



# European Circular Cities Declaration

## City of Oulu

In light of the socio-economic impact of the current crisis and of the ongoing climate emergency, we take this opportunity to commit to a circular recovery and a more resilient future. A systemic shift to a regenerative economic model is fundamental to achieving climate neutrality, fostering a thriving society, and keeping resource consumption within planetary boundaries.

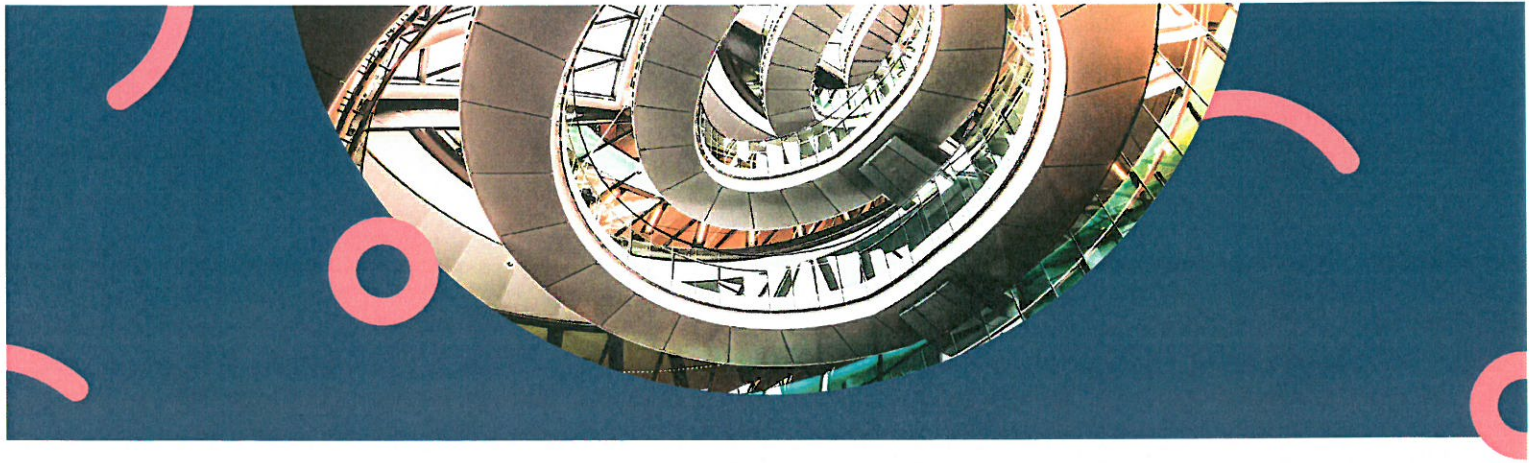
A circular city is one that promotes the transition from a linear to a circular economy in an integrated way across all its functions in collaboration with citizens, businesses and the research community. This means in practice fostering business models and behaviour which decouple resource use from economic activity by maintaining the value and utility of products, components, materials and nutrients for as long as possible, in order to close material loops and minimise harmful resource use and waste generation. Through this circular transition, we seek to improve human wellbeing, reduce emissions, protect and enhance biodiversity, and promote social justice, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

### We believe that

- Transitioning from a linear to a circular economy is central to our efforts to decouple economic growth from resource use, and achieve a climate neutral, fair and prosperous society
- Local and regional governments have a critical role to play in achieving the systemic and transformative change required and must work actively with all levels of government and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector and the research community in this mission
- Providing a shared, common vision of a circular city can help ensure we are all travelling in the same direction

### We welcome the opportunity this declaration provides to

- Show leadership in choosing a resource efficient, low-carbon and socially responsible development path
- Demonstrate our commitment to act across our administration
- Collaborate with a group of like-minded, ambitious local and regional governments
- Benefit from access to implementation support of expert organisations from across Europe



**By signing this declaration, we commit to using the levers at our disposal coherently across the organisation, including:**

- 1 Establishing clear circular economy goals and strategies to provide a common direction for the local circular transition
- 2 Raising awareness of circular practices across our administration and amongst local citizens and businesses
- 3 Directly engaging local stakeholders from civil society, the private sector and the research community in the development of circular economy plans and initiatives, striving to make the transition inclusive and helping to nurture circular business models such as the sharing and repairing economy
- 4 Embedding circularity principles in urban planning, infrastructure and asset management procedures
- 5 Leveraging public procurement to promote the market for circular products and services
- 6 Applying economic incentives and seeking opportunities to use fiscal measures designed to encourage circular economic and social behaviour
- 7 Fostering an enabling local regulatory framework which allows and encourages secondary material markets, repair, reuse and sharing schemes
- 8 Collaborating with national governments and European institutions to establish an appropriate policy and regulatory framework for the circular transition
- 9 Monitoring the progress made and impacts of our circular economy activities
- 10 Reporting to ICLEI on progress in achieving the above commitments

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**Partners**

