

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Professional learning overview

Two overlapping circles in shades of blue are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide. The larger circle is a medium blue, and the smaller one is a lighter blue, partially overlapping the larger one.

Overview

This resource kit is a compilation of all the resources and courses the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) has curated, in order to:

- Deepen understanding of a circular economy
- Help better communicate about a circular economy

The resources and courses are listed according to the level of content and target audience. All chapters have a short description, as do all resources, in order to facilitate your choice. Time stamps have also been added when relevant.

Learner level

The 'level' of content is signalled by the yellow, orange, and red tabs in the top-right corner of each page.
Yellow = Basic; Orange = Intermediate; Red = Advanced.

BASIC

ADVANCED

IN-DEPTH

Learning ladder

BASIC UNDERSTANDING

- Circular Economy Beginner Series
- What is the circular economy / CE101
- Misconceptions of the circular economy
- The butterfly diagram
- The Learning Hub

ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING

- The Circular Economy Masterclass
- Live Online Events
- Case Studies Library
- Podcast compilation
- Video series

IN-DEPTH ENGAGEMENTS

- Circular Economy Advanced Series
- Train the Trainer
- Circular Design Guide
- Circular Design Workshop
- From Linear to Circular Programme
- Online courses
- Circular Economy Procurement Framework

Basic understanding

Learn about the three principles that set the foundations for a circular economy, and some of the benefits of shifting from a linear to a circular economy

What is the circular economy?

Engaging introduction to the circular economy on EMF's learning hub. Includes podcast, videos, and infographics which will enable you to discover the key principles behind the circular economy.

CE101 video

Video introduction on the story of the circular economy. Highlights interesting case studies such as circular carpets, a repair campaign, and regenerative agriculture.

Circular Economy Systems Diagram

(Butterfly Diagram) video
Watch Ellen MacArthur explain the Circular Economy Systems Diagram, more commonly known as the Butterfly Diagram, one of the core elements of the circular economy.

4.5 misconceptions about the circular economy

This article describes what the circular economy is not, because sometimes that is the best way to learn. By Ken Webster, who is a Senior Lecturer in circular economy at the University of Exeter, UK.

Advanced understanding

Dive into the details of the concept of the circular economy to understand its history, its nuances, and the benefits it offers to business, society, and the environment.

Live Online Events

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation hosts regular interactive broadcasts and webinars throughout the year showcasing innovation, discussing big ideas, and sharing disruptive stories as part of our goal to inspire action and innovation towards the circular economy.

Explore the Circular Economy Podcast Series

Hear from Ellen MacArthur herself, as well as experts from the circular economy field, as they discuss the new way to design, make, and use things in this commute-friendly podcast series.

Case Studies

Explore our range of case studies to understand how companies and cities apply the circular economy - explore by sector, topic or key words.

The Circular Economy Video Series

Meet the people bringing the circular economy to life in this short video collection - from innovative entrepreneurs to circular economy leads in global companies.

In-depth engagements

Learn to embed the principles of the circular economy within your organisation through collaborating and communicating with colleagues and initiating new projects.

The Circular Design Guide

Co-designed and created together with our Design Partner IDEO, the Circular Design Guide offers a wide variety of resources to help you to design for a circular economy.

The Circular Design Workshop

Apply Circular Design from the Circular Strategy Design Workshop, with downloadable assets such as facilitator notes, printable worksheets, and challenge cards.

From Linear to Circular

Are you at the start of your career, a postgraduate student or an emerging innovator? Apply to be part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's unique, free-to-learn programme designed to enable its participants to become pioneers of the circular economy.

Circular Economy Online Courses

These courses are provided by our network universities or other external providers.

Courses



Basic understanding

Circular economy beginner series

MOOC



Advanced understanding

The circular economy masterclass



In-depth understanding

Circular economy advanced series

CIRCULAR ECONOMY BEGINNER SERIES

This short online programme will introduce participants to the circular economy. They will learn the theory, be inspired by practical case studies, and begin to explore how they can take action.

What topics will be covered?

- The three principles
- Circular design
- Material flows
- Circular business models
- Systemic enablers

Who is it for?

This programme is for those who are new to the circular economy and/or eager to understand the concept and find ways to apply it in their role.

What is the time commitment?

Weekly 30-minute content video

Weekly 60-minute collaborative session

**Read more about the
Beginner Series**

MOOCs

MOOCs – or Massive Open Online Courses – run by TU Delft are open access, free of charge programmes to enable a deeper dive into the circular economy.

