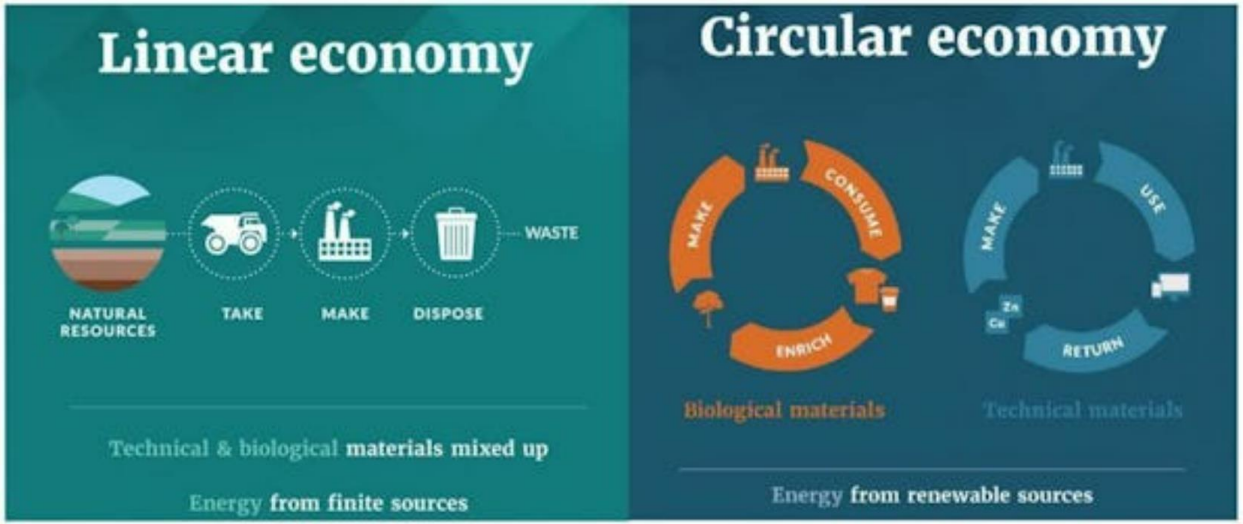
ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

LINEAR ECONOMY VERSUS CIRCULAR ECONOMY, OR WHY WE CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE WITH THE LINEAR MODEL?



Graphic by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

What's the problem with our linear economy?

This linear "take-make-use-dispose" economy is not working.

We are extracting **virgin raw materials** at a pace so fast that they cannot be replenished. We are already having problems extracting some critical raw materials that are in constant demand. At the same time, the amount of waste keeps growing. A modern lifestyle based on current patterns of consumption and production requires a large amount of natural resources, namely between 25 and 30 tons of materials per capita per year. Few countries can meet their material needs with their own domestic resources, and the current level of national material consumption has only been possible through a record increase in international trade.

The big issue: waste. To put it simply the linear economy and its predisposition towards wasting valuable materials is a significant problem on a planet with finite resources.

+70%

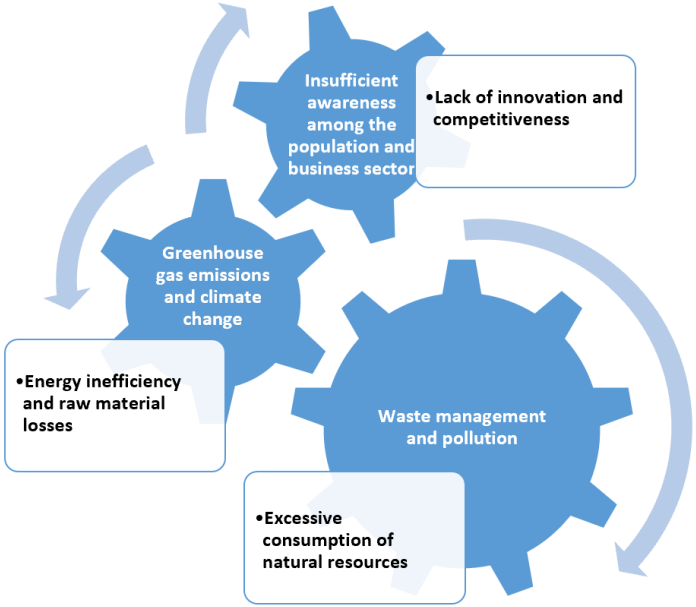
Global waste generation is expected to increase by 70% by 2050.

