

# Key EEA information sources relevant to circular economy 2015 and beyond

The European Environment Agency supports and informs policy developments and implementation in the areas of waste management, waste prevention, resource efficiency and circular economy. Key sources are listed below:



## Waste prevention in Europe — the status in 2013 (2014 edition expected 7 December)

This report presents a second review of waste prevention programmes across Europe. It covers waste prevention programmes' overall objectives, scope, and targets, indicators, and monitoring systems as the measures to evaluate set objectives and targets. The work is based on the Member States obligation set by the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) to adopt waste prevention programmes by the end of 2013. EEA is invited to carry out review of progress in the completion and implementation of waste prevention programmes annually.

[www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2014](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2014)



## Enabling resource-efficient cities / Resource efficient cities: good practices / What is a resource efficient city? (expected 10 December)

The three short reports address resource efficiency issues in urban areas, based on an overview of recent literature and successful case studies. They analyse the following:

- Why do resource-efficient urban areas matter?
- What are the main challenges and what can be done to meet these challenges?
- What solutions can be implemented on different scales and across sectors?
- What are the drivers of change?
- How can cities be governed to achieve the transition to resource-efficient urban areas?
- How can we involve society in the decision-making process?



## Circular economy report (expected January 2016)

The report addresses four areas: It aims to deepen the understanding of the concept and benefits of the circular economy; it analyses the main enabling factors and challenges; it reflects on policy questions and possible indicators for measuring progress being made in Europe towards the circular economy, and finally, it highlights issues that require more attention either from research or policy. This report is the first edition in a series of annual circular economy reports.



## More from less – material resource efficiency in Europe (expected Q2 2016)

The report, prepared in close cooperation with the Eionet network, reviews national approaches to policies for material use and resource efficiency in 29 countries. It aims to stimulate the exchange of experience between countries as well as to contribute to reflections on the circular economy.

It begins with a short overview of material resource efficiency policies at the EU level. The main part of the report examines initiatives and approaches taken in the 29 participating EEA countries. It looks at: the policy framework; driving forces; priority materials, industries and consumption categories; policy instruments and examples of good practice; targets and indicators; and the institutional set up. The report includes a chapter dedicated specifically to closing material loops in a circular economy, exploring how countries approach this topic. The report finishes with some reflections on the road ahead for material resource efficiency and the circular economy.

As an integral part of the work, a set of 29 detailed country profiles will be published together with the report. Preliminary findings were shared with the Commission in October 2014.



## European reference model on municipal waste

Since November 2015, the EEA is hosting the European Reference Model on Municipal Waste on request from the European Commission. Hosting includes interaction with EU member states on the model, maintenance, and updating. For example, the EEA organised a workshop for member states explaining the waste model in March 2015. The model is planned to be used as a basis for the 'Early warning system' to track member states' progress towards key EU targets on municipal waste. The model was developed and used for the impact assessment on the legislative proposal on waste as part of the circular economy strategy.

[www.wastemodel.eu/](http://www.wastemodel.eu/)



## Resource-efficient green economy and EU policies

This report (published in July 2014) highlights the major forces fostering the shift to a resource-efficient green economy in Europe, including the role of EU policies. Currently, the economic and technological changes leading towards green economy objectives across the EU economy are proceeding too slowly; what is required is a much bigger, deeper, and more permanent change in the EU economy and society to create both new opportunities and substitution processes across the economic structure. To bring this about, it is important to study and understand enabling factors and mechanisms at the crossroads of policies and real economy dynamics that could accelerate and direct the transformation.

[www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resourceefficient-green-economy-and-eu](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resourceefficient-green-economy-and-eu)



## Signals 2014 – Well-being and the environment

Building a resource-efficient and circular economy in Europe: We are extracting and using more resources than our planet can produce in a given time. Current consumption and production levels are not sustainable and risk weakening our planet's ability to provide for us. We need to reshape our production and consumption systems to enable us to produce the same amount of output with less resource, to re-use, recover and recycle more, and to reduce the amount of waste we generate.

