



## CNCA Game Changers | Regenerative Systems and Economies

**Topic.** Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Funding Priorities

**Leadership.** The Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) members guiding this effort are Glasgow, UK; and Melbourne, AU.

**Problem statement.** Resource recovery and circular economy initiatives (CE) can significantly advance sustainable consumption practices and reduce carbon emissions, yet cities struggle to: (1) effectively influence how industry produces and (2) how communities consume goods. Key issues are:

- Tons of plastics in waste and water streams
- Widespread use of plastics in packaging, and increased packaging of common goods due to an increase in online shopping
- Microplastics in consumer goods that eventually end up in natural ecosystems
- Lack of a closed loop system for plastics, and lack of evidenced value so it does not end up as waste

**Theory of change.** For cities, plastics pose a large waste challenge and GHG emissions from plastic incineration is often a large source of emissions. CNCA members think it would be game changing to:

- Influence packaging through industry regulatory requirements
- Push for developing products with recycled content
- Use procurement policies that focus on product longevity and require products with recycled content
- Establish a local circular economy that limits single-use materials, promotes reuse, and provides high quality recycling and upcycling
- Design a recycling system for and eventually phase out single use products
- Establish local manufacturing streams that use local post-consumer waste as feedstock
- Promote the rental market for utensil / plate service at events

**Funding priorities.** The CNCA Game Changer Fund seeks to support city efforts that build regenerative systems and economies through resource recovery and circular economy initiatives. Table 1 outlines funding priorities and targeted outcomes of successful efforts as identified by CNCA members. As funds are raised, CNCA will call for projects that advance these priorities in measurable ways.

**Table 1. Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Funding Priorities and Targeted Outcomes.**



**Funding Priorities:**

- Innovative market-building and investment methods that support resource recovery and circular economy initiatives
- Ways to get to no waste generation, or “zero waste”, while still prioritizing resource recovery in the interim
- Implementation of resource recovery and circular economy best practices that can scale globally – especially procurement policies that focus on product longevity and recycled content
- Projects that identify effective resource recovery and circular economy market-influencing strategies
- Standards for regulating single use/high plastic content products
- Cross-sector partnership development at the local and regional scales to advance resource recovery and circular economy programs

**Targeted Outcomes:**

- Cities partner with local businesses to rapidly advance resource recovery and circular economy efforts
- Local circular economies are commonplace and address the complete life cycle of consumer products
- Single-use products are replaced with reusable/compostable products
- High quality recycling is ubiquitous
- Local manufacturing uses post-consumer waste as feedstock