

Worksheets

Zero Waste Scotland's Circular Economy Accelerator is here to help you and your business take the first steps on a journey towards circular thinking.

These worksheets can help you identify circular opportunities around your existing business.

Work through them in order (spend roughly 20 minutes on each worksheet) and you'll end up with a strong starting point for conversations with the Circular Economy Accelerator.

At its core, a circular economy means that products no longer have a life cycle with a beginning, middle and end. If a product is truly circular it might never have an end to its life, but continually take new forms and remain of value.



**Circular
Economy
Accelerator**

Worksheet 1.

Map your current product journey

Query each part of your product journey. Examining every input and output of your business can highlight opportunities at each end of the product journey.

1.1 Inputs

What are the inputs for your business?
What raw materials and/or products do you buy in?

Start by listing them below.

Next, consider where those raw materials and /or products come from. List the sources alongside each one.

1.2 Outputs

What do you make, or what service do you provide?

Is there any waste generated during your processes?
List these things as additional outputs from your business. Do you know where they go?

1.3 End-of-life

If you're making a product, what is its lifecycle after leaving your care? Where does it eventually end up? Consider when and why it reaches its end-of-life. Is it discarded? Or recycled? Re-used? Keep asking yourself what happens next.

Think the same way about all your waste streams. What happens to those unwanted materials? Again, what happens to them next? Are there disposal costs?

Worksheet 2.

Identify opportunities for change

Mapping your product journey helps you break down what the inputs and outputs of your processes are.

2.1 Inputs

Could any of your inputs be sourced more sustainably?

Could any of them be swapped for a more sustainable alternative?

Could any of your inputs actually be sourced as an output from someone else's business?

2.2 Outputs

Could any of your outputs be useful to other businesses?

Could your waste streams hold untapped value?

2.3 End-of-life

How could you make your products last longer?

Could you extend their useful life?

Could you redesign them to be easier to repair?

Can you design a better end-of-life for your products?

Maybe they could be easier to dismantle, allowing elements to be re-used, repurposed or recycled.

Worksheet 3.

Examine circular strategies

Now that you've thought in detail about what your business uses and produces, read our Circular Economy Strategy Cards to get acquainted with some common circular business models.

3.1 Opportunities

Looking back at your opportunities for change, do any of them align with these circular strategies? Or even multiple strategies?

3.2 Strategies

List your potential circular strategies here.
Can you prioritise them by: Ease of implementation? Revenue potential? Circular/sustainable advantages?

3.3 Combinations

See if you can combine more than one circular strategy to create a plan unique to your business.

Worksheet 4.

Make a commitment

Now that you have some ideas on what circular strategies could be applied to your business, make solid plans to investigate them properly.

4.1 Time

Can you set aside a block of time to look into your shift to circular business practices without interrupting your existing production schedules?

4.2 Resources

Can you allocate staff and resources to properly investigate your circular opportunities?

Can you estimate what level of investment this might require?

4.3 Funding

Can you afford to properly resource those staff? Do you need to find additional investment and/or funding?

Can you make a solid business case for doing so?

4.4 Get help

Contact the Circular Economy Accelerator at Zero Waste Scotland.

Make an appointment to speak to their Circularity Consultants, who can help you take the first steps.

Everything you have thought about using these worksheets will help them understand your needs, and you can both hit the ground running.
