

Fact bite #17



Circular economy

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In a circular economy, the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible. Any waste generated becomes valuable input for other processes.

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Following the waste hierarchy, a sustainable circular economy focuses first on reducing and redesigning products. Only then does recycling play a role.

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Recycling today often results in downcycling, where the quality of the recycled product is lower than the original. This can also come with a drop in chemical safety.

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To achieve safe circular systems for products, hazardous chemicals need to be either phased out during product design or effectively managed during each recycling cycle.

5/5