



REDUCING  
PLASTIC WASTE  
IN CANADA



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# EU-Canada Action on Plastic Waste

Using procurement to reduce plastic waste

MODULE 1

25 NOVEMBER 2022

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***DISCLAIMER: The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of EPRD and its consulting team (Reducing Plastic Waste in Canada) hired to produce these materials and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.***

# EU-Canada Project objective

Boost the ongoing processes towards a circular economy for plastics in Canada by **enhancing partnerships and sharing EU strategies, policies and business models** as part of addressing marine and freshwater litter regionally and globally.



Policies & regulations

**Peer-to-peer exchanges** on successful policies, best practices and their results.



Technology knowledge

**Business to business exchanges** on efficient technologies and market strategies & practices at various scales.



Awareness & communication

**Expand networks** and increase exchanges with European governments, businesses and voluntary organizations.

**TRAINING:** Two modules on circular procurement to reduce plastic waste.

Each module is accompanied by Train the Trainer materials and a Resources pack (this pack includes an Action Plan template, examples of procurement clauses/ checklists/ case studies included in the slides and others).



TRAINING WEBSITE: <https://circularprocurement.ca/plastic-resources/>



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# Circular procurement to reduce plastic waste



## 1. Circular economy, procurement and plastics

### Aims:

- Create a common understanding of the benefits and key success factors of circular procurement relating to plastics waste.
- How it supports priority economic, environmental and social outcomes at Federal, Provincial or Municipal level.
- Identify key actions/ next steps at policy/ strategy/ process/ capability or other level.

Help those who influence policy, budgets, business case options, market engagement and development within each level of government.



## 2. Specifying circular outcomes – the procurement toolbox

### Aims:

- Build confidence in practically using procurement to reduce plastic waste.
- Apply through stages of the procurement process and the life cycle of the relevant product/ service or works.
- Identify key actions/ next steps for procurement project/ policy/ strategy/ process/ capability or other level.

Help procurement practitioners/ officers with responsibility for developing tenders and managing contracts within each level of government.



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# Agenda: 1. Circular economy, procurement and plastics

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**A. The Circular economy** - and plastics



**B. Circular procurement** – key principles, alignment with public sector objectives and the role of procurement in addressing the plastics waste challenge



**C. Addressing the plastics challenge through procurement**



**D. Defining actions** - at policy/ strategy/ process/ capability or other level



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# Introductions

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- Your organisation
- Your role
- What you particularly want to get from this session



Poll

# Trainer tips

- Tip: Introductions – give everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves and their role briefly. Ask what they want from the session and record so that you can check back at end whether expectations have been met.  
(allocate up to 10 minutes)
- Timings – **this section should take around 20 minutes**



