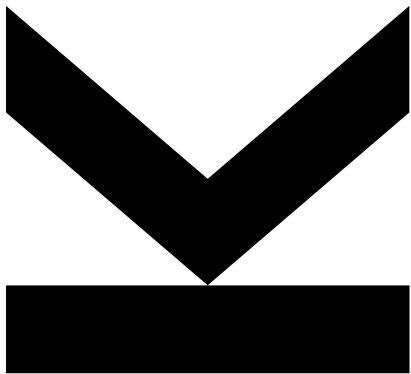


Open Innovation Nachhaltigkeit: Kreislaufwirtschaft & Materialinnovation



10.6.2021, WKO Oberösterreich, Offen für Innovation

Prof. Dr. Erik G. Hansen (Dipl.-Wirtsch.-Inf.)
Institute for Integrated Quality Design

JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITY LINZ
Altenberger Straße 69
4040 Linz, Austria
jku.at



Source: <http://eitrawmaterials.eu/> (11.4.2016)

10.6.2021

United Nations 'State of the Planet' speech



- Humanity is waging war on nature.
- This is suicidal.
- Nature always strikes back and is doing so with gathering force and fury.

(Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 2. December, 2020)

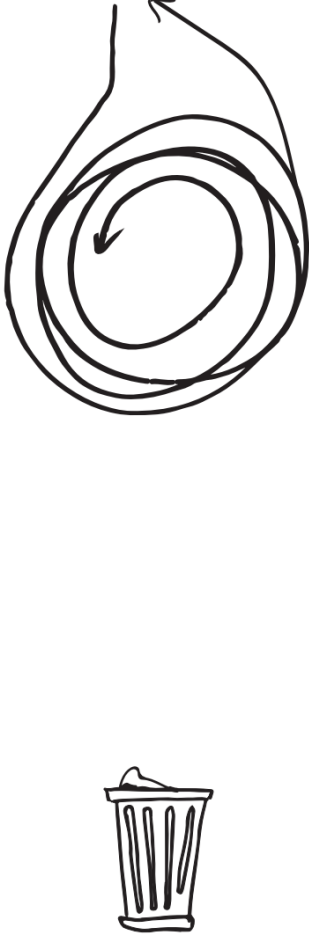
Source: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2020-12-02/address-columbia-university-the-state-of-the-planet> (14.12.2020)



LINEAR ECONOMY

RECYCLING ECONOMY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



AGENDA

1. Challenges and motivation
2. Today's downcycling economy
3. Principles of a (real) circular economy
4. Collaboration becomes key to innovation in the area of ...
 - ... circular product redesign
 - ... circular service operations (=reverse flows)
5. Conclusion

