

# Empowering Cities for Circular Transformation

**To live in a truly sustainable society, we need to separate economic growth and human well-being from resource depletion and environmental degradation. This means replacing the linear "produce, consume, discard" economic model with a circular model.**

The transition to a circular economy endorses business models and economic behaviour patterns which maintain the value and utility of products, components, materials and nutrients for as long as possible in order to close material loops and minimise the use of harmful resources and the generation of waste.

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability believes that while cities are the largest consumers of energy and materials, they also offer an opportunity to manage resources better and more efficiently.



Our experts in circular economy offer training and technical assistance to local and regional governments and represent them in European and global policy processes in order to:

- ✦ Support local governments identify and employ the full range of levers at their disposal to promote the transition to a circular economy.
- ✦ Input into the development of local Circular Economic Action Plans, and the implementation of Circular Systemic Solutions.
- ✦ Ensure the circular transition is understood and positioned within an effective European multi-level governance dialogue.

*“Cities embracing the circular economy model can unlock economic opportunities by promoting local businesses, creating green jobs, and attracting investments in innovative and sustainable industries.”*

**Minna Arve,  
Mayor of Turku  
(Finland)**



## ICLEI'S STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT

ICLEI involvement in strategic frameworks, initiatives and campaigns:

- ✦ **European Circular Cities Declaration (CCD)** – launched by ICLEI in 2020, in collaboration with a wide range of European stakeholders, including the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the EIB, EESC, Eurocities, Circle Economy, Metabolic, CSCP and others. This invites cities and regions to sign up to 10 commitments designed to promote the transition to a circular economy. So far 75 city and regional administrations have signed the Declaration.
- ✦ **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)** – run by the European Commission (DG RTD) is a core part of the European Circular Economy Action Plan, and designed to drive the

implementation of circular solutions at local and regional scale and help deliver on the European Green Deal and the EU bio-economy strategy.

- ✦ **European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP)** – a joint initiative by the European Commission and the European economic and Social Committee (EESC), designed to promote exchange between circular economy stakeholders. ICLEI sits on the Co-ordination Group for the platform, and takes part in two of the Leadership Groups (on Cities and Regions, and on Circular Procurement).
- ✦ **Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** – the European CEAP includes a number of specific policy and legislative measures focused on supporting the circular transition.

## IMPACT

**75**

signatories of the Circular Cities Declaration

**12**

EU-funded projects supporting the circular transition in 25 European cities. The results achieved will be replicated in 17 other cities across Europe.

**48**

demonstration actions on circularity



## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✦ Sign up to become a member of the Circular Cities Declaration.
- ✦ Apply for Project Development Assistance (PDA) to support circular economy projects with significant impact on European cities and regions.

## RESOURCES

- ✦ [Circular Cities Declaration Report 2022](#)
- ✦ [Stimulating demand for circular construction skills - a guide for public authorities](#) (BusGoCircular)
- ✦ [Construction and demolition procurement guidelines](#) (CityLoops)

## Connect with us:

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## ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.