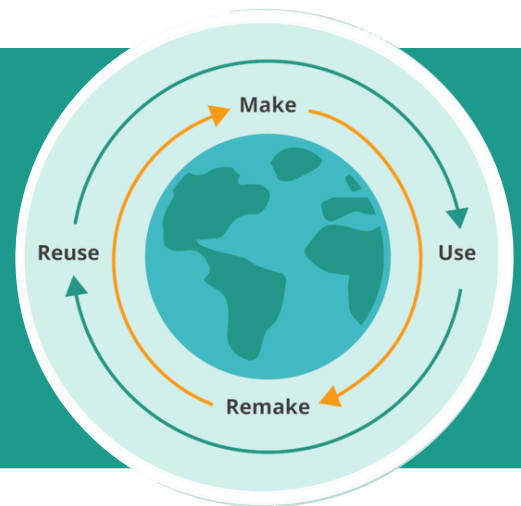


What is a Circular Economy?

#Eco360

Activity

Grade Level: 9-12



Main Objective

The objective of this activity is to introduce the concept of a circular economy, its inception, application, and future. Reflect on the need for a circular economy, the problem of waste in the world and the flaws of the current linear economic model.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Understand circular economy
- Contrast circular economy with our current linear economy
- Understand the problem of waste in our current linear economy and its repercussions
- Understand how a circular economy provides a viable alternative to the problem of waste

Length of Activity: 30 - 45 minutes

Step 1: Intro to circular economy

Step 2: Compare between circular and linear economy

Step 3: Activity reflection

Materials Required

- Internet-enabled device
- Topic backgrounder
- Eco 360 notebook (we recommend asking learners to maintain a notebook for this program to write down reflections as they go through the program)
- Circular vs. Linear Economy Worksheet

Curriculum Connections

Alberta

Chemistry 30 Unit C: Chemical Changes of Organic Compounds

- 30-C2.3sts explain how science and technology have both intended and unintended consequences for humans and the environment

Social 10-1

- 3.2 - Recognize and appreciate impacts of globalization on the interdependent relationships among people, the economy, and the environment

Grade 9 Unit C: Environmental Chemistry

- 3 - Analyze and evaluate mechanisms affecting the distribution of potentially harmful substances within an environment

Ontario

Grade 9 Chem (C1.2)

Grade 9 Bio (B1.2)

Grade 9 Geography

- B1. The Physical Environment and Human Activities: analyse various interactions between physical processes, phenomena, and events and human activities in Canada.
- C1. The Sustainability of Resources: analyse impacts of resource policy, resource management, and consumer choices on resource sustainability in Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective)

Activity

Step 1: Begin by Watching These Videos:

Moving from linear to circular economy:



Explaining the Circular Economy and How Society Can Re-Think Progress:



Step 2: Compare Circular and Linear Economy

Distribute the Circular vs. Linear Economy Worksheet to learners. As a class brainstorm answers to the questions below. Have learners reflect on the questions individually, recording them in their worksheets. Afterwards, learners can come together as a class and share their reflections with everyone.

1. How is a circular economic model different from our current economic model?
Provide an example to demonstrate.
2. What are the problems with a linear economic model?

Step 3: Conclusion

Now that the class has explored the problems faced by a linear economic model, invite the learners to think of solutions. Have learners reflect on the questions individually, recording them in their personal notebooks. Afterwards, learners can come together as a class and share their reflections with everyone.

1. What actions can we take to ensure we produce less waste?
2. How can the circular economy help solve some of the complex problems of waste that we are faced with today?