

REMOVABLE, REPLACEABLE AND REPAIRABLE BATTERIES

HOW TO IMPROVE THE CIRCULARITY OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES IN CONSUMER ELECTRONICS AND LIGHT ELECTRIC VEHICLES



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Planned obsolescence

Built not to last



Increasing the lifespan of products

Policies and consumer perspectives

ER 2021:25

The circular economy: towards a new business paradigm with support from public policy



Abstract

Today, we live in a linear economy and the current situation is a product of past ideas on effective markets, legal concepts and legal culture, business models and ideas on ownership and consumer culture. For us to move to a more circular economy, we need to start questioning how we look at products, markets, ownership and resources.

As a foundation for this process, this report highlights what the circular economy is about and some key issues we need to address to move towards a circular economy. It also highlights the need to connect the business and policy developments related to the circular economy to other sustainability fields, such as climate change and chemicals, and to place it within the broader context of sustainable consumption. A circular economy is not only about taking care of our resources; we must also ensure that all humans have access to the resources they need to live a decent life. Thus, the social dimensions of the circular economy should not be neglected: it must be an economy that benefits all humans.

Key messages

- Our language is a means for change –we must pay attention to terms we use and

BACKGROUND PAPER

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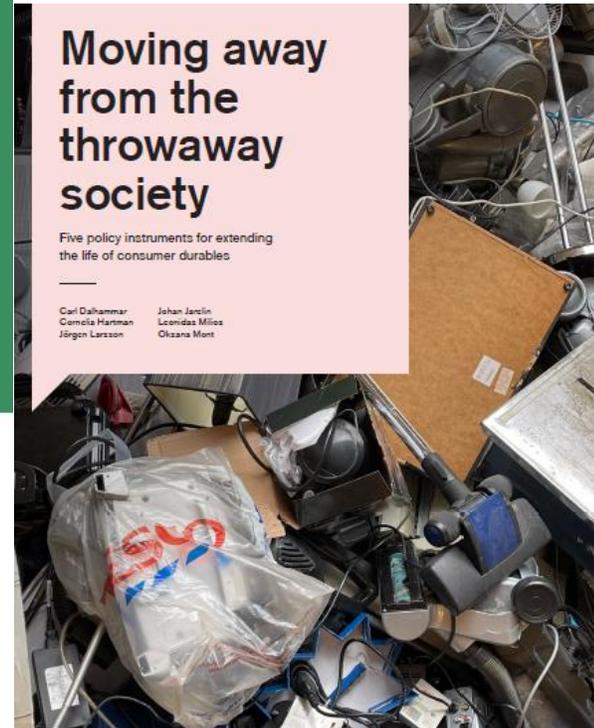
This Background Paper supports the scientific report, Stockholm+50: Unleashing a Better Future

Moving away from the throwaway society

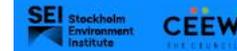
Five policy instruments for extending the life of consumer durables

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Making governance better for fair and sustainable consumption



Abstract

The past 50 years have seen the birth of many environmental policies, and yet, despite some progress, the ecological integrity of the planet remains threatened. Resource-intensive lifestyles, and the difficulties in decoupling increased consumption from resource use and greenhouse gas emissions at the scale needed, seem to be the main causes of our crisis.

Furthermore, the current distribution of Earth's resources is very unequal, both between countries, but also within countries. The basic needs of too many people are not met. In order to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement, safeguard ecological limits, and reach sustainable development, we must address the consumption challenge.

Key messages

- Monitor consumption-based emissions;
- Work towards more fair and inclusive consumption patterns and support strong sustainable consumption governance;
- Develop more comprehensive policy packages for sustainable consumption;
- Support policy experiments that can increase public support for new policies;
- Analyse the potential for introducing sufficiency policies.

BACKGROUND PAPER

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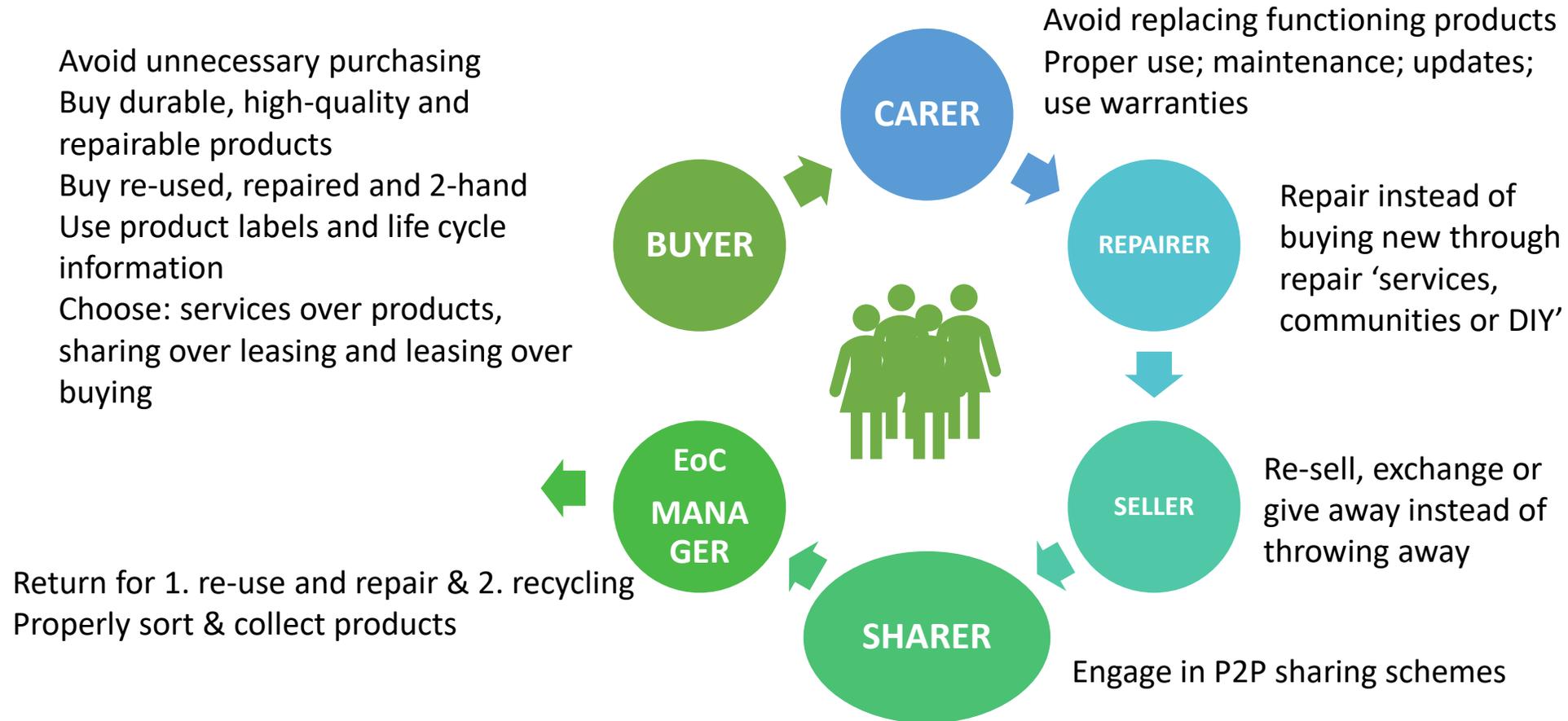
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Some key policy interventions