RECYCLING
ECONOMY

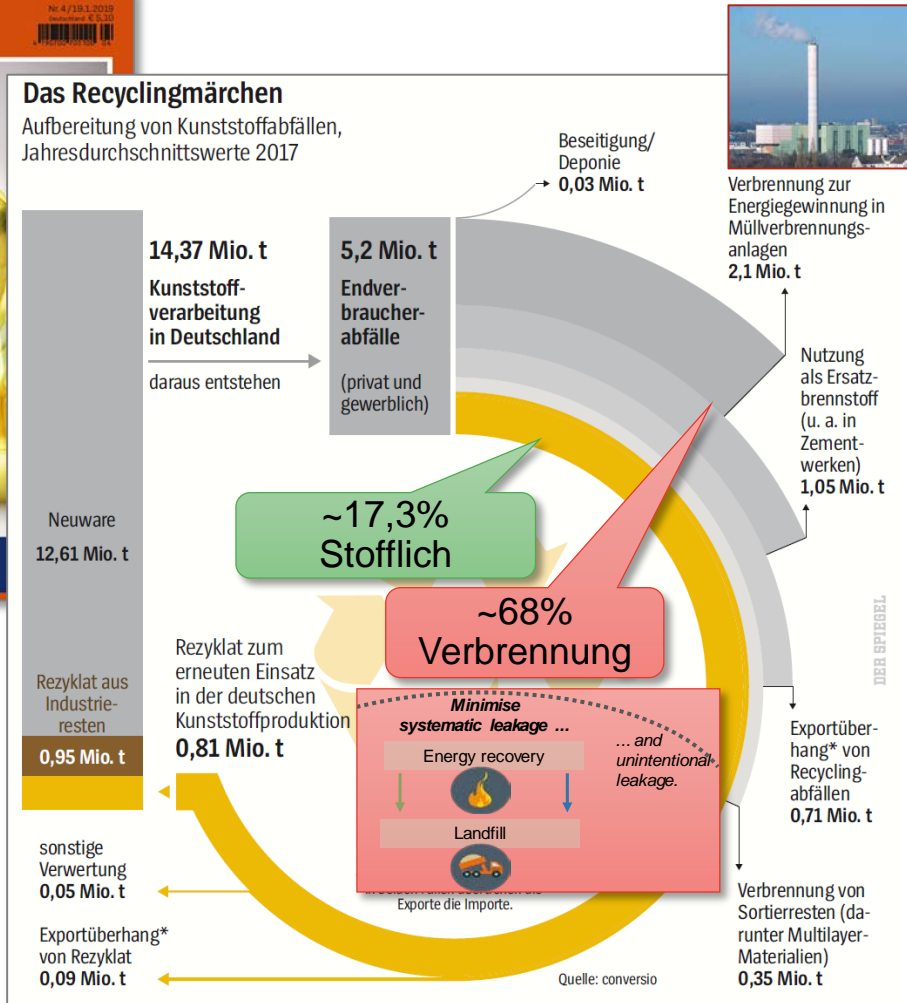


Recycling champions – or only collection champions?



