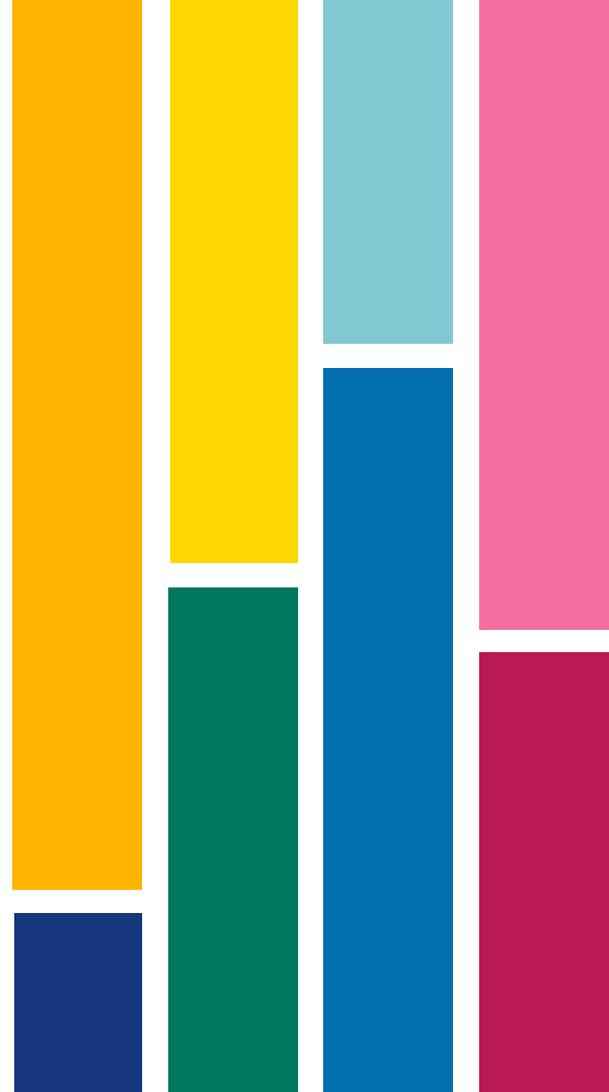




Boosting circularity in cities with the European Green Deal

Louise Coffineau
Policy Advisor for Environment & Climate
Eurocities



Cities are climate leaders but have been hardly hit by the covid19 crisis

- In 2019, 64% of Eurocities members had already committed to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- But the covid19 outbreak has been a game-changer.



Far from deviating from their sustainable goals, cities have committed to **build back better**

At Eurocities, we believe that circular economy should be at the core of the covid19 recovery.



In March 2020, the Commission published its Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0

Including a set of EU
initiatives to
accelerate the
transition towards
circular economy

- Legislative proposal for a sustainable product policy initiative
- Legislative and non-legislative measures establishing a new “right to repair”
- EU-wide harmonised model for separate collection of waste
- Restriction of intentionally added microplastics and measures on unintentional release of microplastics
- Policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics
- EU Strategy for Textiles
- Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment

How to transform the crisis into an opportunity thanks to CE?

- Waste as a valuable resource:
 - Circular product design
 - **Right to repair**
 - Biowaste
- Circular construction:
 - Leading to green jobs
- New circular business models:
 - Doughnut economics



Right to repair in Ljubljana

- Less than 5% of waste in Ljubljana ends up in landfill
- 75% of waste is recycled
- The mantra 'Rethink, Reuse, Recycle' is key
- Upscaling via 'Repair Café'

How can the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) boost repairability in cities?



How to transform the crisis into an opportunity thanks to CE?

- Waste as a valuable resource
 - Circular product design
 - Right to repair
 - **Biowaste**
- Circular construction
 - Leading to green jobs
- New circular business models
 - Doughnut economics



Biowaste in Porto

- Municipal organic waste and food by-products are collected in Porto
- It's converted in compost-like products
- Added-values:
 - Environmental as it contributes nutrients and to build soil health
 - Economic value as the final product is sold;
 - And as it helps cover the costs of scaling separate organics collection

How can the CEAP boost the reuse of biowaste in cities?



How to transform the crisis into an opportunity thanks to CE?

- Waste as a valuable resource
 - Circular product design
 - Right to repair
 - Biowaste
- **Circular construction**
 - Leading to green jobs
- New circular business models
 - Doughnut economics



Circular construction in Helsinki

Apply circular principles to planning and implementing new construction and renovation projects:

- modularity, repairability;
- use of recycled or repurposed materials;
- ease of demolition and reusability;
- digital logbooks, etc.

What can the CEAP do to boost circular construction?



How to transform the crisis into an opportunity thanks to CE?

- Waste as a valuable resource
 - Circular product design
 - Right to repair
 - Biowaste
- Circular construction
 - Leading to green jobs
- New circular business models
 - **Doughnut economics**



Doughnut economics in Amsterdam

- Objective: help city thrive in balance with planet
- All public decisions in Amsterdam should embrace the Doughnut model as from 2020

What can the Circular Economy Action Plan do to boost doughnut models?



The Green Deal has laid the foundations to speed up the transition to circular economy. It must accompany cities in their transition.

But many challenges remain

(e.g. finance circular business models, collaborate across the value chains and across levels of governments, understand CE in an integrated & systemic way, support behavioural change, work on circular public procurements, etc.)



Cities can do a lot to speed up the transition to a circular economy, and the new CEAP seems to be a good framework to enable cities to deploy their full potential.

But to make sure that the transformations really happen, it is necessary that the Recovery and Resilience Facility money is directly allocated to cities to:

- 1) Recover from the crisis in a sustainable way and;
- 2) Start building the cities of the future that are circular, sustainable, digital and inclusive.



Thanks a lot for your attention!

Louise Coffineau

Louise.coffineau@eurocities.eu