

Beyond waste minimisation planning to catalysing a Circular Economy

By Tania Hyde

How might we rethink our waste model to shape a better future? How might we enable design, discovery, disruption and data to catalyse the transition to a circular economy? There is a compelling need to change our current focus from recycling to identifying synergies and opportunities to leverage better outcomes.

Governments around the world are recognising that the current ‘take-make-waste’ linear economy based on extraction, exponential growth and overconsumption of natural resources is a significant contributor to climate change, biodiversity loss, depletion of natural resources, ocean acidification, and pollution. This has led to significant momentum to transition to a more Circular Economy (CE).

Whilst the CE approach originated from a focus on waste minimisation and resource efficiency, it’s now used globally as an overarching framework for unlocking economic developments addressing broader social and environmental challenges.

Leading-edge thinking recognises that waste systems are nested within other systems and circular economies are more localised and grounded at community, city and regional levels. This requires a strong spatial component to shaping the transition from linear to circular waste systems of the future. The presentation will share the latest thinking from Europe and discuss enablers, synergies and opportunities for disruptive innovation.

Bio - Tania Hyde

Tania is a Chartered Civil Engineer, Technical Director and Circular Design Lead for Beca’s Transport and Infrastructure (T&I) team in NZ. She has over 20 years’ experience in delivering T&I projects bringing her broad knowledge of technical design, procurement, and construction processes, and leadership direction to the teams she works with.

Tania works closely with Beca’s Debbie O’Byrne, to align Broader Outcomes with Circular Economy principles to integrate circular outcomes in projects. Together they’ve developed Beca’s new Circular Design Framework for project delivery. This work is supported by her recent European training in Spatial Circularity Strategies for Sustainable Regional Development.