

Innovations and partnerships for sustainable consumption and production

Ministerial Breakfast

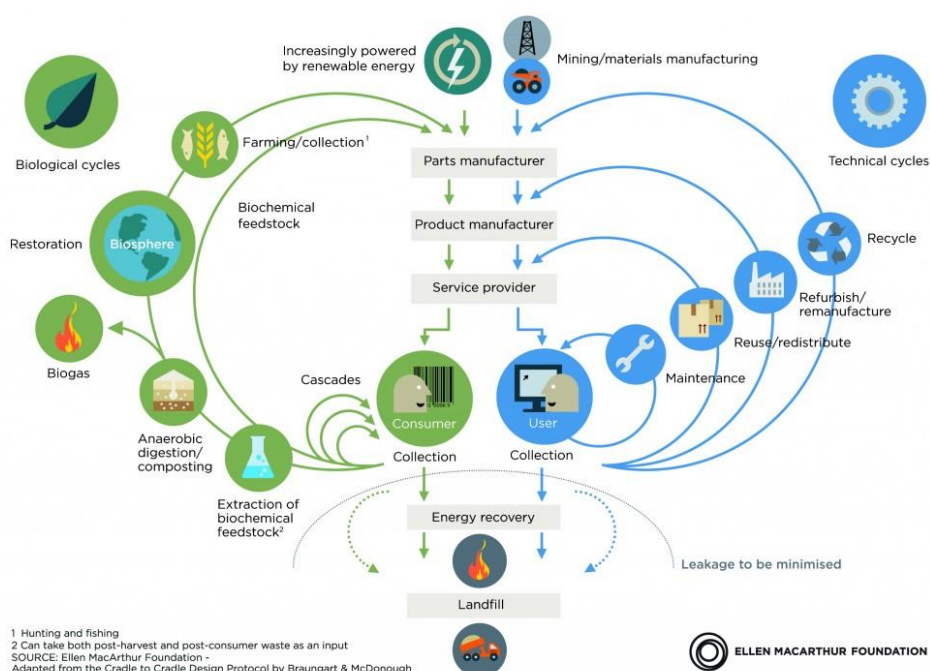
United Nations Environment Assembly

27 May 2016
(08:15 – 09:45 hrs)

Background

1. Sustainable consumption and production is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development; not only is SDG 12 dedicated to the subject, but the way we consume and produce largely determines the chances of successfully achieving a range of other SDGs.
2. UNEP's International Resource Panel, in its 2015 quick scan on SDGs has pointed at the cross cutting character of natural resource management and the need for more circular approaches to resource management. Among the key messages from the UNEP-IRP analysis are the need for social and technological innovations and the need for public-private partnerships to achieve decoupling of economic growth and ecological impacts.
3. The European Union has embraced the concept of the Circular Economy, as a promising approach to achieving sustainable consumption and production. In a circular economy the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible; waste and resource use are minimised, and resources are kept within the economy when a product has reached the end of its life, to be used again and again to create further value. At the same time, a circular economy secures its natural capital, essential for the provisioning of raw materials, biotic and abiotic, into the economy. With a circular economy, we have an opportunity to move away from the 'take, make, use and throw away' approach and embrace a profound transformation of the way our entire economy works.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - an industrial system that is restorative by design



Objectives

4. In this event, the European Commission and The Netherlands holding the presidency of the EU aim to facilitate a discussion on this and other approaches towards meeting the SCP challenges, both at the international as well as the national levels. Different examples of innovations and partnerships that will facilitate the transition towards sustainable consumption and production will be presented.
5. These examples will highlight different aspects and entry points for the SCP-transition, looking at the end of the product chain (recycling), at the biomass production process (nutrient management) and at the basis of the product chain (enhancing transparency and accountability for land use and conservation of healthy and productive ecosystems).
6. An interactive discussion, actively engaging the audience will provide insights and recommendations on how to further and scale up these partnerships, and will identify opportunities and lessons learned for additional innovations and partnerships for the SCP-transition.

Format

7. Speakers in the event include the European Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Karmenu Vella and the co-chair of UNEP's IRP, Mr. Janez Potocnik, among others. The meeting will be moderated by the minister for the Environment from the Netherlands, Mrs. Sharon Dijksma.