

WRF CONCLUSIONS

NEXT STEPS TO SCALE UP THE CIRCULAR TRANSITION



[Click here to add text](#)

1. CIRCULAR ECONOMY IS AN ENABLER FOR CLIMATE POLICY

- **The potential of circular economy as enabler for carbon emissions reduction is an ‘overlooked’ truth.**
- **Figures are clear: over half of greenhouse gas emissions can be directly linked to our materials footprint.**
- **We have to link the agenda’s and break the silos:**
 - **Make connection between the networks**
 - **Use integral monitoring: material and carbon footprint**
 - **Mainstream circularity and low carbon in financing**



2. CITIES ARE THE PIONEERS FOR CIRCULAR CHANGE

- **The brutality of our linear economy is illustrated by the fact that land, water and materials are increasingly “extracted”. They become scarce resources in the hands of a few. Loss of ownership is forcing people to migrate, putting pressure on cities.**
- **The challenge is: with 60% of the population living in urban areas by 2030, we urgently need to rethink our cities, for the benefit of local companies and citizens.**
- **Cities are the places where the distance between production and consumption is small and loops can be closed locally. To achieve productive cities, local knowledge and local action play a vital role.**



3. SOIL AND LAND ARE IN NEED OF A SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK

- **Soil is more than food and fuel: soil is a natural capital, a living organism, cornerstone for human and ecosystem health and global natural cycles.**
- **Soil Organic Carbon should be taken more into account as important parameter to assess its health and its productivity.**
- **With healthy soils, we use less land to produce more. This creates space to return land to nature.**
- **We need incentives to make users of soil and land to behave as stewards.**
- **Establish a global policy framework and create synergies with other policies (biodiversity, agriculture, energy and climate).**



4. LIFESTYLES HAVE TO CHANGE RADICALLY OVER THE NEXT DECADES

- **To achieve SDG's and climate targets, changes in lifestyles need to be radical and need to start soon. Not one size fits all. A just and inclusive transition requires a holistic approach.**
- **The new 1.5 Degree study shows that within the next 30 years citizens in many industrialized countries have to reduce their carbon footprints by 80-90% or more and in emerging economies by 30-80%.**
- **To change our lifestyles we need proper infrastructure, regulations, pricing, education. Just raising awareness is not enough. We should also dare to give up things.**
- **The young generation protesting in the streets puts pressure on decision makers to finally act and triggers a broad societal debate on our lifestyles.**
- **If we can image the future, we can create it together.**



5. THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY NEEDS COORDINATED AT GLOBAL ACTION

- **Many promising circular initiatives to achieve SDG's are ongoing. Now it is a matter of upscaling and mainstreaming them and making them economic viable. Giving value to natural capital and use environmental performance indicators are the missing links.**
- **Political courage to create such a systemic shift**
- **Explore the option of a UN Convention on Natural Resources Management**
 - **Common objective to achieve the SDG's (with SDG 12 as umbrella)**
 - **Common targets and timelines**
 - **Monitoring, reporting and verification system. Digitalisation, blockchain, trackingsystems for material flows,... are important tools**
 - **A clear framework for Action Plans at global, national and local level**

