

Circular living for local growth and community benefit

The government has recognised the need to make better use of resources and is developing England's first Circular Economy Strategy. Matching international best practice in just four sectors can grow the UK economy by 1%. **This is a route to inclusive growth through:**

Local supply chains

Keeping goods and resources in circulation in the UK will create more local value than importing products and exporting waste. This will increase resilience to international supply shocks: currently the UK imports around 80% of its material demand.

Community initiatives

Imagine a future where your local high street is buzzing with repair cafés, refill stations, and swap events. Where you can fix your phone instead of replacing it, borrow tools instead of buying them, learn essential repair skills and know your 'stuff' can become someone else's treasure. Community initiatives are crucial to deliver this future alongside SMEs.

Small business opportunities

SMEs are often best placed to deliver on localised supply chains, and start-ups can deliver on the tech and business-model innovation the UK needs. These opportunities add up to major regional growth. For example, today the circular economy contributes £11bn to London's economy. This could more than double to £24bn by 2030.

Tangible local benefits

As well as creating jobs, benefits like busier high streets and cleaner rivers will increase pride in local areas. 77% of Brits think litter has got worse in recent years and 83% think throwaway culture is a big problem.



What can the government do?

1 Back local leaders to deliver

The Government's Modern Industrial Strategy is backing local government to lead change: the Circular Economy Strategy should do the same.

2 Build high streets and neighbourhoods into the Strategy

The Strategy's sectoral roadmaps should indicate where action is needed to support SMEs and communities, setting out what support and incentives are being offered.

3 Deliver SME funding for circularity

Hardwiring circularity into long-term local authority SME support funds and setting up a dedicated circular economy kickstarter fund for small businesses.

What can you do?

You can submit the below as written or oral questions to the departments:

Defra: What steps is the Secretary of State taking to enable local authorities to deliver the circular economy?

MHCLG: How does the Secretary of State intend to promote a circular economy through local SME support funds?

HMT: What assessment has the Secretary of State made of the local growth opportunities of the circular economy?

About ReLondon

ReLondon is a partnership of the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to transform the city into a leading low carbon circular economy.

