



WATCH & LEARN: ECONOMY & PRODUCTION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONSUMPTION
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY (3:49 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v28642)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

Through a change in perspective, we can re-design the way our world and our economy works - designing products that can be 'made to be made again' and powering the system with renewable energy.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with the concept of the circular economy?
- ◊ Do you think it might be possible to design products and appliances in such a way that their parts could be reused?
- ◊ What are some other ways that we might re-engineer the economy to be more in line with nature?

Video Script:

Narrator: Living systems have been around for a few billion years and will be around for many more. In the living world there's no **landfill** instead materials flow.



One species **waste** is another's food. Energy is provided by the sun, things grow then die and nutrients return to the **soil** safely and it works. Yet as humans we've adopted a linear approach; we take, we make and we **dispose**. A new phone comes out so we **ditch** the old one. Our washing machine **packs up** so we buy another. Each time we do this, we're eating into a **finite** supply of resources and often producing toxic waste. It simply can't work long term. So, what can? If we accept that the living world's cyclical model works, can we change our way of thinking so that we too operate a circular economy?

Let's start with the biological cycle. How can our waste *build* capital rather than reduce it? By rethinking and redesigning products and components and the packaging they come in, we can create safe and **compostable** materials that help grow more stuff. As they say in the movies, no resources have been lost in the making of this material. So, what about the washing machines, mobile phones, fridges? We know they don't **biodegrade**. Here we're talking about another sort of rethink - a way to cycle valuable metals, **polymers** and **alloys** so they maintain their quality and continue to be useful beyond the **shelf-life** of individual products. What if the goods of today became the resources of tomorrow? It makes commercial sense. Instead of the throw away and replace culture we've become used to, we'd adopt a return and renew one where products and components are designed to be **disassembled** and **regenerated**.

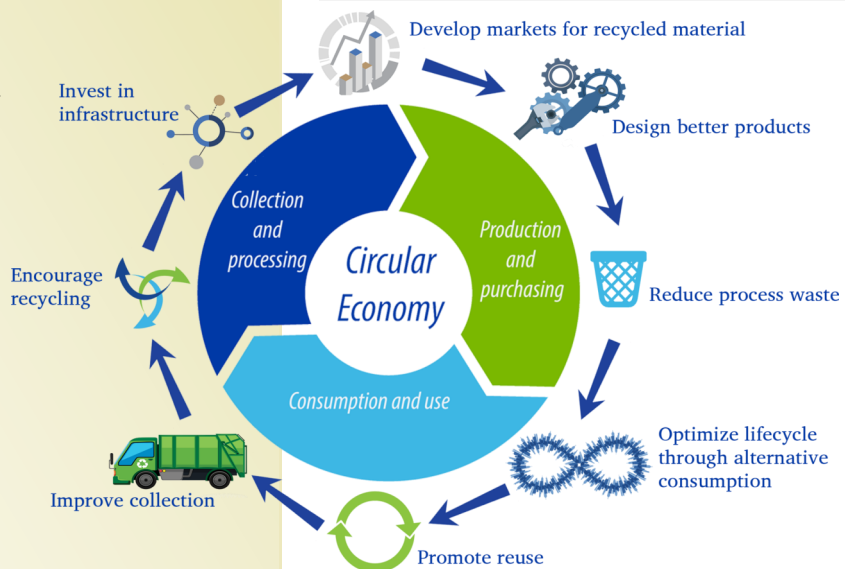
One solution may be to rethink the way we view ownership. What if we never actually owned our technologies, we simply licensed them from the manufacturers?

Video Script continued on next page...

Vocabulary:

- **landfill** - the disposal of waste material by burying it
- **waste** - unwanted or unusable material, substances, or by-products
- **soil** - a black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles
- **dispose / ditch** - throw out; get rid of
- **pack up** - break down; stop functioning
- **finite** - limited in size or extent
- **compostable / biodegrade** - (of a substance or object) be decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms
- **polymer** - synthetic organic materials used as plastics and resins
- **alloy** - a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements
- **shelf life** - the length of time for which an item remains usable, fit for consumption, or saleable
- **disassemble** - take (something) to pieces
- **regenerate** - grow (new tissue) after loss

Vocabulary continued on next page...



Sustainable Global Resources Ltd.
 Image: Recycling Council of Ontario



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Video Script continued...

Now, let's put these two cycles together. Imagine if we could design products to **come back** to their makers. Their technical materials being reused and their biological parts increasing agricultural value. And imagine that these products are made and transported using renewable energy? Here we have a model that builds **prosperity** long-term and the good news is there are already companies out there who are beginning to adopt this way of working.

But the circular economy isn't about *one* manufacturer changing *one* product, it's about all the **interconnecting** companies that form our infrastructure and economy coming together. It's about energy. It's about rethinking the operating system itself. We have a fantastic opportunity to open new perspectives and **new horizons** instead of remaining **trapped** in the frustrations of the present. With creativity and innovation we really can rethink and redesign our future.

Vocabulary continued...

- **come back** - return
- **prosperity** - flourish physically; grow strong and healthy
- **interconnect** - connect with each other
- **new horizons** - start over again in life/business/love after a failure with new goals and a new view of the future
- **trapped** -unable to move or escape as a result of obstruction

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____
