

WG Waste and Circular Economy meeting as part of EEF 2026

Thursday 5 November 09.00-17.00

Friday 6 November 09.30-12.30

Programme overview

Thursday 5 November 09.00-17.00 Venue: Palácio Vila Flor, Room: S1	
9:00-9:25	Welcome and tour de table
9:25-9:50	Introduction by Guimarães
9:50 -10:00	EU Policy update (part 1) on ETS1, the Circular Economy Act and other developments
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break
10:30-10:50	EU policy update (part 2) on ETS1, the Circular Economy Act and other developments
10:50-12:30	Solution/follow-up workshop – call for case studies and sharing of experience 1) Table 1: Prevention and Circularity - o E.g. Textile waste and food waste, etc. 2) Table 2: Governance and compliance - o E.g. Waste disposal and compliance, Systems for collecting bulky waste, etc. 3) Table 3: Smart and digital solutions to waste management: - o E.g. AI and Machine learning, Sorting solutions, etc. In this session, we want to connect to topics discussed in earlier online and in-person meetings and want to focus on solutions, pilots and experiences that cities have made. We encourage participants to present case studies from their cities which lay the foundation for discussion. The topics will be discussed in smaller groups. In line with the general theme of the EEF on evidence-based policy making, the goal of this session is to depart from the common challenges and opportunities cities face and collect evidence what can work and what can be replicated to inform cities and take this evidence back home.
12:30-14:00	Lunch

14:00-17:30	<i>Site visit:</i> Europe's green capital Guimaraes – waste management and circular economy (to be further detailed) • Overview on the governance and engagement • Operations and waste management • Pilot projects • R&D facility: CVR – Centre for Waste Recovery and Valorisation This site visit intends to showcase approaches by Guimaraes to waste management dedicated to waste prevention and circularity and tries to bring a holistic insight into the different steps of the city from governance, to waste management to R&D.
17:30-19:30	Collective walk to dinner
19:30	Working group Dinner

Friday 6 November 09.00-12.30 Venue: Palácio Vila Flor, Room: Foyer	
Joint WG meeting WG CCEE & WG WASTE on Circular Construction	
Background: • The construction sector is responsible for over a third of the EU's total waste generation, with annual waste volumes reaching about 450-500 million tonnes. Moreover, material extraction, manufacturing of construction products, and construction and renovation of buildings create up to around 5-12% of total national GHG emissions across European countries (Circular Economy Action Plan, 2020). Therefore, the construction sector is one of the most resource-intensive sectors with a high potential for impactful transitioning to more circular practices. • The importance of the construction sector for circularity is also reflected in the existing and upcoming EU policies. For example, the Circular Economy Act (upcoming in autumn 2026) is expected to include phased implementation of binding requirements across sectors from 2028 onwards, with the construction sector among the most impacted sectors. Additionally, Public Procurement Targets (revision of the Directive expected in 2026) aim to create a demand-side market for circular construction, while circularity and resource efficiency are also embedded in the EU Housing Policy and European Strategy for Housing Construction (2025), more specifically.	
9:00-9:05	Welcome and introduction by the WGs co-chairs
9:05 – 9:20	EU Policy Landscape on circular construction
9:20 -10:00	5 short city presentations (7min/each), showcasing concrete circular construction initiatives, barriers to scaling up and questions for the other participating cities to gather feedback or open questions.

	Potential speaker cities (ideally some of them MCs) + geographic diversity + diversity of sub-topics (e.g. digital passports, material reuse, procurement practices and business models etc.) 1) Nantes-Metropole (tbc) 2) Oslo 3) Brussels Capital Region 4) Düsseldorf 5) Braga
10:30 -11:00	Coffee break
11:00-11:50	Interactive discussion - 5 roundtable discussions Facilitated discussion by Eurocities/WG chairs, mapping the main barriers cities face in scaling circular construction (such as regulatory, financial, technical, market-related) and identifying enabling factors in these areas.
11:50-12:00	Takeaways
12.00-12.20	Wrap up and take aways from EEF 2026
12.20-12.30	EEF 2027: what to expect