

OECD-European Commission Seminar Series:
Managing Environmental and Energy Transitions for Regions and Cities

SEMINAR 3

5 July 2019 | OECD

Transition to the Circular Economy for Regions and Cities



SEMINAR SERIES: MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY TRANSITIONS FOR REGIONS AND CITIES

SEMINAR 3: Managing the Transition to the Circular Economy

05 July 2019; 9:00 - 17:00

OECD Headquarters, Chateau, Room E, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

What's the issue?

Circular economy is a new socio-economic paradigm whereby resources are used in a more sustainable and efficient way. It is one of the EU's key priorities as outlined in the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), and has become central to the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The circular economy will bring benefits for regional development as well as for the environment, the society, and the economy. New circular business models, waste prevention, recycling, eco-design and similar measures create savings, increase turnover and create local jobs in various sectors. The transition to a circular economy presents challenges linked to the uptake of new business models, adequate standards and laws, financial incentives, innovation, behavioural change, improved waste management, knowhow and administrative capacity, among others. Technological as well as social innovation is needed because the transition requires rethinking patterns of production and consumption (beyond optimisation of existing systems). Moreover, the circular economy emphasises the role of changing consumption practices, behavioural aspects and grassroots initiatives.

About the seminar series

This is the third of a five-part seminar series in the context of the OECD-EC project "Managing environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities". The other seminars address the following topics: "Managing the transition to a climate-neutral economy", "Managing environmental and energy transitions in cities", "Managing environmental and energy transitions in rural areas", and "Financing, scale-up and deployment". The outcomes of the seminars will feed into the work of the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and will be summarised in an OECD publication to inform regional policy makers about current frontier thinking and corresponding policy approaches in managing environmental and energy transitions.

Contact

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9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:00	<p>Setting the scene: Challenges and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD • Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
10:00-12:30	<p>The New Frontier: What do we know about the transition to the circular economy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Cities, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD <p>Keynote presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Paul Ekins, Professor of Resources and Environmental Policy and Director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources, University College London <p>Facilitated panel discussion on theoretical approaches and links with practical experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency • Prof. Jacqueline Cramer, Professor in sustainable innovation at Utrecht University, strategic advisor of the Utrecht Sustainability Institute and member of the Amsterdam Economic Board, particularly in charge of the circular economy • Prof. Andre Correa d'Almeida, Assistant Director and Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University • Emmanuelle Maire, Head the Sustainable Production, Products and Consumption Unit, DG Environment, European Commission <p>Open discussion with all seminar participants.</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch, OECD Restaurant des Nations
14:00-16:30	<p>From theory to practice: How to prepare regions and cities for the challenges and opportunities associated with the transition to the circular economy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Said El Khadraoui, Adviser, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission <p>Keynote presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anders Wijkman, Chair Climate-KIC and Honorary President of the Club of Rome <p>Facilitated panel discussion on policies and practical examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisa Tonda, Head of the Consumption and Production Unit, UNEP • Miranda Schnitger, Cities Project Lead, Ellen MacArthur Foundation • Lieze Cloots, Head International Policy, Public Waste Agency of Flanders • Oriana Romano, Co-ordinator, Cities and Circular Economy, CFE, OECD <p>Open discussion with all seminar participants.</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Seminar takeaways and the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD • Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

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