



INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES

FOOD SERVICE

For food service businesses in the circular economy, the focus is on reducing food waste, sourcing sustainable ingredients, and minimizing single-use packaging. These efforts help conserve resources, cut waste, and create more sustainable supply chains.

Source ingredients locally, grown with regenerative methods when possible.

By sourcing locally and using ingredients from regenerative practices, businesses support their community and reduce their carbon footprint. Minimizing packaging and ensuring ingredient transparency helps reduce waste and resource consumption.

[LocalHarvest](#) is a resource to find local farms based on your location.

Maximizing food use - Food rescue and organic waste management. Food is meant to be consumed, so the circular economy focuses on preventing food waste. When there's extra food, rescue efforts can find new uses for it. For food that can't be eaten, it can be turned into useful things like animal feed, compost, or energy. This way, even food waste can be put to good use.

From ReFED: [The Circular Economy and Food Waste](#), [Food Waste Solutions Database](#), [Restaurant Food Waste Action Guide](#).

Use reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging. Minimize waste by reducing reliance on single-use plastics and encourage customers to return or recycle packaging. Additionally, businesses can work with suppliers to reduce incoming packaging and promote the use of materials made from renewable or recycled resources.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Food and the Circular Economy Deep Dive](#) | Ellen MacArthur Foundation

[Restaurant Pollution Prevention](#) | Union Sanitary

[Sustainable Management of Food Basics](#) | EPA

[Circular Economy Toolkit for Small Businesses](#) | Plant Chicago

FASHION

As the fashion industry's impacts on pollution, water use, carbon emissions, and human rights continue to grow, the need for a shift to sustainable fashion is clear. By adopting circular economy principles, the industry can move away from the traditional "take-make-waste" model, focusing instead on reusing materials, designing garments for longevity, and minimizing waste at every stage.

Design for Durability and Repair: Create high-quality, long-lasting garments that are easy to repair and maintain. Offer take-back or recycling programs that allow customers to return old garments for reuse, recycling, or upcycling into new products.

Use Sustainable and Recycled Materials: Source fabrics made from recycled or renewable materials. [31 Sustainable Fabrics For the Most Eco-Friendly Clothing Materials | Sustainable Jungle](#)

Transparent Supply Chains: Work with suppliers to minimize environmental impact and ensure ethical production, with transparency around sourcing, production methods, and labor practices.

Water and Energy Efficiency: Implement sustainable practices in manufacturing, such as reducing water usage in dyeing processes and using energy-efficient machinery or renewable energy sources in production.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Environmental Sustainability in the Fashion Industry | Geneva Environment Network](#)

[Fashion and the circular economy - deep dive | Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

[7 tips to go green in the apparel sector | CBI](#)

[Life cycle assessments for textile and fashion products | Carbonfact](#)

[Sustainable Raw Materials Will Drive Profitability for Fashion and Apparel Brands | Boston Consulting Group](#)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Service-based businesses or professional services, such as consultants, educators, lawyers, accountants, and similar professions, can engage in the circular economy by focusing on reducing resource consumption, minimizing waste, and adopting sustainable practices in their operations. These businesses may not produce physical goods, but they still have significant opportunities to contribute to a more sustainable future. Additionally, they can influence clients and partners to adopt circular economy principles through sustainable practices and policies.

Leverage digital tools. Shift to paperless systems by using digital tools for documentation, contracts, and communication. This reduces paper waste and improves efficiency.

Engage in remote work. Encourage remote working and virtual meetings to reduce commuting and travel-related carbon emissions, while also saving energy in office spaces.

Utilize home-based solutions to optimize energy efficiency. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, over half of U.S. businesses are home-based. Implementing energy-efficient measures in a home-based business can improve both personal and business finances while supporting the circular economy. [Energy Savings Tips for Small Businesses: Home-Based Businesses | Energy Star.](#)

Adopt sustainable procurement. Source office supplies and services from eco-friendly vendors, prioritize recycled materials, and choose suppliers that support circular economy practices.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Find a Circular Strategy to Fit Your Business Model | MIT Sloan](#)
[What can I do within my business? Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

BEAUTY & WELLNESS

The beauty and wellness industries have historically contributed significantly to environmental waste. However, many companies in both sectors are now adopting circular economy practices to address this issue. A key challenge remains the excessive waste generated from products and packaging, as well as the need for more sustainable ingredient sourcing and manufacturing processes.

Use sustainable ingredients: Opt for natural, ethically sourced, and biodegradable materials, and avoid harmful chemicals and unsustainable sourcing practices.

Minimize single-use plastic: Utilize refillable containers for products like lotions, shampoos, and cosmetics to minimize single-use plastic waste.

Adopt energy-efficient and sustainable practices for cleaning and sanitizing. Implement energy-efficient and eco-friendly cleaning and sanitizing methods to reduce resource use and minimize environmental impact. This includes using biodegradable cleaning products, optimizing water and energy usage, and maintaining sustainable hygiene practices.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Green Beauty Community Guidebook: Sustainability for the Professional Beauty, Barber and Wellness Industry](#)

[Circularity in the Beauty Supply Chain | CosmoProf](#)

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