

# ROADMAP



TO

CIRCULARITY



2022

CIRCULAR TRIANGLE

# MISSION: WE ACCELERATE A JUST TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



## HOW TO USE THE ROAD MAP

See something that inspires you?  
Take it on!

Grab a group of people who feel  
similarly and never underestimate  
the power of small numbers.

Feel free to tell us your story and  
ambitions! We want to hear  
about your obstacles and  
successes. Send your story to  
[circulartrianglenc@gmail.com](mailto:circulartrianglenc@gmail.com).

### Purpose of Roadmap:

This is for the Triangle  
community to take on. The  
purpose is to empower  
Triangle communities to  
take on a piece of this that  
makes sense for them, to  
democratize the process of  
transitioning to a CE and  
not all go through us. We  
aim to be a space that  
fosters innovation and  
inspires action across  
sectors.



## By 2025

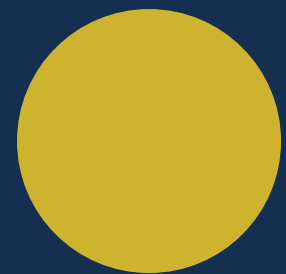
- Identify changemakers by documenting Triangle CE examples.
- Implement CE Business Pledge program.
- Activate local business employee working groups to promote circularity in their business' core operations.
- Circular Economy Resolution is passed in Triangle governments.
- Create cross-departmental positions for circularity in local governments.
- Communicate goal alignment to city/county staff and the elected between circular economy goals and existing plans and frameworks, such as Comprehensive Plans, Climate Action Plans, etc.
- Conduct regional or state study to identify sectors that have high potential to participate in CE and establish a baseline of material and waste streams.
- Consumption-based emissions inventory is created for the Triangle and used to set strategic direction for sustainable consumption strategy.
- Create community education opportunities to learn about circularity, such as Durham Hub exhibit.
- Convene and connect private-sector stakeholders together to learn from each other about existing circular practices
- Deliver presentations to networks such as Chamber of Commerce, RTP, others that represent the private sector.
- Build circularity into agenda of industry networks (NC (Sustainable) Business Council).

## By 2030

- CE is integrated into state climate resiliency plans.
- Promote local government procurement policies favoring companies that engage in CE.
- Duke Hospitals, UNC Healthcare, and WakeMed have adopted CE principles and are models for circularity in healthcare.
- Outside investment into local Triangle communities for CE.
- Circularity is taught in schools.
- Non-toxic building material easily available for builders to use.
- NC Food Waste Prevention Act is passed.
- Large-scale reusables infrastructure in place.
- Established localized manufacturing of technology needed for CE.
- Develop regional CE accounting system, including an online material exchange platform (ex: donateNYC).
- Set regional targets for participation in CE and value of materials maintained, and track progress.
- Hold annual showcase of regional and state CE businesses.
- Create design challenges for local businesses and/or students to create circular products or business models.
- Carpet extended producer responsibility paired with a ban of carpet to landfill.

## By 2035

- Investment in historically diverse companies & communities for CE.
- Large percentage of jobs in Triangle promote circularity.
- Legislation passed at state level outlawing toxic building products.
- All buildings designed for deconstruction & non-toxic.
- Area hospitals are zero waste
- Triangle is a resource to other circular-minded communities.
- The Triangle adopts the planetary boundaries as goals for resource use.
- Enact sustainable procurement policies at the state level that favor companies that have CE principles (including state university systems).
- Ban target C&D materials from landfill. This could include metals, cardboard, land clearing debris, unpainted and untreated wood, clean concrete, and carpet, among others.



## Outcomes we want to achieve by implementing the roadmap:

- Community
  - Solutions implemented and awareness raised about circularity among the public.
  - Consumption-based emissions are measurably reduced in the Triangle.
- Private Sector
  - Larger businesses in the Triangle leverage their buying power to incentivize circular products.
  - New circular small businesses are created.
  - Job creation in new circular areas, like reverse supply chain logistics, procurement, deconstruction, etc.
  - Non-toxic materials for key industries are available in the Triangle.
- Public Sector
  - The city and county managements have a shared understanding of what the circular economy means and the opportunities it could bring to the region.
  - Commitment to allocating resources (both time and money) to making the circular economy a reality in the Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties through explicit budget line items.
  - Cities/counties adjust internal procurement to incentivize circular products and companies.
  - Cities/counties find ways to overcome policy barriers from the state to enact change locally.

### **CIRCULAR TRIANGLE VISION:**

We envision a community where landfills are obsolete, pollution is non-existent, and people thrive. With circular strategies, policies, and programs designed to regenerate urban and natural systems, the Triangle is a model for circularity in the United States.

# References

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- USDN. Sustainable Consumption Toolkit (online).
- USEPA. National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All (2021).

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