

# Waste Wisdoms

Second edition

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**Welcome! In this issue we look at *Circulating Products and Materials*. We meet a local bike repairer and suggest some tips for repurposing old items to keep in use. Plus we learn about a few local projects and more!**

## CIRCULATE PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS

The second principle of the circular economy is to circulate products and materials at their highest value. This means keeping materials in use as products, or if they can't be used, as components or raw materials. By doing this we reduce the need to mine for these finite materials and resources from important ecosystems. They can instead be recovered from existing products no longer being used.

The challenge is in disassembling products and recovering the precious materials.

There are many ways products can be kept in circulation. Two cycles are considered in the circular economy, the technical cycle, and the biological cycle. (refer diagram).

### *The Technical Cycle*

On the technical side, products are reused, repaired, remanufactured, and recycled. Recycling being the last resort. By keeping a product in its whole composition, it retains greater value. For example, a working laptop is worth more than the sum of its parts - its display screen, keyboard, or battery.

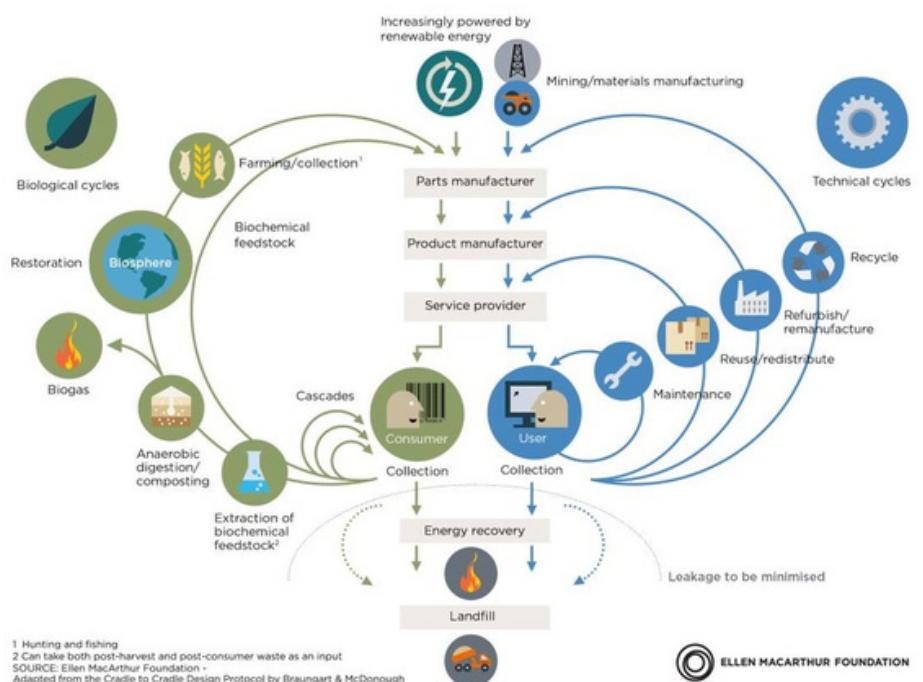
Sharing, maintaining, repairing, and reusing a product repeatedly should be prioritised.

This saves costs and resources as we make use of existing products rather than investing in breaking them down and making new ones. It's important we try and maintain our items longer rather than simply buying new ones.

### *The Biological Cycle*

In the biological cycle, biodegradable materials are returned to the earth through processes like composting and anaerobic digestion.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - an industrial system that is restorative by design



**Top tips!**

**Make produce bags from old net curtains. Cut to size, sew and use a piece of string to tie.**

**Turn holes in knits into decorative features using simple embroidery techniques.**

**Make hankies from old cotton shirts. Cut to size and hem.**

**Turn old t-shirts into cleaning cloths.**



## MEET A LOCAL

Bike repairer Rod has been repairing bikes since he was a child. In 2016 Rod moved to New Zealand and worked with the University of Waikato's Sustainability Officer getting students out of cars and onto bikes. Since returning home Rod has been fixing bikes for Kensington's Repair Hub and occasionally for The Venny Inc. Rod has repaired nearly 400 bikes across New Zealand and Australia keeping 5600kg of bike materials out of landfill.

### What do you find is the most common bike problem?

"Without a doubt the three most common mechanical issues are dirty chains and gears, underinflated tyres, and worn or maladjusted brakes. The first two increase the physical effort of cycling making it less enjoyable.

A dirty chain wears out more quickly, needs replacing more often and wears out the front and rear gears. Underinflated tyres wear more quickly, increasing the pedaling effort and are more prone to punctures. Inefficient brakes increase the risks associated with cycling. Another common problem is not having the bike set up to suit the rider, that is seat height and angle, handlebar angle and positioning of gear and brake levers."

### Any advice on how to keep bikes on the road safely and circulating longer?

"Keep the drive chain clean, tyres inflated and brakes in good order. Even a lower to midrange bike if well maintained, will last for years. Get the bike set up properly [especially seat height] and learn how to use the gears properly."



## LOCAL PROJECTS

**Kensington's Repair Hub** was established in 2018. So far 700kg of items have been brought for repair and potentially kept out of landfill. Clothing, bikes, jewellery, small wooden/ceramic/ miscellaneous and electronic household items are repaired by a team of expert volunteer repairers. A small donation is sought for materials and costs. **The next Repair Hubs are Saturdays 1 to 4pm, on 20 August, 24 September, 22 October, 19 November at Christ Church Hall, 76 McCracken St. Kensington**



**Kensington Repair Hub-Simple Sewing Repair Session** on items of clothing like darning, buttons, hems and tears. Learn to repair it yourself or have it repaired. Thursday 21 September 1pm-3pm at the Community Hub, 94 Ormond St. Kensington. Call 9676 6366 for more information. **FREE.** No RSVP needed.



**The Rotary Op Shop at 444 Racecourse Road Flemingington**, first opened 10 years ago and redistributes items not fit for sale to places of interest for repurposing like the thousands of kilograms of clothing to The Ragman and some local garages for cleaning cloths, chipped and unusable glassware/ crockery to The Break Room, and furniture and homewares given to Rotary's sister emergency relief charities. In addition, surplus baby clothing is given to St Kilda mums and books to Kensington's Maternal Child Health Centre. For more information refer to Rotary's website, [www.rotaryflemington.org.au](http://www.rotaryflemington.org.au)

## Giveaway: FREE bamboo straws

Come to Unison's office for a free bamboo straw set to use at home or out for drinks to replace the plastic straw. Stocks are limited, availability on a first in first served basis.



Contact us at the Unison Housing office:

42 Derby St, Kensington | 9371 2000 | [dwilson@unison.org.au](mailto:dwilson@unison.org.au)

Contributors: Deb Wilson, Jacqueline van Heerden, Esther Sadek and Anne Douglas

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