

The future is Circular

**European Sustainable Cities
Platform**

27th of July 2019

Circular Berlin: the future is Circular!



Cities are the major centers of the human population, economic capital, natural resource usage, and waste generation. Thus, there is a strong demand for alternative solutions for city development. These include replicable green infrastructure solutions to tackle city challenges such as pollution, extreme heat events, water scarcity, flooding, loss of biodiversity, and reduced access to green spaces.

The circular economy approach offers such solutions and increases the integration of city systems, focusing on the impact of social metabolism. The most powerful way to enhance the systems is to connect their inputs, outputs, and information, and create conditions to respond to changing stresses. It focuses on city-wide systems and networks such as water, energy, and materials while incorporating aspects of local skills, transport, education, health, communities, recreational activities, and other city services.

For the effective city transformation collaborative way of work of local stakeholders throughout the value chain is a crucial step to achieve fast and radical change. Currently, the fragmented nature of the industry prevents implementation of circular building blocks by separating decision-makers from the long-term consequences of their decisions. Collaboration around common preferred outcomes is required to respond to this. It helps build trust and increase engagement between supply chain partners throughout the process and beyond. This, in turn, will help all actors, both in the private and public sectors, to realize greater economic value from a more systemic, whole-life cycle industry approach. Nevertheless, to achieve collaborative work remains a challenge and has to be started locally, including local communities into the decision-making process. It requires also a mind shift from individual corporate solutions towards mutually beneficial development. Local solutions enable a meaningful vision, because of the direct impact within the local environment.

We strongly believe that the circular city is the future concept for resistant and less resource intensive urban environment.

Our role for European Sustainable Cities Platform

Circular Berlin is actively involved in the Berlin urban life since end 2017, shaping such fields as a built environment, food, textile and materials through the Circular Economy (CE) concept. Moving from theory into practice we connect local actors, support their growth through collaboration and advocate the circular economy through education and community-building in Berlin. The objective of our work is to create a bottom-up community-driven approach for Berlin to close the gaps on the city level that remain hindrances for circularity. Our approach consists of 3 main pillars:

1. Multi-stakeholder engagement.

Starting from the last year November we run 4 sector specific multi-stakeholder workshops, that aimed to identify current gaps for implementing CE in each of the sectors. 4 Industry workshops brought local CE stakeholders, including Berlin municipalities (District and Council level). We established a dialog with Berlin Senat for Environment, Transportation and Climate change, as well as Berlin Senat for Economic Development; as well initiated the discussion on the District level, such as Districts of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. In the workshops, the local Circular Economy players together with industry experts discussed challenges in Berlin to enhance the circular economy.

2. Understanding the Circular Economy community.

From this year March, we started working closely with Berlin CE community, providing monthly events, showcasing solutions, organizing tours, educating CE community about methods in Circular economy. This approach was needed in order firstly to bring visibility for local players and their innovative work, and also to support them in the collaborative work.

3. Project development for Circular economy in Berlin.

After the gaps identification on the city level and closer engagement with the CE community we are ready to jump into the extensive phase for Berlin project development towards solutions search on the urban level. Currently one of our projects, we run together with Climate-KIC is about Berlin Circular Construction ecosystem. .



circular
BERLIN

Circular Berlin is network of professionals and organizations with the goal to accelerate Berlin's transition to a circular city.

We connect local actors and support their growth through collaboration.

We advocate the circular economy through education and community-building.

We develop knowledge and help organizations become more circular, from ideation to implementation.

Taking a city-level perspective, we work on strategy, urban planning, industrial and digital design, supply & value chain.



Built environment



Product and materials

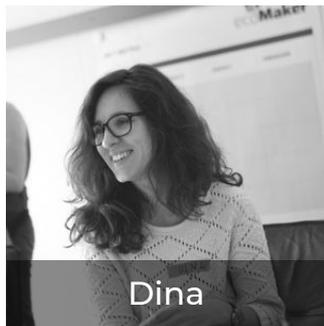


Food and biomass



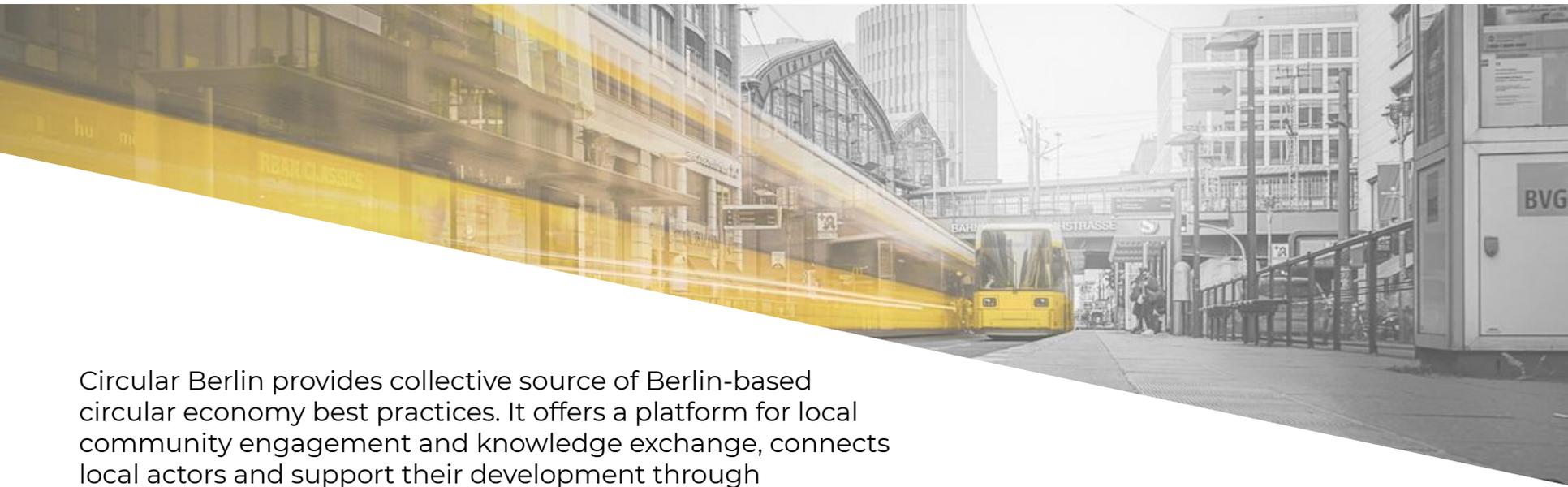
Textile and fashion

Get to know us!



Our partners





Circular Berlin provides collective source of Berlin-based circular economy best practices. It offers a platform for local community engagement and knowledge exchange, connects local actors and support their development through collaboration.

www.circular.berlin