urban design, mobility, energy efficiency and land use planning. It demonstrates how large-scale urban development can shift from a linear construction model to a circular, resilient and low-carbon city model.



Madrid, Spain



<https://creamadridnuevonorte.com/en/>



TheCircularLab

TheCircularLab is an innovation laboratory created by Ecoembes to develop and test circular economy solutions, especially in packaging, recycling technologies and sustainable product design. Although based in Logroño, it operates nationally and supports projects, collaborations and pilot initiatives in the Community of Madrid.

The lab acts as a hub for research, experimentation and open innovation, connecting companies, public institutions, research centres and startups. Its work focuses on advanced recycling technologies, ecodesign, waste management optimisation and new uses for recycled materials.

Through pilot projects and applied research, TheCircularLab helps improve recycling performance and material circularity across Spain. Its impact in Madrid comes through knowledge transfer, innovation deployment and support for organisations working toward more efficient and circular packaging systems.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.thecircularlab.com/>

SPAIN



Compostaje Comunitario

The Autonomous University of Madrid has developed a community composting initiative that turns organic waste from cafeterias, academic buildings and common areas into a local resource.

The waste is treated on campus in the university's Agroecological and Agricultural Space through controlled composting systems. The resulting compost can be reused for gardens, green areas and educational purposes, reducing waste transport and landfill disposal.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.uam.es/uam/sostenibilidad/compostaje>



Circular Sustainable Fashion Week

Circular Sustainable Fashion Week Madrid is a flagship initiative in the Community of Madrid that promotes circular and sustainable fashion. It highlights alternatives to linear fashion models by focusing on resource efficiency, reuse, responsible design and ethical value chains.

Through exhibitions, events and communication activities, CSFW Madrid brings together designers, brands, institutions, professionals and the public to raise awareness and share knowledge.



Madrid, Spain



<https://csfwmadrid.com/>



Recumadrid

Recumadrid is a local initiative focused on waste reduction, recycling education and community engagement. They organise workshops, awareness campaigns and participatory activities aimed at improving separation, reuse and circular behaviours at neighbourhood level.



Madrid, Spain



<https://www.recumadrid.es/>



Zero Waste Initiative (Sıfır Atık Projesi)

The Zero Waste Initiative is a nationwide program led by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. The initiative focuses on preventing waste generation, separating waste at source, increasing recycling rates, and promoting reuse across households, public institutions, schools, and municipalities. It aims to transform waste into a valuable resource and support a circular economy model in Türkiye.



Türkiye



<https://sifiratik.gov.tr>

<http://www.zerowaste.gov.tr>



Organic Waste Composting Program

This initiative collects organic waste from markets, households, and municipal facilities and processes it into compost at local composting facilities. The produced compost is used in urban green spaces, parks, and landscaping activities. The project reduces landfill waste, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and closes the biological loop within the city.



İstanbul, Türkiye



<https://www.ibb.istanbul>



Textile Waste Recovery Project

The Textile Waste Recovery Project aims to collect used and unwanted textile products and redirect them to reuse, recycling, or social support channels. Reusable textiles are redistributed through social programs, while non-reusable materials are recycled. The project collaborates with local cooperatives, especially women's cooperatives, creating both environmental and social value.



İzmir, Türkiye



<https://www.izmir.bel.tr>



Circular Makerspace Istanbul

The Circular Makerspace in Istanbul is an EU-funded collaboration space that transforms waste and unused materials into functional products with creativity. It supports circular economy innovation by providing workshops, community-building activities, and platforms where participants can learn about upcycling, reuse and creative repurposing of materials that would otherwise be discarded.



İstanbul, Türkiye



https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/turkiye/circular-makerspace-turns-waste-wonder-istanbul_en?s=230



Tokat Women's Cooperatives

In Tokat province, women's cooperatives operate using local agricultural products and traditional production methods. It was created to utilize Tokat's endemic and valuable products in the market, and to present the products from all over Tokat's geography to the market in the best way to contribute to the national economy. By focusing on minimizing food waste, using locally sourced raw materials, and producing traditional goods, these cooperatives align with principles of circular economy while supporting local economic empowerment and resource efficiency. The Tokat Women's Cooperatives Sales Store was opened, and products under the Tokat Komana brand were introduced.



Tokat Province, Türkiye



<https://www.tokat.gov.tr/tokat-kadin-kooperatifleri-satis-magazasi-acilisi-ve-tokat-komana-markasinin-tanitimi-yapildi>



Türkiye Circular Economy Platform (TDEP)

The Türkiye Circular Economy Platform (TDEP) is a multi-participant collaboration launched in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Its purpose is to speed up the adoption of circular economy principles in Turkish business by providing guidance, knowledge sharing, practical tools, and opportunities for cooperation across sectors, helping organizations redesign systems, reduce waste and increase resource efficiency.



