



The Role of Circular Procurement in Municipal Waste Management Strategy



Presentation to SWANA Northern Lights
Chapter Conference 2025
(Winnipeg, MB – June 12, 2025)



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The Linear Economy – Take, Make, Waste

TAKE



MAKE



WASTE



Linear economy thinking is simply NOT sustainable!



www.circularity-gap.world/2025

- We now extract over 100 billion tonnes of material from the planet each year (12.2MT/person/year)
- Only 6.9% of total material flowing into our global economy is derived from secondary/circulated sources (recycling, repurposing, downcycling, etc.)

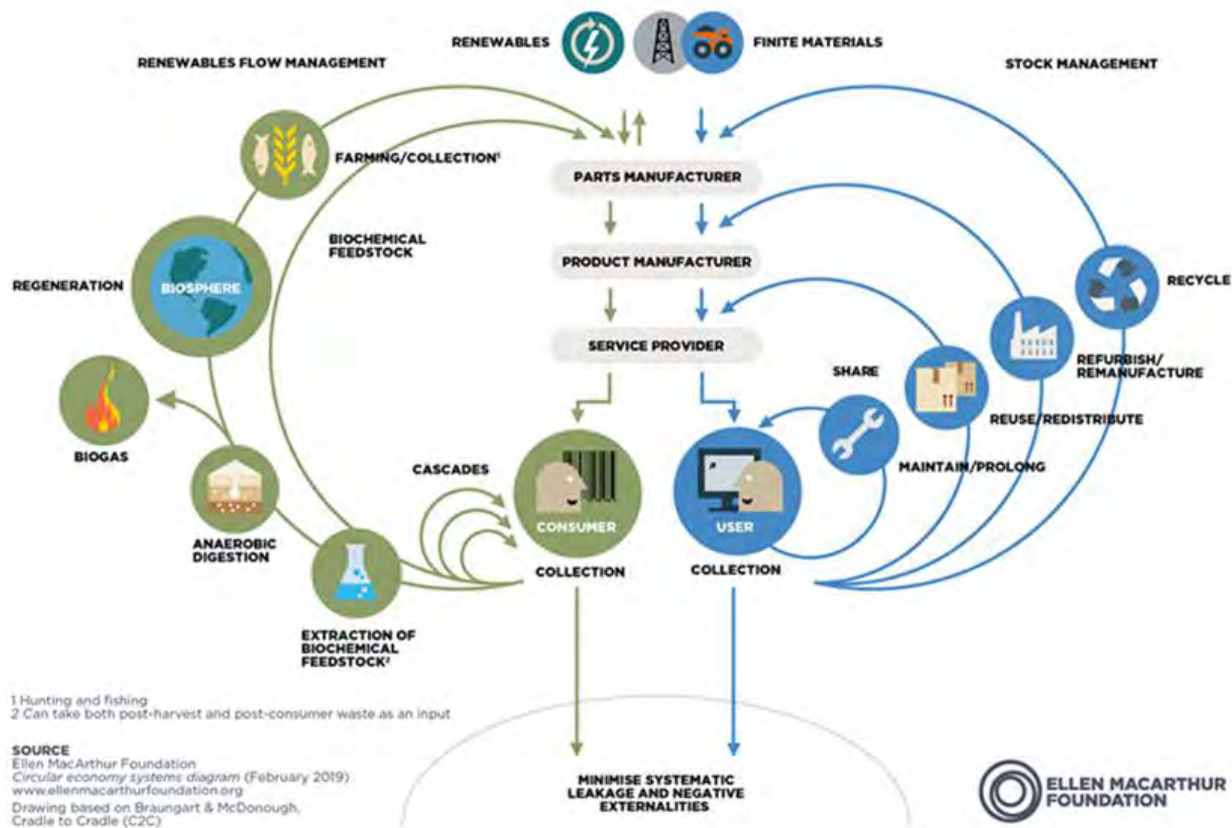
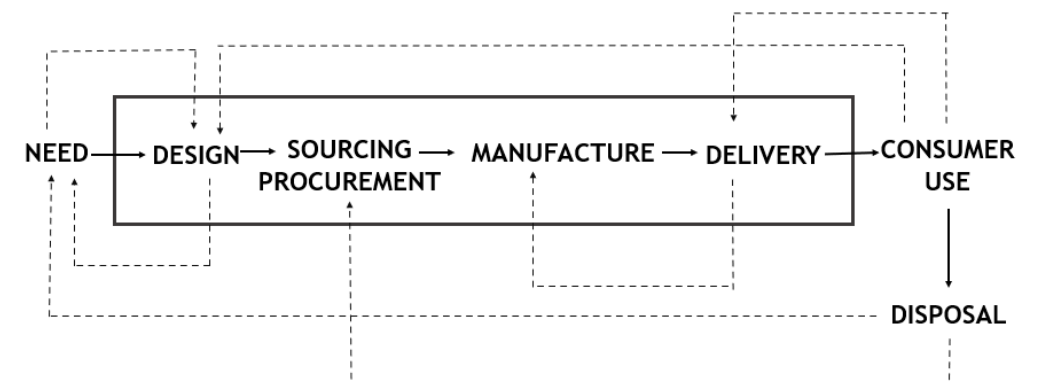
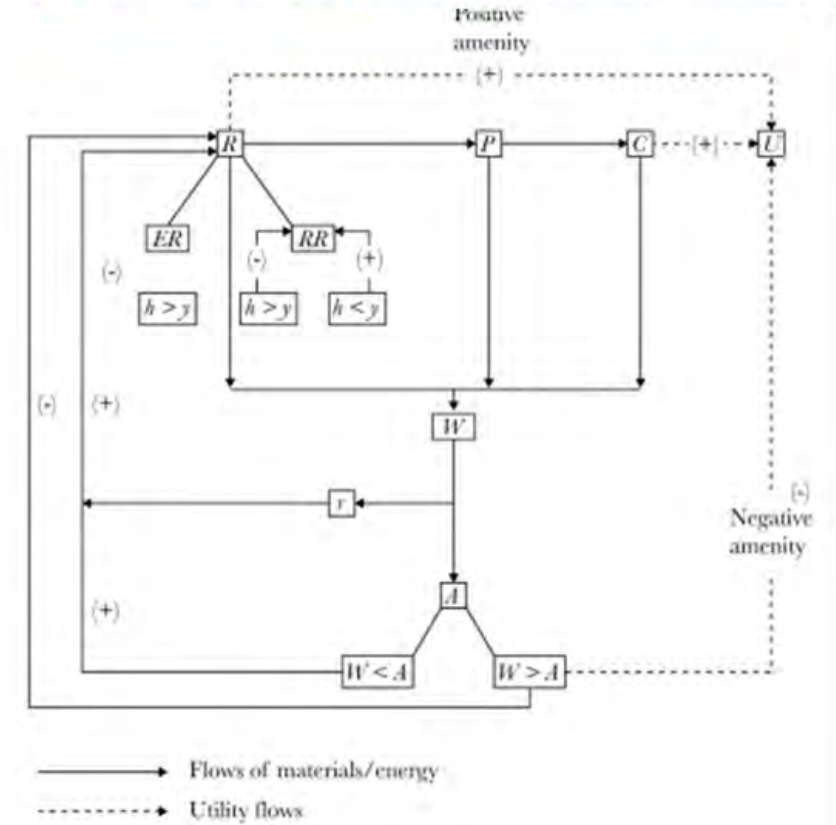


