

# United Nations System Staff College and Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group

## Circular economy course

Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) has partnered with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) to deliver a six week course, to build knowledge, expertise and leadership with up to 200 future circular economy leaders in councils and across the waste and resource recovery sector.

In a global first, the UNSSC is partnering with another organisation—MWRRG—to learn from local and international experts that will help accelerate Victoria’s transition to a circular economy and meet targets in the Victorian Government’s circular economy policy and plan, Recycling Victoria: a new economy.

This course, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), explores the application of circular economy practices in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The course will help shift participants understanding from business as usual to a systems based approach along with a strong commitment to deep rooted transformations and actions are vital to the reduction of humanity's footprint in our planet. Our resources are finite and the principles and practices of the circular economy will be catalytic in creating goods, processes and ecosystems that are restorative and regenerative by design.

Where	Online
When	21 February – 4 April 2022
Duration	6 weeks
Time required	5 hours per week
Cost	Free
Eligibility	See selection criteria
Applications close	10 December 2021
Contact	<a href="mailto:metro.waste@mwrrg.vic.gov.au">metro.waste@mwrrg.vic.gov.au</a>



UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE



## Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the interconnection between circular economy and its potential in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meeting targets in the Victorian Government's circular economy policy and plan, *Recycling Victoria: a new economy*.
- Explain the importance of systems based approaches to identify effective circular transformations.
- Apply different models of circularity to identify opportunities for circular transformations of products and services in real life cases.
- Understand the opportunities to drive circular value across the life cycles of products and processes and examine business models that could support circularity.
- Explore the policy environments that support the successful application of circular strategies to cities and examine why citizens can play a crucial role in ensuring circularity.
- Identify the barriers and enablers to mainstreaming circular strategies.

## Methodology

The course is designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through optimal time investments into carefully chosen high quality learning materials. Specially tailored to the needs of the professional interested in developing skills to advance their career or deepening their knowledge on a particular subject, the facilitated online courses combine self paced study modules with applied learning components such as case studies, interactive exercises and collaborative group work.

Participants also benefit from live moderated webinars which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts, and allow real time dialogue with high level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists the participants throughout the course, and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. The user-

friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

While being interactive and participatory, the course gives learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan.

## Course contents

**Week 1** will introduce key features of the 2030 Agenda, explain the evolution of the concept and principles of circular economy and explain the importance of the need to transition from a linear to a circular system in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

**Week 2** will establish the need for a systems based approach to circular economy. It will discuss the Butterfly diagram and the circularity diagram as strategic tools for circular design and understand their operational principles through technical and biological cycles of products and resources with the help of real-life case studies. It will consider the need for systemic enabling environments supported by appropriate policies for circularity.

**Week 3** will explore how to make businesses more circular, applying circular economy principles to business products and processes and examining innovative business models and relationships as well as policy environments that could support circularity in business.

**Week 4** will focus on designing circular cities by illustrating the potential of circular economy principles to create sustainable and thriving urban living environments.

**Week 5** will examine the impact of more sustainable lifestyle choices on the world around us and finding ways for everyone to live better and lighter.

**Week 6** will analyse the key barriers and enablers to increasing the adoption of circular economy principles and processes. It will reiterate the importance of a systemic approach to circular economy to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.