Türkiye



<https://www.skdturkiye.org/projelerimiz/tdep/>



Çöp(m)adam (Women's Upcycling Project)

Çöp(m)adam is a social project for women who do not work outside the home. These women take industrial waste, like empty chip bags and fabric pieces, and turn them into beautiful fashion bags and accessories. The project teaches people that "trash" can actually be a useful material. This idea stops tons of waste from going to landfills and helps many women earn money and join the workforce.



Ayvalık, Türkiye



<https://copmadam.com>



Atma Onar Initiative

Atma Onar is a project with the motto "Don't throw it away, repair it; don't hide it, share it." It encourages people to fix their broken items instead of throwing them in the trash. Every month in Repair Cafe in the Ecological Life Center (Kadıköy), they organize repair workshops. In these meetings, volunteer masters teach people how to fix things. This project helps reduce electronic and textile waste and brings the "repair culture" back.



Istanbul, Türkiye



<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6V1dsXobXh/>



Map of Needs (İhtiyaç Haritası)

Map of Needs is a social platform that connects people who need help with people who want to give support. Instead of buying new things, we can share our extra items, like books or clothes, with others through a map-based system. This project helps reduce waste and keeps items in use for a longer time, which is great for the circular economy. It is a big community of volunteers sharing resources.



Istanbul (Headquarters), Nationwide across Türkiye



<https://ihtiyacharitasi.org>



Bursa Shared Bicycle System

The Bursa Shared Bicycle System is a public bike-sharing initiative supported by Bursa Metropolitan Municipality. It provides shared bicycles at multiple stops in the city, such as Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Mudanya, and Gölyazı. Users can rent a bike using a mobile app and return it to any station after use. This service reduces the need for private car trips, lowers emissions, and promotes sustainable transportation that helps keep bicycles in use longer and reduces waste.



Bursa, Türkiye



<https://www.bursa.bel.tr/projeler/paylasimli-bisiklet-uygulamasi-63>



Banaz Agro-Library

This is Turkey's first library focused on agriculture and ecology. It is not just for reading; people come here to exchange local seeds and learn about sustainable farming through workshops. It is a great example of a community space where information meets production cycles. It helps us understand how to protect nature while producing our own food.



Banaz, Türkiye



<https://kygm.ktb.gov.tr>



NEPİZ

The NEPİZ project aims to protect water resources in Turkey from agricultural pollution, particularly by reducing nitrate contamination caused by farming activities. It focuses on creating a reporting system for Nitrate Action Plans in areas vulnerable to nitrate pollution. The project works with government institutions, farmers, local communities and stakeholders to improve water quality, strengthen technical capacity and raise awareness about sustainable agricultural practices.

This system will be integrated into the national Nitrate Information System (NIBIS) to effectively monitor and report water quality changes. It also includes training and awareness activities for farmers and related institutions to ensure long term sustainability.



İzmir, Türkiye



<https://www.nepiz.com/en>



Kadikoy Waste-Free Shop

The Waste-Free Shop is a circular economy initiative launched by Kadıköy Municipality to promote zero-waste and sustainable consumption. As Türkiye's first local government-led waste-free shop, it offers reusable, ecological, and package-free products while supporting local producers, women's labor, and traditional handmade goods. Customers bring their own containers, and refill systems are used to reduce single-use waste.



İstanbul, Türkiye



<https://cevre.kadikoy.bel.tr/proje/atiksiz-yasam-dukkani>



Tarım Kredi Zero Waste Market

The Tarım Kredi Zero Waste Market is a sustainability and awareness initiative developed by the Turkish Agricultural Credit Cooperatives. The concept allows customers to shop without single-use packaging by bringing their own containers. Products such as raw milk, legumes, nuts, detergents, liquid soap, and sunflower oil are sold in bulk or via dispensing machines. By eliminating packaging costs, customers can purchase products at prices approximately 5–20% lower. The market also promotes environmental responsibility through bottle return machines, digital (SMS) receipts instead of printed receipts, and zero-waste retail practices, contributing to reduced packaging waste and environmental protection.



Ankara, Türkiye (planned expansion to: Istanbul, Bursa, Izmir, and Konya)



<https://www.tarimkredi.org.tr>

03

Framework for Action

This framework helps schools move step by step toward circularity. It is designed for schools with different capacities, budgets and levels of experience. Not every school needs to do everything at once. The aim is to support gradual, realistic and meaningful change.





Area A. Leadership and Governance for Circularity

Circularity becomes more sustainable when it is supported by school leadership and integrated into school planning. However, not every school will be ready for a full strategic transformation immediately. This area therefore begins with simple leadership commitments and gradually moves toward whole-school governance.

