



Workshop 9 - Circular economy

Climate Chance Summit 2019 – Africa

Speakers:

Sascha Gabizon, Women engaged for a common future

Blake Robinson, Local governments for sustainability

Mr. Paul Currie, Local governments for sustainability

We can speak to refer to the consumption and energy emissions in cities. Energy, water and natural resources will be absorbed, and will ultimately allow the production of material goods, but will also cause pollution.

The current development model is very expensive in terms of resources used and emitted. Goods are transported over long distances, recycling and reuse of materials are rare. Products that could be recovered are rarely recovered (e.g. biodegradable materials), while hazardous materials, for example from petrochemicals, are imperfectly recycled.

It is therefore important to move towards a circular economy model. Once produced, sold and used, a good may experience two forms of recovery referring to the circular economy rather than being discarded without recovery.

If the good is composed of organic matter, biogas can be extracted from it, or used for land regeneration.

If the good cannot be recovered in this way, it may be possible to reuse it (in which case it can be sold again directly), or to remanufacture it (in which case the production phase must be partially resumed before sale). Finally, it may be possible to recycle it, allowing for a new production phase.

ICLEI identifies the following principles to characterize the circular economy:

- Regenerate
- Substitute
- Virtualize
- Restore

[When we source the water, how we use the water, Where it comes from,]?

Paul C. proposes a game based on the following rules. Think about the different stages in the life cycle of a common product. Precise stages of production must be identified:



- Sources of production (material),
- Transformation
- Use
- Re-converters
- "Sinks"

Practical cases have focused on plastic bottles and smartphones. Paul then described the principle of the circular economy.

Joanna Bingham, African Circular Economy Network

The aim of the African Circular Economy Network is to support Africa's development through new forms of production that are environmentally friendly and more likely to ensure long-term prosperity.

There are many local circular economy initiatives on the African continent. In Ghana, for example, Coliba monetizes waste to interest in its management. Perhaps the best-known case is "Suame Magazine", a vast vehicle repair and recycling area on the edge of Kumasi. Around 200,000 people benefit from this economic activity.

The circular economy calls for a return to certain lost practices. For example, the use of sheets for temporary food storage is more appropriate than plastic bags in terms of externalities.

In principle, it should not generate additional costs but, on the contrary, allow for the inexpensive reuse of goods.

The circular economy is not limited to recycling alone, but encompasses many other principles grouped into categories.

Sources:

- Regenerate
 - Building design
- Substitute
 - Straws
 - Solar water heating
 - Mineral fertilizer
- Virtualise
 - Mobile money
 - Video conference
- Restore
 - Restore clothing

Fluxes:

- Cascade
 - Sharing clothing
- Extracting useful materials
 - Example of a coffee company.

§ "But in Europe, we know that recycling materials used for kid tools are dangerous for health."

- Transforming waste into energy



- Sewage sludge to methane to electricity, market waste to fertilize compost to seedlings
- Biochar (charbon destiné à usage agricole)
- Regenerating nature
 - Coffee waste in base to grow mushrooms

Stocks:

- Sharing
 - Related companies
 - Public transport
- Maintaining/Extending "use" life
 - Repair shops
- Reusing and redistributing
- Reconditioning & Remanufacturing
 - Caterpillars remanufacture service
- Recycling

§ One pitfall is that the consumer can say to himself: it's recycled, so I can consume a lot. Another is dangerousness.

§ Recycling is important but depends on the continent where you are.

Final part of the workshop. In groups, a discussion on circular economy based around the following three questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?
- How do we get there?

Group 2, on the governance of waste in Africa:

Waste treatment is an international problem, considered in Europe, less so in Africa. The laws are globally the same as in Europe, but they are not respected at all. The political will is often insufficient, so that the work of waste management often relies exclusively on the work of small private operators. Larger projects, in which the public authorities are really involved, rarely achieve satisfactory results. For example, the Dakar landfill, which required considerable resources, produces mixed results.

Moreover, the problems specific to Africa aggravate the poor management of the problem by States. There is no culture of systematic waste recycling. Many European countries send their household waste to Africa, which has no means of treating it.

Poor waste management creates health problems. Water is polluted and animal flesh stores toxic substances.

Group 4, the example of clothes:

Not much is done in Africa. In Europe, many associations exist for the reuse of worn clothing, or the recycling of used clothing.

We need to think about how we can change mentalities. Understand that you don't always have to buy new clothes, follow fashion. But rather create channels of use for these clothes.



However, there are also many initiatives all over the world that should be imitated on a very small scale, such as converting clothes into carpets.

Mr. Odjam-Akumatey,

Intervention on waste sent to Africa.

Toxins, flourishes, PCBs contaminate waterways and have an effect on the body. These are found in significant quantities in electronic waste. This waste is mainly produced by Europeans: 28.5 kg annually for Norway, 21 for France, only 1.5 for India.

This waste is often sent to Africa. Sometimes it is given a second life there, but more often than not it is buried or incinerated. The stakes are not only for CO2 but also for other gases that can be more dangerous, especially for those who work in landfills. The burning of electronic equipment is prohibited. But it is dangerous. Toxic fumes are emitted, and unprotected workers are victims. This situation can be seen, for example, in Abogbolshie.

The waste that ends up in the water also pollutes it, and thus affects fish, animals and humans. It is carcinogenic. These chemicals are passed on from pregnant women to their children.

Several solutions can be proposed.

- More education on the dangers of e-waste, both for workers in the waste sector and for the general public,
- A strengthening of laws regarding waste management,
- A ban on waste exports to Africa
- The development of technologies to facilitate waste recycling in Africa