## A. The Circular economy and plastics



## B. Circular procurement and plastics

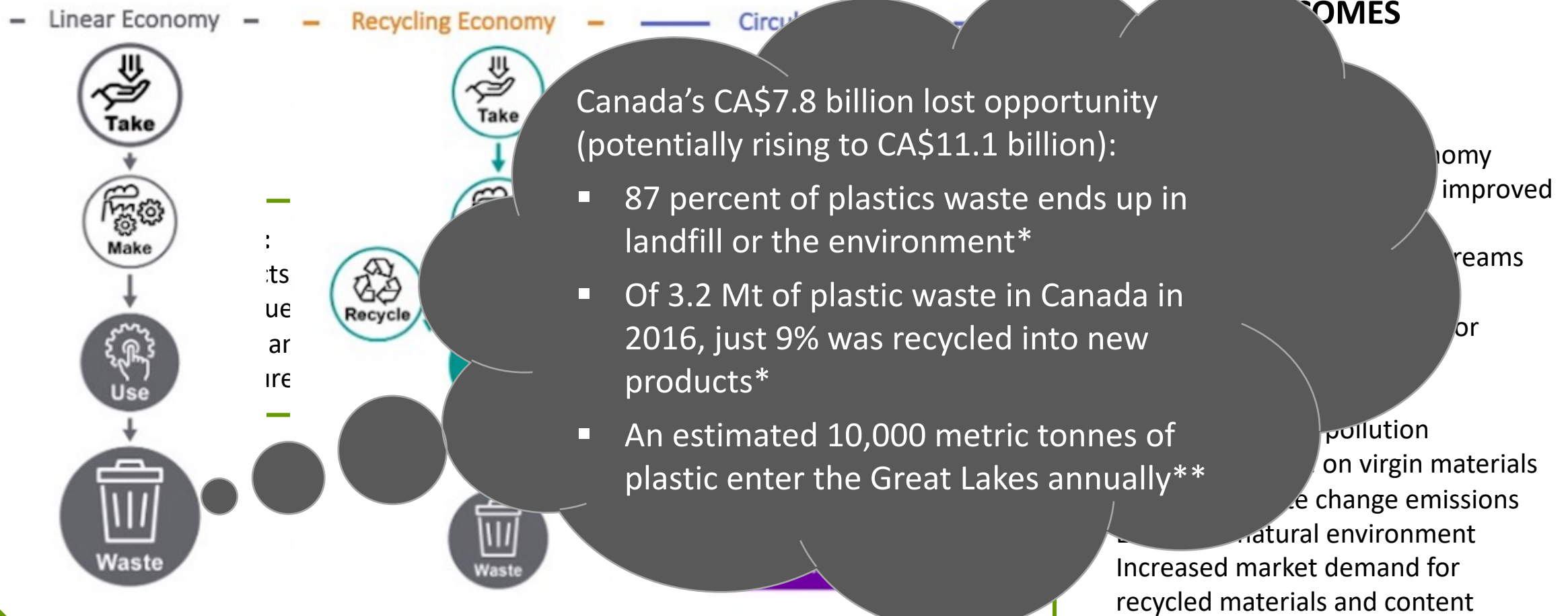


## C. Addressing the plastics challenge



## D. Defining actions

## Addressing challenges - delivering environmental, social and economic outcomes

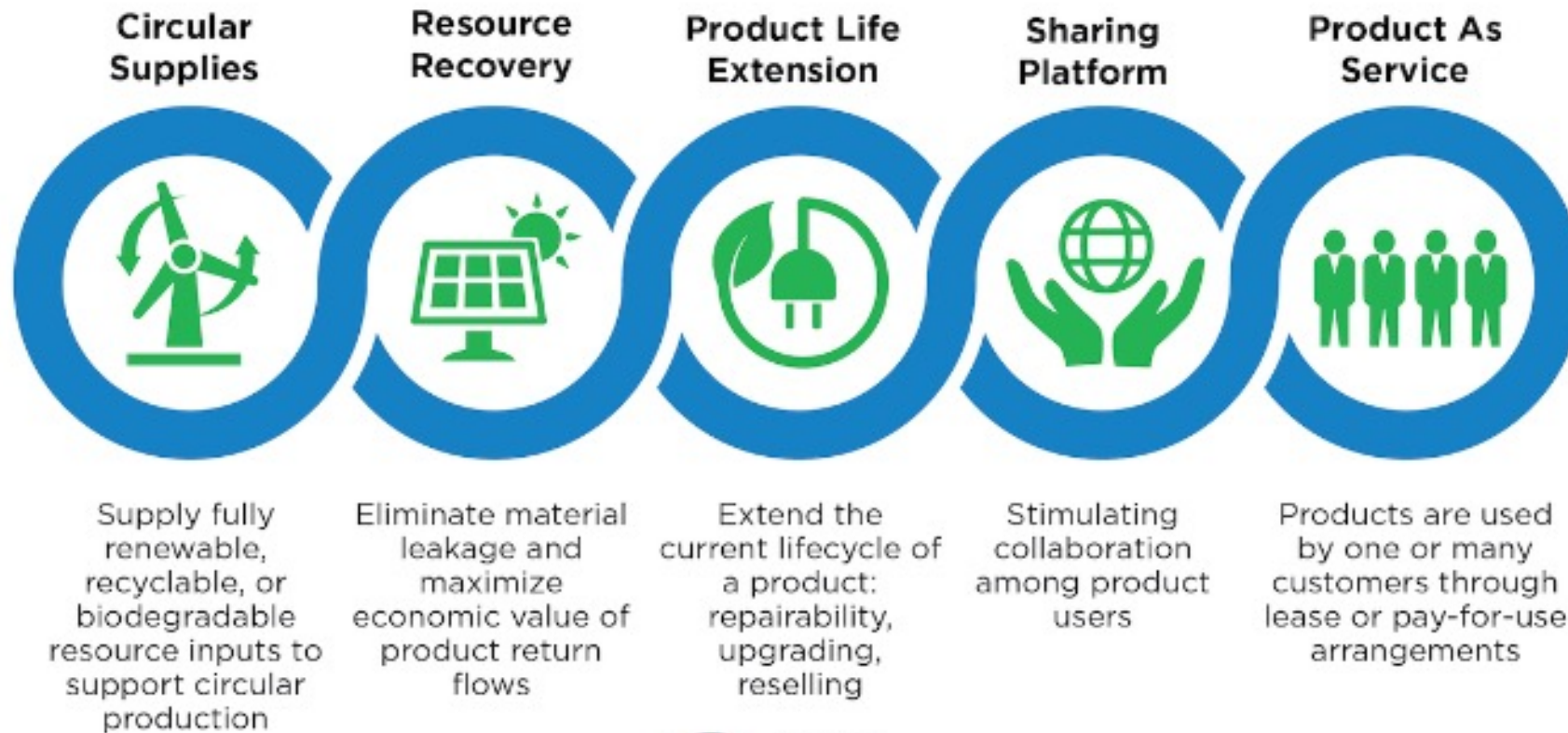


\*Source: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/5-circular-economy-business-models-competitive-advantage/>

\*\* [https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/Plastics\\_Best%20Practices.pdf](https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/Plastics_Best%20Practices.pdf)



# Five business models of circularity



#WasteReductionWeek



@WRWCanada

Source: <https://wrwcanada.com/en/get-involved/resources/circular-economy-themed-resources/five-business-models-circularity>  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/5-circular-economy-business-models-competitive-advantage/>

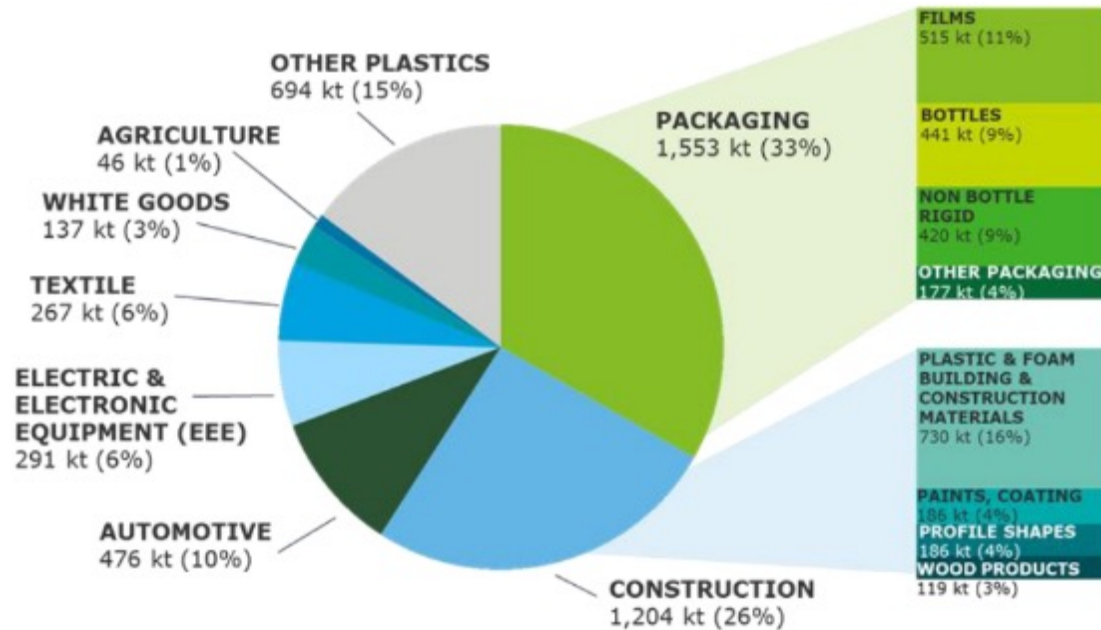
Discussion

## Circular economy and plastics



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9k8A957srw>

# Priorities - plastics use and waste sources



End-use markets for plastic products in Canada (kt, 2016)

The main generating sectors for plastic waste are (% of total plastic waste):



