



# Join the CCRI community of practice on Municipal waste companies for circular cities

**Municipal waste companies (MWCs)** play a critical role in the successful transformation toward more circular practices in European cities. With their established functions, responsibilities, and expertise in local, regional, and supra-regional resource cycles—coupled with decades of experience in circularity—they are uniquely positioned to drive this transition.

To fully realize their potential, **MWCs must evolve into real circular economy players** and be recognised as such. This involves embracing elaborate **R-strategies such as repair, reuse, and resource recovery**, tailored to the specific needs of their cities. By tapping into these opportunities and addressing gaps in current practices, MWCs can become reliable drivers of circularity in practically every municipality.

The public nature of MWCs also offers a distinct advantage. Their **close connection with local authorities** enables them to align with broader sustainability goals and work beyond purely monetary targets. This partnership allows for the **development of innovative solutions, strategic initiatives, and a shared vision for circular cities.**

In the shift to a circular economy, the municipal waste management sector, alongside other key stakeholders, must develop a new understanding of its role. This includes fostering strategic partnerships, launching innovative initiatives, and defining clear visions and guiding principles. By doing so, MWCs can move beyond traditional waste management to become active enablers—and even drivers—of circular value creation in cities.

## Municipal waste companies for circular cities

Municipal waste companies are key players in the transition to a circular economy, but their potential goes far beyond traditional waste management. This community of practice brings together experienced stakeholders from cities and regions working for and with MWCs in a **dynamic working group** to explore how MWCs can become drivers of circular practices in European cities. By joining, you'll get the opportunity to connect with other practitioners, share insights and co-design solutions to the common challenges you face on involving municipal waste companies in the circular cities.

In this community of practice we will

- Collect and analyse best practices from cities on waste and circular economy, discuss why they work and how they can be adapted.
- Explore how municipalities can actively leverage the MWCs potential to support circular initiatives.
- Define the role of MWCs in implementing higher R-strategies such as repair, reuse and resource recovery.
- Discuss why solutions work in some places and how to overcome barriers to scale solutions.
- Promote international networking to share knowledge and collaborate on projects.
- Encourage participants to share their own ideas, challenges and solutions, creating a platform for mutual learning and support on circular economy and the waste management sector.

Join us to shape the future of waste management and drive the transition to a circular economy in your city!

## 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:** The 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 organize online working meetings focused on the ongoing actions and projects of the participants.
- **Outputs:** You will work together to produce concrete, publishable deliverables.
- **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 leveraging circular waste management.
- **Find better solutions faster:** Collaborate with others 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 strategies back to your municipality.

## Who can apply?

We invite European local and regional municipal waste companies and related public authorities working closely with the MWCs 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 municipal waste 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. If you have any issues accessing or completing the form, please contact [info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu](mailto:info@ccri-communities-of-practice.eu).

[Apply now](#)

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

Any questions or doubts whether this is right for you?

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

There are 3 more communities of practice now open for applications. Discover them all [here](#)

## 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're 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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