[/www.eea.europa.eu/signals/signals-2014](http://www.eea.europa.eu/signals/signals-2014)



## The European environment — State and outlook 2015: Synthesis

This report will inform future European environmental policy in general and its implementation between 2015 and 2020 in particular. It includes a reflection on the European environment in a global context, as well as chapters summarising the state of, trends in, and prospects for the environment in Europe.

[www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/synthesis/all-translations](http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/synthesis/all-translations)



	<p><b>European environment — state and outlook 2015 (SOER 2015)</b>  SOER 2015 informs future European environmental policy in general and its implementation between 2015 and 2020 in particular. It includes a reflection on the European environment in a global context, as well as briefings the state of, trends in, and prospects for the environment in Europe, including briefings on climate change.</p> <p><b>SOER 2015 — European briefings</b>  European briefings present the state, recent trends and prospects in 25 key environmental themes, grouped in three clusters: environment; socio-economic; and systemic perspectives. 25 online four-page briefings.</p> <p><b>SOER 2015 — Cross-country comparisons briefings</b>  Cross-country comparisons provide a deeper analysis around selected topics. These comparisons are based on environmental indicators common for most European countries and are linked to country-level information and indicators. Nine online four-page briefings.</p> <p><b>SOER 2015 — Country briefings</b>  Country briefings provide an overview of state of the environment across 33 EEA member countries and 6 cooperating countries in the Western Balkans based on national state of environment reports. In addition, 3 briefings give an overview of main environmental challenges in regions, identified in the 7th Environment Action Programme of the European Union, that extend beyond Europe,: Arctic region, Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. 39 online four-page briefings.  <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer">www.eea.europa.eu/soer</a></p>	
	<p><b>Assessment of global megatrends (SOER 2015)</b>  The global megatrends report assesses 11 global megatrends of importance for Europe’s environment in the long term. In assessing key drivers, trends and implications for Europe, it aims to provide an improved basis for strategic European environmental policymaking.  <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/global/action-download-pdf">www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/global/action-download-pdf</a></p>	
	<p><b>The European environment – state and outlook 2015: Global megatrends</b>  This report gives an extended analysis of the global megatrends report in support of the short version published as part of the State and Outlook 2015 (SOER 2015) report.  <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/global-megatrends-assessment-extended-background-analysis">www.eea.europa.eu/publications/global-megatrends-assessment-extended-background-analysis</a></p>	
	<p><b>Stakeholder meeting on transition to a circular economy, October 2015</b>  On 29 and 30 October 2015, the EEA organized a stakeholder meeting on the transition to a circular economy. About 92 participants represented a broad range of stakeholders from business and civil society to governance, including the European Commission and the European Parliament.  One of the main objectives of the meeting was to put circular economy in a wider context, going beyond waste and materials through sessions on transitions and system thinking, digital economy and changing lifestyles, obsolescence, clean material cycles and the sharing economy. A session on sustainable forestry and its products widened the scope further to bio-based materials and ecosystem resilience. Outcomes to be disseminated in a dedicated report and to inform future EEA work to expand the evidence base needed for the transition to a circular economy.</p>	
	<p><b>EEA series of resource efficiency webinars</b>  EEA regularly organizes webinars on resource efficiency for the Eionet network. Webinars are held twice or three times a year. To date, webinars have been held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>national RE policies and good practice cases;</li> <li>objectives, targets and indicators for resource efficiency;</li> <li>industrial symbiosis;</li> <li>circular economy;</li> <li>RMC and European target on resource productivity;</li> <li>special 'star webinar' on decoupling, with Professor Ernst von Weizsaecker</li> <li>mixes of policies and instruments for resource efficiency</li> <li>Special 'star webinar' on transition to a new economic model, with former Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Europe’s environment</b>  For more information on thematic and integrated assessments, data and indicators on Europe’s environment, please visit: <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu">www.eea.europa.eu</a></p> <p><b>Audiovisuals and infographics</b>  A number of communication products are available under the <a href="#">Media</a> tab:  <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/media/infographics">www.eea.europa.eu/media/infographics</a> and <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/media/audiovisuals">www.eea.europa.eu/media/audiovisuals</a></p>	

24 November 2015