- Support for circular business models
 - Targets for CE, public procurement, product regulation
- Policies to kickstart poorly functioning recycling markets
 - E g plastics, textiles
- Policies to make products durable, repairable, biodegradable, recyclable...
- "Circular citizens" - adopting new "roles"
- Policies to combat destruction of new goods/e-returns
- Rethink waste law...

Citizen roles in "circular" consumption



Source: O. Mont., based on Maitre-Ekern & Dalhammar

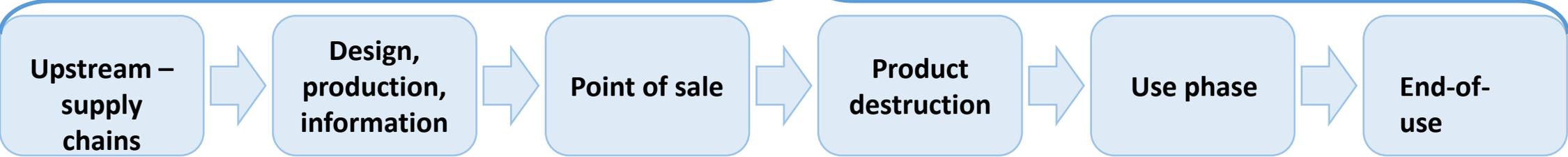


GATT, TBT Agreement, bilateral trade agreements etc.

Digital product passports (ESPR & Battery Regulation)

Supporting standards for products, materials, reporting and monitoring etc.
 Legal framework for sustainable finance, e.g. reporting and taxonomy
 Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)

Basel Convention, EU Waste Shipment Regulation, ADR, COTIF etc.



Examples of EU policies

- Conflict Minerals Regulation
- CBAM
- Battery Regulation
- Regulation on deforestation-free products
- Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence
- Proposal: Regulation on prohibiting products made with forced labour
- Proposal: Critical Raw Materials Act
- Proposal: Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence

- Ecodesign Directive
- REACH, RoHS, ELV Directive etc.
- Battery Regulation
- Proposal Ecodesign Regulation (ESPR)

- Mandatory labeling
- EU Eco-label (voluntary)
- Rules on consumer rights, guarantees, marketing
- Proposals for consumer information: Empowering consumer green transition
- Proposal: labeling in proposal for Ecodesign Regulation (ESPR)
- Proposal: Directive on Green Claims

- Rules on reporting on destruction of unsold/returned goods in ESPR
- Ban on destruction of unsold/returned textiles in ESPR

- Legal proposal on right-to-repair in consumer law
- Battery Regulation: easier to replace batteries in products
- Rules on right-to-repair in Ecodesign Directive (and forthcoming ESPR): provision of spare parts, tools, manuals etc.

- Rules on producer responsibility and packaging, labeling
- Standards on e.g. remanufacturing
- New legal definition on e.g. refurbishment & remanufacturing, ESPR
- Recycled content obligations (Battery Regulation, proposed for PETs)

Examples of national, regional and local policies

- Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (Ger)
- Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act (NY State)
- Corporate responsibility for human rights (Can)
- Transparency Act (Nor)

- Mandatory labeling information (Fra)
- Repair fund (Fra)
- Criminalisation of planned obsolescence (Fra)

- Repair index (Fra)
- Proposed durability index (Fra)
- Longer guarantees in consumer law (several EU MS)
- Voluntary eco-labels

- Partial ban, destruction on unsold goods (Fra)
- Duty of Care (Ger)
- No VAT on donated goods (Bel)

- Repair fund (Fra)
- Tax reductions on repairs (Swe)
- Repair vouchers & repair networks (Austria)

- Re-use options at recycling stations
- Public procurement of remanufactured goods
- Local re-use centers and support to second-hand
- National labeling

”Making sustainable products the norm”

- Only certain products qualify for the EU market
- Extra-territorial implications through the ”Brussels effect”
- Discussions on ”pricing out the poor”
- Regulatory backlash!

- Green Claims Directive
 - Necessary but problematic...
 - E g risk of ’greenhushing’