A1 Circularity as Part of School Mission and Strategy

Level 1: Getting Started

- Include circular economy or sustainability language in school communications, assemblies, newsletters or classroom displays.
- Identify one or two circular priorities for the school year, such as reducing paper waste, starting a book exchange or improving recycling.
- Connect CE actions to existing school values such as responsibility, care, creativity, cooperation and citizenship.

Level 2: Developing

- Add circular economy and sustainability goals to the school development plan.
- Create a small circular school working group including leadership, teachers, students and possibly parents.
- Communicate how CE supports both environmental goals and educational outcomes.
- Encourage departments or year groups to choose one circular action relevant to their subject or age group.

Level 3: Leading

- Develop a whole-school circularity strategy with annual goals, responsible persons and indicators.
- Publish a short circular school commitment or charter.
- Present circularity as part of the school's public identity.
- Support other schools by sharing examples, resources and lessons learned.

A2 Planning and Implementation

Level 1: Getting Started

- **Identify existing strengths**, such as eco-clubs, motivated teachers, recycling systems, gardens or active parent groups.
- **Identify barriers**, such as limited time, lack of budget, lack of space or limited staff knowledge.
- Choose **three realistic actions for the year** rather than trying to implement many activities at once.
- Begin with **pilot actions** in one class, grade level or subject.

Level 2: Developing

- Develop a simple action plan with clear responsibilities, timeline and expected outcomes.
- Involve students in planning circular activities.
- Link circular actions to school events, project weeks, science fairs or community days.
- Recognise staff and student contributions through certificates, assemblies, displays or eco-ambassador roles.

Level 3: Leading

- Integrate circular economy planning into whole-school quality improvement processes.
- Connect circular school actions to local, national or European green transition goals.
- Establish annual circular economy priorities based on self-assessment and monitoring data.
- Include circular economy responsibilities in staff roles or student leadership structures.

A3 Management and Monitoring

Level 1: Getting Started

- Assign one contact person or small team to coordinate circular school activities.
- Keep a simple record of activities, such as photos, student reflections, waste audit results or event summaries.
- Review progress once per term or once per semester.
- Celebrate small successes publicly.

Level 2: Developing

- Define roles for teachers, students, school leaders, non-teaching staff and families.
- Monitor selected indicators, such as paper use, waste reduction, number of reused items or student participation.
- Evaluate pilot initiatives before scaling them.
- Use student feedback to improve future actions.

Level 3: Leading

- Allocate dedicated staff time or small budgets for circular economy activities.
- Join eco-certification or sustainability recognition schemes.
- Publish an annual circular school progress report.
- Use circular economy indicators as part of broader school sustainability monitoring.



Area B. Teaching, Curriculum & Professional Development

Circular economy should become part of learning, not only school operations. Circular economy can be integrated into many subjects. Students need opportunities to understand systems, question consumption patterns, design solutions and act responsibly.

B1 Curriculum Integration and Learning Resources

Level 1: Getting Started	• Use open educational resources on circular economy and sustainability. • Integrate CE examples into existing lessons. • Organise short project weeks or class challenges. • Map where CE already fits into subjects and grade levels. Connect CE to national curriculum topics where possible.
Level 2: Developing	• Develop interdisciplinary units around circular themes. • Develop shared lesson plans or project templates. • Encourage students to co-create learning resources, such as posters, videos, guides or presentations. • Link CE to existing competence frameworks.
Level 3: Leading	• Redesign parts of the curriculum around circular themes. • Develop progression from basic CE awareness to advanced systems thinking. • Share curriculum resources with other schools or networks. • Establish circular learning labs or maker spaces. • Partner with municipalities or circular businesses for innovation projects.

Subject	Circular Economy Connection
Science	Materials, ecosystems, energy, waste, biodegradation
Geography	Resource use, global supply chains, climate change, land use
Mathematics	Measuring waste, calculating savings, analysing data
Art	Upcycling, eco-design, sustainable materials
Economics	Consumption, production, sharing economy, green jobs
Citizenship	Responsibility, participation, ethical choices, community action
Languages	Campaign writing, debates, presentations, storytelling
History	Changes in consumption, traditional repair and reuse practices
ICT	Digital campaigns, data tracking, responsible e-waste management

B2 Circular Economy Competence Development

Level 1: Getting Started

- Explain the basic difference between a linear economy and a circular economy.
- Recognise everyday examples of waste and resource use.
- Identify ways to reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, share and rethink.
- Reflect on their own consumption choices.

Level 2: Developing

- Analyse the lifecycle of products.
- Compare different solutions based on environmental, social and economic impact.
- Work collaboratively to solve real problems.
- Understand ethical consumption and responsible decision-making.