Das Recyclingmärchen

Aufbereitung von Kunststoffabfällen,
Jahresdurchschnittswerte 2017



umweltbundesamt

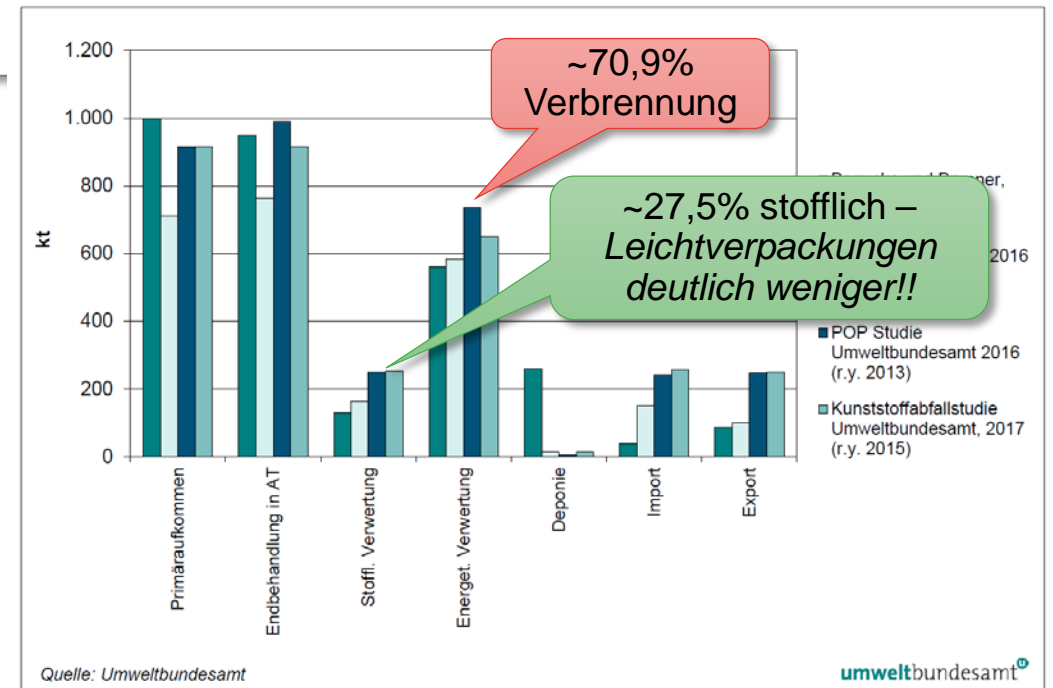


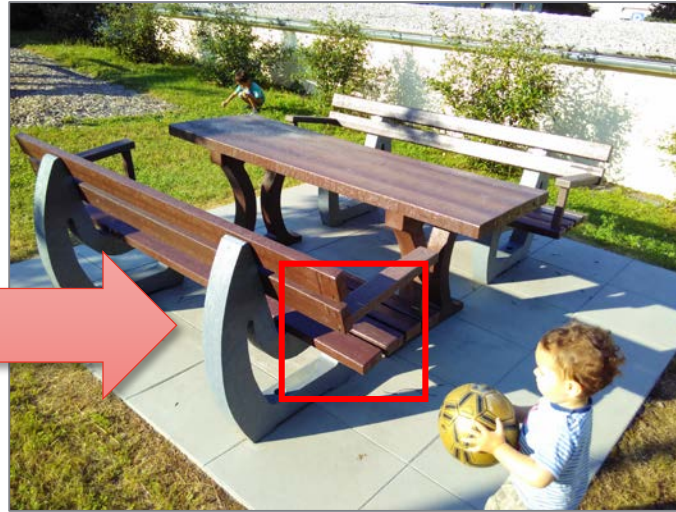
Abbildung 14: Vergleich mit früheren Studien – „Zeitreihe Kunststoffabfälle“ (Referenzjahre gem. Tabelle 8 in kt).

Quelle: Stoifl, B. (2017). Kunststoffabfälle in Österreich: Aufkommen & Behandlung : Materialien zum Bundes-Abfallwirtschaftsplan 2017. Report / Umweltbundesamt: REP-0650. Wien. Retrieved from <https://www.bmmt.gv.at/umwelt/kunststoffe/Kunststoffabfall-in-oesterreich---Aufkommen-Behandlung-und-Recycling.html> (accessed: 6.5.2019).

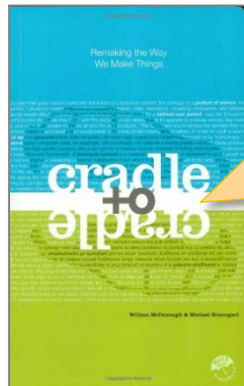
Too often 'Downcycling', if at all



Ballen von Kunststoff-Verpackungen (Foto: ©Petra Hoeß, FABION Markt + Medien / abfallbild.de)



Quelle: Hansen



*“A **technical nutrient**, on the other hand, may be defined as a material ... that has the potential to **remain safely in a closed-loop system** of manufacture, recovery, and reuse ..., **maintaining its highest value through many product life cycles.**”*

(Braungart & McDonough 2007, p.1343)

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CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



CC BY Circular Flanders

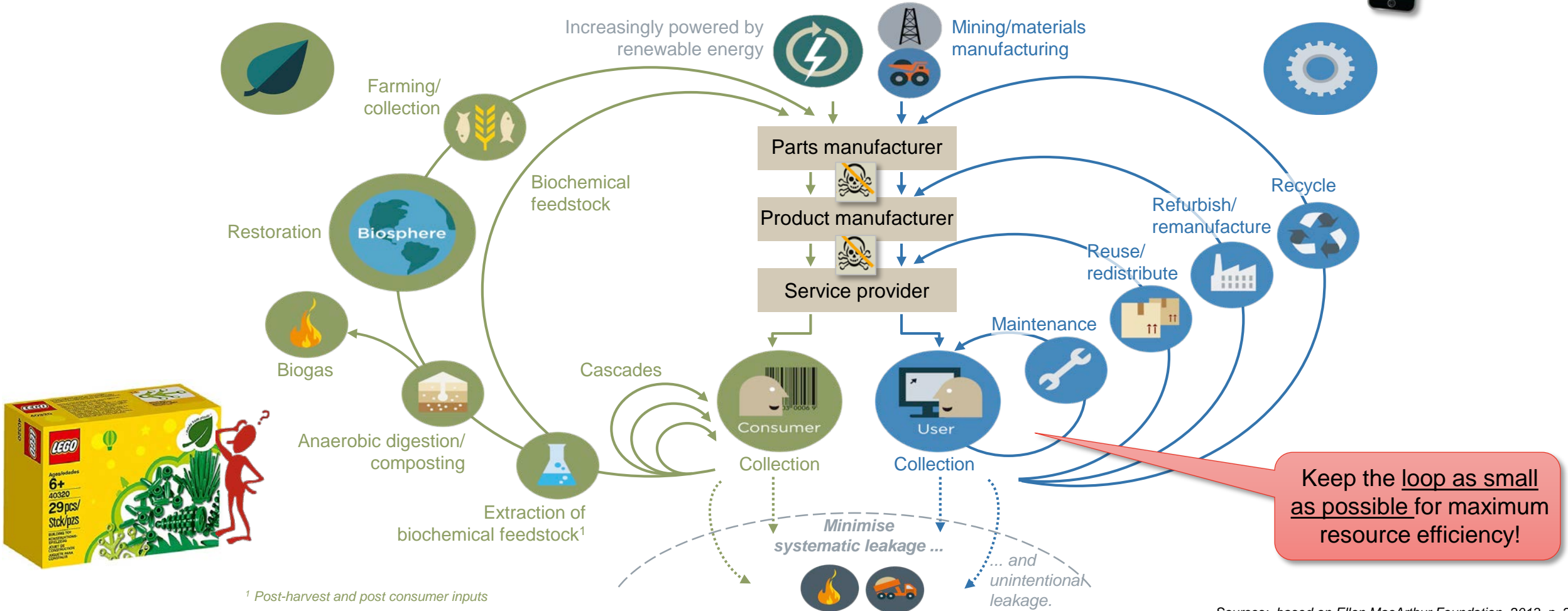
Circular Economy framework: from linear to circular



