

Introduction to Circular Economy - course content (for teacher)

Course content

In this course, Introduction to Circular Economy (2ECTS), student will learn the principles and functions of circular economy from the perspective of sustainable development. In addition, student can identify benefits and opportunities of circular economy for society and companies, and get to know the business models of circular economy.

Learning Competences

After this course student (Learning objectives):

- masters the basic concepts of circular economy
- understands the limited scope of resources
- knows the most important business models of circular economy
- understands how circular economy links to own field of studies
- knows how to allocate resources for tasks to be done, and to take into account the objectives set by supervisor or client

Evaluation criterias (0 - 5)

5 (Excellent), 4 (Very Good), 3 (Good), 2 (Satisfactory), 1 If the student does not meet the minimum criteria set for the course, the grade is 0 (Fail).

Teacher assessment based on following tasks (please see assesment criteria in each Task).

Study materials

- Ellen McArthur Foundation. 2013. Towards the circular economy. Economic and business rationale for an accelerated transition. <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/Ellen-MacArthur-Foundation-Towards-the-Circular-Economy-vol.1.pdf>
- European commission. 2020. EU Circular Economy Action Plan. Last updated 25.3.2020. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm
- Circular economy toolkit. 2020. <http://circulareconomytoolkit.org/>
- Sitra. 2017. The most interesting companies in the Circular Economy in Finland. <https://www.slideshare.net/SitraEkologia/the-most-interesting-companies-in-the-circular-economy-in-finland-feb-2017>
- Ellen McArthur Foundation. 2011. Re-thinking Progress: The Circular Economy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHml>
- Ellen McArthur Foundation. 2013. The Circular Economy: from consumer to user. <https://vimeo.com/57216258>

- Wedell, G. 2011. What is a business model?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnLaQzi8xJc>

Assignments

Task 1: Orientation to Circular Economy

Circular Economy (CE) is a multidimensional and complex theme. There are many good background studies for one to learn the basics of it. In this e-course, we start by reading this report: Ellen MacArthur Foundation "Towards to circular economy" The report is rather long and we wish you to come back to it & use it as a source during the course. At this point, we want you to read well chapters 2 & 3 and to answer to these questions:

- Explain why we are in the situation in the world that we need Circular Economy?
- List at least 10 key terms & definitions and explain what they mean.
- On page 24 you find "FIGURE 6 The circular economy - an industrial system that is restorative by design". Please explain in your own words what does that picture mean & what does it say?
- Describe in your own words what circular economy can give to and mean in your own study field

Please make a word document on your answers. Strict maximum length of the report is 10 pages.

Grading 0-5, and short feedback from the teacher.

Assessment criteria

1. The amount and quality of your own observations and conclusions
2. The accuracy and consistency of the content
3. Done in deadline

Task 2: Orientation to CE Business Models

Read and watch the following materials related to 5 business models in Circular Economy.

Think/search in each of the five business models a company or an actor that somehow implements the models in their daily business. Clearly describe the method/service/product etc. Also describe what is the added value for the customer behind the business model. Don't use the companies already mentioned in the materials, come up with new examples.

Grading 0-5.

Assessment criteria:

1. at least 5 examples for different business models (1 example for each business model): clearly explained concept and own thoughts has been used in evaluating the added value.
2. Use of multiple sources in search for companies (remember add references to document)
3. Done in deadline.