Figure 1.3. The 'complete picture' of a circular economy



Circular Economy Principles

Eliminate
waste and
pollution

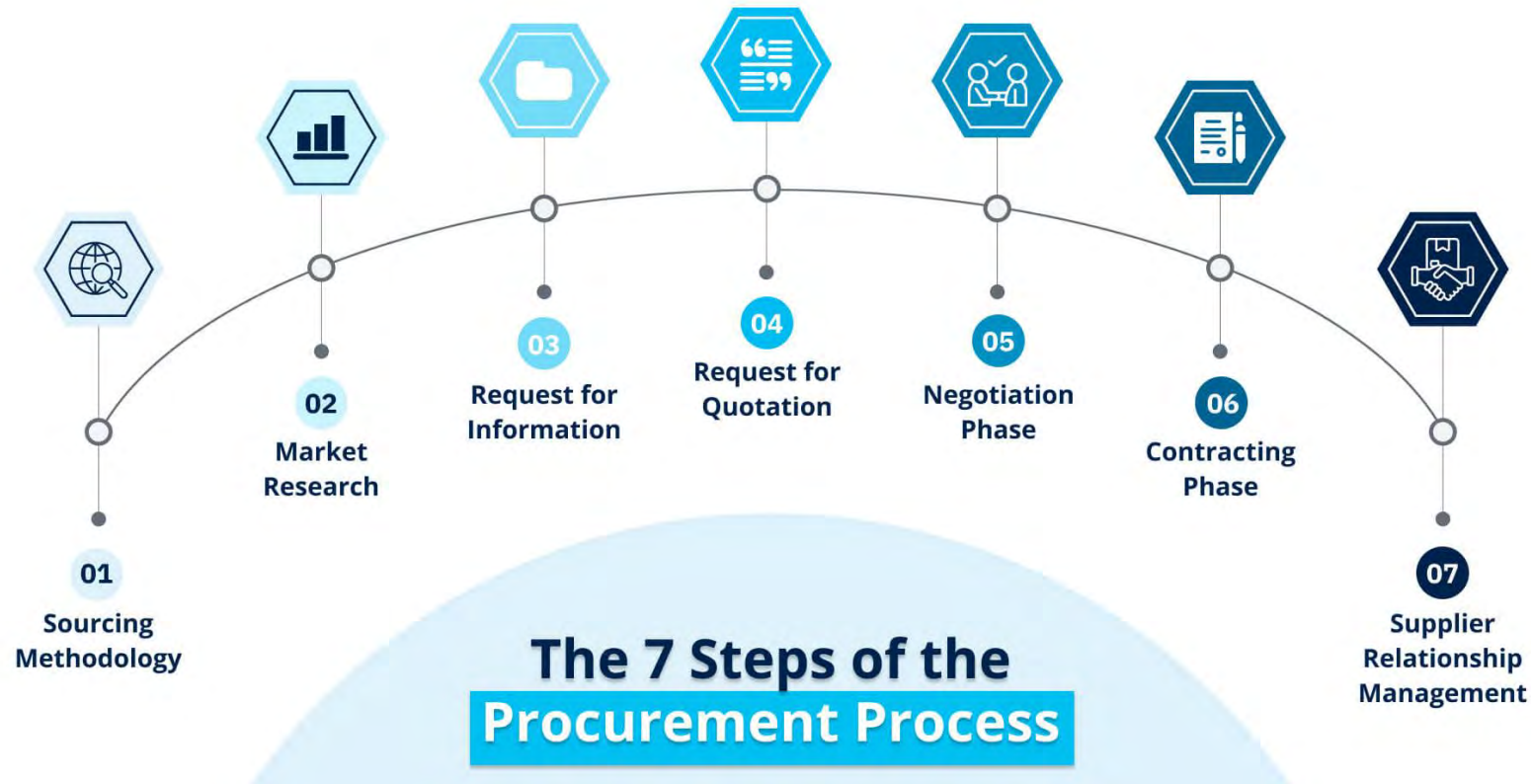
Circulate
products and
materials at
their highest
values

Regenerate
nature



Procurement – a strategic function

Procurement is a multi-faceted process of acquiring the goods/services an organization needs to operate in a manner that deliver best possible value, considering factors like cost, quality, and reliability.



Procurement through linear thinking - Top criteria

*(*note this is a simplified generalization)*

- ☐ Does it meet our minimum specifications, requirements (at least for the specific time period we're interested in)?
- ☐ Is it the lowest, or reasonably near to lowest, cost bid?
- ☐ Is this supplier qualified, capable, trustworthy?

What is Circular Procurement

Circular procurement is the consideration of a product from design stage through to end-of-life stage.