By 2050, The world is expected to generate 3.40 billion tons of waste annually, increasing drastically from today's 2.01 billion tons. **(World Bank Report, 2018)**

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY



Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

PubCirEco

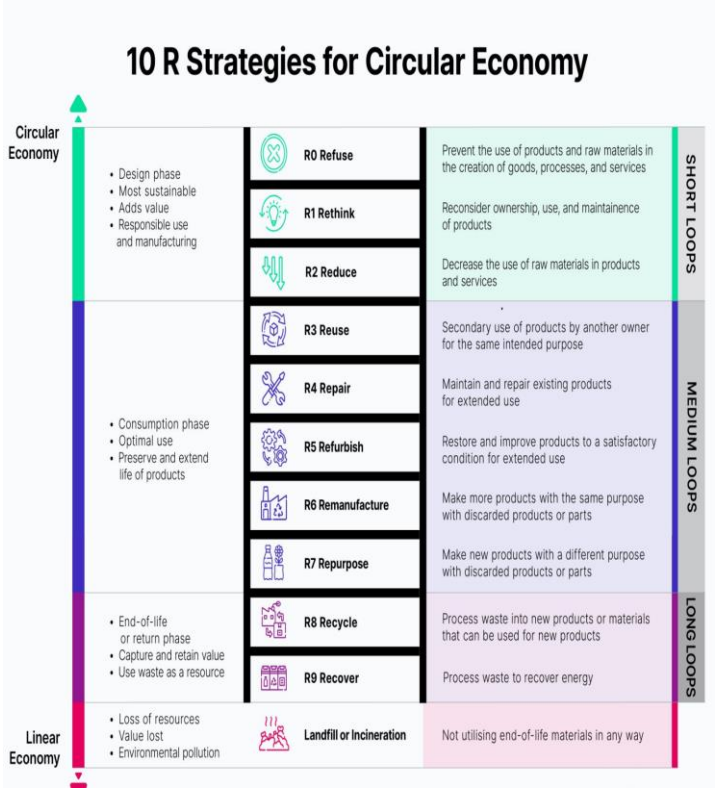
Co-funded by the European Union

WHY THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY MATTERS?

In the context of the circular economy, the concept of a business model provides a framework for understanding how companies deliver, create, and capture value by applying the principles and methods of the circular economy.

Transitioning from a linear economy to a circular economy involves adopting strategies that optimize resource use and minimize waste. The **"10 R Strategies"** outline a clear path.

(Skärin et al, (2022). An Explorative Study of Circularity Practices in Swedish Manufacturing Companies. Sustainability, 14(12):7246. DOI:10.3390/su14127246)



The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

KEY ROLES OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN CE

National and Local Governments and Policy Makers	• Develop and enforce regulations, policies, and frameworks that promote circular economy principles. • Provide incentives, funding, and support for research and development of circular technologies and practices. • Collaborate with other stakeholders to drive systemic change and create an enabling environment for the circular economy
Businesses and Industries	• Adopt circular business models and practices to minimise waste, promote resource efficiency, and extend product lifecycles. • Design products for durability, reparability, and recyclability. • Collaborate with suppliers, consumers, and other businesses to establish closed-loop supply chains and value networks. • Invest in innovative technologies and processes to enable the circular economy.
Consumers and End Users	• Make sustainable purchasing decisions by choosing durable, repairable, and eco-friendly products. • Embrace sharing, renting, and second-hand markets to reduce consumption and extend product lifespans. • Practice responsible waste management through recycling, composting, and proper disposal • Demand transparency and information about the environmental impact of products and services
Waste Management and Recycling Industry	• Collect, sort, and process waste materials for recycling, upcycling, and energy recovery. • Invest in infrastructure and technologies to improve waste management and recycling capabilities. • Collaborate with businesses and governments to establish efficient collection systems and closed-loop material flows.
Research Institutions and Academia	• Research to advance circular economy knowledge, technologies, and best practices. • Develop innovative solutions for resource efficiency, waste reduction, and circular business models. • Provide expertise, training, and education to support the adoption of circular principles by businesses and other stakeholders.
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society	• Raise awareness about the benefits of the circular economy and advocate for its implementation. • Promote sustainable consumption and behaviour change among consumers. • Map, monitor, and provide feedback on the progress and implementation of circular initiatives. • Collaborate with other stakeholders to drive policy changes and influence corporate practices.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S (EU) PLANS FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

GREEN DEAL MAIN OBJECTIVES

1

Climate neutrality by 2050:

The ultimate goal is for the EU to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

2

55% emission reduction by 2030:

This target, linked to the European Climate Law, makes it mandatory to cut emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

3

A modern and competitive economy:

Transforming the EU economy into one that is resource-efficient and competitive, shifting from a linear economy to a circular one.

4

Social justice:

Ensuring that the green transition leaves no person or region behind, providing support to affected communities.

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.



