

Circular Economy Sub-Group Report Back

(including waste, plastics, businesses etc.)

Description	11 th Jan Meeting Facilitator	11 th Jan Meeting Scribe	Group Convenor	SECA Link
Circular Economy	Chris Lee Waste Prevention Advisor (Mid Sussex)	Karen Park Horsham Eco Churches	Karen Park Horsham Eco Churches and Laura Woodrow HDC waste management	Karen Park Horsham Eco Churches

Here are notes Karen scribed at the Forum with weblinks and some associated information added for clarity, and extracts from research circulated by email since the forum, please contact Karen with corrections or further info.

SUMMARY:

- Raise awareness – Did you know . . . ?
- Clearly communicate actions people could take, a mixture of carrot and stick. What recycled plastic is made into. Switching could save you money.
- Explain to individuals, councils, small and big companies, lift the conversation out of recycling.
- Produce reference list for further info including books, websites, groups and Repair Cafes.
- Encourage people to visit local recycling sorting centre, landfill, incinerator to see the enormity of the waste. Beware though that the tours offered only give that company's point of view.

Conclusion from workshops and subsequent research

1. Circular Economy is something to take forward by a SECA subgroup meeting soon, others welcome to join us. 11 people so far are interested in communicating further regarding this.
2. We have already found that there's a wealth of great ideas & info out there, but a lack of local promotion, so we will create some fairly simple info with good links to pass round to Horsham District Council, Sussex Green Living, SECA & others. Laura has offered to write this up.
3. We will support Sussex Green Living and SECA and explore the possibility of a Circular Horsham initiative!
4. Karen will feedback to SECA Steering Group.

FULL NOTES FROM FORUM

1st Workshop attendees

- Chris – **Fairer World Lindfield** growthinternational.com/fairer-world-lindfield Al Gore Climate Change Training, Lindfield Fairtrade Village, Waste Prevention Advisor (Mid Sussex).
- Megan – Horsham, student at Reading University studying Geography
- Karen – Horsham **Eco Churches** ecochurch.arocha.org.uk **No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group** (Ni4H) ni4h.org SECA Steering Group
- Karrie – Partridge Green – **Bags of Support**, ethically recycles textiles bagsofsupport.co.uk
- Zara - Christ's Hospital School Eco-Rangers Group – planted trees, kilo sale
- Sweet - Billingshurst, interested
- Laura – works in Horsham District Council business waste department, Kinder Living Volunteer, Refill Horsham District kinderliving.co.uk
- Margaret – Cuckfield, Be The Change initiative, Transition movement, Forest Food Gardening, Cuckfield local market
- Viviane – set up XR Arun Valley Group facebook.com/XRArunValley SECA Steering Group

- Helen – Horsham Repair Café cleaning and personal care refill, horshamrepaircafe.org.uk Horsham Quakers, local recycle schemes, XR Horsham [facebook.com/xrhorsham](https://www.facebook.com/xrhorsham) SECA Steering Group

Margaret's recommended a book: **Cradle to Cradle**. Remaking the Way We Make Things (Patterns of Life) by Michael Braungart & William McDonough

Chris – explained Circular Economy and gave examples of businesses. *(Chris could we have a copy of notes please.)*

Recycling – bottom of the chain, most people come in at that level, how to move people up the pyramid hierarchy.

SECA monthly action – need to start at really basic level.

Town centre events linked to sustainable action.

Community fridge – coming soon in Horsham library, volunteers needed.

<https://www.facebook.com/horshamcommunityfridge/>

Megan – start with recycle, different plastics, which ones can be recycled, visit recycling centre, raise awareness, create more efficiency in that process, student house, confusing differences in different areas what can be recycled and how.

Laura – council website, social media

Education – schools & general public. Council - handouts at supermarkets

Margaret – reusable plastics, unrecycled plastics, you can help to make something, add value to recycling.

Chris – That is what Terracycle does, pictures garden furniture, toys. Local deli has picture of what recycled pens go to make.

Mixture of carrot and stick. Lighting – switch off light, reduce emissions, save money.

Visits to recycling sites, Biffa and Ford, arrange outings and have lunch after, see that mass of stuff, local tip. Share those stories and keep passing it on. Tours, environmental value. School visits, Scouts, Brownies.

Zara – **Christ's Hospital School Eco Rangers** – Boarding Houses, bins in corridors not individual bins in rooms. Clear recycling bins so can see what goes where: toiletries, pens, banana skins. GAIA week Nicola and Carrie education in school. 900 pupils in school given an engraved reusable water bottle, no water sold in café. Refill centre. Water fountain refill. <https://www.christs-hospital.org.uk/christs-hospital-declares-war-on-plastic/>

Chris visited a church – They gave out 300 coffee cups, 2 weeks after that no coffee unless brought your cup!

Commercialism, purchasing power, energy switching, alternative banks, Triodos sustainable banking triodos.co.uk

3 actions to take into the town centre – even amongst us there was lack of awareness about these

1. Ecosia – alternative search engine uses the ad revenue from searches to plant trees ecosia.org

2. Switch Energy – cost comparison site only takes 5 minutes to compare a range of clean energy supplies and switch if you wish, probably save money sussexgreenliving.co.uk/clean-energy-switching
3. Bank – What's that funding? Does it fit with your environmental connections?