The main priorities of circular procurement are:

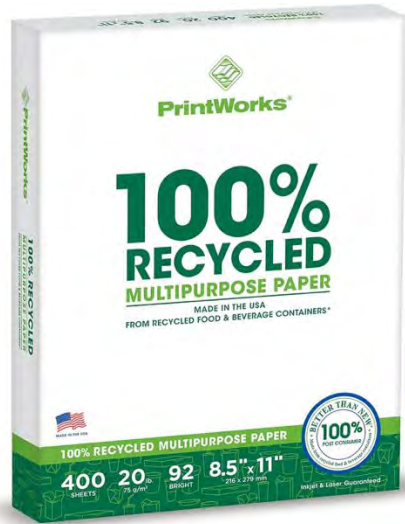
- Product longevity
- Sustainability of materials and resources
- Reduction of waste
- Restoration of products
- Optimising value and life cycle costs

<https://www.cips.org/intelligence-hub/sustainability/circular-procurement>

Example of early attempt at incorporating circularity thinking in procurement

“Interested proponents are encouraged to consider opportunities for demonstrating environmental sustainability. *Environmentally preferable products and services*, while not a mandatory requirement, may be considered in evaluation of tendered bids”

Early, but limited, wins for Recycling, Recycled Content and less wasteful alternatives



A Circular Procurement Hierarchy Model



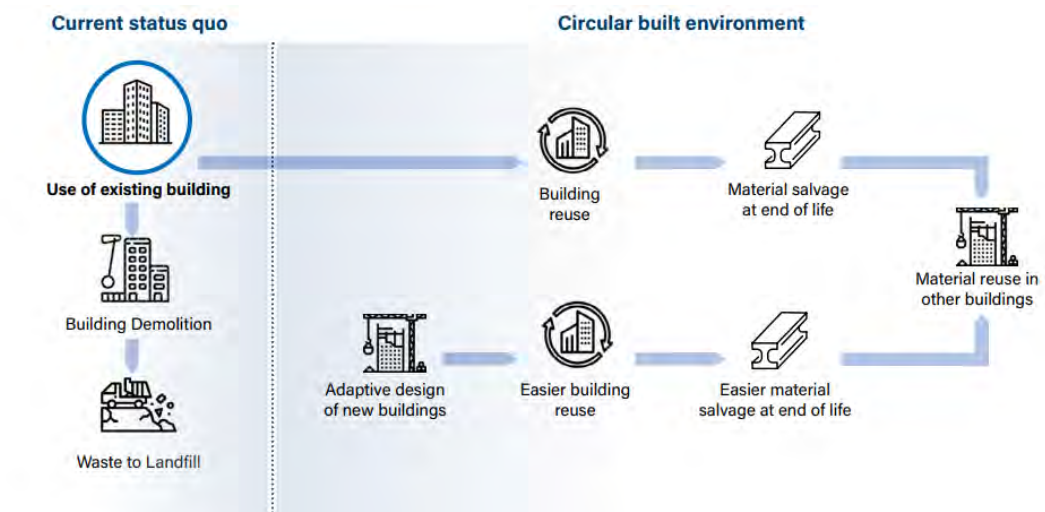
Diagram adapted from: Categorisation System for the Circular Economy, European Commission

Circular Procurement Benefits

- Reduces costs in the short and long term
- Lifts some of the burden from your organisation
- Counters the depletion of scarce raw materials and environmental problems
- Greater transparency in the supply chain
- Your organisation becomes future proof (lower costs, greater security of supply)
- More robust supply chain
- Enhances your reputation and gives your brand greater distinction in the market
- Helps to modernise your business models
- Frequency of buying will be lowered due to the extended life of products

The Transition to Circularity is happening...momentum is growing...and it will impact how procurement decisions are made!

The Circular Built Environment in Canada: A Strategic Framework for Future Action, CSA, March 2024



