

Background: Joint Solutions

Circular Economy



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Key to a truly sustainable future

Jointly realizing the circular economy

Intensified stakeholder collaboration for more circularity needed

Economic activities and the way of living on our planet still largely adhere to a linear pattern – extracting materials, producing goods, consuming them often only once and throwing them away: take – make – waste.

The result is that we harm our climate, damage the environment and exploit resources at an increasing pace. In 2021, by the end of August, humanity will have used up all the natural resources that the Earth can restore within a year. Also in 2021, global CO₂ emissions are set for their second-biggest increase in history.

There are many single ideas, technologies, initiatives and programs on how to turn things for the better. And there is a concept we can apply as an overarching global guiding principle and unifying vision: the circular economy. This can be the key to climate neutrality, environmental protection and the conservation of the world's limited resources.

Major transition of society and economy

The consequent implementation the circular economy will require a major transition and true paradigm shifts in society and the economy. This is a giant project with many uncertainties and risks but also vast opportunities: according to experts, the circular economy has the potential to generate economic benefits of up to 4.5 trillion USD by 2030.

To get there, we must work on a lot of parameters: create and establish efficient waste management systems, explore new recycling technologies, use renewable raw materials and enable far greater supply of renewable energy.



Circular product design and increased transparency in value creation cycles are also key success factors.

However, the circular economy can become a reality only by the intense and enduring collaboration of all stakeholder groups: politics, economy, society, science and the financial sector. We need a broad willingness for concrete joint action to remove barriers and achieve economies of scale. The chemical industry, which is involved in so many value chains, can give this a boost. Covestro in particular wants to cooperate with as many players as possible in all areas of value creation to find the best solutions for the circular economy.

About Covestro:

With 2020 sales of EUR 10.7 billion, Covestro is among the world's leading polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative, sustainable solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. In doing so, Covestro is fully committed to the circular economy. The main industries served are the automotive and transportation industries, construction, furniture and wood processing, as well as electrical, electronics, and household appliances industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics, health and the chemical industry itself. At the end of 2020, Covestro has 33 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 16,500 people (calculated as full-time equivalents).

Find more information at www.covestro.com.

Forward-looking statements

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