

Appendix G Summary: Initiating a Circular Economy

Purpose:

- Review circular economy activities currently occurring in York Region.
- Conduct jurisdictional scan of other circular economy initiatives and policies.
- Recommend actions that the Region could carry out to address the current linear system and work with stakeholders and collaborate to create and initiate circular economy solutions.

Key Findings:

- Extended Producer Responsibility is a crucial component of the circular economy.
- Most municipal examples of the circular economy have placed an emphasis on engagement with stakeholders, particularly with businesses. Partnerships with businesses and other levels of government can help ensure access to adequate support and resources for a successful circular economy system.
- Through implementation of a circular waste system, the Region has the opportunity to:
 - » Influence upstream design and decision making at all consumer levels.
 - » Support provincial and federal waste prevention, reduction and reuse initiatives.
 - » Engage with residents, non-governmental, and governmental organizations that have some degree of legislative control to effect change in the design and distribution of products.
 - » Develop advocacy positions related to community and sustainable development that support the implementation of efficient and effective waste management systems, and to have consideration of impacts on waste generation and management in the decision making process when such policies are developed.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to advocate for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system.
- Develop a Green Procurement Policy that builds repair and reuse into the Region's procurement and discard policies, including a policy regarding preference for durable, repairable, and reusable items.
- Advocating for regulations that support the circular economy by providing frameworks, processes, and/or focusing on specific packaging or products.
- Funding circular economy activities, supporting circular economy research, can accelerate the growth of the circular economy in the Region.
- Create more opportunities for sharing, reusing and repurposing.
- Participate in the Circular Economy community by joining and participating in circular economy groups like the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.
- Develop a municipal circular economy working group, drawing from the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative member group and utilizing their knowledge and expertise.
- Develop an internal Circular Economy Committee. With the purpose of championing internal circular economy activities, developing circular corporate policies, and communicating and educating other employees on circular economy practices.

Link to Objectives:

- **Objective 3:** Inspire people across the Region to embrace SM4RT Living and advance the circular economy.