**Packaging (47 percent)**



**Automotive (9 percent)**



**Textiles (7 percent)**



**Electrical and electronic equipment (7 percent)**

**Construction:**

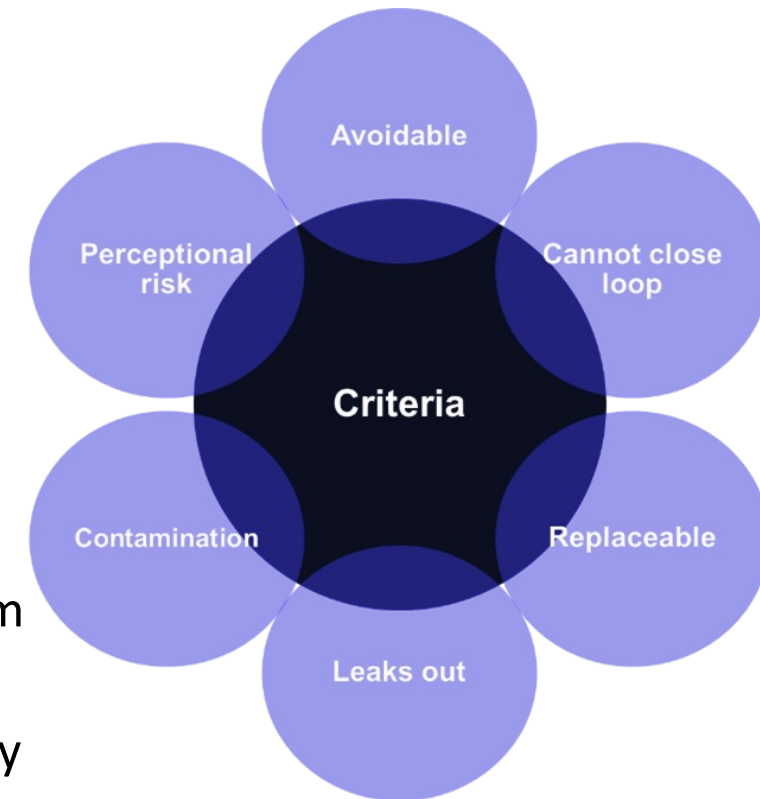


Accounts for 26 percent of plastic put on the market - not yet a large plastic waste generator (5 percent) but this may change.

# Problematic plastics

Plastic items can become problematic for a number of reasons:

1. **Uncommon material:** the polymer (e.g. PVC, EPS and PS) cannot currently be recycled effectively with the existing collection and recycling infrastructure for either technical or economic reasons.
2. **Design:** the design and manufacture of plastics items mitigates either effective collection and/or recycling.
3. **Leakage:** e.g. through disposal behaviour or mismanagement, e.g. frequently littered.
4. **Recycling:** the collection and recycling infrastructure cannot deal with recyclable plastics items because of cross-contamination, size and form etc.
5. **Perception:** the plastic item is widely perceived to be a problem e.g. by the public, media, environmental organisations and governments etc.





# Plastics waste...

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How does plastics waste arise?

Pick top 3...

- a. Plastics used where other materials may be more suitable
- b. Single use plastics
- c. Plastics difficult to separate within products
- d. Plastics not recyclable
- e. Plastics within packaging
- f. Plastics not segregated
- g. Unnecessary procurement

Poll



# Action at all levels of government



FEDERAL



PROVINCIAL



MUNICIPAL

## Federal-Provincial-Territorial initiatives:

### Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste Phase 1 and 2

**Sources:** images courtesy of Legislative Assembly of Ontario/

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy/circular-economy-initiatives.html#toc1>

[https://ccme.ca/en/res/ccmephase2actionplan\\_en-external-secured.pdf](https://ccme.ca/en/res/ccmephase2actionplan_en-external-secured.pdf)



**Provincial Resources, waste reduction:**

<https://wrwcanada.com/en/resources/provincial-resources>



# Federal policy – plastics waste reduction

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- **Increase plastic waste diversion; commitment:** Divert at least 75% of plastic waste by 2030 from federal operations.
- **Reduce single-use plastic use in operations, meetings and events; commitment:** Eliminate the unnecessary use of single-use plastics in government operations, events and meetings.
- **Retaining product value:** develop a strategy to encourage the remanufacturing of products and other value-retention processes – VRPs – (such as refurbishment, repair and reuse).
- **Legislation:** ban the manufacture and importation of single-use plastics from December 2022\*.
- **Procure sustainable plastics products; commitment:** When procuring products that contain plastics, promote the procurement of sustainable plastic products and the reduction of associated plastic packaging waste →



# Trainer tips

- Allocate short time to **discussions** (ca 5 minutes) due to length of module
- **Poll** – you could use an online poll tool (e.g. Teams, Zoom, Mentimeter, Slido etc) that records the output or simply use chat function (if online) or hands (if face-2-face)
- Resource slides – these are hidden but you can show them and/or refer to them as additional resources for learning outside of the Module training.
  - Reference the resource materials website if you do.
- Timings – **this section should take around 30 minutes**





A. The Circular economy and plastics



B. Circular procurement – aligning with public sector objectives, key principles and role of procurement in addressing the plastics waste challenge



C. Addressing the plastics challenge



D. Defining actions

# The 'Golden Thread' - The power of procurement to deliver a circular economy





# Key success factors

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**SET AMBITIONS** - policy objective, targets and buy-in to circular approach; focus on priorities.



**CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES** - Be prepared to consider alternatives to business as usual – asking ‘Why?’



**START EARLY** - Make the right choices early on in the procurement process.



**COLLABORATION IS KEY** - Maximise opportunities by collaborating internally, with markets and peers.



## Setting ambitions: Objective setting

	Present	Future
<b>Value Drivers</b>	Cost Savings and Risk Mitigation	Carbon and policy delivery mechanism
<b>Procurement's Role</b>	Sourcing (operational)	Strategic as well as operational
<b>Business Role</b>	Procurement Customer	'Intelligent' client
<b>Delivery Model</b>	Standalone Corporate Function	Integrated category management approach
<b>Resources</b>	Execution Staff and Core Experts	Embedded capability across whole procurement cycle



