



## BS 8001 - a new standard for the Circular Economy

The move to a 'circular economy' has been identified as a significant opportunity for UK business. It will contribute towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy, reducing costs and supply chain risks, while generating economic and social value.

To support growth in the face of resource scarcity, it is widely accepted that standards will be pivotally important. There are already a large number of standards that support waste prevention, resource efficiency, eco-design and remanufacturing, but there is no one standard focussed on the concept of the circular economy.

To address this challenge, the British Standards Institution established a committee of expert stakeholders to draft a framework standard to help improve understanding and implementation of the circular economy at organisational level. The first output of this programme, BS 8001 *Framework for implementing circular economy principles in organisations – Guide* will help organisations continually improve their transition from a linear to a more sustainable circular mode of operation through:

- Improved understanding of the circular economy: by determining how it's relevant to the organisation and using that information to establish the organisation's role in taking action to implement the circular economy;

- Enhanced control over resources: by systematically identifying, prioritising and addressing relevant issues to better retain the technical and economic value of materials;
- Stimulating learning, innovation and strengthening of relationships: by consideration of emerging opportunities through engagement of the value-chain.

### Have your say on the new standard

The draft of BS 8001 will be made available for public consultation in Autumn 2016, with final publication due Summer 2017.

BSI welcomes your views on this draft. To keep informed on its availability and other news of interest, sign up for a monthly update via [www.bsigroup.com/newsletters](http://www.bsigroup.com/newsletters).

Full details on the new programme can be found at [www.bsigroup.com/CircularEconomy](http://www.bsigroup.com/CircularEconomy)

## About BS 8001 *Framework for implementing circular economy principles in organisations – Guide*

The new standard is intended to help organisations answer the following questions (this list is not finite):

- Guidance to help organisations determine relevance, and importantly what their specific role is and implications are in the circular economy
- Guidance on how to determine strategic resource management risks and opportunities – which may or may not involve pursuing more circular solutions
- Definition of Closed Loop supply chain – plus guidance on how 'closed' is good enough
- Open Loop vs Closed Loop
- Guidance about the provenance and usage of secondary materials
- Guidance on collaborative consumption / sharing economy

**Definition of the circular economy:** a systemic approach to the design of business models, enabling the sustainable management of resources in products and services

### Proposed structure of BS 8001:

Guiding principles:

- **Systems thinking**  
Principle: a holistic approach can provide an organization with understanding as to how individual decisions and activities interact within its wider value chain
- **Innovation**  
Principle: continual innovation can create business value through the sustainable management of resources in products and services
- **Stewardship**  
Principle: organizations are accountable for their direct and indirect economic, environmental and social impacts
- **Collaboration**  
Principle: formal and/or informal arrangements and collaborations can create mutual business value
- **Longevity**  
Principle: the technical life of products are to be prolonged for as long as possible thereby reducing overall demand for materials
- **Optimisation**  
Principle: the amount of materials that an organization uses is to be optimised whilst the waste that is produced is minimised
- **Consideration of end-of-life**  
Principle: organizations take into account what is going to happen to a product at the end of its technical lifespan
- **Transparency**  
Principle: organizations are open about decisions and activities that affect their ability to transition to a more sustainable circular mode of operation and are willing to communicate these in a clear, accurate, timely, honest and complete manner

### Also included in BS 8001

- The circular economy and its relevance to business (to provide an introduction for those not aware of the term, highlighting the opportunity)
- Building a framework for action (identification of roles and relevance of the circular economy, identification of risks and opportunities, establishing commitment, monitoring and documentation)
- Guidance on specific issues or considerations (e.g. how to consider a range of relevant aspects - logistics, measurement, liability & insurance, materials)
- Guidance on specific business models (remanufacturing, leasing, sharing economy, etc)
- Various annexes, expected to be case studies or elaboration of business model traits

Full details on the new programme can be found at [www.bsigroup.com/CircularEconomy](http://www.bsigroup.com/CircularEconomy)