Circular Economy and Closed-Loop Supply Chain Strategy Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Milan

5900 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PSC2246_134052

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the transition from a linear to a circular economic model, focusing on the strategic implementation of closed-loop supply chains. In an era of resource scarcity and increasing environmental regulations, mastering circular principles is no longer optional but a critical driver of resilience, innovation, and long-term profitability. This program delves into the core concepts pioneered by thinkers like Walter R. Stahel, whose work, including the influential book "The Circular Economy: A User's Guide," laid the groundwork for modern sustainable business strategy. Participants will move beyond theoretical knowledge to gain practical skills in designing products for circularity, establishing effective reverse logistics, and developing new circular business models. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this curriculum to empower professionals to lead their organizations in this pivotal transformation, enabling them to reduce waste, optimize resource efficiency, and create sustainable value chains. The course integrates strategic management perspectives with operational know-how, ensuring that attendees can build a robust business case for circularity and successfully manage its implementation across their entire supply network.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain and Logistics Managers.
- Sustainability and CSR Professionals.
- Operations Directors and Managers.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists.
- Product Designers and Engineers.
- Corporate Strategists and Business Development Managers.
- Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Officers.
- Finance and Investment Analysts focused on ESG.
- Entrepreneurs and Innovators in sustainable business.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Electronics and Technology.
- Automotive and Transportation.
- Construction and Real Estate.
- Fashion and Textiles.
- Food and Beverage.
- Governmental bodies and public sector agencies.
- Waste Management and Recycling.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain and Logistics.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Operations Management.
- Product Development and R&D.
- Strategic Planning and Corporate Strategy.
- Environmental Compliance.
- Finance and Investment.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a strategic framework for implementing circular economy principles within an organization.
- Analyze and redesign products for longevity, repairability, and recyclability.
- Master the complexities of reverse logistics and closed-loop supply chain operations.
- Evaluate and implement innovative circular business models such as Product-as-a-Service.
- Utilize key metrics and lifecycle assessment (LCA) tools to measure circularity performance.
- Navigate the regulatory landscape and leverage policy to support circular initiatives.
- Identify and manage the risks and opportunities associated with transitioning to a circular supply chain.
- Formulate a compelling business case for circular economy projects to secure stakeholder buy-in.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, immersive, and practical, ensuring participants can translate learned concepts into actionable strategies. This course moves beyond traditional lectures by incorporating a dynamic blend of expert-led presentations, real-world case study analyses, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises, such as supply chain mapping for circularity and developing a mini-business case for a circular initiative. Interactive sessions will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and brainstorming, allowing attendees to share challenges and solutions from their own industries. We emphasize a problem-solving approach, where participants work on simulated scenarios to design closed-loop systems and overcome common implementation hurdles. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peers is a core component, fostering a supportive learning environment. The program culminates in the development of a strategic action plan, empowering each participant to return to their organization with a clear roadmap for driving the transition to a circular economy.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Circular Economy

- Introduction to linear vs. circular economic models.
- Core principles of the circular economy: design out waste, keep products in use, regenerate natural systems.
- The business case for circularity: risk mitigation, innovation, and value creation.
- Understanding the key frameworks: Butterfly Diagram and ReSOLVE framework.
- The role of supply chains in enabling the circular economy.
- Global trends and drivers for circular transformation.
- Identifying key stakeholders and their roles in a circular ecosystem.

Unit Two: Circular Design and Sustainable Sourcing

- Principles of cradle-to-cradle and eco-design.
- Designing products for disassembly, repair, reuse, and remanufacturing.
- Material selection for circularity and sustainability.
- Introduction to Lifecycle Assessment (LCA) for product impact analysis.
- Strategies for sustainable procurement and supplier collaboration.
- Building transparency and traceability in the supply chain.
- Case studies of successful circular product design.

Unit Three: Managing Closed-Loop Supply Chain Operations

- Fundamentals of reverse logistics and its strategic importance.
- Developing efficient collection systems for used products.
- Processes for sorting, testing, and disposition: reuse, repair, remanufacture, recycle.
- Managing inventory and information flows in a closed-loop system.
- The role of third-party logistics (3PL) providers in reverse logistics.
- Optimizing transportation and network design for circular flows.
- Challenges and solutions in managing product returns and end-of-life treatment.

Unit Four: Circular Business Models and Enabling Technologies

- Exploring circular business models: Product-as-a-Service, sharing platforms, and resource recovery.
- Financial modeling and investment appraisal for circular initiatives.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics for measuring circularity.
- The role of digital technologies: IoT, blockchain, and AI in tracking and managing assets.
- Leveraging data analytics for supply chain optimization and decision-making.
- Industrial symbiosis: creating value from waste streams between industries.
- Case studies of companies successfully implementing circular business models.

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

- Developing and implementing a corporate circular economy strategy.
- Change management and fostering a circular culture within the organization.
- Navigating the evolving landscape of environmental regulations and policies.
- Engaging with policymakers and industry associations to drive systemic change.
- Communicating circular value to customers and investors.
- Future trends and innovations in the circular economy.
- Creating a personal action plan for leading circular initiatives.

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:

What are the systemic barriers that prevent a truly global circular economy, and how can multinational supply chains act as catalysts for overcoming them rather than reinforcing them?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical or environmental discussion of the circular economy to offer a deeply integrated strategic and operational framework. While many programs focus on either design principles or waste management, this curriculum uniquely bridges the gap by focusing on the supply chain as the central nervous system for circularity. It provides a holistic view, connecting product design, reverse logistics, business model innovation, and corporate strategy into a single, cohesive narrative. The emphasis is on practical application and strategic implementation, equipping participants not just with the 'what' and 'why', but the critical 'how'. Through detailed case studies and hands-on workshops, attendees learn to build a robust business case, navigate operational complexities, and lead change within their organizations. The course content is meticulously structured to build competencies progressively, from foundational concepts to advanced strategic planning, ensuring that participants leave with the confidence and a clear, actionable roadmap to architect and manage resilient, profitable, and truly circular supply chains.