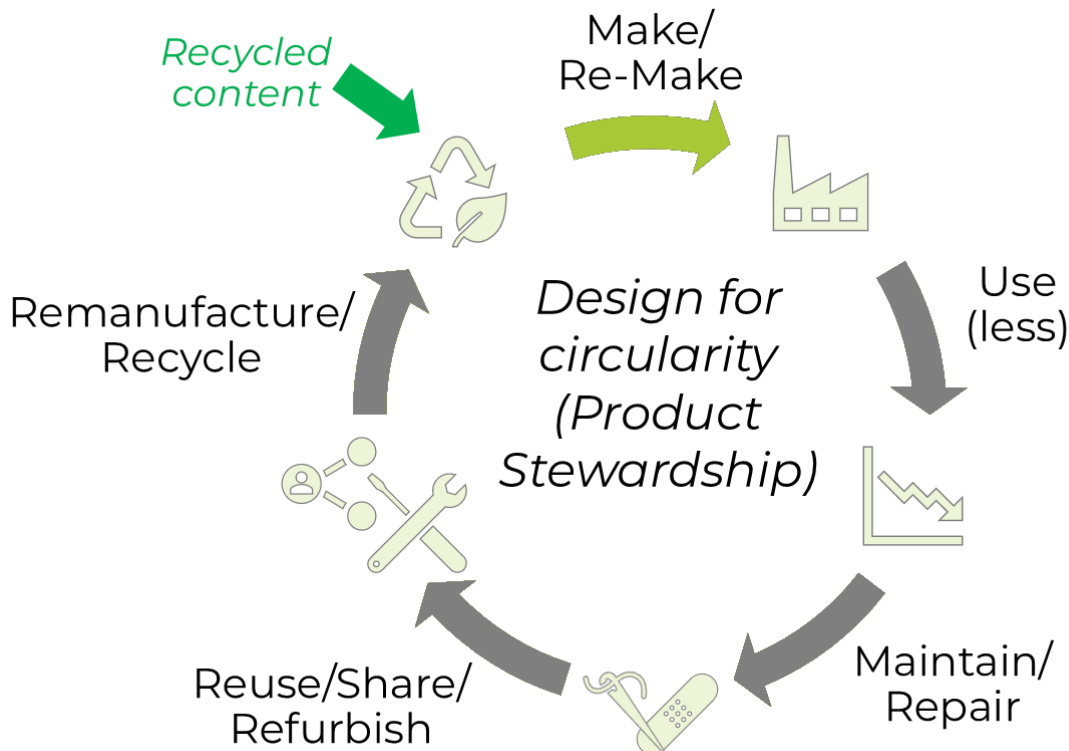


What is the Circular Economy?

The circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy, which follows a “take-make-dispose” model. Instead of relying on finite resources, the circular economy aims to keep products and materials at their highest value for as long as possible.



By design, the circular economy is based on three key principles:

1. **Design out waste and pollution**

Products, services, and systems are designed to avoid waste from the outset. The product's full lifecycle is considered, including how materials are sourced, manufactured, used, and recovered.

2. **Keep products and materials in use and at their highest value**

Through processes like reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling, resources remain in circulation, rather than being discarded.

3. **Conserve natural resources and regenerate nature**

When fewer new products are produced, it reduces the need for finite resources. This results in greenhouse-gas emission reductions, waste-disposal cost savings, land-use savings, and overall environmental outcome improvements.

The benefits of transitioning to a circular economy are wide-reaching. These can include business cost savings, local job creation, waste reduction, ecosystem restoration, and more. The circular model encourages innovation, and businesses around the world are rethinking how products are designed and made. By shifting the focus to maximising a product's value, the circular economy opens the door to sustainable and profitable solutions.

Circular Economy Initiative Development Program

Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North (RDA YMN), in partnership with Green Industries SA, is launching the **Circular Economy Initiative Development Program**. Delivered by Rawtec, this program will support three businesses on a circular initiative within South Australia's Yorke and Mid North region.

Selected businesses will participate in three workshops that will include:

1. Exploring your initiative

Through discussion and site visits (if relevant), we will help identify key drivers, barriers, material sources, technology needs, and markets.

2. Refining your initiative

We will explore preferred materials, technologies, site needs, funding, and partnerships. This includes piloting options, and regulatory and community engagement considerations.

3. Next steps & pathways

The final workshop will include a roadmap to guide feasibility or implementation. This includes defining next steps, assigning responsibilities, identifying support needs, and assessing risks.

What kind of initiatives? Example circular economy initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Waste reduction and resource efficiency.
- Recycling renewable energy infrastructure.
- Using recycled content in new products.
- Mining tyre reuse/equipment refurbishment.
- Business-to-business circular models.
- Local circular-hub opportunities.

Why apply? This is your chance to explore a regional circular opportunity that boosts the local economy and shapes the future of the region. Businesses that participate in the program receive \$9,000 worth of consulting services (excl. GST), thanks to Green Industries SA's Lead Educate Assist Promote (LEAP) grant program.

What's the timeline?

Key program dates (indicative) include:

- **September/October 2025:** Expressions of Interest open and participants shortlisted.
- **October 2025:** Successful businesses notified.
- **November 2025 to March 2026:** Three workshops and mentoring by Rawtec.

How to apply? To apply for the Program, please fill out an expression of interest using the QR code (right) or via surveymonkey.com/r/RJ2CLJX.

Applications will close on the **13th of October 2025**. You may be contacted by Rawtec or RDA if we have any further questions about your application.

Questions? For program questions, please contact Rawtec consultants:

- Jarvis Webb (jarvis.webb@rawtec.com.au)
- Meg Ellis (meg.ellis@rawtec.com.au).



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