Circular City Advisory programme

The Circular City Advisory (CCA) programmes are offered by the Circular City Centre - C3, a competence and resource centre at the European Investment Bank (EIB) that supports EU cities in their circular economy transition. The C3 is funded by the European Commission. The CCA programmes are designed to help cities take circular action and promote circular change, with a particular focus on supporting cities in identifying and preparing circular projects and securing financing for their implementation.

The Circular City Advisory comprises three different programmes adapted to the level of circular transition a city has reached, ranging from early-stage exploration of circular principles to preparing circular projects for financing and implementation. The three CCA programmes are outlined below.

CCA programme approach

The three CCA programmes are structured in a series of four workshops over a period of approximately four to six months. During these sessions, cities will engage with circular economy experts and EIB representatives. The workshops emphasise dialogue and co-creation and rely on the active participation of city representatives sharing information about their city’s specific context and plans.

Cities starting with the CCA 1 programme can later progress to the CCA 2 and CCA 3 programmes, thereby receiving advisory support from the early stages of circular planning to the later stages of project preparation and implementation. More detailed information about the three CCA programmes can be found on the following pages.

How to join the programme

To join the CCA programme, fill in this form and send it to C3@eib.org
What we need from you

CCA programmes are free of charge, but time and resource commitments from your city will be crucial to achieve the desired outcomes.

- Apply via the expression of interest form
- Sign a Letter of Commitment
- Form a circular economy team to attend each workshop
- Appoint a circular champion: a main contact person who will be responsible for the delivery and coordination
- Do the necessary preparatory work before each workshop, actively participate and invite relevant stakeholders
- Reflect on the outcomes and work with your team in between workshops

How to choose the right CCA programme

- Are you interested in exploring how the circular economy can help your city develop?
  - Yes: Discover the benefits of the circular cities here
  - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan

- Have you identified specific areas or sectors to focus on and address the main challenges in your city?
  - Yes: Does your city have a clear strategy for implementing circular projects and initiatives?
    - Yes: CCA 2 | Next Steps: Facilitate and Act
    - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan
  - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan

- Does your city have a clear strategy for implementing circular projects and initiatives?
  - Yes: Does your city have plans for circular projects?
    - Yes: Have the circular projects been planned and prepared yet?
      - Yes: CCA 3 | Final Steps: Invest and Implement
      - No: CCA 2 | Next Steps: Facilitate and Act
    - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan
  - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan

- Does your city have plans for circular projects?
  - Yes: Have the circular projects been planned and prepared yet?
    - Yes: CCA 3 | Final Steps: Invest and Implement
    - No: CCA 2 | Next Steps: Facilitate and Act
  - No: CCA 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan

- Have the circular projects been planned and prepared yet?
  - Yes: Secure funding for implementation!
  - No: CCA 2 | Next Steps: Facilitate and Act
Circular City Advisory Programme 1 | First Steps: Prepare and Plan

Programme objective

The Circular City Advisory (CCA) programme ‘First Steps: Prepare and Plan’ is designed to help your city develop the building blocks of a circular city strategy. The strategy will establish a structured framework for the circular transition in the city and support in identifying and implementing circular projects and initiatives. It can also act as a tool to foster collaboration among local stakeholders within and beyond the municipal administration and align their efforts with existing sustainability plans and programmes.

Expected outcome

In the First Steps CCA 1 programme, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the circular economy and make a high-level assessment of the state of circularity in your city. Based on this, you will be able to select focus areas with high potential to increase circularity in your city. You will also formulate a circular vision for the future and set goals and targets to achieve that vision. Lastly, you will identify key circular actions and stakeholders and gain an understanding of how to secure financing for circular actions and projects.

The goal of the CCA 1 programme is to help cities develop a circular city strategy that will serve as the basis for leading, enabling and encouraging the circular transition, achieving further sustainable development through the circular economy. After this step, cities will be well equipped to progress to the ‘Next Steps: Facilitate and Act’ CCA 2 programme that focuses on developing a pipeline of circular projects.

CCA 1 programme overview

WORKSHOP ONE
Understand and Assess
Establish a shared understanding of circularity, assess its relevance to your city, and select key sectors where it can address crucial city challenges.

WORKSHOP TWO
Vision and Targets
Envision a circular future for your city, set goals and targets for your selected sectors and identify key opportunities and barriers to transform ambitions into reality.

WORKSHOP THREE
Prioritise and Plan
Find ways and means to transform circular opportunities into tangible actions and projects, determine the stakeholders that should participate in their implementation.

WORKSHOP FOUR
Progress and Monitor
Define indicators to track progress towards circularity and get familiar with financing opportunities to start implementation.

Your team now has the building blocks to prepare a Circular City Strategy

Join the CCA programme!