GM28.29 Attachment 1

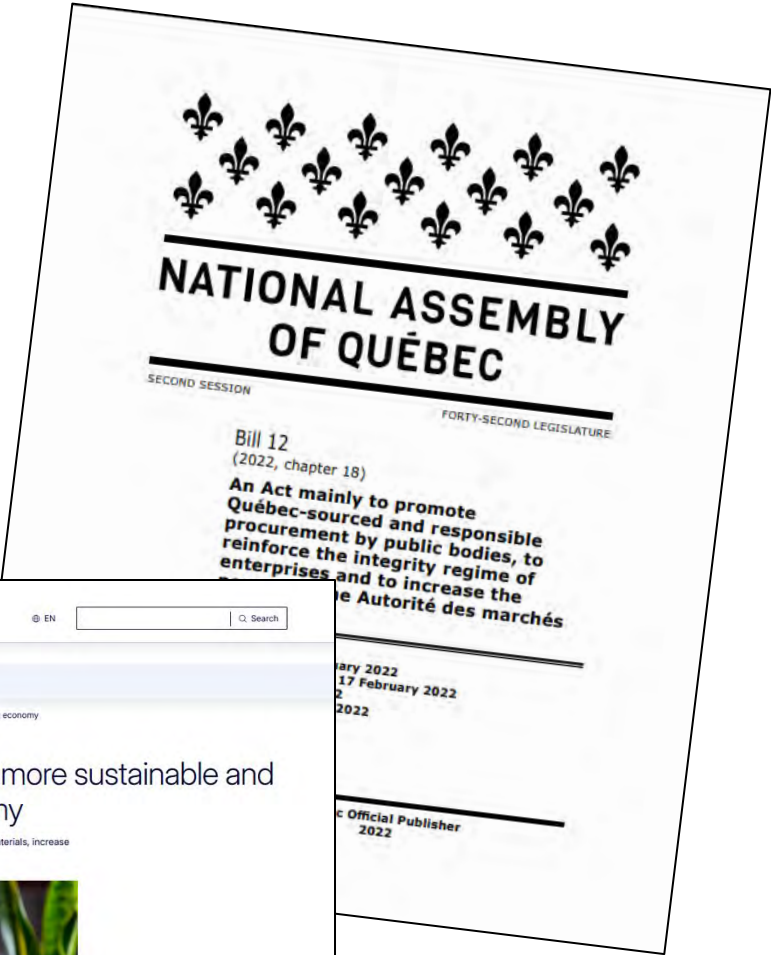
Circular Economy Procurement Implementation Plan and Framework (CE Framework)

Procurement Implementation Plan

Overview

This Circular Economy Procurement Implementation Plan and Framework (CE Framework) will be used to leverage the City of Toronto's purchasing power to drive waste reduction, economic growth, and social prosperity through a circular economy approach.

The screenshot shows the European Commission website. The header includes the European Union flag and the text 'European Commission'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'News', and 'New rules enter into force for a more sustainable and competitive packaging economy'. The main content area features a news article titled 'New rules enter into force for a more sustainable and competitive packaging economy'. The article text states: 'The fresh measures will enhance resource efficiency, encourage a more circular use of materials, increase competitiveness and improve economic security.' Below the text is a photograph of several brown paper coffee cups and a cardboard sleeve, all featuring a green recycling symbol.



5 Point Strategy from Circular Procurement Leaders

1. Buy less
2. Buy better
3. Use better
4. Use longer
5. At end-of-useful life (*to you!*) stage,
recycle/divert to best possible next use



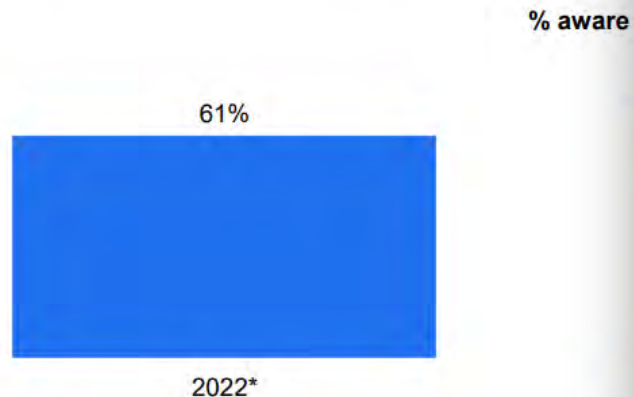
Raising awareness, sharing tools/info is still job 1

Awareness of Circularity

Nearly seven in ten indicate they are familiar with circularity

Q1. (Circularity) is a concept that touches on several different business practices:
1. Re-design products, services and processes to reduce waste and pollution
2. Continue using resources, materials and products for as long as possible
3. Regenerate nature by reducing or avoiding the use of non-renewable resources and systems.

Before today, have you heard, seen or read anything about circularity or the circular economy?