Level 3: Leading

- Design circular solutions for school or community challenges.
- Use data to evaluate environmental impact.
- Communicate circular economy solutions to different audiences.
- Take leadership roles in school and community initiatives.

B3 Professional Development

Level 1: Getting Started

- Share short introductory CE resources with teachers.
- Organise a brief staff meeting or workshop on circular economy basics.
- Encourage teachers to exchange simple lesson ideas.
- Create a shared folder with CE activities, videos and examples.

Level 2: Developing

- Provide peer learning sessions where teachers present successful classroom activities.
- Connect CE to existing professional development on sustainability, climate education, citizenship or project-based learning.
- Encourage teachers to adapt open educational resources.
- Involve non-teaching staff, such as maintenance, canteen or administrative staff, in relevant training.

Level 3: Leading

- Join national or European learning networks on sustainability and circular economy.
- Include circular economy in staff development plans.
- Support teacher participation in Erasmus+ training, eTwinning projects or sustainability networks.
- Develop internal mentoring for teachers new to CE.



Area C. Assessment Practices

Assessment helps students understand what they are learning and how their actions create impact. Circular economy assessment should value creativity, collaboration, feasibility, reflection and real-world problem-solving.

C1 Learning Assessment in Circular Economy

Level 1: Getting Started

- Use simple rubrics for CE projects.
- Ask students to reflect on what they learned and what they would improve.
- Assess teamwork, creativity and problem-solving.
- Use oral presentations, posters or short reports.

Level 2: Developing

- Include self-assessment and peer assessment.
- Ask students to evaluate the feasibility and impact of their proposed solutions.
- Use eco-portfolios where students collect evidence of learning.
- Connect CE projects to subject-specific learning outcomes.

Level 3: Leading

- Develop CE learning pathways across several grade levels.
- Use systems thinking tools such as lifecycle mapping or cause-and-effect diagrams.
- Create living labs where students test solutions in real school settings.
- Involve external experts, local businesses or municipalities in learning activities.

C2 Recognising Informal and Non-formal CE Learning

Level 1: Getting Started

- Recognise student participation in eco-clubs, clean-up days, swaps or repair activities
- Display student contributions publicly
- Give certificates or verbal recognition for active participation

Level 2: Developing

- Link informal activities to classroom learning
- Ask students to reflect on what they learned from community or school-based activities
- Include CE participation in portfolios or project documentation
- Encourage students to present their activities to younger pupils or families

Level 3: Leading

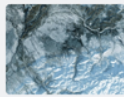
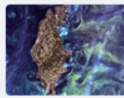
- Create micro-credentials, badges or student ambassador roles
- Recognise CE leadership as part of student development
- Collaborate with local organisations to validate community-based learning
- Include non-formal CE learning in broader sustainability education pathways

Circular Economy Learning Resources

Ellen Macarthur Foundation: Circular economy courses

								
This deep dive explores how applying the principles of the circular economy to urban development...	This deep dive covers the role of design in creating a circular economy.	This deep dive explores how the principles of the circular economy can be applied to the fashion...	Changing our food system is one of the most impactful things we can do to address climate change...	Learn how to effectively communicate and present circular economy ideas.	Is it possible to rethink the way we design, use, and reuse plastics to create a circular economy...	How and why systems and systems thinking are so integral to the circular economy concept.	This deep dive explores the nuances of the concept of a circular economy.	This deep dive is designed to help you bring circular economy ideas in your organisation.

TU Delft: Circularity for Educators

	Contextualizing Circularity in the Architectural Discourse Check this section on the relation of circularity to systems theory and complexity theory but also to sustainability and the water-food-energy nexus. Trace the origins of green architecture and the historical foundations of circularity.		Circular Definitions Check this section on circular definitions to get better acquainted with terms that have a proven value of representing circularity in the built environment. Learn about the different materials and the design choices at hand.		Circularity in Architecture and the Built Sciences Check this section features to connect to the Circular Design Atlas and practitioners' interviews. Learn about the implications of applying circular principles to design.
	An Interdisciplinary Approach to Circularity Check this section to learn about cross-disciplinary framings of circularity. All resources in this unit unravel the complex encounters between scales and aspects.		New Horizons Check this section to get familiar with the A+BEE Faculty ongoing doctoral research on circularity.		Circular Stories Check this section to explore restorative and regenerative ecosystems in the built environment.

DelftX: Circular Economy: An Introduction

Episode 1: What is the circular economy?

How can the circular economy provide solutions to the challenges our current, linear economy brings? We explore the roots of the circular economy together with experts in the fields of industrial ecology, cradle to cradle and biomimicry.

Episode 3: Longer lasting products

The smaller the loop, the greater the profitability of the system. We look at product life extension through the eyes of designers and entrepreneurs. Join us in our repair café!