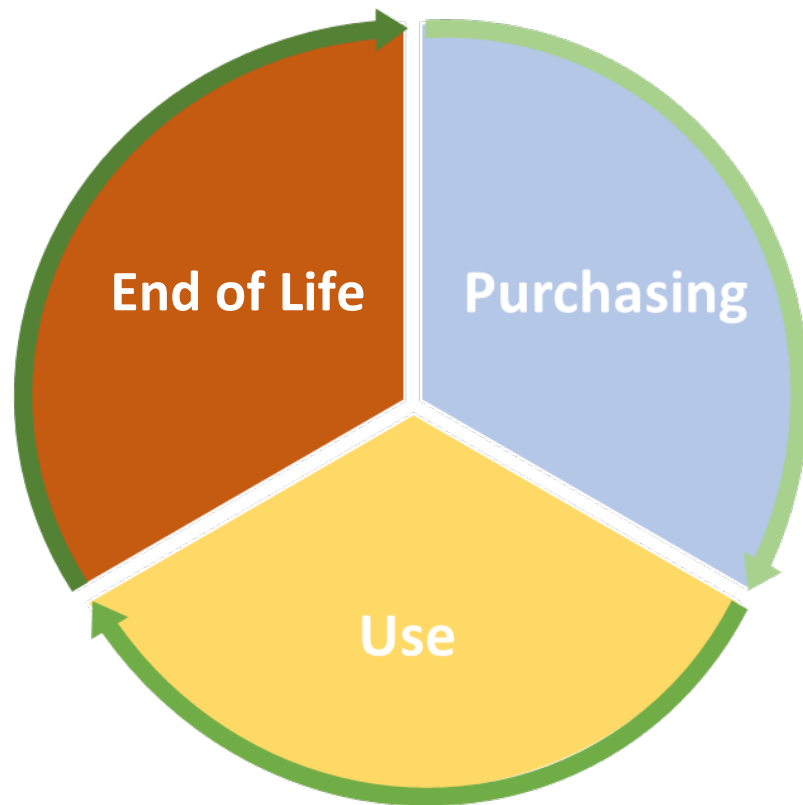


# Circular procurement – delivering positive outcomes

PRINCIPLE	CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT ACTION	INTERNAL BENEFITS	WIDER BENEFITS
AVOID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid new products</li> <li>Reconsider ownership</li> <li>Fewer products</li> </ul>	Retaining assets longer to reduce costs	Reduced virgin non-renewable material use
		Reduced plastics waste	Closing product and material loops to reduce waste and associated carbon emissions
LIFETIME OPTIMISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise utilization of existing assets</li> <li>Repair existing products</li> <li>Reuse-internally or externally</li> </ul>	Improved resource efficiency	Reducing wider environmental impacts
		Lower greenhouse gas emissions	More sustainable consumption and production
		Improved and market leading performance	Increased whole life value
LIFETIME EXTENSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remanufacture</li> <li>Design for deconstruction/disassembly</li> <li>End of life collection</li> </ul>	Taking control of sustainability outcomes	More resilient growth
		Balance across triple bottom line	New (Green) training & job opportunities throughout the supply chain
		Robust framework to ensure partners aligned with organizational aims	
CLOSE LOOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle materials</li> <li>Displace virgin materials</li> <li>Reduce Landfill</li> </ul>	Improved reputation	Increased social value

## Considering the full life cycle

Circular procurement addresses all stages of product lifecycle:



Source

Where does it come from?

Who made it?

What is it made of?

Use

How will it be used?

EoL

What will happen to it?

# The City of Toronto

## Circular procurement commitment

**Background:** In 2016, the City Council approved the Long-Term Waste Management Strategy and formed a Cross-Divisional Circular Economy Working Group to apply circular economy principles to the city's procurement processes.

**Actions:** The Circular Economy Procurement Implementation Plan and Framework is the City's tool to leverage the purchasing power to drive waste reduction, economic growth, and social prosperity through a circular economy approach.

**Impacts:** Since inception, the project has launched the pilot phase and has begun to identify existing circular procurement activities and integrate new requirements within call documents.

**Barriers overcome & Lessons:** The Framework helps the city to drive circular economy innovation and implementation while generating a broad range of societal benefits through its procurement practices.

Example

Source: [Circular economy procurement plan and framework: Toronto \(ellenmacarthurfoundation.org\)](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/circular-economy-procurement-plan-and-framework-toronto)





# Circular procurement commitment within responsible procurement policy

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## THE GLA GROUP RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Delivering Social Value Through our Supply Chain

### Extract from Responsible Procurement Policy March 2021

*'Giving priority to circular procurement options and business models that maximise value from products and services for as long as possible, keep long term expenditure down, use sustainable materials, and reduce financial and asset disposal risks.'*

*We will encourage and trial materials innovation to keep materials in circulation for longer to reduce consumption of resources and reduce the usage of disposable products, particularly single-use plastics.'*

Example

Source: [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla\\_group\\_responsible\\_procurement\\_policy\\_2021.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_group_responsible_procurement_policy_2021.pdf)

## Consider alternatives: asking 'Why?'

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Why?



- Why do we procure what we do?
- What alternatives are there we should consider, that may deliver the required function and reduce plastics waste?
- Have we considered this with key stakeholders and the market?
- Does this include alternatives to ownership?
- How will it be used and what will happen to it afterwards?
- Is an innovative solution needed?

## Alternative innovative solutions

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- Is there an 'unmet need' regarding plastics waste reduction?
- Are improvements in products, materials or services possible?
- Are the conditions for innovation in place within the public body?
- 'Ask a smart question – get a smart answer' – let the market propose ideas.



**GREENMANTRA**<sup>™</sup>  
TECHNOLOGIES

<https://greenmantra.com/>

## INNOVATION?

### Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Plastics Challenges:

- Find sustainable alternatives to plastic packaging
- Reduce plastic waste from textiles
- Divert end-of-life vehicles' plastic from landfills
- Reduce e-waste
- Monitor microplastics in marine environments
- Recycling plastic into ceiling tiles



Source:

<https://plasticactioncentre.ca/directory/industry-plastics-initiatives/>  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/canadian-plastics-innovation-challenges--environment-and-climate-change-canada-phase-1-recipients.html>



