

Principles Of Circular Economy; Africa’s Best Bet To Cleaner Cities – Part II

Environmental pollution and degradation have become a major challenge to most developing countries many of which are found in Africa. Keeping major cities in Africa clean is a “Herculean” task that requires huge amount of resources with respect to financial, human, natural and political will.

Circular economy is a system of resources utilization where reduction, reuse and recycling of elements prevails: minimize production to a bare minimum, and when it's necessary to use the product, go for the reuse of the elements that cannot return to the environment. Simply put, Circular economy ensures that, by-products of one production line becomes the raw produce of another production and in effect manage and minimize pollution by reusing materials which would have played the role of a pollutant.

There are ten principles that define **how circular economy should work**:

6. **Valorization**: harness energy from waste that can't be recycled.
7. **Functionality economy**: circular economy aims to eliminate the sale of products in many cases to establish a system of rental property. When the product completes its main function returns to the company, where it is dismantled for reusing the valid parts.
8. **Energy from renewable sources**: elimination of fossil fuels to produce the product, reuse and recycle.
9. **Eco-design**: considers and integrates in its conception the environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of a product.
10. **Industrial and territorial ecology**: establishment of an industrial organizational method in a territory characterized by an optimized management of stocks and flows of materials, energy and services.

Sources: [Lecciones de la naturaleza](#) and [El Mundo](#) (March, 2020) [Expok](#), [Fundación para la economía circular](#), Retrieved from <https://www.activesustainability.com/sustainable-development/what-is-circular-economy/>

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