Advanced Reverse Logistics and Circular Economy Strategy Training Course

02 - 06 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #LOG2957_286090

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the interconnected fields of reverse logistics and the circular economy, two pillars of modern sustainable business strategy. In an era of increasing resource scarcity and environmental regulation, mastering the flow of products and materials back into the supply chain is no longer optional but a critical competitive advantage. This program moves beyond theoretical concepts to deliver actionable strategies for designing, implementing, and managing efficient reverse logistics systems that drive circularity. As discussed by leading academic Dr. Joseph Sarkis, integrating these practices is fundamental to achieving long-term operational resilience and corporate responsibility. Participants will delve into the principles outlined in seminal works like "Reverse Logistics: Quantitative Models for Closed-Loop Supply Chains," learning to transform returns management from a cost center into a value-generating engine. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this course to equip professionals with the skills to navigate the complexities of product recovery, remanufacturing, and waste reduction, enabling them to build closed-loop supply chains that are both profitable and sustainable. This training will empower you to lead your organization towards a more resource-efficient and economically viable future.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers and Directors.
- Logistics and Operations Professionals.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Product Development and Design Engineers.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists.
- Warehouse and Distribution Center Managers.
- Business Strategists and Consultants.
- Environmental Compliance Managers.
- Finance and Asset Management Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and E-commerce.
- Electronics and Technology.
- Automotive and Aerospace.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG).
- Construction and Demolition.
- Government Agencies and Public Sector Waste Management.
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain and Logistics.
- Operations Management.
- Sustainability and Environmental Affairs.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Product Design and Engineering.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Quality Assurance and Control.
- Customer Service and Returns Management.
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a strategic framework for integrating reverse logistics into overall supply chain operations.
- Design and optimize reverse logistics networks for efficient product collection and processing.
- Evaluate and implement various value recovery options such as remanufacturing, refurbishment, and recycling.
- Analyze the financial implications and build a compelling business case for circular economy initiatives.
- Identify and apply key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of reverse logistics programs.
- Navigate the legal, regulatory, and compliance landscape related to product returns and waste management.
- Formulate innovative circular business models that create new revenue streams and enhance customer loyalty.
- Leverage technology and data analytics to improve visibility and decision-making in closed-loop supply chains.
- Lead cross-functional teams to successfully implement and scale circular economy projects within an organization.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, engaging, and application-focused, ensuring participants can translate learned concepts into practical workplace solutions. This course blends expert-led instruction with a variety of dynamic learning techniques. Mornings will often feature foundational lectures and presentations that introduce core principles of reverse logistics and the circular economy, supported by real-world examples from leading global companies. Afternoons are dedicated to hands-on learning, where participants will engage in collaborative group workshops, problem-solving exercises, and in-depth case study analyses. These activities encourage critical thinking and allow for the exploration of complex challenges in a controlled environment. Interactive sessions, facilitated discussions, and peer-to-peer feedback are integral to the learning process, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and experiences. Our expert facilitators guide participants through practical simulations of network design and financial modeling, ensuring a deep understanding of the strategic and operational aspects of creating sustainable, closed-loop supply chains. The emphasis is on practical skill development, equipping attendees with the confidence and competence to drive meaningful change within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Circular Supply Chain

- Defining Reverse Logistics and the Circular Economy.
- The Strategic Importance of Closed-Loop Supply Chains.
- Key Drivers: Economic, Environmental, and Regulatory Pressures.
- Differentiating Between Waste Management and Value Recovery.
- Core Principles of Circular Design and Product Lifecycle Extension.
- Historical Evolution from Linear to Circular Economic Models.
- Identifying Key Stakeholders in the Reverse Supply Chain.

Unit Two: Designing and Managing Reverse Logistics Networks

- Strategic Planning for Product Returns and Collection.
- Network Design Models for Reverse Flows.
- Centralized vs. Decentralized Return Centers.
- The Role of Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.
- Technology and IT Systems for Returns Management (RMAs).
- Sorting, Grading, and Disposition Decision-Making.
- Forecasting and Managing the Uncertainty of Returns.

Unit Three: Value Recovery Processes and Circular Business Models

- Exploring the Waste Hierarchy: Reuse, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Recycle.
- Technical and Operational Aspects of Remanufacturing.
- Strategies for Effective Asset Recovery and Cannibalization.
- Developing Markets for Secondary Products and Materials.
- Innovative Circular Business Models: Product-as-a-Service (PaaS).
- Leasing and Rental Models for Durability.
- The Role of Collaborative Platforms and Sharing Economies.

Unit Four: Financial and Performance Management

- The Economics of Reverse Logistics and Circularity.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis for Circular Economy Projects.
- Activity-Based Costing for Reverse Flows.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Closed-Loop Supply Chains.
- Measuring and Reporting on Sustainability and Circularity Metrics.
- Navigating International Regulations and E-Waste Directives.
- Building a Compelling Business Case for Executive Buy-in.

Unit Five: Future Trends and Strategic Implementation

- The Role of Digitalization: IoT, Blockchain, and AI in Reverse Logistics.
- Overcoming Implementation Barriers and Managing Change.
- Integrating Reverse Logistics with Forward Supply Chain Strategy.
- Case Studies of Successful Circular Economy Transformations.
- Developing a Strategic Roadmap for a Circular Transition.
- The Future of Sustainable Supply Chains and Resource Management.
- Final Project: Crafting a Reverse Logistics 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:

Considering the complexities of global supply chains, what is the single greatest barrier to achieving a truly circular economy, and how might a reverse logistics strategy be designed to overcome it?

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

This course distinguishes itself through its holistic and strategic integration of two often-separated disciplines: reverse logistics and the circular economy. While many programs focus solely on the operational aspects of managing returns, this training course elevates the discussion to a strategic level, framing reverse logistics as the fundamental enabler of a profitable circular business model. We move beyond basic recycling and waste disposal to explore advanced value recovery processes like remanufacturing and refurbishment, providing participants with the financial modeling skills to prove their economic viability. The curriculum is uniquely designed to bridge the gap between sustainability theory and practical implementation, focusing on actionable frameworks, performance metrics, and change management strategies. Rather than just presenting concepts, the course emphasizes building a robust business case, navigating regulatory complexities, and leveraging digital technologies to create resilient, closed-loop systems. The focus is on developing leaders who can not only manage reverse flows efficiently but can also champion and architect a full-scale circular transformation within their organization, turning environmental responsibility into a sustainable competitive advantage.