



The deployment of the circular economy is seen as an opportunity to boost the economy in a regenerative way that operates within the limits of the planet. The use of resources should be further optimised by repairing, reusing and recycling more but, above all, by designing products and services that do not create additional sources of waste. This model reinforces the objective of industrial renewal of Wallonia and will allow it to improve its resilience to future crises, by fully integrating the change of course imposed by climate imbalance, and by ensuring greater independence in terms of resources and in relation to global supply chains.



VISION

Wallonia's vision is based on the following guidelines:

- Moving towards a **carbon-neutral economy**;
- Moving towards a **resilient and inclusive economy**;
- Stimulating **innovation** as a catalyst by relying particularly on nature-based solutions and digital transition.

With Circular Wallonia, Wallonia intends to progress along the path mapped out by Europe with its Green Deal, and thus contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, halting the decline of biodiversity and improving the employment rate.

The strategic objectives of Circular Wallonia include:

- Replacing fossil fuels or non-sustainably produced resources by renewable and widely available resources wherever possible by 2050;
- Increasing the productivity of resources by 25% between 2020 and 2035;
- Reducing the direct material input and domestic material consumption by 25% by 2030 (compared to 2013);
- Increasing the number of Walloon jobs contributing directly and indirectly to the circular economy by 20% by 2025.

A REGIONAL DYNAMIC TO BE REINFORCED

Circular Wallonia is the result of a political evolution principally in force since the Marshall Plan 4.0 (2015-2019). For several years, a variety of initiatives and support schemes for the development of the circular economy have been created, particularly in terms of support, financing of projects, reuse and management of waste-resources, which include:

- Supporting businesses through the Network of low-carbon advisors, coordinated by SOWALFIN;
- The NEXT programme which invests in loans and/or capital to finance SMEs or large businesses;
- Circular economy cheques;
- Walloon competitiveness clusters;
- The Green Deal for Circular Purchasing.

The Walloon Waste-Resources Plan (PWD-R), adopted on 22 March 2018, also marked an evolution in the waste management policy by integrating the principles of the circular economy.

Given the cross-cutting nature of the challenges, other plans and strategies of the Region address certain facets of the circular economy, particularly: the Smart Specialisation Strategy, the long-term strategy for the energy renovation of buildings, the Employment-Environment Alliance, and the Walloon strategy to support the development of the social economy «Alternativ'ES». Circular Wallonia aims to be consistent with these other strategic documents, and intends to coordinate, reinforce and increase the regional dynamic in circular economy.

10 AMBITIONS FOR A CIRCULAR WALLONIA

10 ambitions are at the heart of Circular Wallonia:

- 1 To be a region with an economic and industrial ecosystem that is engaged in the circular economy
- 2 To be a pioneering region in circular innovations and a leader on a European scale
- 3 To be a region that manages and exploits its natural resources in a circular way
- 4 To empower consumers
- 5 To make the Region an exemplary stakeholder
- 6 To inform, educate and train all the stakeholders in the circular economy
- 7 To implement a sustainable dynamic with the Region's stakeholders
- 8 To make waste prevention an opportunity for all
- 9 To improve knowledge surrounding waste-resources
- 10 To increase the policy of sorting at source and better treatment of waste



KEY MEASURES

Circular Wallonia includes over 60 measures with an estimated budget of over €200 million to ensure the deployment of the circular economy and to achieve Wallonia's 10 ambitions. Financing will be based on various sources: reallocated current budgets, ERDF, the European recovery and resilience fund, mobilisation of European resources (Horizon Europe, S3 Cooperation Partnerships, IPCEI Vanguard pilot projects).

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MEASURES

10
WALLONIA'S
AMBITIONS

This package of measures has been designed in an integrated way, and will be reinforced when implemented. These measures can be adapted and completed gradually as they are implemented thanks to the flexible and participatory governance.

The priorities for action favouring Walloon businesses include:

- Raising awareness, informing, supporting;
- Giving better visibility and strengthening existing provisions and tools in Wallonia;
- Stimulating the demand for circular products and goods through public procurement;
- Strengthening the visibility of circular Walloon products on a European and international scale;
- Promoting innovative projects and maximising European cooperation partnerships.

Other measures are planned for multiple target audiences, such as civil society, public actors, citizens and businesses. For example:

- Promoting the actions already carried out within the Region, and raising awareness of the circular economy among all stakeholders;
- Strengthening the development of knowledge and skills;
- Strengthening existing tools to equip public authorities for circular and innovative public procurement;
- Creating a territorial tool for monitoring and developing value chains;
- Developing a set of indicators for monitoring the state and evolution of the circular economy in Wallonia.

DEPLOYMENT OF THE SIX PRIORITY VALUE CHAINS

Particular attention is paid to the six value chains that are promising for the circular economy in Wallonia. These have been defined at the cross-over between European themes and the Region's strengths and ambitions:



Construction and buildings



Plastics



L'industrie alimentaire et les systèmes alimentaires



Water



Textiles



Metallurgy
(including rare/critical metals and batteries)

With the bio-based economy as a cross-cutting priority.

The coordinating organisations at the heart of the cooperation partnership based on the priority value chains are:



A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FROM DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION

The transition to a circular economy necessitates a systemic and participative approach. As such, the strategy was built by integrating economic, social and environmental concerns and by following both a top-down and bottom-up approach, through meetings with local stakeholders, a public consultation and the development of measures through round-table discussions.

The objective of the governance of Circular Wallonia is to enable an efficient and agile implementation of measures, through a collaborative mode of operation that is linked to the needs of local stakeholders. An assessment will be carried out at regular intervals and may lead to adjustments and/or proposals for new actions.

For more information, head to our website:
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More information on the PWD-R: SPW ARNE