Products of consumption
(Biological cycles)



Products of service
(Technical cycles)



¹ Post-harvest and post consumer inputs

Biogenic resources are not a panacea:
at scale, they usually cause significant sustainability problems themselves



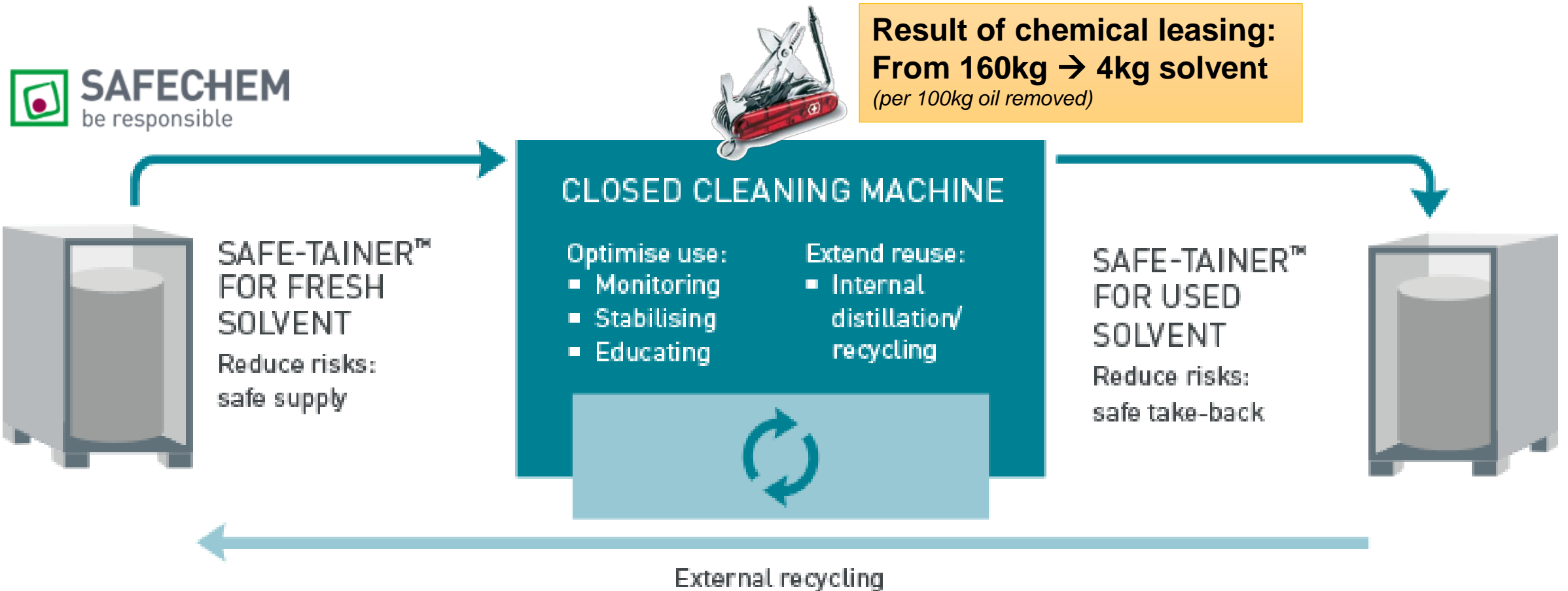
Photo: Hansen, 2019



- Übersimplifizierte (Fehl-)Annahme der „CO₂-Neutralität“ von bio-basierten Rohstoffen
- CO₂ Vorteil = Nachteil in anderen Umweltdimensionen
 - Agroindustrielle Landwirtschaft (Dünger, Pestizide)
 - Nahrungsmittelkonflikte
 - Förderung von Monokulturen
- Begrenzte Flächen für Landwirtschaft
 - Indirekte Landnutzungsänderungen (ILUC) meist unberücksichtigt (Weiss et al. 2012)
 - z.B. Zuckerrohranbau in Brasilien → Regenwaldabholzung
- Relevanz fraglich:
 - Nur 5% fossiler Energie (Öl, Gas) geht in stoffliche Verwendung (Deutschland, VCI, 2018)
 - Recycling führt zu Wiederverwendung

