

How a circular economy could accelerate decarbonisation in New Zealand

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The world is changing and a massive transition from a linear to a circular economy is underway. Transitions in energy sectors, supply chains, transport systems, the built environment and products is already occurring and momentum is growing exponentially. This presents a wicked problem to NZ requiring a systems thinking approach with collaboration across public and private sectors. What are the risks if every organization works in silos to decarbonise their operations? What opportunities will be missed? Will we solve one problem by creating another?

Debbie O’Byrne, who has a decade of experience working with public and private sector clients ensuring they are future fit for a carbon-constrained, circular economy, and Sarah Bacon, who has a decade of experience working in Beca’s Industrial segment more recently specialising in the energy transition and decarbonisation, will both explore how a circular economy approach is essential in accelerating decarbonisation in NZ. Examples of how and why this approach has been successful internationally will be outlined including the Kalundborg Eco-Industrial Park in Denmark, and Special Activation Precincts (SAPs) in Australia. We’ll explore how a circular economy could be implemented in New Zealand and how it could help tackle our process heat and other decarbonisation challenges.

A Circular Economy (CE) approach can also address other urgent concurrent and sometimes competing pressure points for organizations – meeting net zero targets, climate adaptation planning, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Just Transitions pathways and consumer pressure for low-carbon, resilient supply chains. Attendees will see tangible illustrations and case studies of how a CE approach is being implemented (including key challenges and enablers) and how a CE approach could support them in meeting their carbon reduction targets to provide far wider benefits and a more resilient and holistic approach to their strategic goals.