TU Delft currently offer four different circular economy specific MOOCs:

- Circular Economy, an Introduction – designed in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- Sustainable Packaging in a Circular Economy
- Engineering Design for a Circular Economy
- Circular Economy for a Sustainable Built Environment

Who's it for:

Anyone looking for a comprehensive entry course to the circular economy, to build their foundational knowledge and dedicate time to a set pathway

Time per course:

3 hours per week, over 6 weeks

[Read more about the MOOCs](#)

The circular economy masterclass

The Masterclass course, run by the University of Exeter, developed together with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, focuses on upskilling participants to be able to create a plan of action towards circularity.

Content is delivered through live webinars, interactive forums, real case studies from Network members, and group tasks to begin to apply learnings over the weeks.

Network Members and Strategic Partners respectively have access to 2 and 18 seats per year free of charge. For more information, please speak with your internal Ellen MacArthur Foundation Primary Contact.

Who's it for:

Those with a pre-existing foundational understanding of the circular economy. Experience has shown that practitioners and ambassadors benefit most from this class.

Time per course:

6 hours per week, over 6 weeks

**Read more about
the Masterclass**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY ADVANCED SERIES

This short online programme will explore circular economy topics based on the Circulytics methodology. It brings the best examples from the network and provides collaborative peer-to-peer learning spaces to address concrete organisational challenges.

What topics will be covered?

We will confirm specific topics prior to each programme.

Previously the programme explored organisational enablers of a circular economy (Strategy & Planning, People & Skills, Operations, External Engagement, Innovation)

Who is it for?

This programme is for circular economy experts and decision makers, responsible for the circular economy strategy and implementation within their organisations.

We limit the number of participants from each organisation to ensure a good balance in the cohort

What is the time commitment?