Episode 5: Waste equals Food

This episode discusses how we can take inspiration from nature, when redesigning the way we deal with waste. We'll present a fascinating circular case study. Can you identify opportunities for change in your own area's?

Episode 2: Business value in a circular economy

Through closed loop supply chains and reversed logistics, new opportunities for business are created. This episode explores value creation and new business models in a circular economy.

Episode 4: Remanufacturing

Remanufacturing enables companies to recapture value on a product or component level. It is currently being rediscovered as a promising business opportunity. We'll explore the topic together with researchers and entrepreneurs.

Episode 6: Thinking in systems

The shift from linear to circular should not be underestimated. This episode will discuss the extent and duration of the transition. It will also ask, is the circular economy really sustainable?



Area D. Collaboration, Networks and Communication

Circular economy is stronger when schools work with families, local communities and external partners. However, collaboration should begin with simple, realistic steps.

D1 Internal and External Collaboration & Partnerships

Level 1: Getting Started

- Invite families to participate in simple activities such as book swaps, clothes swaps or recycled-material collections
- Involve school maintenance, canteen or administrative staff in practical discussions
- Create a student eco-team or CE ambassador group
- Identify possible local partners, such as libraries, NGOs, recycling centres, farms, repair shops or municipalities – invite one partner to contribute to a lesson/event

Level 2: Developing

- Organise parent workshops on repair, reuse, sustainable consumption or food waste
- Invite community members to share practical skills such as sewing, repairing, or gardening
- Partner with local farms or gardens for composting or food education
- Develop small joint projects with local stakeholders
- Connect with other schools working on sustainability

Level 3: Leading

- Develop long-term partnerships and community circularity projects
- Participate in Erasmus+, eTwinning or European sustainability projects
- Create and maintain a school-based “library of things” for shared tools, games, sports equipment or learning materials
- Establish a second-hand uniform, textbook or device exchange system
- Become a community hub for circular learning

D2 Strategic Communication

Level 1: Getting Started

- Share CE activities through newsletters, displays or assemblies
- Display insightful infographics about CE around the school
- Celebrate student work publicly (e.g. award students in school ceremonies who are responsible for planning and managing CE projects in the school, such as the library of things)
- Create a CE noticeboard or digital page

Level 2: Developing

- Develop a basic communication plan for CE activities
- Involve students in writing articles, creating posters or managing campaign messages
- Share progress with families and local partners
- Use before-and-after examples to show impact

Level 3: Leading

- Create a circular school brand or campaign identity
- Share results through social media, local media or partner networks
- Present CE actions at community events
- Support students to act as CE ambassadors in public forums

Communication Checklist

Before communicating a CE activity, consider:

- What problem are we addressing?
- What action did students or staff take?
- What did we learn?
- What impact did it have?
- How can families or the community join?
- What is our next step?

Tips for Effective Communication

1. Use simple, relatable language

Avoid jargon like "closed-loop systems" unless you explain it.

2. Focus on positive action, not guilt

People respond better to encouragement than blame.

3. Be honest and specific

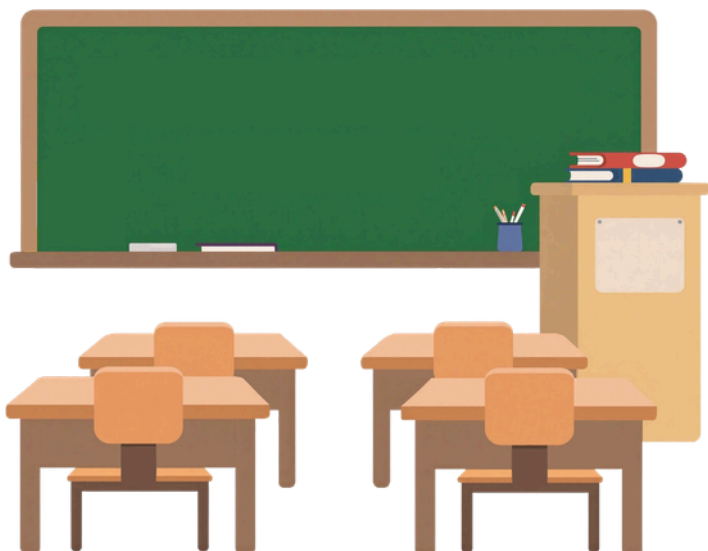
Avoid vague claims like "We are a sustainable school." Instead say: "We collected 150 used books for reuse."

4. Celebrate progress

Share wins regularly with students, parents, staff, and the community. Recognise classes, clubs, or individuals who contribute.

5. Make students the messengers

Let students create posters, videos, newsletters, or social media content about circularity.



Area E. Infrastructure and Operations

Circular economy becomes visible when school operations reflect circular values. However, major infrastructure changes may be expensive or unrealistic for many schools. This area therefore includes low-cost starting points as well as more advanced options.

