

Activity

The Workshop of the Future

General audiences and companies

**What
will your
city be like
in the
circular
future?**

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Topic The future of cities in a Circular Economy

Summary An interactive exercise that integrates the Workshop of the Future, in which participants should identify the challenges faced by their cities and share what they expect from the future in a Circular Economy to establish plans and proposals that contribute to a common future devised together.

Suggested audience General public.

Estimated Duration 2 hours.

Materials A computer with internet access, a projector, notebooks or blank sheets of paper, large sheets of kraft paper or construction paper, post-it, tape, pens or pencils, colored markers.

Objectives To come up with new ideas, suggestions and plans for a circular future for cities and towns, while taking into account the role played by different social groups.

Expected results Drawing of a Wailing Wall in which participants should write down the problems currently faced by the cities where they live. Drawing of a Dream City with a Circular Economy. Action plan to achieve their goals.

SUMMARIZED STEPS

1. Warm-up 15 minutes

Read the infographic regarding circular cities.

2. Interactive Exercise 90 minutes

Create, collaboratively, a Wailing Wall, a Dream City and an Action Plan that guides us into a circular future

3. Wrap-up 15 minutes

Present the resulting ideas in the form of an exhibit.

STEP BY STEP

Intro

Cities that are organized under the rationale of a Circular Economy require solutions for several problems: construction and building adaptation, transportation systems, product consumption, and waste collection and management. In this activity, we will identify the current problems faced by the cities where participants live, the participants' dreams for a circular city and the paths to build this common goal.

Recommendations:

Introductory activity on Circular Economies

Before using this Teaching Sequence with participants, we recommend first conducting [the intro activity on Circular Economies](#) with them. This is an important step to introduce the main concepts needed for this discussion.

Set up

Before starting this activity, the facilitator must prepare two sheets of kraft paper or construction paper where participants may place post-its throughout the exercise. Write "Wailing Wall" on top of one of these sheets, and "Dream City" on top of the other.

Recommendations: If possible, draw a skyline near "Dream City" to better illustrate that idea.

1. Warm-up

Read the infographics for inspiration | 15 minutes

Start the activity with an infographic titled "**Cities in a Circular Economy: how to maximize resource allocation**" to help inspire the group.

2. Activity

Wailing Wall | 10 minutes

In this exercise, participants should list all the problems their city (or cities) currently face.

Ask each participant to think of problems (or wailings) they have identified in the cities where they live. It might be something that bothers them and that they would like to see resolved. Next, participants should write these problems down on a post-it and place it on the Wailing Wall.

Dream Wall | 10 minutes

Having identified the current problems, ask for each participant to come up with ideas of how to overcome these problems. Encourage them to dream, to talk about what they would like their city to be like, without worrying about whether their ideas are feasible. They should then write down their ideas on other post-its and place them on the Dream City.

A common dream | 15 minutes

Before putting participants into groups, ask them to read the different dreams that have been placed onto the wall and to circle or underline those they liked the most to then choose which ones they would like best to work on.

Split participants into groups of 4 to 6 people.

As a group, give participants 5 minutes to share the ideas they liked best. Next, each group should choose one of these dreams and find ways to make it possible.

Recommendations: If participants do not live in the same city, ask them to choose one city to focus their efforts.

Challenges and solutions | 25 minutes

Having decided on a common dream, the group should then come up ideas of how a Circular Economy may solve the problem they have identified and thus move them closer to living in the city of their dreams. They should select the solutions they like best and write down those that would better serve their city.

During the research phase, groups should also consider what would be challenging when implementing these solutions in their city. What factors could make it difficult for them to put these solutions into practice? They should then look for further solutions and propose new ideas to make their ideas more feasible.

Action plan | 30 minutes

After having found the best solutions for their city, it is time to create an Action Plan to help participant to achieve their goals.

To do so, the group should create a timeline on kraft paper. Tell groups to divide their paper into three parts: present, transition, and future. Leave a larger portion of the paper for the transition part. Groups should then write the problems they identified in the "present" column and their dreams in the "future" column. Next, they should design a plan to fill in the transition part.

Before writing the Action Plan onto the kraft paper (in the transition column), tell participants to draw some drafts in separate pieces of paper.