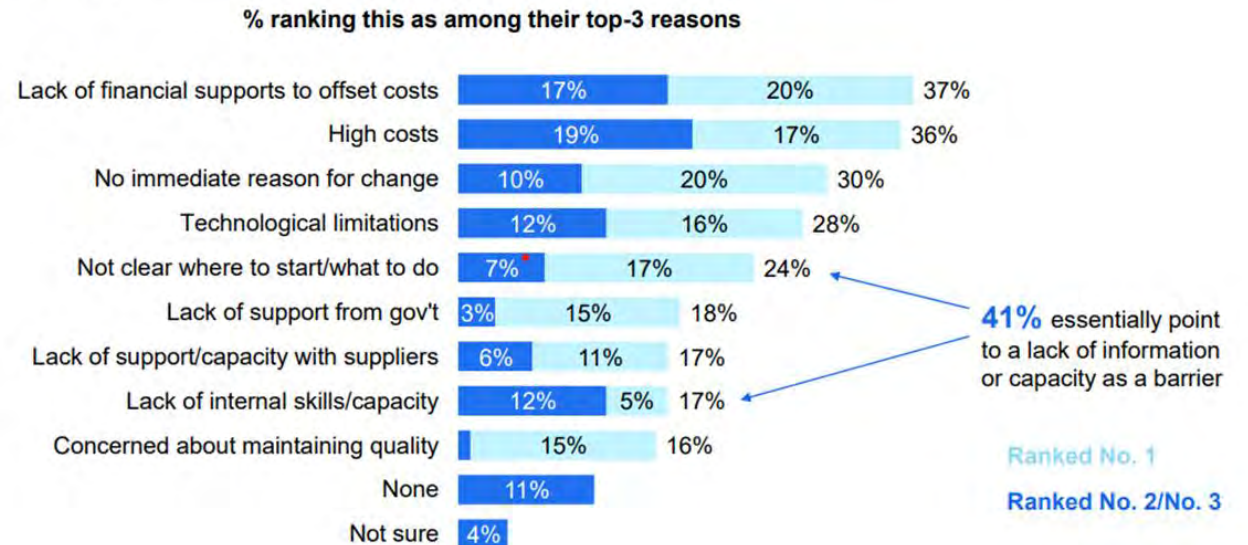
*Slightly different question wording used

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Barriers to Adopting Circular Practices

Respondents are most likely to raise cost-related challenges and a lack of clear information

Q6. What do you think are the main barriers that could prevent your organization from adopting circularity practices?
(Base: All respondents, N=103)



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Supply Chain industry/profession is getting on board



Supply Chain Canada, Manitoba and Saskatchewan Institutes have received government funding to complete a project that aims to increase the adoption of circularity principles and practices within supply chains to of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through industry engagement and development of tools, resources, and training materials.

Project Consultants



can▶sustain

Project Purpose: To increase the adoption of circularity principles and practices within supply chains to increase the competitiveness, resilience, and productivity of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Circular Economy Resources for All Sectors

Supply chain management is a central function in every organization and plays a critical role in the transition towards a Circular Economy.

This website provides resources uniquely geared to SMEs while also being sector agnostic. This allows you to easily understand the broad principles of the circular economy while also adapting the ideas to particular types of business.

Increase your resilience and success in the rapidly evolving Circular Economy.

[LEARN MORE](#)




