

Circular Cities Conference 2026

Shaping Urban Transformation for Resource Resilience

26. November 2026 | Berlin

zerowasteagentur.de

Program | **Location: silent green Kulturquartier, Gerichtstraße 35, 13347 Berlin**

08:45 – 09:30 Check-In

09:30 – 09:40 **Opening and Welcome**

09:40 – 09:50 **Impulse** Stephanie Otto, Chairperson of Berliner Stadtreinigung

09:50 – 10:20 **Keynote Prof. Dr. Maja Göpel**

10:20 – 10:30 **re-FLEX:** Discussion between Prof. Dr. Maja Göpel and Stephanie Otto with questions from the audience

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:45 **re-PRACTICES: Proof of Concept & Best Practices**
from the cities of Vienna, Hamburg, Berlin
Speakers:
***Claudia Eggert-Köster**, Hamburg, Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture*
***Julius Schäufele,** Concular / Project Berlin TXL*
***Philipp Preuner**, City of Vienna, Department of the Magistrate, Division for Climate Affairs*

11:45 – 12:15 **re-PANEL: „Circular Cities in Action: How do we concretely shape circular and resilient cities?“**
Panel Participants:
***Meike Al-Habash,** Zero-Waste-Agency*
***Tim Bagner**, German Association of Cities*
***Dr. Shirin Betzler,** Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP)*
***Claudia Eggert-Köster**, Hamburg, Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture*
***Philipp Preuner**, City of Vienna, Department of the Magistrate, Division for Climate Affairs*

12:15 – 12:45 **re-FLEX:** Interaction with the Audience

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 **re-LABs:** Deep-dive into specific questions and approaches for implementing solutions for Circular Cities

Topics & Speakers:

- → ***Circular cities need knowledge: Circular education structures along the entire education chain***
  How do we prevent circular city projects from failing due to a lack of expertise?
  Cradle to Cradle NGO, Lena Germscheid
  The city as a raw material warehouse: material inventories as a lever
  How can buildings and infrastructure in a city be thought of as 'urban raw material warehouses,' and what is needed to turn them into a usable material inventory for cities?
  Madaster, Isabelle Armani
- → ***Materialbörse Stage Material Exchange: From Idea to Infrastructure***
  How do occasional prop exchanges turn into a reliable circular system for the cultural sector?
  Bayerischer Landesverband der Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft BLVKK e.V., Jacqueline Heimgärtner
- → ***Smart Structures in Construction: Blueprint for Insulation Take-Back***
  How do construction site materials get back into the cycle – without extra stress for the trades?
  Handwerkskammer Berlin, Carmen Albrecht
  Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht / Projekt „Zukunft findet Stadt“, Leo Fenster
  IVPU - Industrieverband Polyurethan-Hartschaum e.V., Thomas Herrschelmann
- → ***Circular use of open spaces for circular cities: How municipalities can support community-oriented initiatives***
  How can cities allocate their scarce open spaces in a way that sensibly balances social needs, circular economy, and private business interests?
  treibgut Materialinitiative gUG, Sophia Metzler, Jonaid Khodabakhshi
- → ***Circular Society in Action: From the Idea to Politically Effective Implementation***
  How does a Circular Society actually become tangible – measurable, applicable, doable, and politically effective?
  TU Clausthal, Prof. Dr. Ani Melkonyan-Gottschalk, Annika Hoppe
- → ***Part 1: "re-USE of Places: From Crematorium to Cultural Quarter" (historical tour)***
  How does space usage change over the course of history?
  silent green Kulturquartier
  Part 2: "Circular City in Motion: Systemic Constellation as an Urban Intervention"
  How can we perceive the complex system of a Circular City using a systemic constellation?
  Zero-Waste-Agentur, Meike Al-Habash

15:30 – 16:00 Transfer / Break

16:00 – 16:50 **re-PORT:** Results of the re-LABs & Interaction

16:50 – 17:30 **re-VISION:** Agile look into the future

From 17:30 **Onwards:** Wrap-up at MARS Restaurant

Moderation:
Meike Al-Habash, Head of Zero-Waste-Agency
Sonja Wegge, Consultant Circular Economy

The conference will be held in German and English. Presentations can be given in either German or English. For participants who can't follow one of the languages, a digital simultaneous translation app is available, which can be used on your own smartphone. The translation can be listened to through headphones or displayed as text on the screen.

Please bring your smartphone and your own headphones to the event.