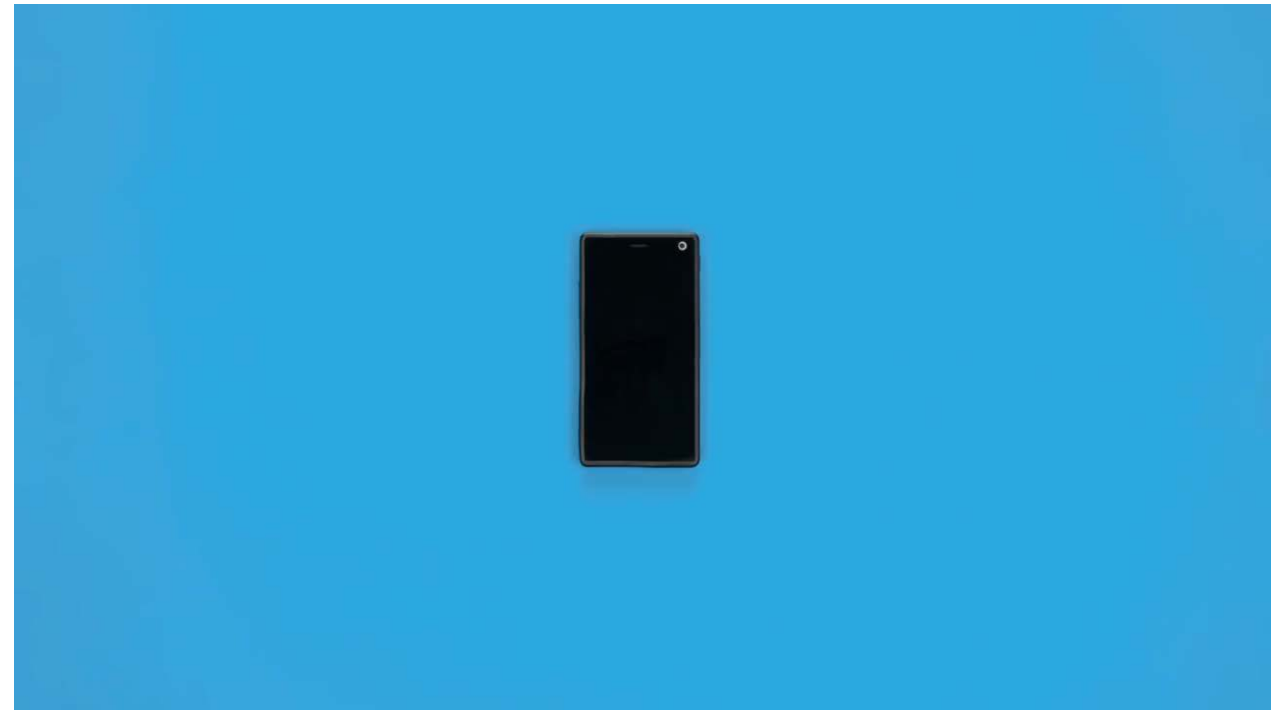
Critical evaluation when and where the targeted use of bio plastic makes sense (vgl. EC, 2018)

Loop 1a: Maintenance and reuse – the case of quality chemicals via “chemical leasing”



Source: <http://www.safechem.com/en/metal-cleaning/compleasetm.html> (5.11.2018)

Loop 1b: Repair



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DW733G76BY> (10.04.2016); 0:37

Guest Blog: iFixit and Fairphone Repair Guides



Image sources: <https://www.fairphone.com/2015/11/18/guest-blog-ifixit-on-fairphone-2-the-first-truly-smart-smartphone/> (14.12.2015)

Loop 2: Reuse & redistribute

Better Than New



Patagonia® Surf Trunks from 1994

We're opening **Worn Wear used clothing sections** in several of our stores. .. It's part of our **Common Threads Partnership** with our customers **to reduce consumption, repair what breaks, recirculate what we no longer use ...**

It's Fashion Week, when the design world turns its attention to what's new. We'd like to point out something better: what lasts. While we're proud of the quality and performance of Patagonia clothes, every new thing we make—everything anyone makes—costs nature more than we now know how to repay.