Impact of Starbucks boycott not paying taxes.

What can the group take forward?

Communication – people hear message, clarity. Did you know ...? Keep it simple, achievable.

Start in a small way.

Schools, businesses, social media, collaborate with different groups. Listen and learn.

Horsham District Council – hub then spreads beyond, need to feed them info.

Instagram is a must.

Talking to people. A lot of it feels quite preachy, not accusing. There's no one answer.

A lot sounds negative – much more positive, positive vision, witness own personal story

2040 film <https://whatsyour2040.com/>

As SECA group how do we want to, what are options to link up again, or just tap into resources already there?

What key topic want to get some directive about in the Circular Economy?

Councils need to know what is going on with normal people.

Circular Economy Info pages on SGL and SECA websites. List of books and websites.

Explain to individuals, councils, small and big companies, lift the conversation out of recycling.

Laura will review websites. (See notes at end of this document.) Karen write up notes.

2nd Workshop

- Chris, Karen and Margaret from 1st workshop
- Aby & friends – school heard about forum through Nicola
- Jemma – fast fashion
- Julia – Transition Town Lewes for years, money, divestment
- Caroline – Friends of Earth Sevenoaks, reduction, renting clothes and items, not buying

What can corporates and companies do? How do we get people to think about something a bit more circular?

Caroline – WI and CPRE visit waste, recycling and waste to energy plant to see the scale of rubbish, of the waste.

Visit Newhaven incinerator – disseminate information, word of mouth, permaculture.

Circular Brighton and Hove <https://www.circularbrightonandhove.uk/>

Growth International focuses on circular economy strategic consultancy
<https://www.growthinternational.com/>

You and Yours - BBC Radio 4's consumer affairs programme – has good info

Recycling every area does it differently - pressure government to set national recycling scheme, but that would cost councils a lot of money as they already have their own schemes running. Confusion, at uni, home, work, visiting relatives, on holiday – all different schemes.

People don't know what happens after they recycle.

Awareness raising, how do you engage people, reach people who don't know?

Julia started **electric car show** in Lewes. Talked to people at the show about Why do you need a car? and about public transport.

Fashion show – talk about clothes.

Swap it up – clothes swap, promote it in schools. Young people such consumerist minds. Clothes swap can create your own unique combinations.

Sewing to change things and use the fabric scraps to make something else.

Crystal Palace Library of Things - Why buy when you can borrow? Borrow useful Things for your home, projects and adventures, like drills, gazebos and carpet cleaners at affordable prices and learn how to use them. Affordable. Convenient. Kinder to the planet. Events like DIY classes, restart parties, mending meet-ups, and lots more. libraryofthings.co.uk

Repair clothes, teach cooking, storytelling, pPlastic waste recycling

Cooking - Young people are not cooking, not taught, show how to, see how simple to cook, then they can. Time if do it yourself. How we value our time.

Enjoy skill and learn cooking. Make it a pleasure, social.

Combine things while cooking in kitchen could listen to TV, music, audio books, space for child to safely play or do homework while you are cooking.

Grow our own food - school learn how to grow your own food, providing for yourself. Community gardens.

Cooking, gardening etc - not chores, pleasurable.

Waste = resources

Schools in Lewes very strong litter picking group, beach clean

People need ideas.

Receive emails from other groups as a simple way of sharing ideas, by being added to their mailing list.

Swishing exchange 5 items, so don't end up with stuff left after the event. swishing.com

Make it in fashion to use secondhand, it's a trend, how to encourage that. Apps like **Depop** buy, sell and discover the most inspiring and unique things. Depop works and looks like Instagram, link PayPal to it, maybe swap, meet up if live in same city. Depop biggest in UK, very trendy. depop.com Poshmark biggest in Canada and America. poshmark.com

Books – buy secondhand save money. World of Books online secondhand books, low prices and free delivery. worldofbooks.com/en-gb

Libraries – use it or lose it.

Forest Food Gardening - grow up plants in layers. Very interesting, community can come and sit, enjoy the park, walkways. A long-term biologically sustainable system for growing food & other products for a household, school, community group etc. Martin Crawford Chairman. Agroforestry Research Trust.

agroforestry.co.uk

Real Farming Conference, Henry Dimbleby, Radio 4, future policies.

nationalfoodstrategy.org/henry-dimbleby-speech-to-the-oxford-farming-conference-2020

Sustainable Food Trust – a global voice for sustainable food and health. sustainablefoodtrust.org

Project Drawdown global research organization that identifies, reviews, and analyzes the most viable solutions to climate change, and shares these findings with the world. drawdown.org

Al Gore Climate Reality Training book

RESEARCH SINCE THE CONFERENCE

Laura Woodrow - I have had a look at a few websites to see if I can find any information on the circular economy, to help further my understanding of it, and also to see what info is out there so we don't duplicate too much if we were to add information on to the SECA website.

