CIRCULARITY COMPASS

TARGET GROUP

- Product developer
- Supply chain manager
- Sustainability manager
- Business strategist

BENEFITS

- Visualization of Resource Flows
- Identifying Inefficiencies and Waste
- Supporting Circular Product Design
- Optimizing Supply Chains
- Aligning Sustainability Goals

DURATION

- Initial Workshop: 1 - 2 days
- Pilot Project: several weeks to 2-3 months
- Full Integration: Ongoing

Project link

Tool link

It is a practical tool that helps businesses understand and optimize their resource flows in order to promote a circular economy. It was developed as part of the European project "EIT Climate-KIC," based on scientific research. Its goal is to assist businesses in shifting from the traditionally linear economic model, also known as "Take-Make-Dispose," to a circular model focused on "Regenerate and Restore."

The CradleALP project

Interreg

Co-funded by the European Union

Alpine Space

Cradle-ALP

Fossil raw materials and toxic substances are widely used in production processes in the chemical, plastics, and forestry sectors. The Cradle-Alp project focusses on replacing chemical, fossil or unsustainable materials with more circular, sustainable and biodegradable ones.

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

Tool Implementation

01 Preparation & Assesment

- Define scope (product, unit, sector)
- Map current resource use, waste and hotspots
- Collect baseline data

02 Stakeholder Engagement

- Involve key functions and external actors
- Gather diverse input for system understanding
- Build internal alignment

03 Workshop & Brainstorming

- Map resource flows (Particles Parts→Products)
- Visualize inefficiencies and identify circular loops
- Generate design and business model ideas

04 Strategy Development

- Translate insights into actionable circular strategies
- Align with business goals and compliance needs
- Prioritize based on impact and feasibility

05 Pilot Testing

- Test selected initiatives in controlled settings
- Monitor outcomes and iterate based on feedback

06 Rollout & Continuous Improvement

- Scale successful pilots

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

TARGET GROUP

- Companies across all sectors
- Product developers
- Sustainability officers
- R & D

BENEFITS

- Full environmental transparency
- Improved decision-making
- Regulatory readiness
- Credible sustainability claims
- Cost & efficiency optimization

DURATION

- Two to six months (depending on the complexity)

Project link

Tool link

It is a method used to measure the environmental impact of a product, service or process, applicable from the very beginning of the process (raw materials) to the end (disposal or recycling). This approach helps companies understand how their products actually affect the environment at each state of process. Its goal is to identify where the biggest environmental impacts occur and how they can be improved.

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Tool Implementation

Define Goal & Scope

01

- Set purpose (e.g. design improvement)
- Define system boundaries
- Determine level of detail and target audience

Preparation & Stakeholder Setup

02

- Identiify internal and external stakeholders
- Choose suitable LCA software
- Gather initial product/ service data

Inventory Data Collection

03

- Collect quantitive data on materials, energy, emissions, waste
- Use interviews, questionnaires, flow diagrams
- Ensure completeness of data

Impact Assessment

04

- Classify and quantify environmental impacts
- Map results to standard impact categories
- Use ISO-compliant methods for comparability

Interpretation & Action

05

- Identify hotspots and improvement potential
- Validate and document findings
- Integrate results into strategy, compliance, and communication

LEGO®
SERIOUS PLAY®

TARGET GROUP

- SMEs & organizationss in transformation processes
- Interdisciplinary teams from different departments
- Stakeholders dealing with:
1. Conflicting interests
2. Cross-functional collaboration challenges

BENEFITS

- Inclusive dialogue
- Improved decision-making
- Regulatory readiness
- Credible sustainability claims
- Cost & efficiency optimization

DURATION

- Two to six months (depending on the complexity)

Project link

Tool link

It's a hand-on facilitation method designed to foster creative thinking, inclusive dialogue, and deeper problem-solving within teams and organizations. Lego bricks serve as a universal language, enabling participants to visualize ideas, emotions, and challenges in a tangible way. The tool supports meaningful conversations and helps unlock insights that often remain hidden in conventional meeting formats.

