

Turning Point



Global consumption patterns are drawing significantly more resources from the Earth than it is able to sustain. A more circular economy (CE) could reduce consumption, keep valuable material out of landfills, and slow global climate change. **Turning Point** explores what a transition towards a circular economy would mean for Canada.



WORLD: Material extraction and waste are exceeding the planet's safe operating limits. Evidence suggests we are currently using **1.7 Earths** worth of resources.

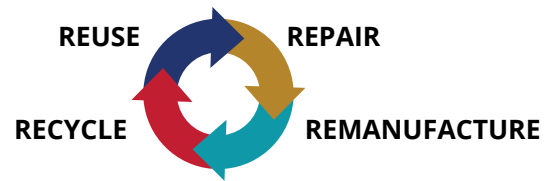


CANADA: Canada's consumption rates of materials, energy, and water are currently among the highest in the world, and **73%** of waste ends up in the landfill or is incinerated, much of which still holds value.

LINEAR VS. CIRCULAR



The dominant linear economic model, where raw materials are extracted to produce goods that are used and then discarded as waste.

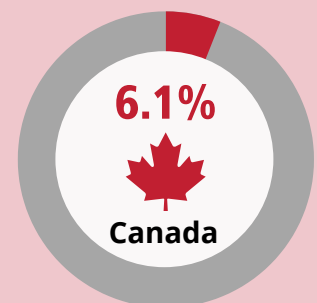
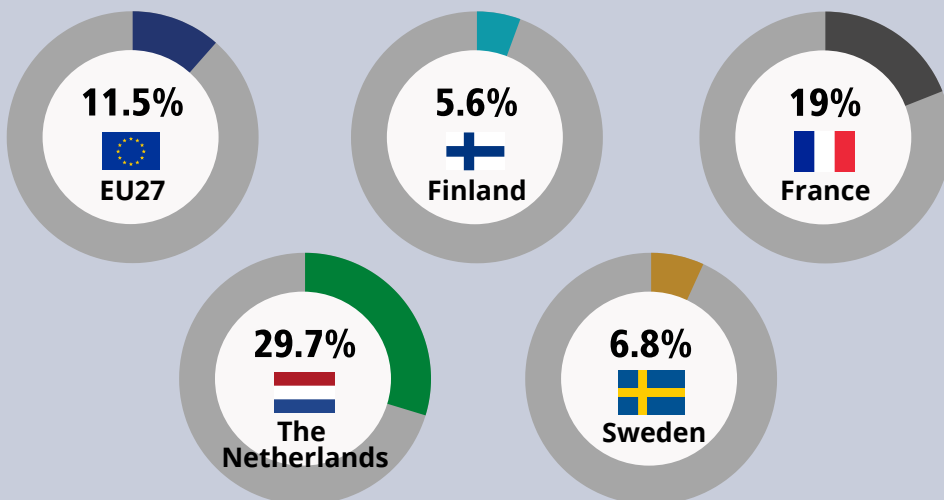


A systemic approach to production and consumption that prioritizes resource conservation, limits energy and water use, and creates less waste and pollution.

HOW CIRCULAR IS CANADA?

Indicators of the circular economy can include measures of material use, environmental impact, and socio-economic impact. The **circularity rate** is the percentage of the economy's material needs which are filled with recycled or recovered materials. For the first time ever, a circularity rate was calculated for Canada. Using a similar material flows approach to that of the EU, the Expert Panel estimated that the circularity rate of Canada is **6.1%**.

CIRCULARITY RATES:



If Canada maintains a circularity rate of 6.1% for the next 20 years:



The circular economy is an aspirational direction in which to move, and ultimately involves transformative, system-wide change.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN CANADA



9% of **plastics** are recycled.



Metal recovery from recycled **electronics** is **2-10x** more energy efficient than producing metals from virgin ore.



1/3 of all **food** produced and distributed is never eaten.



Canada is aiming to grow its **natural resource** exports to **\$350B** by 2025, in part by implementing innovative circular economy measures.



85% of **textiles** are landfilled.



3.4 million tonnes of **construction, renovation, and demolition** waste was landfilled in Canada in 2015.

ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN CANADA

GOVERNMENT:



- Incorporating circular principles into public **procurement** criteria
- Developing **roadmaps** to support a CE transition
- Tracking progress on the CE through **data collection**
- **Investing** in CE-supporting infrastructure and research

BUSINESS:



- Implementing **circular business models**
- Contributing to **standards** for circular products
- **Partnerships** to facilitate circular supply chains and design
- **Investing** in refurbishing capacity and R&D

CIVIL SOCIETY:



- Addressing cost and practical barriers to **increase accessibility** of circular practices
- Increased **cultural** and **social visibility** of circularity
- Engage in **training** and **advocacy**

The transition towards a **CIRCULAR ECONOMY** requires collaboration among all levels of government, businesses/industry, NGOs, and civil society.