I looked up the following websites and found the following out about them:

1. **SECA** - No info currently directly on the Circular Economy (CE). Links to websites that had links to websites that had info about CE but no specific signposting regarding it.
2. **Eyesofgaia.com** - This is Nicola Peel's website. No specifically about CE here.
3. **Preciousplastic.com** - This is really focused on recycling rather than CE.
4. **WSCC**- They have pledges for a greener future, but nothing I could find on CE
5. **Sussex Green Living**- lot of recycling info and news about the repair cafe, but nothing specifically on CE.
6. **Kinderliving.co.uk** - This is an organisation that I'm involved with. We don't have anything on CE specifically. This is something I could look in to adding on the site.
7. **52climateactions.com** - Has a section on refusing/repairing and mentions CE as a next step after recycling. It does have a link to ellenmacarthurfoundation.org for more information on CE.
8. **ellenmacarthurfoundation.org** - this is an excellent website full of everything you could want to know about CE! There are factsheets for every stage of transitioning to a Circular Economy, mostly for policy makers. There is also a detailed explanation of what CE is. Turns out CE can be viewed as having 3 principles. The first is designing pollution and waste out of manufacturing and design. The second is keeping materials and products in use in the system. The third is regenerating natural systems, improving them rather than just protecting them. This website also has links to case studies. I read the one for Peterborough, which aims to become a circular city by 2050. This lead me on to the website below.
9. **futurepeterborough.com**- This website has a circular city section which outlines their commitment and provides a framework for their progress and a roadmap of how they are going to do it.

I found this case study very inspiring and it got me thinking about if we can lobby HDC to look at something similar for Horsham. I'm not sure how different it would be for a district to strive to be a CE, rather than a city. I guess cities are easier to implement these things in, as they have a denser population and transport links etc are quite compact. **I would be interested in pursuing this if others thought it was a good idea. All seems a bit of an overwhelming idea on my own.**

In conclusion, this isn't an exhaustive list of websites at all, but it gives us an idea of what is out there. Locally (to Horsham), there isn't much out there so I don't think having information on the SECA page would be overlapping anything too much. **Perhaps a basic overview of what CE is and links to sites like ellenmacarthurfoundation.org could be appropriate?** I am happy to write the main body of this if no other takers.

Helen Whittington - Sounds like there is definitely scope for us to create a fairly simple piece for both SECA & SGL. We should definitely discuss with our HDC links and see if its something they might promote, perhaps at town level first but transferable to district. Seems like it is the next rung on the ladder up from recycling for people still new to the whole sustainability issue. I really like the idea of perhaps a number of individual actions around key areas like food, clothing, cleaning & personal care, energy, banking & transport - basically peoples purchasing power! The b-corps things is a whole side i didnt know about.

Karen Park

Here are some more information sources:

https://ukwin.org.uk/btb/BtB_Circular_Economy_Briefing.pdf

<https://ukwin.org.uk/oppose-incineration/>

Friends of mine including Neil Pitcairn (who I have copied into this email and he is already linked with SECA) have recently set up a charity called the Circularity Foundation: <http://www.circularityfoundation.org.uk/>

Neil Pitcairn - Many thanks Karen, and congratulations Laura on your research so far.

You may also like to take a look at <https://zerowastecities.eu/> , an initiative of Zero Waste Europe (<https://zerowasteurope.eu/>) . UKWIN is a founder member of Zero Waste Europe but, being focused on opposing incineration, hasn't had the resources to develop a Zero Waste Cities project in the UK. Potentially this is something which may be undertaken by the emerging Circularity Foundation. Zero Waste North West (based in Northern Ireland), also a member of Zero Waste Europe, is a community based group which obtained funding to develop a Zero Waste strategy for Derry/Londonderry.

Zero Waste Scotland is a semi-independent quango playing a role similar to WRAP. It has supported a Zero Waste project in Falkirk and a circular economy project in Glasgow. Both the Derry and Falkirk projects are downloadable and may provide some inspiration.

Some Zero Waste Europe members have worked on sector related projects rather than household waste. For instance there is now a network of Zero Waste hotels in Italy which began with one hotel in Sorrento, a town whose population explodes every summer putting enormous pressure on the municipal waste disposal and recycling capacity. And Friends of the Earth Croatia ran a hospital food waste project in Zagreb, researching the reasons for uneaten food, suggesting changes which then saved the hospital a considerable sum of money.

About 80% of Zero Waste Europe's funding comes from the EU, and that means projects have to be tailored to fit EU policy objectives; on the other hand ZWE lobbies hard to make those policies as forward looking as possible. ZWE is the European arm of GAIA (Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives) (www.no-burn.org) which is a network of grassroots groups with offices in the Phillipines, USA and South America.

Hope this gives you a bit more context.

Helen Whittington - Looks like a wealth of great ideas & info out there but definitely a lack of local promotion which is where we could usefully come in - create some fairly simple blurb with good links to pass round to HDC, SGL, SECA & others.

Circularity Working Group – we are in the process of arranging when to meet up in Horsham, others are welcome to join us in person or online via Zoom or conference call.