E1 Green Infrastructure and Circular Operations

Level 1: Getting Started

- Reduce unnecessary printing and paper use
- Encourage reusable bottles, lunchboxes and classroom materials
- Organise regular checks of unused or surplus supplies
- Promote repair before replacement where possible
- Start simple waste separation if local systems allow it

Level 2: Developing

- Introduce green purchasing principles, such as choosing durable, repairable, reusable or recycled products
- Develop repair procedures for furniture, equipment or digital devices
- Minimise single-use items at school events
- Introduce composting where feasible
- Monitor basic indicators such as waste volume, energy use or paper consumption

Level 3: Leading

- Develop a formal circular procurement policy
- Explore product-as-a-service models, such as leasing printers or lighting, where appropriate
- Work with suppliers that take responsibility for repair, maintenance or end-of-life recovery
- Track circular operation KPIs and report progress
- Renovate or redesign spaces using circular design principles

E2 Physical and Virtual Spaces for Circular Economy

Level 1: Getting Started

- Create clearly labelled recycling points
- Set up a reuse box for paper, craft materials or classroom supplies
- Create a small repair or upcycling corner
- Display student CE projects in corridors or classrooms
- Use a bookshelf or table for book exchange

Level 2: Developing

- Develop a resource room or shared materials area
- Use the school garden, canteen, library or workshop as a CE learning space
- Create exhibitions of upcycled products and student innovations
- Use simple digital tools, such as shared spreadsheets, to track activities

Level 3: Leading

- Transform gardens, labs, maker spaces or canteens into circular learning hubs
- Use digital dashboards for energy, water or waste tracking
- Create a circular innovation space for student design challenges
- Make CE practices visible throughout the school building

Implementation Roadmap

STEP 1: CREATE A CIRCULAR SCHOOL TEAM

- Invite members from different parts of the school community.
- Agree on the team's role and meeting frequency.
- Choose one coordinator.
- Hold a first meeting to discuss circularity in the school.

1

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE READINESS ASSESSMENT

- Use the [assessment tool](#) to evaluate the school's current readiness level.
- Collect input from teachers, students, families, and operational staff.
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement.

2

STEP 3: SELECT 2-3 PRIORITY AREAS

- Use the results of the Readiness Assessment to identify 2-3 conditions that need strengthening before or alongside implementation.
- Examples may include: building staff knowledge and confidence, creating opportunities for student participation, improving collaboration across departments
- For each readiness priority:
 - Identify the specific barrier.
 - Decide what needs to change.
 - Agree on one or more actions to strengthen readiness.
 - Assign responsibility.
 - Set a timeframe.

3

STEP 4: LAUNCH ONE QUICK-WIN ACTION

Choose one action that is easy to start and visible to the school community.

Examples:

- Organise a one-week food waste measurement.
- Start a classroom paper-saving challenge.
- Launch a school swap box for books or supplies.

4

STEP 5: INTEGRATE CIRCULARITY INTO TEACHING

- Identify where circular economy topics fit into existing subjects.
- Include at least one circular activity [in different subject areas](#).
- Use real school data where possible, such as waste, water, energy, or food consumption.

5

STEP 6: IMPROVE SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- Review current waste, energy, water, food, and procurement practices.
- Introduce practical improvements.
- Examples:
 - Reduce single-use items at events.
 - Repair furniture or equipment before replacing it.
 - Choose durable, reusable, or recycled materials when purchasing.

6

STEP 7: ENGAGE FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

- Invite families to participate in a circular challenge or school event.
- Share simple home actions through newsletters or school channels.
- Organise one community-based activity.
- Examples:
 - Family food waste challenge
 - Clothes or book swap event
 - Repair café
 - Gardening day
 - "No-buy weekend" campaign
 - Local circular initiatives map created by students

7

STEP 8: MONITOR PROGRESS AND CELEBRATE RESULTS

- Review what has changed.
- Compare results with the initial readiness assessment.
- Collect student and family feedback.
- Celebrate achievements publicly.

8

Circular School Readiness Assessment

Before beginning your circular school journey, it is helpful to understand your school's readiness for change. Readiness is not about how many circular initiatives you already have; it is about whether the people, structures, and conditions are in place to successfully introduce them.

Complete this assessment as a team, involving school leaders, teachers, operational staff, students, and, where possible, parents.

Scoring

1 (Strongly disagree): This is currently not in place.

2 (Disagree): Some elements exist, but significant preparation is needed.

3 (Agree): The school is mostly ready, with a few areas needing strengthening.

4 (Strongly agree): This condition is fully in place and will support successful implementation.