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Tool Implementation

Challenge ✓

01

- Facilitator poses a specific question or problem to the gorup
- Challange is pre-defined in coordination with the company

Build ✓

02

- Each participant individually builds a model using Lego bricks
- Timeboxed to promote spontanety and avoid overthinking
- Abstract building helps visualize thoughts and perspectives

Share ✓

03

- Participants share their models to the group
- Group members are encouraged to ask questions for clarification and deeper insights

Reflect ✓

04

- Analyze recurring themes, patterns, and divergences
- Insights are extracted to understand underlying structures and relationships

Co-create ✓

05

- Build a shared model
- Combine critical elements from individual models

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AUDIT/ MATURITY ASSESSMENT

TARGET GROUP

- Companies starting or advancing in Circular Economy / Cradle to Cradle transformation
- Manufacturing firms & product development teams
- Sustainability officers & corporate strategy departments
- SMEs seeking an initial diagnostic tool

BENEFITS

- Baseline Evaluation: Assess current state
- Benchmarking: Compare maturity with peers, standards & best practices
- Strategic Planning: Define priorities, guide investments, set actionable goals
- Continuous Improvement

DURATION

- Depends on company size, & structure
- Multi-stage process
- Dividable over several workshops
- Several weeks or months

Project link

Tool link

Maturity Assessment Tools are used to evaluate how advanced a company is in a specific area, such as sustainability, circular economy, or Cradle to Cradle practices. It measures progress, identifies readiness for further steps, and offers a structured way to reflect on internal processes, strategies, and capabilities. These tools help companies understand how well circular principles are already integrated and where there's still room for improvement.

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Tool Implementation

Circular Transition Indicators
Circular Economy-Focused

- Measurement of material flows (recycling rates, material reuse, waste reduction)
- For medium or high maturity levels
- Standardized data

Maturity and Implementation Model
Circular Economy-Focused

- Model with roadmap for circular development
- For entry-level companies
- Strategic guidance for starting circular transformation

Circular Economy Assessment Tool
Circular Economy-Focused

- Assessment of circularity potential across supply chains and departments
- For companies seeking a strategic overview
- Diagnostic tool for cross-departmental improvement

Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard
Cradle to Cradle Focused

- Product verification based on environmental and social C2C criteria
- For product developers & sustainable brand managers
- Benchmark for excellence in product design and sustainability

C2C Framework & Maturity Model
Cradle to Cradle Focused

- Evaluation of processes and material based on core C2C principles
- For companies aiming for deep transformation
- Support for embedding C2C into business processes

Cradle to Cradle Evaluation Matrix
Cradle to Cradle Focused

- Comparison and assessment of alignment with C2C principles

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SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS

TARGET GROUP

Start-ups | SMEs | Non-profits | Public Sector

- Business development
- Strategic planning
- Sustainability
- Innovation

BENEFITS

- Future-proof your business
- Differentiate your brand
- Increase operational efficiency
- Strengthen stakeholder trust
- Unlock new revenue streams
- Drive meaningful innovation

DURATION

- Depends on company size, & structure
- Multi-stage process
- Dividable over several workshops
- Several weeks or months

Project link

Tool link

Traditional business models often approach value creation from a one-dimensional, financial perspective. The Sustainable Business Model Canvas (SBMC) expands this view by integrating ecological and social sustainability into your business model – in a structured, practical, and actionable way.

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Sustainable Business Model Canvas

Tool Implementation

Analysis ✓
01

- Review your existing Business Model
- Evaluate the environmental impacts and social implications

02
Research ✓

- Identify key actors
- Conduct workshops or interviews to gain:
  - Expectations regarding sustainability
  - Suggestions and concers related to change

Input ✓
03

- Fill in the SBMC using a triple layer approach:
  - Economy
  - Environment
  - Social

04
Output ✓

- Identify 2-3 quick wins and 1-2 levers per layer
- Assign responsibilities and set KPIs

Pilot ✓
05

- Test 1-2 initiaitives (small scale)
- Monitor KPIs
- Adjust based on results and stakeholder feedback

06
Launch ✓

QUICK SCAN

TARGET GROUP

Companies - all sizes

- Operations
- Strategic planning
- Sustainability
- Innovation

BENEFITS

- Clear assessment of current (sustainability) performance
- Tailored guidance for designing circular business models
- Improved ressource efficiency
- Risk reduction
- New innovation opportunities

DURATION

- 1-3 days (Scan)
- 1-6 weeks (Adaption)

Project link

Tool link

The Quickscan Circular Business Model Tool is a strategic framework that helps organizations evaluate and evolve their business models toward circularity and sustainability. It offers a two-phase approach:

1. Assessment of the current model
2. Guided development of a future-proof circular model

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Tool Implementation

Analysis ✔

01

- Conduct the Assessment
- Use cross-functional teams
- Analyze the radar results with leaders

02 ✔ Targets

- Set priorities
- Choose high-impact areas
  - short-term
  - long-term

Design ✔

03

- Align R-strategies (Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, ..)
- Organizational structure
- Revenue logic

04 ✔ Enablers

- Digital systems
- Logistics
- Workforce competencies

Pilot ✔

05

- Small Scale (single procut line or region)
- Track and measure
- Review KPIs

06 ✔ Report

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