Apply now

To join the CPA programme, fill in this form and send it to C3@eib.org

Explore C3’s guidance documents to learn more about the first steps to become a circular city!
Circular City Advisory Programme 2 | Next Steps: Facilitate and Act

Programme objective

The Circular City Advisory (CCA) programme ‘Next Steps: Facilitate and Act’ is designed to help your city take circular action on the ground by creating a pipeline of circular projects. The programme is specifically aimed at cities that have initiated progress in their circular transition, guided by a circular strategy, roadmap, or a similar strategic document. The CCA 2 programme is particularly beneficial for cities that have completed the CCA 1 programme, but it is open to all EU cities that already have a circular strategy or roadmap and want to progress to create a pipeline of circular projects.

Expected outcome

In the Next Steps CCA 2 programme, you will identify sectors with high circular potential and, in one sector, conceptualise, evaluate and develop project ideas into a circular project pipeline, thereby operationalising your circular city strategy. Together with experts, you will select the most relevant and impactful circular project(s) in the selected key sector, aligning with defined circularity goals and targets. You will then identify key aspects required for the project's further planning, preparation and implementation, assessing aspects such as their feasibility, governance structure and ways to secure financing.

The goal of the CCA 2 programme is to help cities identify and develop circular projects to be implemented by the city or project promoters acting on their behalf. After this step, you will be well equipped to progress to the ‘Final Steps: Invest and Implement’ CCA 3 programme, which focuses on supporting cities’ progress towards financing and implementation of circular projects.

CCA 2 programme overview

**WORKSHOP ONE**
Idea Generation and Screening

Do the necessary preparatory work

Present and discuss your city’s circular strategy. With this as a basis, select a key sector for the circular transition in your city. Generate potential project ideas and screen existing ones within that sector.

**WORKSHOP TWO**
Project identification

Develop your project ideas further to build a project pipeline incorporating the most promising circular projects. Discuss their objectives and scope and assess their relevance and feasibility in the context of your city.

**WORKSHOP THREE**
Pipeline development

Identify key aspects needed for project planning, preparation, and implementation. This includes assessing high-level impacts, delineating key stakeholders required for implementation, and estimating budgets and timelines.

**WORKSHOP FOUR**
Prepare for implementation

Explore key screening criteria employed by financing institutions, define indicators to track and measure progress, and plan the next steps for development of your project pipeline.

Your team now has the building blocks to establish a Circular Project Pipeline

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Join the CCA programme!

Apply now

To join the CPA programme, fill in this [form](#) and send it to C3@eib.org
Circular City Advisory Programme 3 | Final Steps: Invest and Implement

Programme objective

The Circular City Advisory (CCA) Programme ‘Final Steps: Invest and Implement’ is designed for cities that have identified circular projects that need further development in order to progress towards financing and implementation. The programme is well suited for cities that have completed the C3 CCA 1 and/or CCA 2 programmes. However, it is open to all EU cities that have a circular strategy or roadmap, as well as public sector project promoters acting on their behalf.

Expected outcome

In the Final Steps CCA 3 programme, project promoters will receive comprehensive guidance on how to effectively design and develop their projects to be implementation-ready and aligned with common requirements for funding and financing. At the start of the programme, you will screen and select up to two circular projects based on their scope, maturity, and potential impacts. You will then work closely with experts to assess the quality and soundness of the selected projects, identifying areas for improvement. Lastly, you will learn about criteria used by financing institutions during project screening and due diligence, as well as different types of financing that can be considered to progress to the implementation of the projects.

The goal of the CCA 3 programme, is to help project promoters improve critical aspects of their circular projects and understand how to secure the financing required for their implementation. For circular projects that need more detailed support than offered under the CCA 3 programme, the Circular Project Advisory (CPA) Programme can offer more extensive and tailored technical assistance in different aspects of project preparation and development.

CCA 3 programme overview

Do the necessary preparatory work

WORKSHOP ONE
Screen and Select
Together with experts, select up to two circular projects that need support and assess what is missing for the projects to be investment-ready. Identify key gaps to be discussed in future workshops.

WORKSHOP TWO
Assess
Assess the quality and soundness of the selected projects and discuss aspects that need improvement to meet screening criteria and key funding requirements of the EIB.

WORKSHOP THREE
Develop
Develop and enhance the project(s) further based on the conclusions made in workshop 2, with the aim of bridging the gap to become investment-ready.

WORKSHOP FOUR
Prepare next steps
Prepare key aspects of a funding proposal for your project(s) and explore financing types and sources that could be considered for their implementation.

Your team now has the checklist needed to make circular projects investment-ready!

Join the CCA programme!

Apply now

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Circular City Funding Guide

Explore C3’s and other resources to learn more about how to get your circular projects investment-ready!