



## Special Session Proposal

### The Spatial, Regional and Urban Dimensions of the Circular Economy

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### Abstract

Rapid urbanisation, resource constraints and environmental pressures call for a new economic paradigm with a clear spatial lens. The circular economy stands as a viable pathway for territories that seek resilience and prosperity. It rests on better product design, low-carbon energy systems, efficient material flows and fair value chains, with taxation and labour frameworks aligned with these goals.

Such a transition requires collective action across places and tiers of governance. Cities, towns and rural areas must align strategies; public and private actors must coordinate; knowledge must circulate across regions and stakeholder communities. The result is a regenerative territorial ecosystem that restores resources, reduces risks and supports durable development.

Urban areas now host most of the world's population; they thus play a pivotal role. Planning tools, infrastructure choices and local policies can unlock circular loops at scale when authorities avoid siloed action and work with regional partners. Territorial coordination allows each place to mobilise its own assets—material, institutional and cultural—while connecting to wider value chains.

This special session invites empirical and conceptual papers that address the spatial, urban and regional dimensions of the circular economy. We welcome contributions (i) that analyse city-region strategies, multi-scalar governance, industrial symbiosis and material flow patterns; (ii) that assess social and institutional drivers of circularity; or (iii) that evaluate outcomes for resilience, equity and competitiveness. Studies may cover any world region, with comparative or single-case designs. Mixed-methods work and robust policy evaluations are especially welcome.