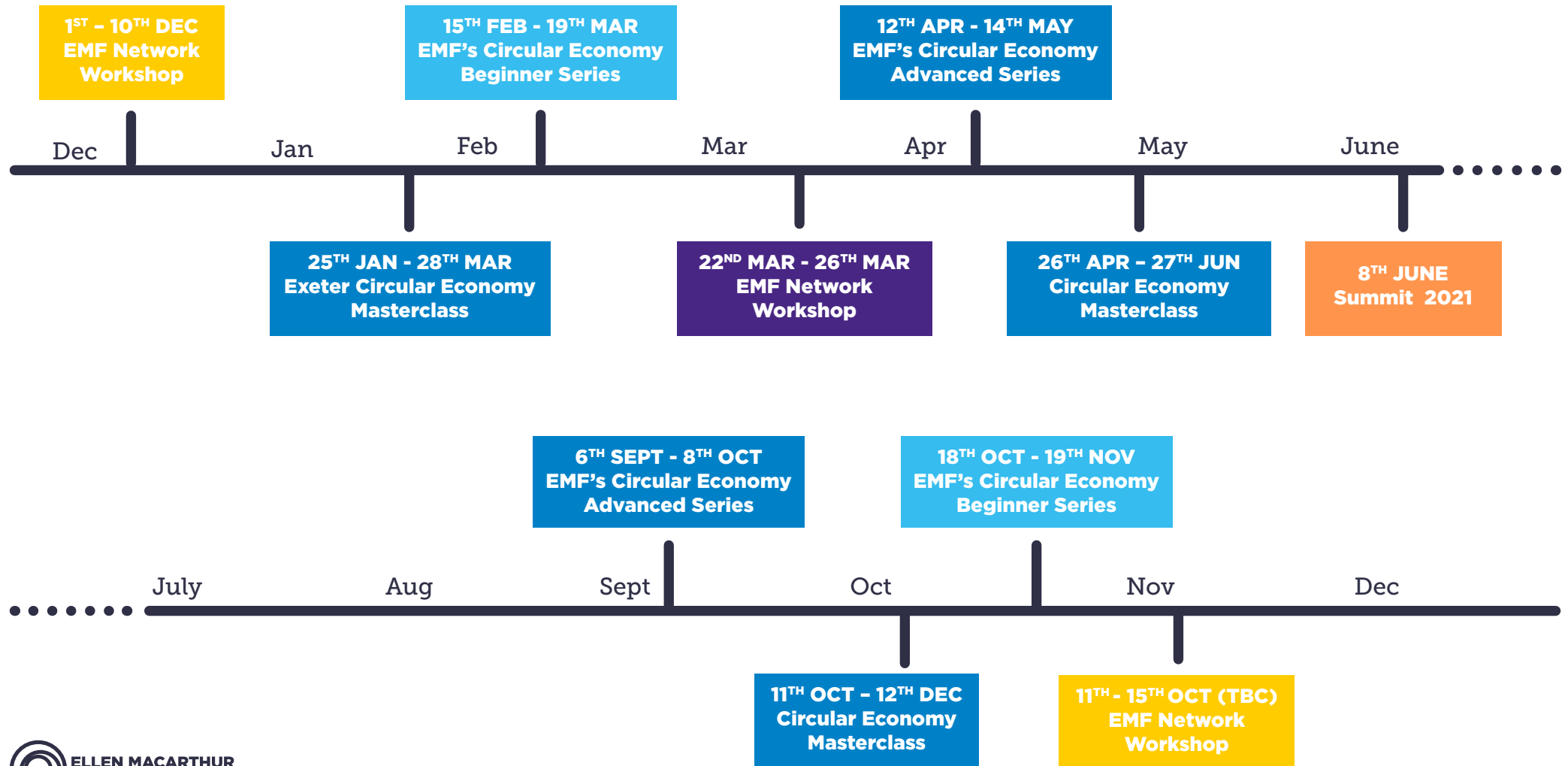
Weekly 30-minute content video

Weekly 60-minute collaborative peer-to-peer session

**Read more about the
Advanced Series**

Dec 2020 – Dec 2021

EMF network timeline



Resources



[Basic understanding](#)

Learning Hub



[In-depth understanding](#)

Circular economy procurement framework

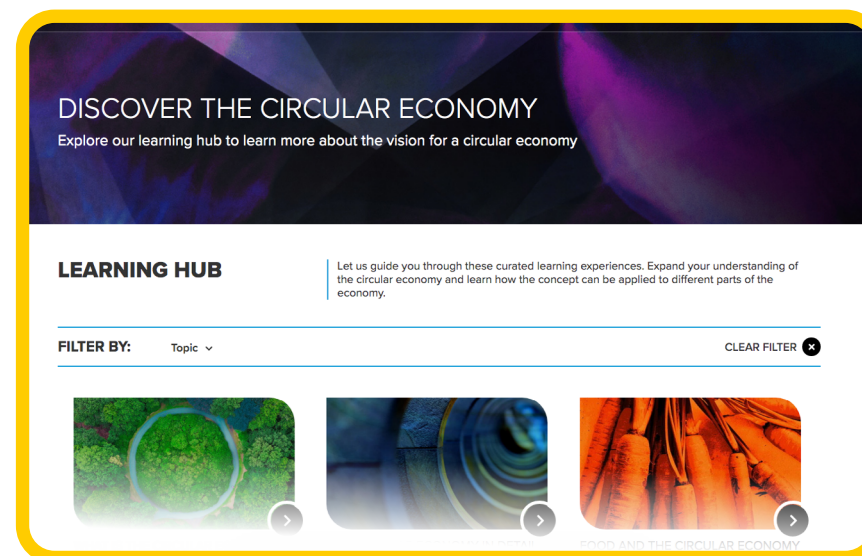
Train the Trainer

Learning Hub

An unlimited access, open source platform designed for professionals to engage with the circular economy through a range of easily digestible, interactive, and visual learning pathways.

Featuring an introduction to the circular economy, as well as topic specific paths including fashion, artificial intelligence, and food, the Learning Hub offers a customisable learning experience.

Read more about the Learning Hub



Circular economy procurement framework

Businesses sit at the heart of the transition from a linear to a circular economy. Some of the most successful circular companies are those that adopt a diverse set of features to help enable the transition.

The circular procurement framework provides an overview of the intervention points organisations can use to make their purchasing choices more circular and engage their suppliers in conversations and collaborative circular partnerships.

The top-level guidelines outlined in this resource will have to be adapted in each individual business and may look different depending on the industry, sector, company, geography, and other factors.

Who is it for?

The framework is aimed at the circular economy strategy leads, procurement leads, sourcing leads, and category managers.

What is the time commitment?

Peruse the framework and hold a session with your procurement teams to discuss the adaptation in your organisation.

Read more about the Circular Economy Procurement Framework

Train the Trainer

The Train the Trainer circular economy resource offers highly interactive workshop content, enabling you to deepen understanding of circular economy and the fundamental principles of the framework within your organisation.

This Train the Trainer resource provides everything you will need to run a circular economy introduction workshop: scripting, slides, resources, and hints from the Foundation's team.

Who's it for:

Expert level is required to deliver the workshop. Appropriate for any level to participate.

What is the time commitment?

For participants: 90 minute workshop session.

For workshop leaders: 90 min delivery of workshop session and additional 1-2 hours preparation time depending on experience and expertise in circular economy.

[Read more about the resource](#)