

AIM FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FREE FROM HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The following companies and organisations represent a sample of stakeholders committed to circular economy. We urge the Commission to take their statements into consideration and to respect their needs.

“At H&M group, we have set high ambitions for our business to become fully circular and renewable. Our goal is to use 100% recycled or sustainable sourced materials by 2030. In addition to our intensive work in this area, we call on the EU Commission to be ambitious in the implementation of Circular Economy and make sure the same requirements apply for virgin and recycled material, as a true circular economy will require the elimination of hazardous chemicals at the beginning of the process.”

H&M

“Closing the waste loops will not only be a crucial competitive parameter but also a societal obligation for any future business! COOP Denmark strongly supports an ambitious regulation of hazardous chemicals making a truly circular economy possible . The future is circular and the future is now!”

COOP Denmark

“At IKEA we are committed to a circular business by 2030. We will take lead in transforming secondary materials (i.e. reused and recycled materials) into clean and safe resources.

We will develop all products using democratic and circular design principles and work together with others to prolong the life of products and materials, and promote a sharing and circular economy. In the transition to a more sustainable circular economy we do not accept that recycling happens at the expense of chemical safety – we want to secure toxic-free circulation of materials. A product has to be safe, have the right function and quality, according to IKEA requirements, in order to be sustainable. Therefore chemical risk assessments shall be made before a recycled material is introduced into our range.

IKEA is supporting more ambitious regulations on hazardous chemicals, as we believe eliminating harmful chemicals in the beginning of the process is crucial to enable a circular economy.”

IKEA

“Whether in its certified closed-loop plastics supply chain or other recycled content materials in its products, Dell is working toward a circular economy by analyzing the whole system in which our products are created and used, looking for ways to eliminate waste. Dell sets the same chemical content requirements for recycled material as it does for virgin material. We believe this is key to enabling a sustainable circular economy and it helps us towards our goal of using 100 million pounds of recycled-content plastic and other sustainable materials in our products by 2020.”

Dell

“Last year, Apple embarked on a journey toward a 100% closed loop supply chain – where we make products using only recycled or renewable materials. Through this effort, we are increasing the use of recycled and responsibly-sourced renewable materials in our products. And we’ve applied our passion for innovation to piloting new recycling technologies. With advancements like Daisy, our newest iPhone disassembly robot, we can recover more materials, and at a higher quality, compared to traditional recyclers. For Daisy to be able to recover materials from iPhone, it is important for customers to return their end-of-life devices to Apple. We launched Apple GiveBack, our newest product take back program, to make it easier for them to do so.

Our work to ensure the safety of materials in our products is integral to the recycling of materials in our products. We have restricted or phased out beryllium, arsenic, PVC & phthalates, brominated flame retardants and other hazardous substances from our products. To better understand the composition of the materials in our products, we developed our Full Material Disclosure program to identify all the substances we use in all of our parts and we built our own environmental testing lab to look for any potentially harmful substances in materials used in our devices. In addition, we assess the chemicals in those materials against 18 different hazard endpoints. These rigorous analyses help ensure the safety of closed loop material supply chains.”

Apple

“Micropollutants can directly or indirectly enter the water cycle through many means. Once in the water cycle, they can pose a risk to drinking water resources and aquatic ecosystems. The most sustainable and preferred solution is to prevent micropollutants – including microplastics – from entering the water cycle in the first place. Strong chemical legislation and effective source control are also instrumental in achieving sustainable nutrient recycling by minimising the input of contaminant in sewers. Hazardous chemicals in our society affect the quality of waste water and subsequently the quality of sewage sludge.

We call on the EU institutions to legislate according to the source control approach, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. EurEau believes that the correct use of the source control approach is instrumental to achieve a truly circular economy.”

EUREAU

“As the world’s largest carpet manufacturer, it is our responsibility to set the standard for environmental excellence in our industry by being mindful and conscientious stewards of our product ingredients. As a pilot manufacturer of the Health Product Declaration Collaborative (HPD) and an early adopter of the Cradle to Cradle® circular economy design philosophy, Shaw is committed to transparency and to 3rd party verification of our vigilance in this area.

The Health Product Declaration is designed to create a clear and transparent report for identifying the contents and associated health hazards for building materials including those present at extremely low levels (<0.1% – <0.01%). This requires the active participation and ingredient disclosure by a product’s raw material suppliers and clear traceability of the source and chemical content of any recycled material included in the product.

HPD’s and Cradle to Cradle® certification are recognised as acceptable pathways for the detailed reporting of material ingredients by major green building certification schemes such as the USGBC Leed v4 rating system. This new age of market transparency means that the construction industry is better able to understand the products we build with and how to promote healthy environments.”

Shaw Industries Inc.

“The LEGO Group strongly supports the creation of a circular economy and has an ambition to using sustainable materials in packaging by 2025 and core products by 2030. These new materials will be either bio-based or based on recycled materials. The LEGO Group never compromises on the safety or quality of our products, and believes the success of the circular economy is dependent on developing clear standards for recycled and bio-based materials. Such standards will help support the development of an industry which can produce high quality materials, free from undesirable substances and ensure a safe and socially responsible supply chain.”

The LEGO Group

“For a future-proof, circular economy hazardous chemicals must be replaced with sustainable alternatives. Ecopreneur.eu strongly supports ambitious circular economy policies including measures such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), expansion of the Ecodesign Directive to include resource efficiency, ban oxo-degradable plastics and intentionally added microplastics; and a swift implementation thereof. Ecopreneur.eu, the European Sustainable Business Federation, represents over 4500 sustainable, circular SMEs across Europe.”

Ecopreneur

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Contact us at circular@chemsec.org