



A circular economy is a system that throws out the whole idea of waste.

Our current approach resources is 'extract them, use them, chuck them away'. This linear model means that valuable, finite resources are used only for a short time before ending up in landfill.

A circular economy on the other hand, takes its inspiration from cycles found in nature where resources are constantly being reused and waste is minimal.

When products, new or preloved, are put into the circular economy, they are used as normal. Maintaining the life of the product for as long as possible through repair and reuse is key and avoids unnecessary consumption. For every phone in use in the UK, there are four sitting in drawers unused, partly due to the upgrades we are constantly told to buy.

When reuse isn't possible, products can be refurbished or broken down and their parts recycled for something else. In this way, resources stay somewhere in circular economy and very little ends up being wasted.

You can interact with the container by:

- 🗑️ Putting a resource in the circular economy machine and watching the path it takes. Imagine each ball is a resource like wood or metal, or a product like a jumper or a computer.
- 🗑️ Our staff will let you choose the next step your resource takes.
- 🗑️ While throwing it away is always an option, why wouldn't you want it to stay in the system forever!?

We use
3x
our
share of
planetary resources



In late 2020, Scotland's Climate Assembly was created to make practical recommendations as to how Scottish society can best tackle the climate emergency. The Assembly was created to be representative of people from varying backgrounds, ethnicities, ages and climate attitudes all over Scotland.

One of the most exciting proposals was that the population have easy access to resource libraries, which provide tools, clothes or toys on loan. Prompted by studies that suggest that tools like drills are only used for an average of 10-15 minutes in their lifetime, the Edinburgh Tool Library opened in 2015. It aims to cut down on unnecessary consumption as well as giving equal access to expensive items. Other communities around Scotland now have similar initiatives, including the Community Toolbox in Dundee.

Using a library instead of owning rarely used products reduces the strain on raw resources, as fewer products need to be built, and fits nicely into the circular economy.

You can interact with the container by:

- 📦 Looking in the shed at items that are commonly only used for a few minutes or hours in private homes.
- 📦 Use the tokens to tell us which items you could share with your neighbours and community members.



92 billion
tonnes of
materials were
extracted in 2019