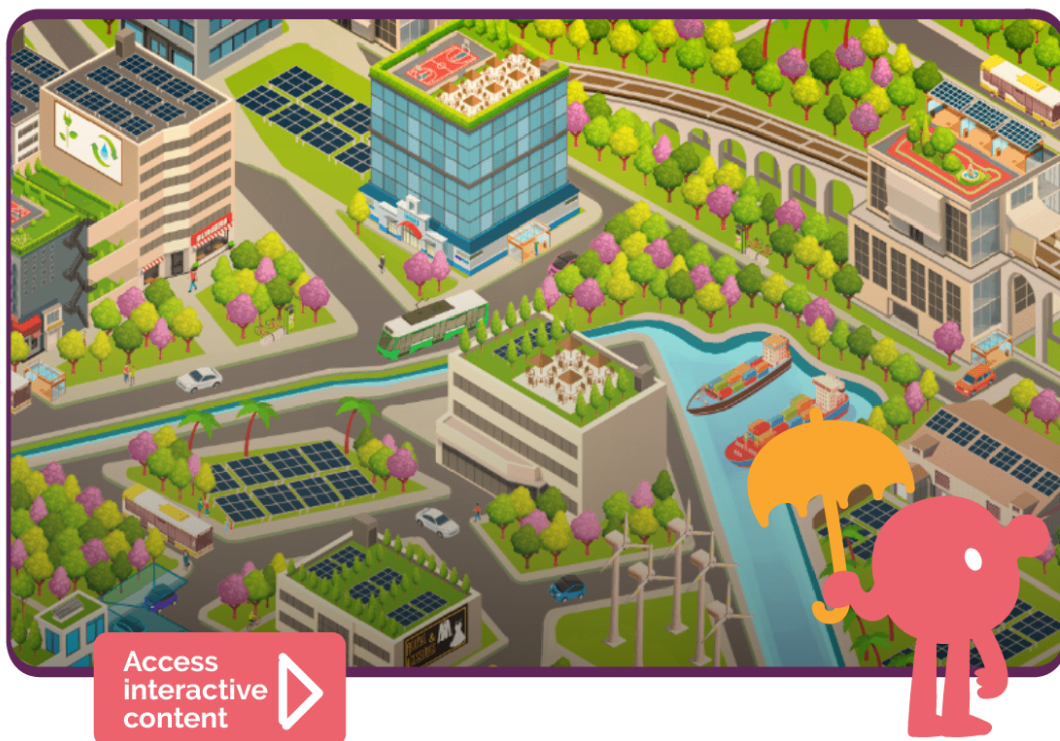
To create an Action Plan, tell participants to think about the solutions they had listed in the previous activity. They should also establish which players

must be involved in each solution and what would they have to do to achieve the desired results.

3. Wrap-up

Solution exhibit | 15 minutes

Before ending the activity, ask groups to present their work. Participants in each group should take turns between presenting to others and walking around, visiting other groups. Ask them to change roles until every participant has had the chance to see the ideas proposed by other groups.



REFERENCES

Videos:

Circular Economies: rethinking progress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWxy4PXq2pY>

Meet the people rethinking ownership

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOKpymOgqWw>

Global Footprint Network calculates mankind's Ecological Footprint

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD4zArzv96s>

Meet the people rethinking ownership

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOKpymOgqWw>

Websites:

Circular Economy - UK, USA, Europe, Asia & South America - The Ellen MacArthur Foundation

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

The Circular Design Guide

<https://www.circulardesignguide.com/>

New Plastics Economy - The Future Of Plastics - New Plastics Economy

<https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/>

Circulate News -Medium

<https://medium.com/circulatenews>

Ideia Circular - Circular Design and Economy in Brazil

<https://www.ideiacircular.com/>

Texts and documents:

What is Cradle to Cradle?

<https://www.ideiacircular.com/o-que-e-cradle-to-cradle>

What is a Circular Economy?

<https://www.ideiacircular.com/economia-circular/>

Implementing a Circular Economy into cities: project guidelines

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Economia-Circular-em-Cidades-Guia-do-Projeto.pdf>