

Circular Economy Task Group

The aim of the task group is to create a guide and webinar, to help FPS members improve this area of sustainability. We recommend the guide and webinar follow a what, why, how, measure approach to improving each area of sustainability. This means answering the following questions:

1 What?

What is the circular economy?

- Define the circular economy

“A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.” Ellen Macarthur Foundation

- Key priorities include:
 - o Reduction of raw material use
 - o Using more secondary materials (reused or recycled)
 - o Extending the product life span
 - o Reducing waste (following the waste hierarchy)



2 Why?

Why does the circular economy matter to geotechnical companies?

For example:

- Legislative requirements (including upcoming legislation) e.g. circular economy action plan, landfill taxation etc
- Any client requests you've received
- Any evidence of efficiency savings
- Employee demand, investor demand etc

3 How?

How can geotechnical companies improve / contribute towards the circular economy?

This is probably the most important part of the guide / webinar. We are looking for best practices from throughout geotechnical companies to help improve their impact on the circular economy. These best practices may include small 'quick-wins', ways to factor in the circular economy into decision-making and large-scale ways to optimise geotechnical companies for the circular economy.

You are free to define the timescales for short-, medium- and long-term best practices.

3.1 Short-term best practices

- 'Quick wins' or efficiency savings with short payback periods
- Example may be using waste crushed concrete as aggregate saves money

3.2 Medium-term best practices

- Improvements with longer payback periods or processes that take additional infrastructure / training / additions to implement

3.3 Long-term best practices

- Improvements with no payback period, or require significant investment / changes to current practices
- All long-term best practices should be necessary to reach a fully circular (or spiral) economy

4 Measure

What metrics should geotechnical companies use to measure / set targets for the circular economy?

It may help to think about different types of metric:

- Lag metrics *e.g. tonnes of waste to landfill, % of all aggregate that's recycled material*
- Leading metrics *e.g. % of design engineers trained on the circular economy; spend on X*
- Absolute metrics *e.g. tonnes of raw materials used*
- Relative metrics *e.g. tonnes of raw materials per £m revenue*

You may also want to consider what metrics would be most useful for FPS members to use when setting their own circular economy targets

5 Key outputs

- 'How to' guide that:
 - o What: Introduces the circular economy
 - o Why: Explains why geotechnical companies should improve it
 - o How: Highlights short-, medium- and long-term best practices
 - o Measure: Details potential key metrics to assess progress on the circular economy
- An FPS or FPS-EFFC webinar, introducing the circular economy and promoting the parts of the 'how to' guide