

About Circular Partners

Overview of Circular Partners



The Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) established a partnership as part of an initiative from Resource-Autonomous Circular Economy Growth Strategy published by METI in 2023. This partnership, named "Circular Partners" by its members, aims to promote cooperation among industry, government, and academia to realize a circular economy together, as this feat is difficult for individual companies to achieve alone.

Some examples of topics explored by the partnership include the following:

Example Topics	Objective
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Vision/Roadmap

To define a vision and a long-term roadmap (~2030 and ~2050) for the realization of a circular economy across Japan and to define long-term roadmaps for individual products/raw materials

Information
Distribution Platform

To launch a "Circular Economy Information Distribution Platform" that promotes the distribution of data and visualizes circular economy efforts by 2025

Local Circulation Model

To create a "Local Circulation Model" that accelerates the efforts of local governments and promote the implementation of circular economy principles at the regional level

Other Topics

Other topics (which include marketing, promotion, international cooperation, and standardization) aim to realize a circular economy through cooperation between industry, government, and academia

Goals and Activities of the Partnership



Since its establishment in December, the members' working group has been discussing three themes: Vision & Roadmap, Information Distribution Platform, and Regional Circulation Model. As a long-term goal, Circular Partners aim to create a resource circulation market by 2030.

Resource- Autonomous Circu Economy Growth	Exploring Individual	Establishing a Foundation for Circular Economy	~2030 Creating a Resource Circulation Market
Objective	To drive domestic efforts to kickstart the transition to a circular economy	To prepare a foundation that comply with international circular economy regulations	To create a resource circulation market
Vision/ Roadmap	■ Initial drafts of vision/ roadmap	 Government support Goal setting and circular economy promotion in major industries Compliance with Data Protection Policy 	■ Market size of circular economy reaching 80 trillion yen
Information Distribution Platform	 Overall architecture and examples of use cases Common format for distributed data Operating model 	 System and operational requirements Challenges and solutions in creating an information distribution platform 	■ Establishment of an information distribution platform
Local Circular Model	 Initial proposals towards realizing a regional circular model Challenges of advanced models in circular economy 	 Creation of a local circulation model Initiatives to support early adoption cases of local circulation model 	 Increase in recycled metal materials Increase in recycled plastic, with 2 million tons of biomass plastic used

Guidelines for Joining the Partnership



If you wish to apply, please check the following participation requirements and submit the participation application form posted on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's website to the designated contact email address.

Email address: bzl-ce-group@meti.go.jp

Scan the QR code to access the METI site and learn more about guidelines for joining the partnership

Corporations and Industry Associations

- 1. Within one year of joining this partnership, quantitative goals related to the circular economy must be set and submitted to the secretariat. If there are changes to these goals (excluding minor changes), this should also be submitted to the secretariat
- 2. Specific measures to achieve quantitative goals related to circular economy should be announced publicly on the participant's website (or a similar platform)
- 3. The goals should be followed up on yearly to report the progress to the secretariat

Local Governments

- 1. Within one year of joining this partnership, quantitative goals related to the circular economy must be set and submitted to the secretariat. If there are changes to these goals (excluding minor changes), this should also be submitted to the secretariat
- 2. Specific measures to achieve quantitative goals related to circular economy should be announced publicly in the next revision of the local government's basic environmental plan (or a similar policy)
- 3. The goals should be followed up on periodically (set at the participant's discretion) to report the progress to the secretariat

Universities, Research Institutions, and Other Organizations

- 1. Within one year of joining this partnership, participants should initiate or participate in a circular economy-related project and implement initiatives through the project
- 2. The results of these projects should be disclosed regularly (set at the participant's discretion) and reported to the secretariat

