



“TRASH TO TREASURE”

The Circular Economy and South
Africa

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THE CONCEPT OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Principle 1

Regenerate natural systems

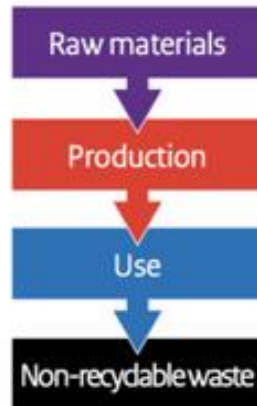
Principle 2

Keep materials and products in circulation

Principle 3

Design out waste and pollution

Linear economy



Reuse economy



Circular economy



GLOBAL ADOPTION

- EU leader transition to a circular economy
- Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)
 - Outlines measures and actions to stimulate circular economy transition
 - Supported mainstreaming of circular economy principles: plastic, water and waste management, food systems
- EU member state circular economy initiatives
 - (e.g. France, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Scotland, Portugal)



GLOBAL ADOPTION

- EU Plastics Strategy
- Arguably first sector strategy to integrate circular economy
- Under the strategy:
 - All plastic packaging on EU market recyclable by 2030
 - Consumption of single-use plastics reduced
 - Intentional use of microplastics restricted
- Aims to transform the way products are designed, produced, used, and recycled in the EU
- Translated into rules for 10 single use plastics

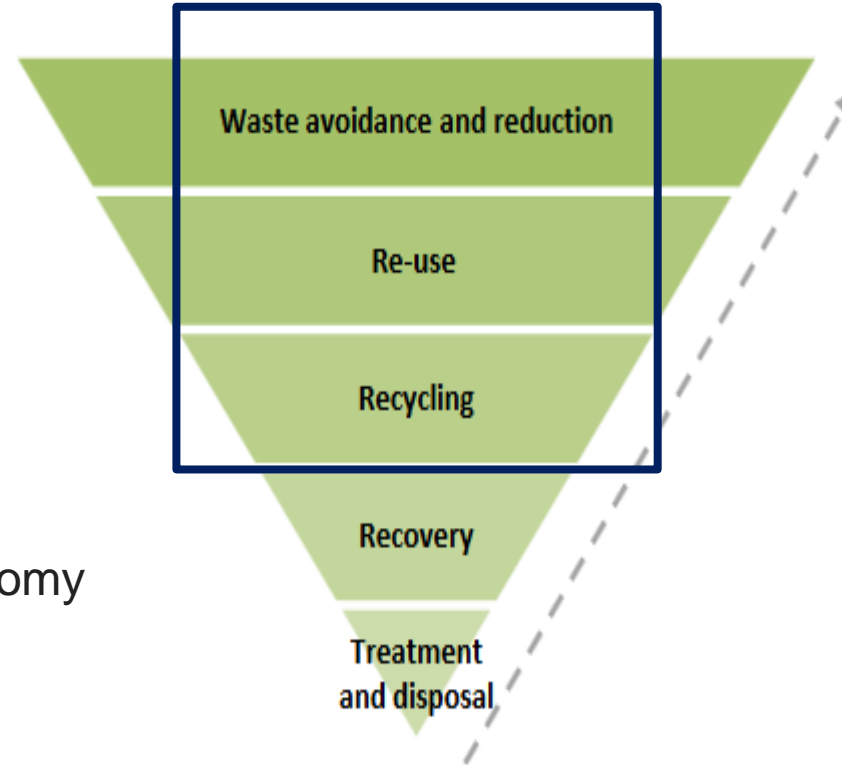


GLOBAL ADOPTION

- China (where the concept originated)
 - Integrated into national economic strategy
 - Inclusion into 5-year plans
- Australia
 - Developed latest waste policy based on circular economy principles
- Thailand
 - Seeking to implement circular economy framework to inform national planning

SOUTH AFRICA

- ▶ No formal Circular Economy Strategy
- ▶ Waste management legislation structured around waste hierarchy
 - NEM: Waste Act (2008);
 - NWMS (2011)
- ▶ National Waste RDI Roadmap 2015-2025 supports projects relevant to circular economy
- ▶ Fiscal drivers
 - National pricing strategy
 - Proposed landfill tax
 - Plastic bag tax
- ▶ Industry waste management plans



SOUTH AFRICA



Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP) facilitates waste exchanges, creating economic value and jobs



Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Industrial Symbiosis Programmes



Research and advisory support

.....And then various individual company-level activities, a selection of which will be presented

BARRIERS

Cultural

- Limited consumer awareness and interest
- Reticent company culture

Regulatory

- Lacking policies to support transition
- Limited circular procurement
- Limited global consensus and standardization

Market

- Low virgin material prices
- High upfront investment costs
- Circular business models lacking economic viability

Technical

- Limited ability to deliver high-quality re-manufactured products
- Limited data on impacts

THANK YOU