



Scottish
Environment
LINK

Dolphin House
4 Hunter Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1QW

T: 0131 225 4345
E: information@scotlink.org
W: www.scotlink.org

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Dear Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net zero, energy and transport,

Thank you very much for meeting with us last week. I would like to take this opportunity to send you further resources in connection with the points made during the meeting.

As we mentioned, [Scottish Environment LINK](http://www.scotlink.org) is a membership organization with other 40 Environmental NGOs covering a range of environmental interests as our members. You will find all publications relating to the Circular Economy (CE) on this [page](#) and the latest related blog [here](#).

Our reasoning for the need for footprint reduction targets to provide a strategic approach to CE policy are detailed in this [paper](#) which, you will see, was supported by other organisations as well as LINK members. I would add that, since we published this paper, the case for such targets has been strengthened by [developments in Europe](#) and our [Material Flow Accounts](#). We also have a more recent [briefing](#) which includes additional asks and many examples of changes which would further a transition to a CE.

Catherine Gunby from Fidra highlighted the importance of robust chemical management as part of a safe circular economy. Emphasizing the need to legislate and design out harmful chemicals from non-essential use items such as [PFAS](#) (forever chemicals) in food packaging and [Bisphenols](#) in receipts and the importance of utilizing smart labelling of products/ components to ensure products can be safely repaired, re-purposed and recycled. We heard from you about the need to raise the profile of the CE in arenas out with the waste / recycling portfolios. This is something we have doing – for example, working with Stop Climate Chaos to integrate CE into climate change policy asks, [inputting](#) to the new 10-year national strategy for economic transformation and providing [evidence](#) to ECCLR on the green recovery.

We agree with your point about the need to promote CE as presenting positive business opportunities which offer jobs and better ways of doing things – local supply chains, more resilience, more joined up. It is not something that we have the scope to produce, but I wonder if an eye-catching film or report that encapsulates these messages would be a useful resource to have.

We were pleased to hear that your intention is that the CE Bill be introduced in the Autumn of 2022 and that it will set out the scale of ambition and a framework. We would like to stress the importance of setting targets as part of this framework – the Material flow accounts make it clear that Scotland must reduce its consumption of raw



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materials. We would urge that, as well as setting out ambition and a framework, the bill also ensures action; for example, by including duties on Ministers to produce and report on plans which detail how to deliver reductions in our footprints and deal with problematic materials.

We appreciate your view that we need to get companies playing their part and would urge early signaling of government intent to use regulatory measures to help 'turn the dial quickly'. I am sure you will share our frustration at the slow pace of change in the face of the impact on nature and climate.

Kim Pratt from Friends of the Earth Scotland noted the opportunities that an electric arc furnace for steel would offer and, although we recognize your point that this needs to be a commercial venture, would urge government to consider what the barriers might be to investment and look at ways to assist.

Lastly, given your frustration with smart phone companies we thought you might enjoy this amusing [short clip](#).

Thank you again for your time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information.

Kind regards,

Phoebe Cochrane

Sustainable Economics Policy Officer
Scottish Environment LINK
phoebe@scotlink.org