# Circular Suppliers

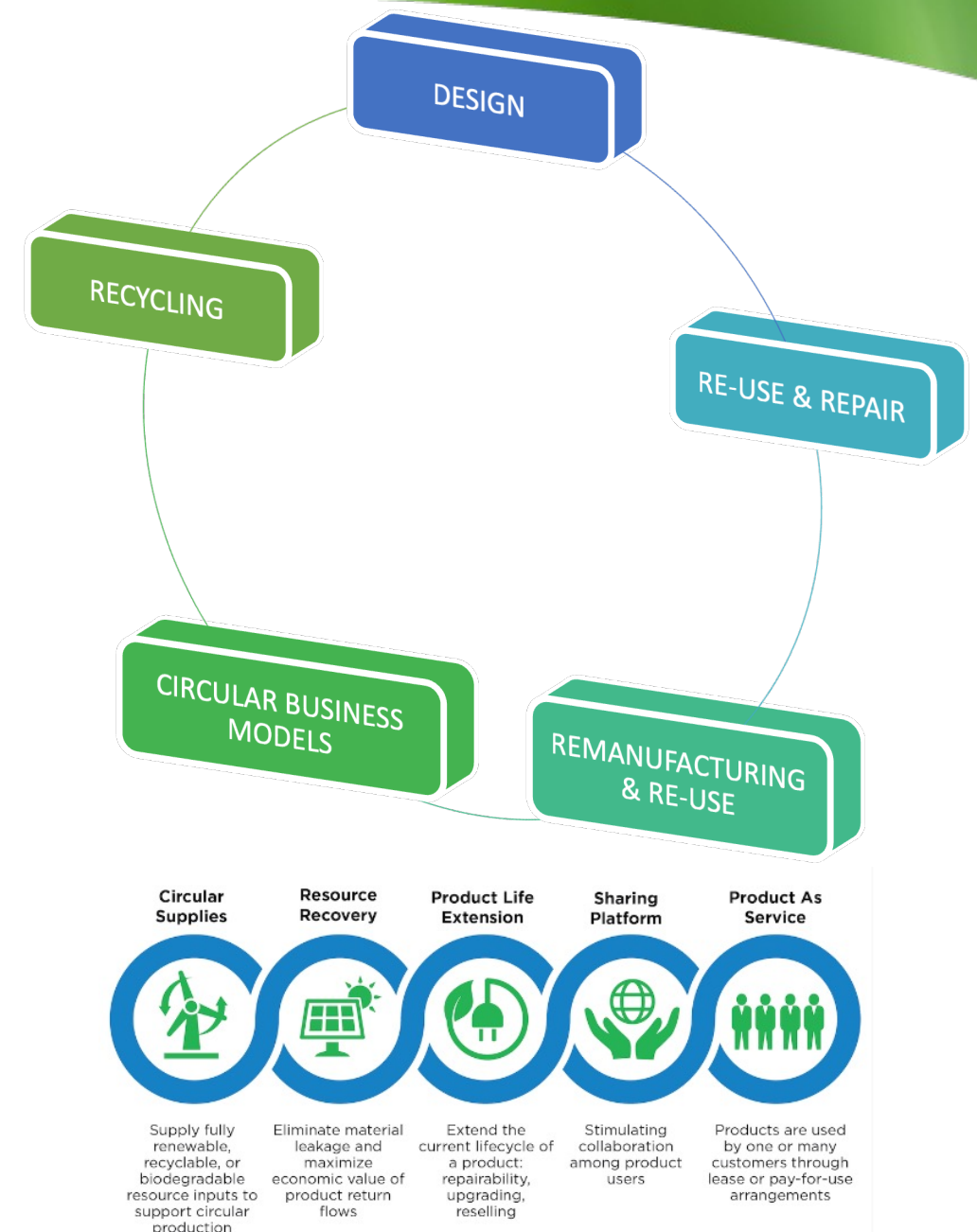
Businesses may be able to apply various approaches that support the transition to a circular economy and reduce plastics waste.

## Buyers:

Consider, for example, the pros and cons of circular business models early in the commissioning and procurement process, and not automatically default to historic purchasing.

## Suppliers:

Consider the role and implications of these business models in their business planning and supply offering.





Electrical and electronic equipment

## Circular approaches to plastics waste – *Lifetime optimization & extension*



Refurbishing equipment for reuse by schools across Canada.

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cfs-ope.nsf/eng/home>



Equipment in working condition can be sold for reuse to the public.

<https://www.gcsurplus.ca/mn-eng.cfm>

Example



Packaging

## Circular approaches to plastics waste – *Innovative ‘closing the loop’*



### USABLE PACKAGING Bioplastics for the Circular Economy



The Usable Packaging project – funded under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme – aims to reduce the use of environmentally harmful fossil-fuel-based packaging by developing “high-performance” bio-alternatives derived from food industry by-products, to cover packaging and product needs for the food, drinks, pharmaceutical and clothing industries.

Recommendations (not yet EU policy) include:

- Mandating the obligatory use of biobased and compostable materials in applications where traditional plastics can only ever be contaminants.
- Promoting policies which ensure market space for innovation in materials manufacture.

Source:

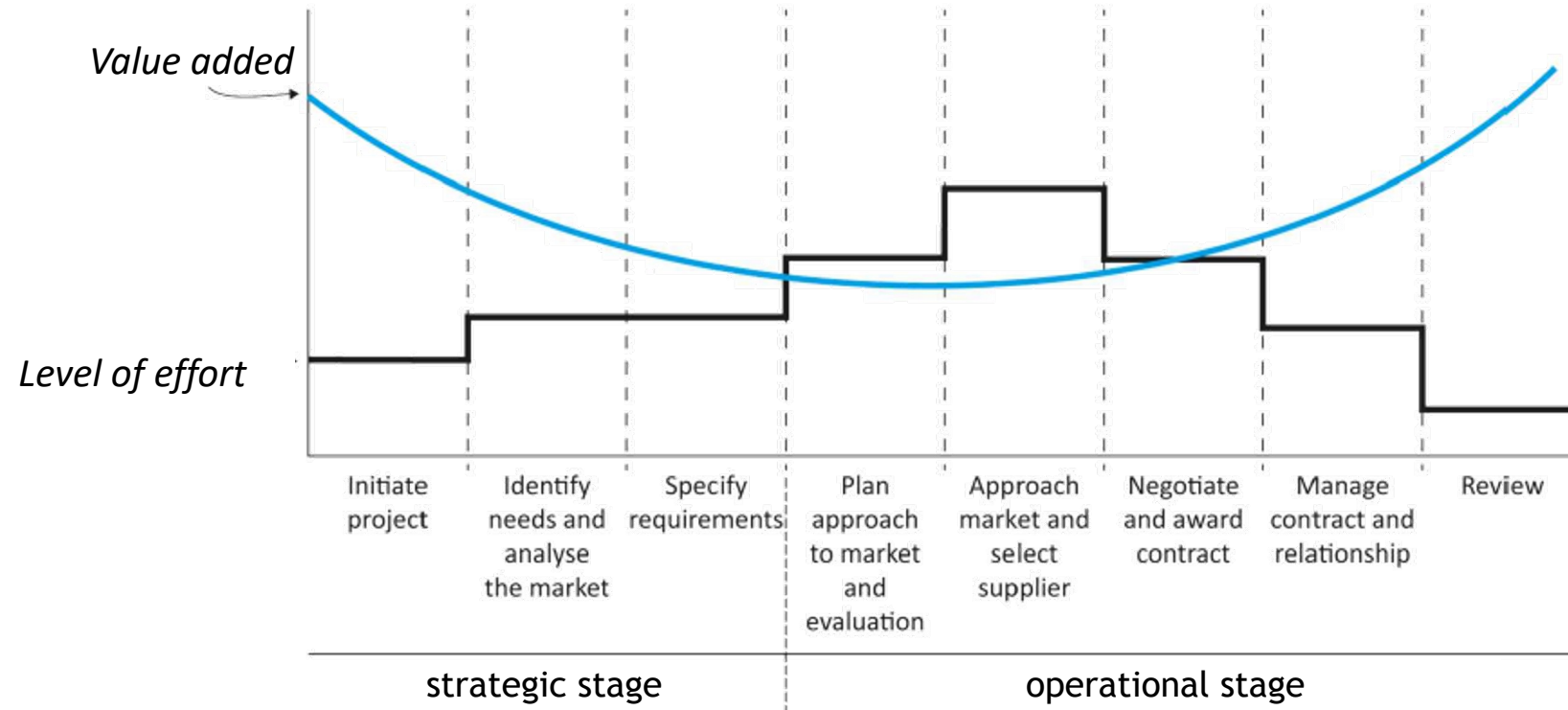
<https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/usable-packaging-project-submits-seven-point-strategy-for-european-institutions/>

Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy: <https://www.bioeconomy.fi/facts-and-contacts/the-finnish-bioeconomy-strategy/>

Example



# Start early – collaboration is key



Engagement

Internal

With the market

With other  
public sector

Challenge need – eliminate or reduce consumption  
Challenge requirements – specification  
/ alternative solutions  
Technical and Service Specifications

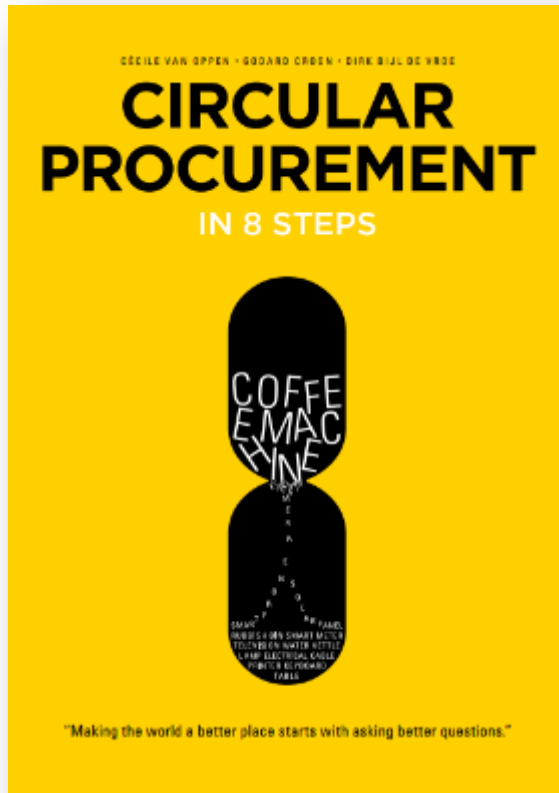
**What We Buy**

**How We Buy**

Selection Criteria  
Method Statements  
Terms and Conditions  
Added Social Value (TOMS)  
Performance Measures / KPIs

Choice of Procedure  
Output / Outcome focused

## Reinforced in 'Circular procurement in 8 steps'



1. From definition to ambition
2. Internal organisation
3. Defining your need
4. Business models
5. Market collaboration
6. Tender procedure
7. Evaluating and awarding
8. Contract management



# Trainer tips

- **Examples** – depending on pace these case study examples can be added to using the additional slides in the resource pack (reference the resource materials website) or deleted (if not enough time).
  - Alternatively if you have your own local examples swap these in.
  - Note that examples typically address more than one circular theme so emphasises the aspects most relevant to the Section but remind audience that a circular approach is systemic and so delivers multiple benefits.
- **Resource slides** – these are hidden but you can show them and/or refer to them as additional resources for learning outside of the Module training.
  - Reference the resource materials website if you do.
- **Timings** – **this section should take around 30 minutes**



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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a blue plate with a taco. The taco is topped with shredded meat, white onions, red tomatoes, and green herbs. To the left of the plate is a large metal bowl filled with a yellowish soup. The background is blurred, showing a food stall or market setting. A green curved bar is at the top of the image, and a white text box is overlaid on the left side.

**LUNCH BREAK – please be back in 30 minutes**





A. The Circular economy and plastics



B. Circular procurement and plastics



C. Addressing the plastics challenge



D. Defining actions

## Let's deal with challenges (to the plastics challenge)...

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Actual	Perceived
Not being considered early enough by the right people?	Better recycling is <u>the</u> answer?
Alternatives to historic procurement not considered?	Buy-in – 'Canada is an insignificant contributor to the global plastics problem - banning single-use plastics will harm consumers.'
Limited examples in Canada?	Trade agreements and procurement uncertainty?
Buyers may not encourage and enable innovation?	Others?
Resources and local constraints?	
Strategic?	
Others?	

# Green procurement and International Trade Agreements

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## The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)

As a party to the GPA, Canada is committed to:

- non-discriminatory, fair and transparent conditions of competition in government procurement
- ensuring that our approach to green procurement remains consistent with our obligations under the GPA.

The GPA does not prevent Parties from implementing green procurement policies, as long as it is not done in a discriminatory fashion or as a disguised restriction on international trade.

The GPA contains provisions that enable Parties to include environmental considerations in procurement processes.



## Addressing actual & perceived challenges

In your group, consider:

- What are the challenges you face/ feel others face in reducing plastics waste from procurement?
- What solutions exist/ have been used/ could be developed – share lessons?

