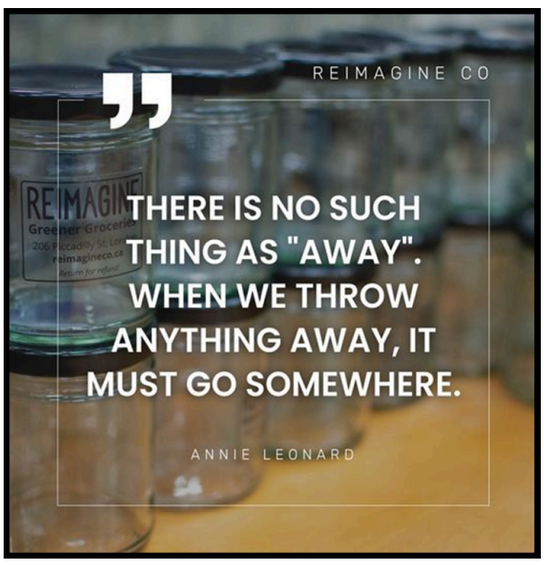
A CIRCULAR ECONOMY is a 'regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emissions, and energy leakages are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing material and energy loops'.

Learn more

Why Talk About Circular Economy?

Practices concerned with the circular economy serve humanity and the world by providing economic benefits that benefit society and the environment, fulfilling the triple bottom line.



Currently, our economic practices follow a **linear progression** where materials are used and waste is produced continually. This is suffocating our bounds of economic expansion as the environment suffers from overuse.

The model of a circular economy focuses on a system of production and consumption that minimizes and chiefly re-implements waste into the production cycle, curtailing environmental harm and capitalizing on sustainable resources.

It is a tool under the umbrella of sustainable practices that will help humanity build strong socioeconomic and environmental foundations for future generations.

Origin of term	SUSTAINABILITY Environmental Movement	CIRCULAR ECONOMY Cradle-to-cradle, regulatory, NGOs, political agendas
Goals	Open-ended	Closed loop, efficiencies
Main motivation	Diverse, adaptive	Better use of resources
System prioritized	Triple bottom line	Economic system
Benefactor	Environment, economy and society at large	Economic at core but also environment, and society
Who influences	Diffused, all stakeholders	Governments, companies, regulators, NGOs
Change timeframe	Open-ended	Theoretical limits
Commitments	Less waste good for many	Less consumption, pollution

(Geissdoerfer, Savaget, Bocken, Hultink, 2017).

Goals of a Circular Economy

Circular economy's main goal is reduce waste to a minimum.

Waste is a big issue locally...

As of January 2024, baby diapers, incontinence products, and pet waste is not permitted in green bins at this time toward London's 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan.

A landfill expansion plan is in the works as the site was expected to reach capacity by 2024.

As well as globally.

An ever-growing demand for resources on a finite planet does not account for a balance.

Every day, pollution continues to impact land, oceans, air, water...

Waste remains a problem.

The City Cannot Do It All; the Community Is a Key Stakeholder

Municipalities have direct and indirect control and influence over up to 50% of emissions in Canada. London declared a climate emergency in 2019, recognizing the potential for additional strategies to reduce emissions.

One of the City's **priorities** is London moving towards a circular economy that supports sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as much as possible.

But the city cannot do it all – the Community is a key stakeholder.

The people of London have already kick-started initiatives to address the problem...

Reimagine's The Thing Library

Borrow rather than buy...

From tools to tents, the Thing Library is a space to share items communally. Save money, space, and the environment!

Currently over:

500 tools

120 members

Reimagine's Repair Cafés

A monthly event where skilled community members volunteer to help others repair their household items, reducing waste.

There are repairs for items like toaster ovens, curling irons, clocks, lamps, jeans, purses, coats, chairs, radios, microwaves, and so on.

Take part in London's community of circular economists!

The Impact of Circular Economy

TREA has been working to promote a circular economy in London through their Circular Economy Month workshops (as pictured below) and other informational sessions. There are many benefits to such a socioeconomic model...

Circular economy benefits the environment by...

- avoiding the 'take-make-waste' pipeline of resources
- reducing emissions
- using less waste and water
- reducing biodiversity and ecosystem impacts

Circular economy benefits the economy by...

- raising productivity
- optimizing resources, both natural and human
- using the 'cradle to cradle' model, which promotes sustainability
- Increasing efficiency in resource management through reusing parts, utility sharing, and service sharing

This is a model of economy that aims to reduce negative effects on soil fertility and biodiversity, preserve resource stocks, and avoid increasing the toxicity of land, water, and air.

TREA has been performing circular economy practices by composting and recycling at various city events!

Circular Economy: Some Considerations

Social impacts are largely omitted from discussions and studies relating to circular economy. While this model can

have positive impacts on the economy, do these benefits come at the cost of certain societal metrics? For example, how does circular economy affect affordability?

Some circular economy programs target the common problem of **food waste and distribution.** What social and ethical implications do these programs raise?

Assessment of the circular economy tends to build on a linear stream of 'materials and energy between **nature** and **economy**'. However, as consumption habits increase and biodiversity declines, the Earth is being drained of resources.

Circular economy focuses on creating as well as extending the life cycles of products. A new life cycle is created through remanufacturing and refurbishment, which extends the life cycle of a product's parts. This is different from extending the life cycle of the product itself, which is achieved through durable materials, simple repairability, and direct reuse. Circular economy makes use of both methods to achieve its goals.

> If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production.
>
> — Pete Seeger

Thames Region Ecological Association

About

Who are we

History

Become a volunteer

Contact Us

Phone: (519) 645-2845

Email: info@trea.ca

Instagram: @trea.ontario

Facebook: TREA Ontario

X: @TREAontario