



A local circular economy is a collaborative practice sustained by the local circulation of materials, nutrients, knowledge, and economic value. Values of equity, transparency, diversity, and inclusion drive its success.

In a local circular economy, a business should:

- Regenerate natural systems
- Address the needs and aspirations of local stakeholders
- Increase local human knowledge and capacity to sustain this new economy into the future

Businesses can create regenerate natural ecosystems by:

- Purchasing inputs that can be locally regenerated (reused, recycled, composted)
- Purchasing inputs that are made with local materials
- Purchasing inputs that are produced locally
- Sourcing renewable energy
- Contracting local services to divert non-product outputs from the landfill (through repair, reuse, recycling, composting, etc.)
- Extending the life of available resources and equipment
- Reincorporating waste products into production or end product
- Returning nutrients to the correct ecosystem
- Properly disposing of toxic materials
- Maximizing energy efficiency
- Supporting biodiverse ecosystems through sourcing ingredients that are not grown in monoculture
- Building products that are made to last
- Designing out waste
- Creating a culture that values reuse
- Sharing equipment
- Locating operations close to the resources and infrastructure that will be used
- Accurately measuring inputs and outputs on a regular basis
- Identifying indicators of success based on the conditions of the local ecosystem, instead of financial gains alone
- Quantifying and communicating non-financial transactions (e.g. sharing equipment, reusing/repurposing another business's old equipment)



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Businesses can address the needs and aspirations of local stakeholders by:

- Actively involving local agents in defining all benefits the business can bring to the local economy
- Actively forming partnerships with local stakeholders based on complementary capabilities
- Strengthening existing relationships between local agents
- Working with local stakeholders to shape and sign a community benefits agreement
- Open sourcing data using the appropriate medium & language to reach local stakeholders
- Hiring & training local talent
- Paying a living wage
- Holding or attending regular meetings with local stakeholders
- Actively involving employees at all levels in decision-making processes
- Allowing individual employees to take ownership over special projects that could further CE practices
- Sharing resources and information with other local businesses
- Sharing resources and information with local agents/stakeholders
- Identifying indicators of success based on the needs and aspirations of local agents, instead of financial gains alone
- Cultivating and quantifying non-financial transactions (e.g. sharing equipment)
- Working with diverse stakeholders
- Promoting fellow local businesses
- Involving customers and other local agents in decision making process and/or business operations
- Reinvesting profits locally (e.g. through supporting local artisans, suppliers, and/or educational programs)
- Promoting non-financial successes to local leaders
- Actively soliciting regular feedback from local stakeholders (and incorporate, as appropriate)

Businesses can increase local human knowledge and capacity to sustain this new economy into the future by:

- Hiring & training local talent
- Creating a workplace culture that values reuse and sharing



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- Educating their customers about CE practices (e.g. build excitement about use/reused products and/or educate on proper ways to reuse/repurpose/divert materials in your product after consumption)
- Actively involving employees at all levels in decision-making processes
- Training employees at all levels on CE practices (e.g. waste audits, MEFA studies, equipment repair, composting, etc.)
- Sharing accurate data on inputs and outputs with employees, customers, and potential collaborators
- Open sourcing “how-tos” when they’ve had success with implementing a CE practice
- Sharing information with other businesses
- Connecting employees with professional development activities related to CE