



Concept Note

Empowering Climate Action through Circular Economy Education

Date & Time: 20th September 2023 ; 11:30 AM -13:00 PM

Session Type: Parallel

Venue: Jacranda 2, India Habitat Centre

Background

Circular economy (CE) has emerged as the new economic model that tries to overcome the current production and consumption based on a so-called “linear economy” (take, make and dispose of model). CE is aimed at a systemic transformation of current economy wherein the value of products, materials and resources are maintained in the economy for as long as possible, the generation of waste is minimized and a sustainable, low carbon, green, resource-efficient and competitive economy is established.

As circular economy strategies reduce the demand for raw materials and new products, they can help reduce global emissions from half of the global total that come from the extraction and processing of materials. The sectors such as civil construction, transport, and the food system show the most promise for circular economy strategies to reduce emissions from production, use (in terms of energy used for heating, cooling, and fuelling) and disposal (when they are sent to the incinerator or the landfill). Instead of recycling at the end of materials’ life cycle, upstream strategies that include shifting consumption patterns and designing products that use materials more efficiently have the highest potential to reduce emissions.

Lack of knowhow is a significant obstacle in the transition towards sustainability. If a person does not know how to act differently, it is easier to continue ‘as I always have done’. Education and awareness for circularity require interdisciplinary teaching, not just the transfer of theoretical knowledge, but above all, the development of socially and ecologically appropriate attitudes. It can empower individuals, organizations, and policymakers to make informed choices that support climate action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving resources, minimizing waste, and promoting sustainable practices.

“Closing the Loop: Empowering Climate Action through Circular Economy Education” is going to be an important session to disseminate much needed education about barriers, multifaceted approaches and practices being followed to enable transition from linear to circular economy. The session will not only give access to different case studies and practices being followed to create a circular model, but also serve as a platform to provoke thoughts aligned with the climate action and sustainability.

Objective

The objective of this thematic session is to utilise education as a powerful tool to disseminate information, awareness and knowledge related to multiple approaches being envisaged/practised to enable much needed transition from Linear to Circular. It aims to facilitate a meaningful exchange of knowledge,

experiences, and best practices among participants, focusing on the importance of shaping sustainable mindsets, and equipping individuals with the necessary skills to drive circular economy practices.

Outcomes

The session intends to achieve the following outcomes

Knowledge Sharing: Participants will gain insights into the various educational approaches, strategies, and initiatives that have proven effective in promoting circular economy principles. By understanding the principles and importance of a circular economy, individuals, businesses, and policymakers can recognize the connection between their actions and climate change.

Collaboration and Networking: The parallel session will provide a platform for educators, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals to connect and collaborate. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions, share ideas, and establish partnerships, fostering a global network of stakeholders committed to advancing circular economy education.

Best Practice Identification: Education on circular economy principles can encourage businesses to adopt sustainable production practices. By embracing circular business models, companies can reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to climate action.

Awareness and Advocacy: The parallel session will foster a collective understanding of the significance of circular economy education in addressing global challenges. Through education, individuals can engage in discussions, advocate for policies supporting the circular economy, and participate in collective efforts to address climate change challenges.