
From: Ken Stockil <kstockil@central-solutions.com>
Sent: Friday 11 June 2021 15:38
To: circulareconomy
Subject: Public Consultation on the Proposed Publication of the Circular Economy Strategy

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you in the context of Central Solutions' role as promoting and delivery organisation for a number of national initiatives related to the Circular Economy:-

- The Climate Ready Academy in partnership with Skillnet Ireland
- The Lean & Green Skillnet
- The Large Water Users Community of Practice

We very much welcome the Publication of the Draft Circular Economy Strategy and the opportunity to provide feedback and input on two specific areas, namely

- Talent and Skills Development
- Water Stewardship

With respect to Talent and Skills Development the document does at various points make reference to the need to ensure that the strategy is underpinned by the provision of related skills development programmes for businesses and the wider economy in order to ensure the implementation of the strategy is a success. In this context, we do feel that within Section 3, the work of Skillnet Ireland, its networks and in particular the recent work of the Climate Ready Academy (in relation to its SustainabilityPass initiative and forthcoming Circular Economy Leaders Programme) should be referenced. Furthermore we would urge representation from the Skillnet Ireland cluster in Annex 2 and in the implementation groups associated with the strategy implementation.

With regard to the area of Water Stewardship we welcome the fact that "Section 2 : Why should we want a Circular Economy", does highlight the interconnection between the "take-make-waste" model of consumption and the enormous negative impact this has on our critical water resources nationally. This reality is often poorly understood but it is likely that we will feel the impact of climate change and the linear economy most profoundly through water– both in our businesses and in our daily lives. The EU's Second Circular Economy Action Plan (See Annex 5) does draw attention to the need to include actions in areas where the potential for circularity is high and specifically calls out the area of water and nutrients as one such opportunity. We believe this is correct. Ireland's water sector does have significant potential to exemplify the principles of a circular economy. Areas of potential include:-

- Water efficiency and recycling
- Carbon emissions reduction and sequestration
- Energy recovery
- Materials recovery

However translating this potential into reality will require significant changes to policies, support programmes, water management models, technologies, regulation and infrastructure design nationally. Hence we believe that unlocking the potential for addressing circularity in the water sector deserves greater attention in the document, the priority policies therein, the associated support programmes and in the stakeholder and implementation groups outlined.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important work and wishing you well with its continuing development and implementation,

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