Advanced Circular Economy and Inventory Management Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Düsseldorf

5900 € (Per Person)

Ref: #IM4148_160318

Course Introduction / Overview:

The global shift towards sustainability is no longer a choice but a strategic imperative. This course addresses the critical intersection of inventory management and the circular economy, a paradigm that moves away from the traditional linear 'take-make-dispose' model. We will explore how to design and manage supply chains that are not only efficient but also regenerative by design. As pioneering thinker Walter R. Stahel outlines in his work, including "The Circular Economy: A User's Guide", the focus is on creating closed-loop systems that minimize waste and maximize resource value. This intensive program offered by BIG BEN Training Center provides a comprehensive framework for integrating circular principles directly into your inventory and supply chain operations. Participants will learn to transform their operational models, reduce environmental impact, and unlock new economic value through innovative strategies like reverse logistics, product lifecycle extension, and sustainable procurement. This course is designed to equip professionals with the practical skills and strategic foresight needed to lead the transition towards a more resilient and profitable circular business model, ensuring long-term competitive advantage in a rapidly evolving market.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers.
- Inventory Planners and Analysts.
- Operations Managers.
- Sustainability and CSR Officers.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists.
- Logistics and Distribution Managers.
- Product Development and Design Engineers.
- Finance and Strategy Professionals.
- Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.
- Environmental Compliance Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG).
- Electronics and Technology.
- Automotive and Aerospace.
- Construction and Real Estate.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Logistics and Transportation.
- Government Agencies and Public Sector Organizations.
- Waste Management and Recycling.
- Fashion and Textiles.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain and Logistics.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Operations Management.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Product Design and Development (R&D).
- Finance and Accounting.
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.
- Quality Assurance and Control.
- Warehousing and Distribution.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a strategic roadmap for transitioning from a linear to a circular supply chain model.
- Implement sustainable inventory control techniques that minimize waste and carrying costs.
- Design and manage effective reverse logistics and closed-loop systems.
- Apply circular design principles to product development for enhanced lifecycle value.
- Evaluate and select suppliers based on robust green procurement criteria.
- Analyze and measure the performance of circular economy initiatives using key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Identify opportunities for remanufacturing, refurbishment, and recycling within operations.
- Integrate circular economy principles with existing lean and Six Sigma methodologies.
- Conduct a basic Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to understand environmental impacts.
- Communicate the business case for circular economy adoption to key stakeholders.

Course Methodology:

This training course from BIG BEN Training Center employs a dynamic and interactive learning methodology designed to translate theory into practical application. The approach is centered on participant engagement, utilizing a blend of expert-led presentations, real-world case study analyses, and collaborative group workshops. Each session is structured to build upon the last, creating a cohesive and comprehensive learning journey. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises, such as mapping their own supply chains to identify circular opportunities and developing mini-business cases for sustainability projects. Interactive discussions and peer-to-peer learning are highly encouraged, allowing attendees to share experiences and solve common challenges. We will utilize simulation activities to model the impact of circular inventory strategies on financial and environmental performance. The facilitator will provide continuous feedback and guide participants in creating a personalized action plan to implement upon their return to the workplace. This blended learning environment ensures that participants not only grasp the core concepts of the circular economy and sustainable inventory but also gain the confidence and tools to drive meaningful change within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Circular Economy and Sustainable Supply Chains

- Introduction to linear vs. circular economic models.
- Core principles of the circular economy (e.g., design out waste, keep products in use).
- The business case for circularity and sustainability.
- Understanding the triple bottom line in supply chain management.
- Key terminology and frameworks in sustainable inventory.
- Global trends and regulatory pressures driving the circular transition.
- Identifying stakeholders in a circular supply chain.

Unit Two: Circular Design, Green Procurement, and Material Management

- Principles of eco-design and designing for disassembly and reuse.
- Conducting a product Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).
- Strategies for sustainable material selection and sourcing.
- Developing green procurement policies and supplier scorecards.
- Supplier collaboration for enhanced sustainability.
- Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C) design philosophy and application.
- Managing hazardous materials and promoting non-toxic cycles.

Unit Three: Sustainable Inventory Management and Operations

- Integrating sustainability into inventory control models (EOQ).
- Techniques for waste reduction and resource efficiency in the warehouse.
- Applying lean principles to create a green and efficient workflow.
- Inventory segmentation for circularity (e.g., new, refurbished, core).
- The role of technology and data analytics in sustainable inventory.
- Optimizing packaging to minimize waste and environmental impact.
- Strategies for reducing energy consumption in storage and handling.

Unit Four: Reverse Logistics and Closed-Loop Supply Chains

- Designing and implementing an effective reverse logistics network.
- Managing product returns for value recovery, not disposal.
- Exploring value-retention processes: repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing.
- Developing effective recycling and material recovery systems.
- Challenges and opportunities in closed-loop supply chain management.
- Collaborating with partners for take-back programs and collection.
- Financial and operational metrics for reverse logistics performance.

Unit Five: Strategy, Measurement, and Future of Circular Supply Chains

- Developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for circularity.
- Integrating circular economy metrics into ESG reporting.
- Building a strategic roadmap for circular transformation.
- Change management and fostering a culture of sustainability.
- The role of emerging technologies like IoT and Blockchain in the circular economy.
- Exploring innovative circular business models (e.g., product-as-a-service).
- Final project: Creating a circular economy implementation plan.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

How can organizations effectively balance the short-term financial costs of implementing circular systems with the long-term economic and environmental benefits?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by providing a deeply integrated and holistic perspective that bridges the often-separate disciplines of inventory management and circular economy strategy. While many programs focus on one or the other, our curriculum is uniquely designed to demonstrate how sustainable inventory practices are the operational engine that drives a successful circular model. We move beyond high-level theory to provide a practical, implementation-focused toolkit. Participants will not just learn what the circular economy is; they will learn how to redesign inventory policies, re-engineer logistics networks, and re-evaluate procurement criteria to support it. The course emphasizes the development of a strategic mindset, enabling professionals to build a compelling business case for sustainability that aligns with core financial objectives. Through detailed case studies and hands-on workshops, attendees will tackle real-world challenges, ensuring the skills learned are directly transferable to their own organizational context. The focus is on creating leaders who can champion and execute a circular transformation, turning environmental responsibility into a source of innovation, resilience, and competitive advantage.