FOUNDATIONS

in Supply Chain Circularity

FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

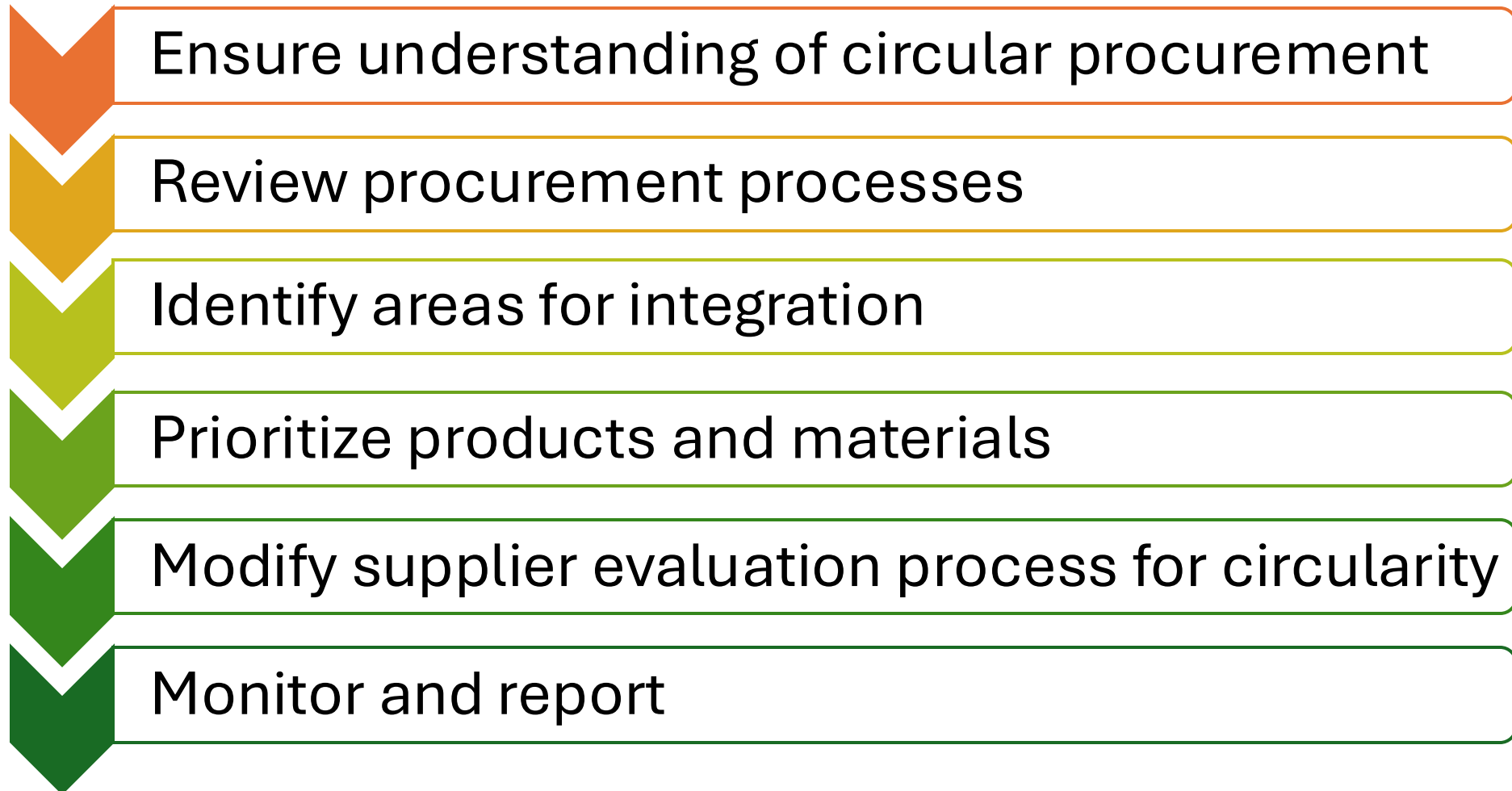


Designed for supply chain management, this 7-module educational course will continue to be updated providing current information on circularity.

This resource is sector agnostic, meaning that businesses from any sector learn to adopt and adapt circularity principles to remain at the forefront of sustainable innovation.

Each module can be consumed individually or in combination.

MB/SK Procurement Readiness Assessment and Guidelines





Circular economy procurement implementation plan and framework: Toronto

<https://emf.gitbook.io/circular-procurement-for-cities>

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/gm/bgrd/backgroundfile-115664.pdf>

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Key Takeaway

Circular Economy is an ideal that is contingent on all parts of the economic system working ***interdependently*** towards a common goal. We need government, companies, consumers, elected officials, supply chain managers, and everyone else involved in this global task.

- ✗ *Bury it*
- ✗ *Burn it*
- ✗ *Litter it*
- ✗ *Dump it in the lake*



- ✓ Design it smarter in the first place
- ✓ Repair it
- ✓ Reuse it
- ✓ Recycle it
- ✓ Recover nutrients from it
- ✓ Recover the energy embedded in it
- ✓ ...



Thanks for letting me be part of
your day, and conference!



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