



Join a CCRI community of practice

The **CCRI communities of practice** are dedicated working groups for local and regional authorities working on the circular economy. Each community of practice focuses on a key topic, **bringing together cities and regions** facing similar challenges. By joining, you will **connect with peers, share experiences, and develop practical solutions** that fit your local context. You'll gain fresh insights, expand your network, and find concrete ways to accelerate your circular economy initiatives. These groups offer a structured but flexible space to learn, collaborate, and take action together.

What are the CCRI communities of practice

The CCRI communities of practice are **small working groups** designed to **support cities and regions** in advancing their circular economy initiatives. Each group addresses a specific topic, selected based on the priorities and challenges identified by local and regional authorities. These topics ensure relevance to urban and regional transitions, focusing on practical needs and policy priorities. The communities of practice provide a platform for participants to share experiences, co-create knowledge, and develop practical solutions.

The **four communities of practice now open for applications** are:

Topic	Background
<u>Urban planning for the circular economy</u>	The structure and layout of our urban environments strongly influence how citizens and businesses behave and interact – and consequently play a pivotal role in shaping resource demand and consumption patterns. In this community of practice, we will think about how to adjust our approaches to land use planning, the design of urban spaces and the functioning of urban systems to encourage the circular economy. We will also explore how we can balance the twin pressures of demographic growth and budgetary constraints in urban planning with our circularity goals and climate targets.
<u>Municipal waste companies for circular cities and regions</u>	Municipal waste companies have a crucial role to play in transforming European cities and regions towards circular practices. With their expertise and experience, they can drive this transition by adopting strategies such as repair, reuse and resource recovery . This community of practice brings together stakeholders from cities and regions working for or with the municipal waste companies to explore how municipal waste companies can become drivers of circular practices. By joining, you'll connect with practitioners, share insights and co-design solutions to common challenges.
<u>Supporting local circular businesses</u>	This community of practice aims to strengthen the capacity of public institutions (regions or cities) to collaborate with and support local business ecosystems, thus accelerating the circular transition in their territories. It provides a safe space to explore, discuss and share strategies that encourage business commitment, mobilise resources, and scale concrete circular solutions. The CoP takes a systemic approach, considering the circularity challenge from interlinked perspectives—including enabling policies, financial instruments, innovation support, awareness initiatives, and capacity-building—tailored to local needs and priorities . With an agenda co-shaped by participants, this community focuses on hands-on, practical solutions to create the enabling conditions for businesses to thrive while acknowledging the demands and resource constraints cities and regions face.

Cutting consumption-based emissions through circular economy

Traditionally, circular economy policies have focused on reducing waste through repair, reuse, recycling and remanufacturing – lowering resource extraction, creating local jobs, and minimizing environmental impacts. Beyond reducing the material use, **these actions also play a crucial role in cutting emissions of cities and regions, especially the consumption-based ones.**

But what are the actions with the highest potential of reducing consumption-based emissions? How can local authorities ensure that those are realised by their administrations, citizens and businesses?

Together, we will explore how to maximize the benefits and minimise operational challenges of circular economy actions through real-world examples. Participants will also identify and receive guidance for implementing high-impact actions, ranging from **efficiency (doing more with less) to sufficiency (reducing demand), in order to reduce their cities' consumption-based emissions.**

What to expect?

As a member, you'll have the opportunity to tailor the community of practice to your needs and interests, co-designing the structure and activities alongside other participants. The following outlines some key aspects:

- **Size:** Each group will consist of 5 to 10 cities and regions (with one representative each), supported by experts.
- **Duration:** Each community of practice will run for a minimum of 12 months, with the option to extend until December 2026 or beyond, depending on interest.
- **Time Commitment:** Around one day per month, to attend at least five online meetings per year, exchange with peers, and take part in consultations on new materials to support cities and regions.
- **Activities:** The groups will organise online working meetings focused on the ongoing actions and projects of the participants.
- **Outputs:** your input and insight will be used to develop concrete, publishable deliverables. These are determined by the group, but may include case studies, roadmaps, policy briefings or recommendations.
- **Funding:** Participation is voluntary, and no funding is available to cover participation costs. There will be no travel required, as all activities will take place online.

Why join?

- **Learn from your peers:** Gain valuable insights from other cities and regions tackling the same challenges
- **Find better solutions faster:** Collaborate with peers to address your needs more effectively
- **Expand your network:** Connect with an international community of like-minded partners
- **Gain fresh perspectives:** Discover best practices firsthand and bring proven solutions back to your own community.

Who can apply?

We invite all European local and regional authorities, along with their agencies and publicly owned companies, to apply. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a collaborative network driving impactful change in the circular economy.

Participation will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Commitment:** Active engagement is key. As a member, you are expected to actively contribute to discussions, attend meetings, and help shape or review group outputs.
- **Relevant experience:** We are looking for participants who are already working on circular economy initiatives on the chosen topic and can bring valuable insights and experiences to the table.
- **Geographical diversity:** To foster a well-rounded exchange, communities of practice aim to include members from a variety of European regions, ensuring a broad perspective on the challenges and solutions in circular economy practices.

How to express your interest

Simply complete the short application form online and we'll review your application. If needed, we'll reach out to you for clarifications.

Apply now

Urban planning for the circular economy	https://tally.so/r/wL6Be2
Municipal waste companies for circular cities	https://tally.so/r/wdkAyK
Supporting local circular businesses	https://tally.so/r/meYKrl
Cutting consumption-based emissions through circular economy	https://tally.so/r/mV4qov

If you have any issues accessing or completing the form, please contact info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu.

Deadline for submission: 28/03/2025, 6:00 PM CET

Any questions or doubts?

Reach out to info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu for more information or join our [online Q&A](#) on 20/03/2025 – 12.30 CET.

Background

Funded by the EU as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) aims to bring the circular economy to life in cities and regions across Europe. The initiative supports the development of circular solutions that address different sectors and value chains, engage diverse stakeholders, and tackle a range of challenges, such as creating new business models and navigating regulatory impacts. It also seeks to drive positive change across social, economic, and environmental fields.

About CCRI Communities of Practice

The CCRI Communities of Practice's activities complement those already offered by the CCRI Coordination and Support office, the [CCRI Knowledge Hub](#) and other [CCRI partners](#). They are all about bringing cities and regions together to share experiences, learn from each other, and exchange best practices. By fostering peer learning and networking, they aim to broaden the CCRI's impact to more European cities and regions.

Contacts

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