Breakout  
Groups





# Plastics and procurement – where is it?

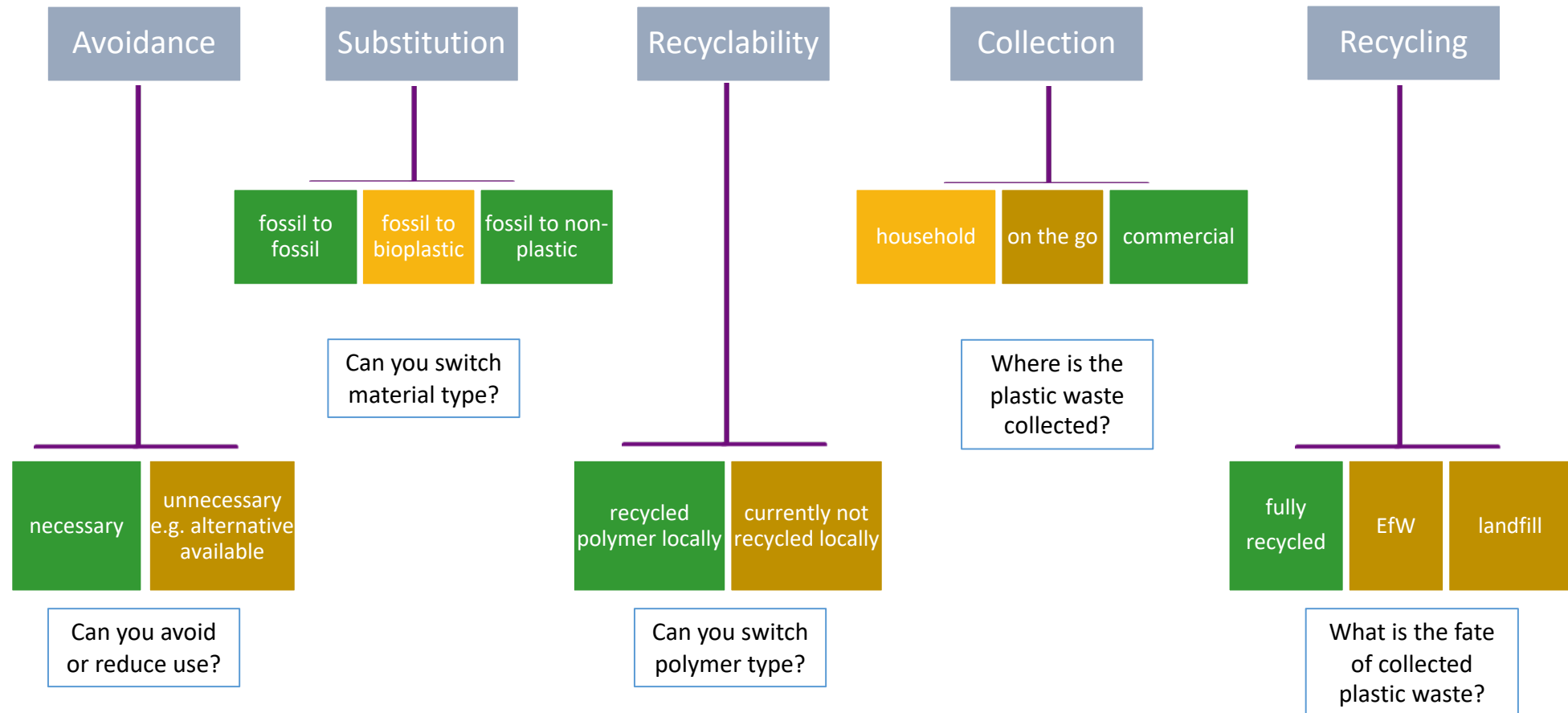
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- Are you procuring plastics?
- Are you procuring products and packaging (or services which use products or packaging) which contain plastics?



# Procuring plastics

## Key questions:



# Plastics strategies

PRINCIPLE	CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT ACTION
<b>AVOID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Avoid new products</li><li>▪ Reconsider ownership</li><li>▪ Fewer products</li></ul>
<b>LIFETIME OPTIMISATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Optimise utilization of existing assets</li><li>▪ Repair existing products</li><li>▪ Reuse-internally or externally</li></ul>
<b>LIFETIME EXTENSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Remanufacture</li><li>▪ Design for deconstruction/disassembly</li><li>▪ End of life collection</li></ul>
<b>CLOSE LOOPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recycle materials</li><li>▪ Displace virgin materials</li><li>▪ Reduce Landfill</li></ul>

- A range of strategies exist to reduce plastics waste through procurement – applying the principles considered earlier.
- These are included within the Resource Pack.

# Trainer tips

- **Resource slides** – these are hidden but you can show them and/or refer to them as additional resources for learning outside of the Module training.
  - Reference the resource materials website if you do.
  - Note the more detailed plastic strategies can be mentioned as part of the additional resources.
  - Note the more detailed plastics procurement decision tree can be referenced as a tool within the additional resources.
- **Timings – this section should take around 45 minutes and an additional 30 minutes for short lunch break**
  - Note that lunch break can be flexed in trainings sessions depending on the audience but a minimum 10 minute comfort break around the middle is recommended.





