
Circularity for a Sustainable Future

Case Studies: Solid Waste Management and Low-Carbon Construction

5th December 2018 | 15:00 – 16:30
COP24 Exhibition | Room Wisla, Block G

This session will discuss opportunities for increased circular economy action to promote sustainable growth. Circular economy practices in sectors such as solid waste management and construction offer huge opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, alongside increasing employment and improving health conditions.

The construction sector is one of the largest emitters, with cement alone accounting for around 8% of global CO₂ emissionsⁱ - but demand-side measures for construction materials could cut emissions by half in the coming decades, compared to business-as-usualⁱⁱ. Most new buildings and infrastructure in future will take place in developing countries, but developed countries will play a critical role too by accelerating the shift to a net-zero built environment, e.g. by setting clear targets, encouraging private sector investment, and demonstrating sustainable, circular public procurement.

Overall, the waste sector contributes more than 5% of global GHG emissionsⁱⁱⁱ, but one estimate suggests there is a \$4.5 trillion global opportunity before 2030 through avoiding waste^{iv}. Around 70% of low-and middle-income countries already include waste management practices in their NDCs - the challenge is implementation, in the context of rising populations, urbanization, and shifts in consumption patterns. However, opportunities to leapfrog exist and can be accelerated by sharing lessons with developed countries, who are decreasing waste generation through better recycling and stronger policy initiatives.

15:00 – 16:00 | Presentation

Key Note Addresses:

Ms. Tawonga Mbale-Luka | Director of Environment Affairs | Environmental Affairs Department | Government of Malawi (tbc)

Mr. Mohamed Chaibi | President of Moroccan Coalition of Waste Valorization

Speakers:

- **Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi** | Director | Climate Change | GIZ India
- **Dr Soumen Maity** | Vice President | Development Alternatives (India)
- **Guillaume de Laboulaye** | Program Manager | Energies 2050 (France)

Chair: **Felix Preston**, Deputy Research Director and Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House (UK)

16:00 – 16:30 | Q&A Discussion

ⁱ Chatham House report on cement and concrete decarbonisation

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06-13-making-concrete-change-cement-lehne-preston-exec-sum.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Material Economics report on mitigation potential for Circular Economy <https://europeanclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MATERIAL-ECONOMICS-CIRCULAR-ECONOMY-WEBB-SMALL2.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ IPCC 4th Assessment Report <https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg3/ar4-wg3-chapter10.pdf>

^{iv} Chatham House briefing paper on circular economy in emerging and developing economies

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-12-05-circular-economy-preston-lehne-final.pdf>