Leadership Commitment	1	2	3	4
School leadership is committed to introducing circular economy practices.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leadership is willing to allocate time for planning and coordination.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Circularity aligns with our school's vision or development priorities.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leadership encourages innovation and experimentation.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Staff Readiness	1	2	3	4
Staff are open to trying new teaching approaches.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teachers are willing to collaborate across subjects.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staff are interested in learning more about circular economy concepts.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staff feel supported when introducing new initiatives.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Student Engagement Potential	1	2	3	4
Students are encouraged to ideate and participate in school improvement.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Students are interested in sustainability or environmental topics.	☐	☐	☐	☐
The school already has structures where students can take responsibility.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Students are generally receptive to project-based learning.	☐	☐	☐	☐

School Culture

	1	2	3	4
Staff work well together across departments.	☐	☐	☐	☐
New ideas are welcomed within the school community.	☐	☐	☐	☐
The school values participation and shared decision-making.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sustainability is generally viewed positively within the school community.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Resources and Capacity

	1	2	3	4
Staff have enough time to participate in at least one circular initiative.	☐	☐	☐	☐
The school can allocate small financial or material resources if needed.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Suitable spaces are available for activities (workshop, outdoor areas, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staff know where and how to find support or external partners if needed.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Family and Community Support

	1	2	3	4
Families are generally supportive of school initiatives and like to participate.	☐	☐	☐	☐
The school has good communication with parents.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local organisations/municipalities could potentially support circular activities.	☐	☐	☐	☐
The school is willing to involve families and community partners.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Results

72–96 points: Highly Ready

Your school has strong foundations for introducing circular economy practices. Focus on selecting priorities and starting implementation.

48–71 points: Ready with Some Preparation

Your school is well-positioned to begin, but addressing a few organisational or capacity-related issues will make implementation smoother.

24–47 points: Building Readiness

Before launching larger initiatives, focus on strengthening leadership commitment, staff engagement, or partnerships. Starting with one small pilot project can help build confidence.

Reflection

After completing the assessment, discuss the following:

- What are our school's biggest strengths?
- What barriers might prevent successful implementation?
- What support do teachers and staff need?
- Who could become champions for circularity?
- Which readiness area should we strengthen before beginning the implementation roadmap?

Best Practices Across Europe



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BARCELONA (SPAIN)

The school joined Eco-Schools in 2019 and created a multi-stakeholder Eco-Committee including students, parents, teachers, administrators and staff. A student-led high-school EcoClub works alongside it. The school reports audits of general waste, food waste and copier/printer use, followed by actions such as reducing single-use cups, installing bottle fillers and collecting cooking oil and plastic caps. It received the Eco-Schools Green Flag in 2023.

Learn more about the school's program [here](#).

TALLINN ENGLISH COLLEGE (ESTONIA)

The school hosted Estonia's first Canteen Days event, bringing together students, teachers, cooks, parents and the wider community to prepare, taste and discuss healthy and sustainable meals. In 2024, it was one of the first Estonian schools awarded bronze level under the SchoolFood4Change Whole School Food Approach, which uses 17 criteria across policy and leadership, food and sustainability, education and learning, and community partnership.

Learn more about the initiative [here](#).



ANTONIO BRANCATI SECONDARY SCHOOL (ITALY)

The City of Pesaro's tender for the school required verified environmental information for key materials and at least 15% recovered or recycled content by weight. During construction, 98% of 556,630 kg of construction and demolition waste was recycled or recovered. The completed school achieved LEED Platinum, collects rainwater for irrigation and uses water-saving fittings reported to cut water use by 50%.

Learn more about this public procurement process [here](#).

LANCASTER GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL (UNITED KINGDOM)

The student Eco-Committee researched fast fashion, prepared and delivered an assembly on its impacts, then organised a clothes swap and collected preloved prom dresses for Year 13 leavers. Eco-Schools England recognised the work with its 2024 Global Citizenship Topic Award.

You can find more eco award-winning schools [here](#).



Best Practices Across Europe

GREAT OAKS SMALL SCHOOL (UNITED KINGDOM)

With only 40 pupils, the school placed environmental action at the centre of school life. Its documented 2023-24 activities included composting, growing fruit and vegetables, propagating plants, managing woodland and turning home-grown gourds into musical instruments. Eco-Schools England named it an Eco-School of the Year in 2024.

You can find more eco award-winning schools [here](#).



RADOJE ČIZMOVIĆ PRIMARY SCHOOL (MONTENEGRO)

The school created an eco-remediation demonstration site in its grounds. A planted reed system treats school wastewater, which is then used to irrigate an orchard and vegetable garden. Pupils learn about the process on site; each class plants a fruit tree in a 'Generation Orchard' and vegetable crops are rotated.

Learn more about the initiative [here](#).