A. The Circular economy and plastics



B. Circular procurement and plastics



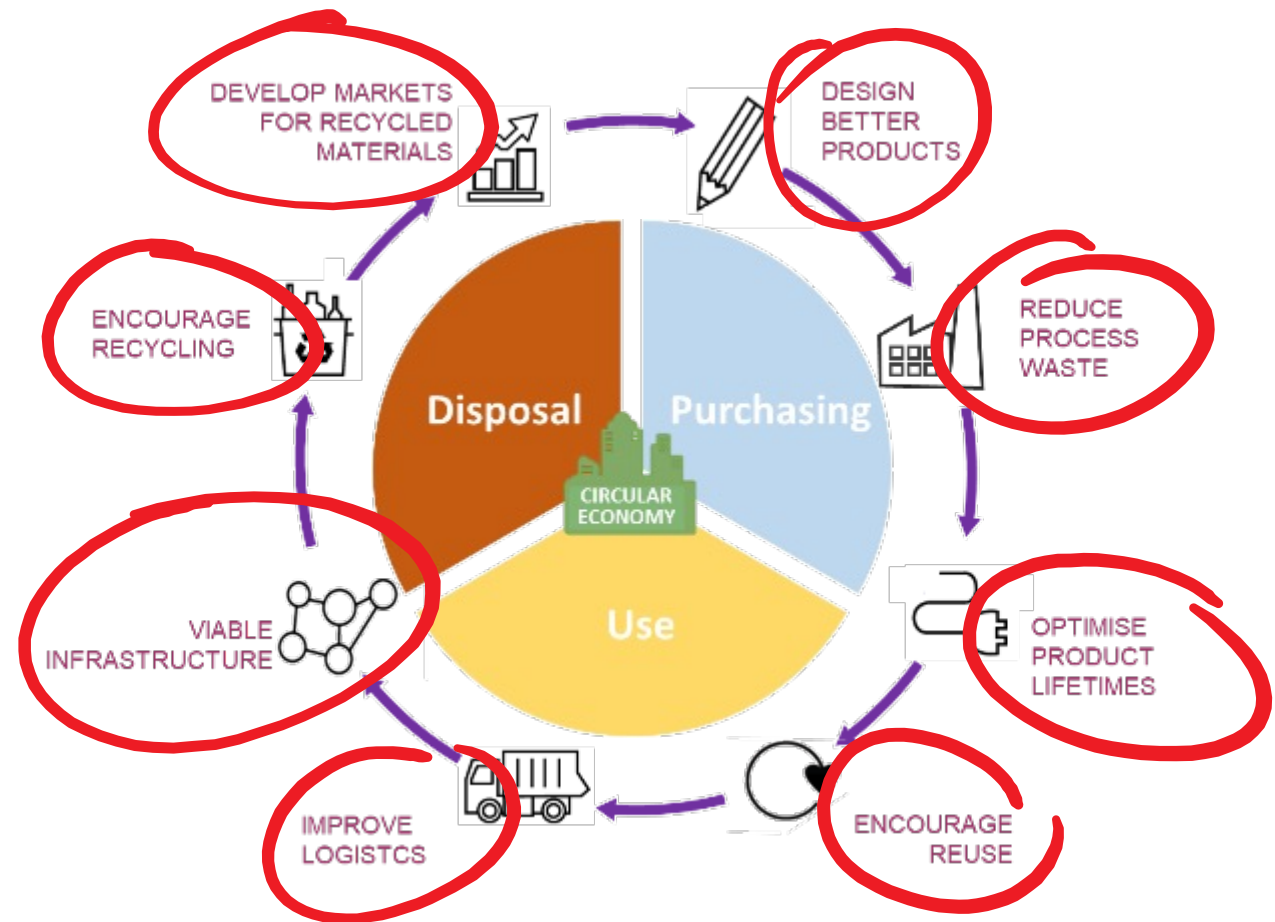
C. Addressing the plastics challenge



D. Defining actions

# Choosing a starting point

- Are you looking to make a step change or a transformational change?
- Be proportionate to the size (£) and the subject matter of the tender.
- Where to start?
- Starting point will determine what tools can be considered.





# A road map to reduce plastics waste

**Step 1:** Understand what you currently purchase

**Step 2:** Understand how plastic products and packaging are used and disposed of

**Step 3:** Identify options to avoid, re-use or replace plastics

**Step 4:** Use buying power

**Step 5:** Guidance and communication to support behavior change

**Step 6:** Monitor and evaluate the impact of changes

**Step 7:** Encourage suppliers to apply the principles and practice of the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and Action Plan...





# Developing an Action Plan

ACTION	FOCUS e.g. Policy and Buy-in, Capability, Collaboration, Identifying priorities, Tender requirements, Monitoring outcomes	KEY ACTORS

Breakout  
Groups

# SESSION 1 LEARNING CHECKLIST – Key takeaways



## 1. Circular economy, procurement and plastics

**Aim:**

Create a common understanding of the benefits and key principles of circular procurement relating to plastics waste.

How it supports priority economic, environmental and social outcomes at Federal, Provincial or Municipal level.

Identify key actions/ next steps at policy/ strategy/ process/ capability or other level.

Discussion

I understand:

- ...the important role that procurement plays in addressing the climate emergency and supporting a circular economy and benefits arising.
- ...where and how plastics waste arises and the nature of the problem.
- ...procurement success factors of setting clear ambition, asking ‘Why’ to consider alternatives, collaborating internally, with markets and peers – early in the process.
- ...challenges to reducing plastics waste through procurement and actual or potential solutions.
- ...key questions to ask and where to focus effort to start to address plastics waste through procurement.



# Next session....specifying requirements - asking the right questions

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## 2. Specifying circular outcomes – the procurement toolbox

### Aims:

- Build confidence in practically using procurement to reduce plastic waste.
- Apply through stages of the procurement process and the life cycle of the relevant product/ service or works.
- Identify key actions/ next steps for procurement project/ policy/ strategy/ process/ capability or other level.

### Before the next session consider:

- Planned procurements, where plastics is used/ plastics waste is an issue of concern



Give us some feedback.....



Poll

Thank you!

# Trainer tips

- Timings may be pressed at the end of Module but ensure that the Action Plan Breakout group is given adequate time (minimum of 15 minutes recommended).
- Timings – **this section should take around 25 minutes** including Action Plan and Module closure
- Total Module including 30 minute lunch break is 3 hours.

## CONTACTS:

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Mervyn Jones, Sustainable Global Resources

[mervyn@sustainableglobalresources.co.uk](mailto:mervyn@sustainableglobalresources.co.uk)

TRAINING WEBSITE: [https://circularplastics.eu/green\\_procurement](https://circularplastics.eu/green_procurement)

## SESSION 2 – Specifying circular outcomes – the procurement toolbox is on 2 December 2022



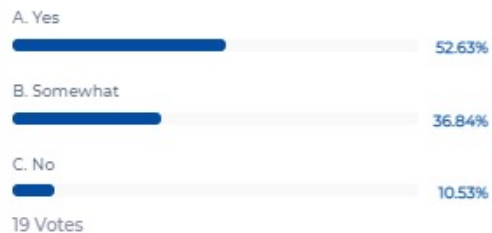
Question 5: What part of the course did you find most useful?



Question 4: Do you have a greater understanding of success factors in the procurement process that will help to support circular economy such as setting clear goals, considering alternatives, collaboration early in the process?

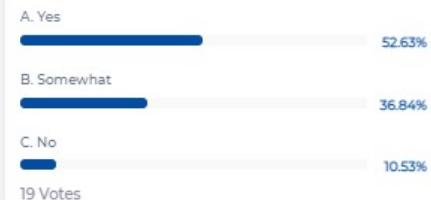


Question 3: Did you learn new information about the role that procurement can play in supporting a circular economy and reducing plastic waste?



Chat Poll

Question 3: Did you learn new information about the role that procurement can play in supporting a circular economy and reducing plastic waste?



Question 2: Please indicate what you think are the top 3 sources of plastic waste:



Question 1: What are you hoping to learn in this training course:

