Circular Economy Strategies for Supply Chain Management Training Course

21 - 25 Dec 2026

Boston

7500 € (Per Person)

Ref: #SUS1618_141684

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the circular economy, a transformative model designed to redefine growth by focusing on positive, society-wide benefits. Moving beyond the traditional linear 'take-make-dispose' industrial model, the circular economy aims to decouple economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and design waste out of the system. As articulated by pioneers like Walter R. Stahel in works such as "The Circular Economy: A User's Guide", the principles of circularity are fundamental to building long-term resilience, generating new business opportunities, and creating environmental and social value. This program offered by BIG BEN Training Center is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to integrate circular economy principles directly into their supply chain operations. Participants will delve into practical strategies for implementing circular business models, optimizing resource efficiency, and managing reverse logistics. The curriculum bridges the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world application, empowering attendees to lead the transition towards sustainable and regenerative supply chains within their organizations, thereby enhancing both profitability and corporate responsibility.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Supply Chain Managers and Directors.
- Logistics and Operations Professionals.
- Procurement and Sourcing Specialists.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Product Designers and Development Engineers.
- Business Strategists and Corporate Planners.
- Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Managers.
- Quality Assurance and Control Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Production.
- Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) and Retail.
- Electronics and Technology.
- Automotive and Transportation.
- Construction and Real Estate.
- Textiles and Apparel.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Bodies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Supply Chain and Logistics.
- Procurement and Purchasing.
- Operations Management.
- Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility.
- Product Design and Research & Development (R&D).
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.
- Finance and Investment.
- Quality Management.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the differences between linear and circular supply chain models.
- Design products and services based on cradle-to-cradle principles.
- Develop and implement effective reverse logistics and return management systems.
- Integrate sustainable procurement practices to foster a circular supply chain.
- Evaluate and select appropriate circular business models for their organization.
- Utilize key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure circularity and sustainability.
- Identify opportunities for industrial symbiosis and resource recovery.
- Formulate a strategic roadmap for transitioning to a circular supply chain.
- Manage risks and opportunities associated with circular economy adoption.
- Communicate the business case for circular supply chains to key stakeholders.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, ensuring that participants can translate learned concepts into actionable strategies. We employ a blended learning approach that combines expert-led presentations with collaborative group activities and real-world case study analysis. The sessions will move beyond theoretical lectures to engage participants in dynamic discussions, problem-solving workshops, and simulation exercises that mirror the challenges of implementing circular economy principles. Participants will work in teams to analyze supply chains of leading companies, dissecting their successes and failures in adopting circular models. This experiential learning process is reinforced by continuous feedback from the instructor and peers, fostering a rich and supportive educational environment. The course emphasizes a hands-on approach, providing attendees with frameworks, tools, and templates they can immediately apply to their own operational contexts. Our goal is to empower participants with not just the knowledge but also the confidence to lead circular transformation within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Circular Economy in Supply Chains

- Introduction to the Circular Economy Concept.
- Contrasting Linear, Recycling, and Circular Economic Models.
- The Three Core Principles: Design Out Waste, Keep Products in Use, Regenerate Natural Systems.
- Key Frameworks and Schools of Thought (e.g., Cradle to Cradle, Performance Economy).
- The Business Case for a Circular Supply Chain.
- Identifying Key Stakeholders in a Circular Ecosystem.
- Global Trends and Regulatory Drivers for Circularity.

Unit Two: Circular Design and Sustainable Sourcing

- Principles of Design for Circularity (Durability, Repairability, Disassembly).
- Material Selection for Longevity and Recyclability.
- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) as a Design Tool.
- Introduction to Sustainable Procurement and Ethical Sourcing.
- Supplier Assessment and Collaboration for Circularity.
- Developing Green Procurement Policies.
- Managing Traceability and Transparency in the Supply Chain.

Unit Three: Implementing Circular Operations and Reverse Logistics

- Optimizing Manufacturing Processes for Resource Efficiency.
- Strategies for Waste Reduction and By-product Valorization.
- Designing and Managing Effective Reverse Logistics Systems.
- Processes for Collection, Sorting, and Triage of Returned Products.
- Remanufacturing, Refurbishment, and Repair Operations.
- Advanced Recycling and Material Recovery Technologies.
- Managing the Costs and Complexities of Return Flows.

Unit Four: Innovative Circular Business Models and Technologies

- Exploring Product-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Leasing Models.
- The Role of Sharing Platforms and Collaborative Consumption.
- Developing Take-Back Schemes and Product Buy-Back Programs.
- Digital Enablers: IoT, Blockchain, and AI in Circular Supply Chains.
- Data Analytics for Tracking Products and Materials.
- Creating Value from Waste through Industrial Symbiosis.
- Case Studies of Successful Circular Business Model Implementation.

Unit Five: Strategy, Measurement, and Scaling Circularity

- Developing a Strategic Roadmap for Circular Transformation.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Measuring Circularity.
- Material Flow Analysis and Circularity Metrics.
- Overcoming Barriers to Circular Economy Adoption.
- Change Management and Fostering a Circular Culture.
- Communicating Circularity Efforts to Customers and Investors.
- The Future of Supply Chains in a Global Circular Economy.

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:

Beyond economic and environmental benefits, what are the primary socio-ethical challenges in transitioning a global supply chain to a fully circular model?

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

This course distinguishes itself by providing a holistic and implementation-focused framework that moves beyond theoretical discussions of the circular economy. While many programs focus solely on the 'why', our curriculum is meticulously structured to deliver the 'how'. We emphasize the integration of circular principles across the entire value chain, from initial product design and sustainable sourcing to operational execution and the development of innovative, service-based business models. The content is grounded in a deep understanding of systemic change, equipping participants not just with isolated tools but with a strategic mindset to drive organizational transformation. We utilize a rich portfolio of contemporary case studies from diverse industries, enabling participants to learn from real-world successes and challenges. The course fosters a unique learning environment that bridges strategic thinking with operational tactics, ensuring that attendees leave with a practical roadmap and the confidence to initiate and manage complex circular supply chain projects, thereby creating tangible and lasting value for their organizations.