GÖTAFORS SCHOOL (SWEDEN)

Götafors School uses a modular, rented-building model intended to provide space for as long as it is needed. The school received BREEAM In-Use Outstanding certification, with top scores reported for daylight, energy efficiency, water management and pollution control. The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform presents it as a circular construction good practice.

Learn more about the school building [here](#).



SECONDARY SCHOOL OF GAFANHA DA NAZARÉ (PORTUGAL)

The school's GafeBikeLab engages ten students aged 13-17, supported by a senior teacher, the City of Ílhavo, the University of Aveiro and local partners. Students carry out small bicycle repairs free of charge and build bicycles from donated used materials. In 2019, completed bicycles were given to students in need and to the city hall.

Learn more about the initiative [here](#).



04

Visual Aids & Resources



Weekday Meal Planner

DATE: _____

MONDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
TUESDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
WEDNESDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
THURSDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
FRIDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
SATURDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES
SUNDAY	BREAKFAST
	LUNCH
	DINNER
	SNACKS
	NOTES

SHOPPING LIST

[illegible]

NOTES

A 10x10 grid of dots on a black background. The dots are arranged in a regular pattern, with 10 dots per row and 10 dots per column, totaling 100 dots. The dots are small, black, and evenly spaced.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR DEVICES



01

Clean Regularly

Wipe screens weekly with microfiber cloth. Use compressed air for ports and keyboards.

02

Manage Temperature

Keep devices on hard surfaces for airflow. Avoid direct sunlight and hot cars.

03

Care for Battery

Charge at 20%, unplug around 80-100%. Use original or certified chargers only.

04

Protect Physically

Use cases and screen protectors. Keep liquids away from all devices.

05

Maintain Software

Update regularly. Remove unused apps. Keep 10-20% storage free.

ZERO WASTE MADE SIMPLE **PRACTICAL GUIDE**

FOR EVERYDAY LIFE



Start small, build better habits, and
make less trash every day.

1. Little habits, big difference

Choose loose
produce, avoid
plastic wrap



Carry your own
tumbler and
utensils

Carry your own
tumbler and
utensils

Learn what your
city actually
recycles

2. Simple swaps, big impact



Plastic wrap to
Beeswax wrap



Liquid soap to
Bar soap



Ziploc bag to
reuse pouch

3. Steps forward, not flawless



Aim for “low
waste” instead



Reuse before
recycling



You spark the
difference.



START SMALL, STAY CONSISTENT



Stop Wasting Food

A Global Crisis

FACT
1/3

of all food produced
is wasted each year



1.3
billion

tons of food is
wasted annually

Where Food Waste Happens?



61%

Households

food waste occurs at home



26%

Food Service

restaurants and caterers



13%

Retail & Distribution

storage, transportation,
or at supermarkets

Environmental Impact



Landfill Waste

Food waste accounts
for 24% of landfill
content



Greenhouse Gases

Third-largest emitter of
greenhouse gases.



Water Waste

25% of freshwater is
used to produce
wasted food

Types of Food Wasted

Fruits and
Vegetables



40%

Dairy
Products



20%

Meat
Products



20%

Food Waste Solutions

At Home

- Plan meals
- Store properly
- Compost

For Businesses

- Donate surplus food
- Optimize supply chains

Government Initiatives

- Implement food recovery policies
- Incentivize businesses to reduce food waste

Together, we can cut food waste
by 50% by 2030!



REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE TO REDUCE YOUR IMPACT

10%

Food loss and waste generates up to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions – almost five times the total emissions compared to the aviation sector.

1/5

One-fifth of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. This amounts to one billion meals a day.

Did you know?
Rotting food waste creates methane gas, which is more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide.

Your Guide to TRAVELING SUSTAINABLY

Travel with the Planet in Mind



CHOOSE ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

Opt for trains, buses, or carpooling instead of flights or solo driving. Using public transport or sharing rides helps reduce carbon emissions and minimize environmental impact.



PACK LIGHT

Traveling with less weight reduces fuel consumption in planes, trains, or cars. Only pack what you need and opt for eco-friendly travel accessories.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Buying local products and services helps boost the local economy. Shop and eat at local businesses to help the community and reduce the impact of imported goods.



REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

Bring reusable water bottles, bags, and containers. Avoid single-use plastics like bottles or takeout containers to help reduce waste on your travels.

Respect Nature and Wildlife

Stay on marked paths, do not disturb animals, and avoid picking plants. Leave no trace of your visit to help preserve natural landscapes for future generations.



CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Look for eco-certified hotels or lodges that follow sustainable practices, such as using renewable energy, reducing water usage, and minimizing waste.

MAKE SMALL TRAVEL CHANGES TO PROTECT THE PLANET AND ENJOY RESPONSIBLE ADVENTURES.