These plans focus on the entire product life cycle, from design to disposal, aiming to keep materials in use at their highest value and minimize environmental impact. Key initiatives include promoting circular design, encouraging repair and reuse, increasing the use of recycled content, and setting targets for resource efficiency, with specific actions targeting high-impact sectors like plastics, textiles, electronics, and construction.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



- LAW NO. 209/2016 ON WASTE
- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY “EUROPEAN MOLDOVA 2030” (Law No. 315/2022)
- GOVERNMENT ACTION PROGRAM “PROSPEROUS, SAFE, EUROPEAN MOLDOVA” (Parliament Decision No. 28/16.02.2023)
- ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY FOR 2024–2030
- WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR 2023–2027 (Government Decision No. 972/2023)
- PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION OF GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR 2024–2028
- NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA FOR 2016–2025 (Government Decision No. 1063/2016)
- NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM UNTIL 2030 (Government Decision No. 624/2023)
- LOW-EMISSION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA UNTIL 2030 (Government Decision No. 659/2023)
- SUSTAINABLE CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR 2023–2030 (Government Decision No. 816/2023)

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

The objectives for the recovery and recycling of packaging waste, which must be achieved nationally, in stages, no later than 2029 (LAW NO. 209/2016 ON WASTE)

50%

1. recovery of at least **50%** of the weight of packaging waste;

45%

2. recycling of at least **45%** of the total weight of packaging materials contained in packaging waste, achieving the following minimum values for the recycling of each type of material contained in packaging waste:

a) **45% by weight** for glass; — 45%

b) **50% by weight** for paper/cardboard; — 50%

c) **40% by weight** for metal; — 40%

d) **10% by weight** for wood; — 10%

e) **20% by weight** for plastic, considering only material recycled in the form of plastic; — 20%

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

PubCirEco
Co-funded by the European Union

Program for the Promotion of the “Green” Economy in the Republic of Moldova for 2018–2020 (Government Decision No. 160/2018)

The program was designed as a strategic instrument to support Moldova’s transition toward a sustainable economic model, focused on environmental protection, efficient resource use, and pollution reduction.

The main objectives of the program include:

1. promoting green economy principles across national economic sectors;
2. encouraging sustainable production and consumption;
3. developing infrastructure for efficient resource and waste management;
4. supporting innovation and the adoption of eco-friendly technologies;
5. increasing awareness among the public and businesses about the benefits of the green economy.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN PROMOTING THE GREEN ECONOMY (1/2)

Through the implementation of the **Program for the Promotion of the "Green" Economy in the Republic of Moldova for 2018–2020**—the first policy document supporting the implementation of green economy principles in the country—a number of notable achievements were recorded, including:

1. maintaining an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism and a coordinating body for promoting the green economy;
2. promoting the principle of extended producer responsibility;
3. developing and promoting regulations for the gradual elimination of plastic bags and bottles;
4. approving and successfully implementing the greening program for small and medium-sized enterprises (Government Decision No. 592/2019);

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

However, the final evaluation report on the implementation of the Program for 2018–2020 revealed several significant challenges in the functioning of the institutional, managerial, and implementation system in promoting the green economy:

- sectoral strategic documents do not include provisions regarding the green economy, and short-term actions with clear indicators and allocated financial resources are limited;
- ministries lack dedicated structures responsible for managing the green economy, and human and financial capacities are limited to meet current requirements and challenges in this field;
- the allocation of responsibilities for the development, implementation, and monitoring of green economy policies among state institutions is not clearly defined in their functions and action plans;
- the environmental and public health impact of transport emissions continues to increase;
- the economic benefits of efficient resource and energy use are not yet fully recognized or applied, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises;
- the principles of the green economy are understood and supported only by a minority of the population and non-governmental organizations concerned with environmental issues;

the concept of the circular economy is absent.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN PROMOTING THE GREEN ECONOMY (2/2)

5 encouraging green enterprises and technologies through incentives, including financing (EU4Business Program);

6 approving and effectively implementing the modernization and energy efficiency program for small and medium-sized enterprises (Government Decision No. 515/2022) and the program supporting digital innovations and tech start-ups (Government Decision No. 243/2022);

7 increasing the agricultural areas dedicated to organic production and the number of farmers engaged in ecological practices, including the creation of an organic agriculture atlas; and

8 developing training programs in the field of green economy and organic agriculture within educational institutions.

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

Program for the Promotion of the Green and Circular Economy in the Republic of Moldova for 2024–2028

1

Turning waste into raw materials:

By promoting recycling and reuse, waste is reintroduced into the economic cycle, reducing the need to extract new natural resources.

2

Reducing environmental impact and carbon footprint:

Implementing circular economy principles helps decrease pollution and conserve natural resources.

3

Promoting resource efficiency:

By optimizing the consumption of natural resources, the program encourages efficient use of raw materials and energy.

Thus, the circular economy becomes a key tool for achieving sustainable development goals and aligning with European environmental standards.

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.

ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Thank you!

Rodica Perciun
Email perciun.rodica@ase.md

Co-funded by the European Union

The content of this material is the sole responsibility of the authors and the National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for how the information is used.