SCAN ME

Hey: Are you living a circular economical lifestyle in the global world?

Check it out with our manual. Learn by yourself where you stand.

You are confronted in your life with products, services and processes.
=> product: a t-shirt, a shampoo, apples....
=> service: a streaming media, a consulting service, a haircut....
=> process: a production process in a factory, shuttle traffic, the way you shop....

(Abbreviation for product, service or process: PSP)

Did you know? Europe is on its way to a cross-border circular economy. The European Union and its member states are already creating laws to get closer to a circular economy in order to prevent the citizens and companies to run out of raw materials or destroy the atmosphere and our planet. Everything should run circular. To get closer to this aim a circular economy lifestyle would be needed. If you identify the interface to circular economy concerning your use of processes, services or products (PSP) then you would have a good starting point to broaden your personal circular economical lifestyle.

How do I recognize the interface to the circular economy of a process, service or product PSP?

If you follow the following 14 principles and ask youself whether they are applicable concerning a PSP you are looking at then you will gain the starting point for a wise change in your lifestyle. Additional subitems will help you to clarify and to scrutinize the answers.

Hint: These principles are not irrevocable and they might not apply altogether to the PSP you look at. Looking at the principles you always have to ask yourself:
- Is the PSP contradictory to any of the other principles?
- Is the PSP supporting or enhancing any of the other principles?
- Is the principle applicable to the PSP I am looking at or shall I skip it?

At the end it will be your decission to decide how much circular economy you did find out.

Principle no 1: Everything which keeps CO_2 emissions out of the atmosphere

Subitem 1A)   Does the PSP emit more CO_2 then the recommended level?

Principle no 2: Everything, which is biodegradable

Subitem 2A)   Does biodegradability make sense with this specific PSP?
Subitem 2B)   Is a collecting system available to make use out of the biomass of the PSP when in becomes waste?
Subitem 2C)   Does the PSP contain non-biodegradable parts and could they be seperated when it becomes waste?

Principle no 3: Everything, which is a seasonal (summer/winter or daytime/nighttime)

Subitem 3A)   Does the production of a PSP take really place in the season it should take place e.g. when it has the lowest impact on CO_2 emissions?
Subitem 3B)   Does the PSP come out of storage because it was produced in another season?
Subitem 3C)   Is the PSP seasonal in your local setting or does it come from far away?

Principle no 4: Everything, which is a local PSP

Subitem 4A)   Is the quality of the local PSP acceptable?
Subitem 4B)   Does the support of a local PSP support further local producers or providers to develop a circular economy based local market?
Subtitem 4C)   Is the local production of the PSP inefficient?

Principle 5: Everything which was manufactured out of waste streams
If yes, it belongs to circular economy by definition, but:

Subitem 5A)   Is the PSP a result of some kind of downcycling?
Subitem 5B)   Does the PSP contain or deal with biological materials?
Subitem 5C)   Does the production of the PSP lead to an unnecessarily early outcycling?
Subitem 5D)   Does the production of the PSP need more energy than for the production of a new PSP of the same kind?
Subitem 5E)   Does the PSP have a risk of containing contaminated materials?

Principle no 6: Everything, which informs in a trustful way about its circular economy aspects or which offers easily accessible information about it

Subitem 6A)   Is information about the PSP issued by a trustworthy party?
Subitem 6B)   Does the information about the PSP contain also cross-border informations in order to make global supply chains transparent?
Subitem 6C)   Is information about the product available in public sources so that you can really check it?
Subitem 6D)   Is information about a PSP available in a form independly from a cultural background of such a PSP that did cross borders?

Principle 7: Everything that is produced with intention to reach self-sufficiency or which is intended to be a part of a self-sufficient system

Subitem 7A)   Does self-sufficiency make sense for the PSP?
Subitem 7B)   Does the self-sufficiency depend on other PSP coming from far away?

Principle 8: Everything that is secondhand

Subitem 8A)   Is the PSP as second hand culturally acceptable for you?
Subitem 8B)   Is the PSP as second-hand culturally acceptable anywhere else?
Subitem 8C)   Does the PSP as second-hand have a corrupting influence of any kind?
Subitem 8D)   Is the quality of the second-hand PSP acceptable?

Principle 9: Everything, which is refillable or returnable as multi-way product

    Subitem 9A) Does the PSP contain elements or materials that are harmful/toxic to the environment.
    Subitem 9B) Are factories/industries and production chains energy efficient?
    Subitem 9C) Is a system available for reuse in the local community for this product?
    Subitem 9D) Does an ecological alternative exist to replace refillable or returnable multi-way products?

Principle 10: Everything, which you can borrow or share

    Subitem 10A) Does the borrowing or sharing of the PSP cause more harm to the environment than using a new PSP?
    Subitem 10B) Is the use of the PSP sustainable?
    Subitem 10C) Is shipping/transportation of the PSP necessary and does the ecological footprint of this transportation exceed the benefits of borrowing?
    Subitem 10D) Is the borrowing or sharing of the PSP culturally acceptable for you?
    Subitem 10E) Is the borrowing or sharing of the PSP culturally acceptable anywhere else?
    Subitem 10F) Does the borrowing or sharing of the PSP have a corrupting influence of any kind?
    Subitem 10G) Is the quality of the borrowed or shared PSP acceptable?

Principle 11: Everything, which is qualitatively so good that you need to buy it only once in your lifetime

    Subitem 11A) Is the input of ressources to produce the PSP overdone in comparison to other needed applications?
    Subitem 11B) Is the material used for the PSP exploited at an acceptable sustainable rate?
    Subitem 11C) Does the PSP already exist so that I can disregard subitem 11A and 11B?

Principle 12: Everything, which helps (e.g. as a service) to live more sustainably or to reorganize material streams in a more circular way

    Subitem 12A) Is the product recyclable or biodegradable?
    Subitem 12B) Does the PSP lead to more recycling or more biodegradability?

Principle 13: Everything, which originates from a professional or communal reuse scheme

    Subitem 13A) Is that company offering the reuse scheme transparent and really eco-friendly or is this scheme just a marketing trick?
    Subitem 13B) Is the flow of money within the system transparent?
    Subitem 13C) Does it make sense to generate a PSP out of these reuse schemes?

Principle 14: Everything, which can be separate into its constituent parts / fractions when it becomes waste

    Subitem14A) Does the separation of the PSP really lead to more reuse of materials?
    Subitem14B) Are there various ways to use the separated parts?
    Subitem 14C) Does seperation offer for the PSP used by me advantages concerning repair?