

Eionet Day March 1, 2023

1.3 Where Circular Economy and Climate meet – how further uptake of circular approaches can foster the fight against climate change

Description

Eionet members and the European institutions are conscious of the potential of further integration of circular approaches in climate policy to attain the objectives in this area. Identifying best practices of policy integration across the two themes, and redefining climate modelling to better reflect how circular approaches contribute to climate mitigation are key. EEA will explain how we are partnering with the European Commission on this, bringing the experience from Eionet members and portraying a good example from a specific country.

Program

Moderator: William Keeling (CET)

Introduction

Setting the scene: Tobias Nielsen (BHR).

This part provided an overview of the interlinkages between circular economy and climate change. It introduced the ongoing EEA/ETC project “4.1.8.1 Circular economy and climate mitigation – guidance on including Circular Economy (CE) actions into Member States’ (MS) climate reporting and policy making”.

Country experiences

Ana Teresa Macas Lima, Danish Technical University (DTU), Denmark

Niklas Nierhoff, Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU), Switzerland

This part provided insights from Eionet members on how they work on the issue. Ana Lima presented an ongoing Horizon Europe project “CO2NSTRUCT” which models the role of circular economy in promoting carbon-neutrality in the construction sector. Niklas Nierhoff, presented work on calculating the emissions reduction from circular economy in various sectors in Switzerland.

Discussion

The final part gave room for interactions with the audience. It sparked a lively discussion on several issues related to the overall theme. This included the cross border nature of some savings from circular economy, impacts of product as a service, and barriers to uptake of recycled content.

Final remarks

The theme seemed to gain considerable interest, with a lively debate, and panellist were approached by people from the audience after the session. There were around 40 people attending the session. The insights and comments from this session will feed into the development of the above mentions project.