That's why Patagonia has chosen to celebrate our old stuff as well as our new. We've asked customers to send in photos and stories for our Worn

Wear™ blog, which chronicles Patagonia clothes that have lasted for years or decades and become old friends. The Patagonia Surf Trunks from 1994 you see here belong to Christo Grayling, who has worn them paddling and surfing everywhere from India to Baja to Ecuador. They're still in use, though beat up, scratched up and altered. Fabric from a beach umbrella now makes up the rear. The missing strip at the hem serves as a patch on another pair of Patagonia shorts.

This fall we're opening Worn Wear used-clothing sections in several of our stores. Here you can find high-quality Patagonia clothes still on their way toward gaining the character to become great Worn Wear stories. It's part of our Common Threads Partnership with our customers to reduce consumption, repair what breaks, recirculate what we no longer use, recycle or repurpose what wears out, and reimagine a world where we take only what nature can replace.

patagonia®



patagonia

Loop 3: Remanufacturing (incl. upgrading)

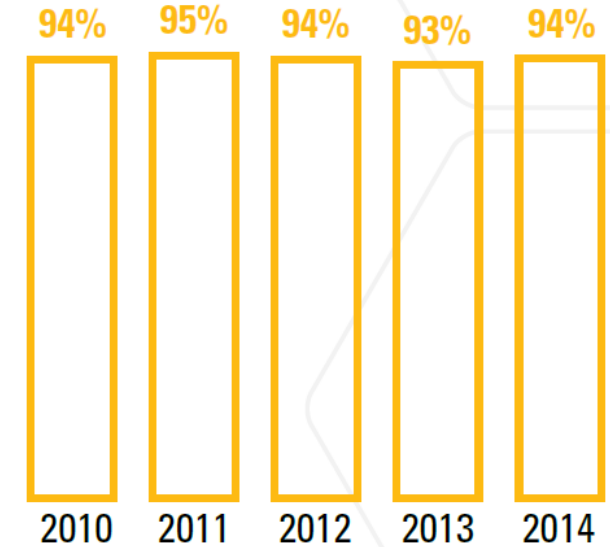
REMANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND REBUILT PRODUCTS

Caterpillar encourages sustainable business practices through our **remanufacturing and rebuild businesses**. This starts with **durable products**, many designed to be rebuilt multiple times. Through our reman and rebuild programs, **components and machines are overhauled, rather than completely replaced**. Reuse of parts reduces waste and minimizes the need for the raw materials necessary to produce new parts. This system is where Caterpillar is making some of its greatest contributions to sustainable development – **keeping nonrenewable resources in circulation for multiple life cycles**.

Our reman parts and components program **provides customers an exchange system where they can return an end-of-life component (called "core") for a remanufactured replacement**. For more than 40 years, Caterpillar's remanufactured products have provided **same-as-new performance, reliability and warranty at fraction-of-new costs**, as well as availability that gives customers more options at repair and

- **"Same-as-new"** performance, reliability and warranty **at fraction of costs**
- **Durable products** as the basis
- **Designed to be rebuilt** multiple times
- Components/machines are **overhauled rather than replaced**
- **Technology upgrading** of decisive components
- Provision of **exchange system** where customers return end-of-life products

94% **Reman End-of-Life "Take Back" Percent¹**
Actual end-of-life returns/eligible returns x 100

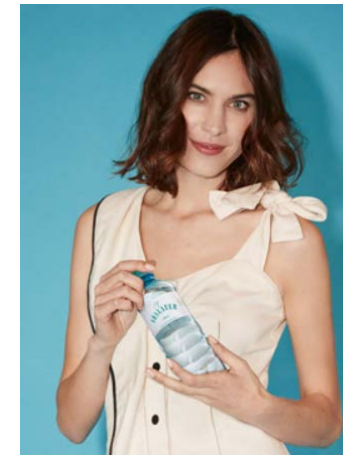


1 Data does not include Progress Rail, Electro-Motive or Solar Turbines.

Source: Caterpillar (2015) Sustainability Report 2014, p.47

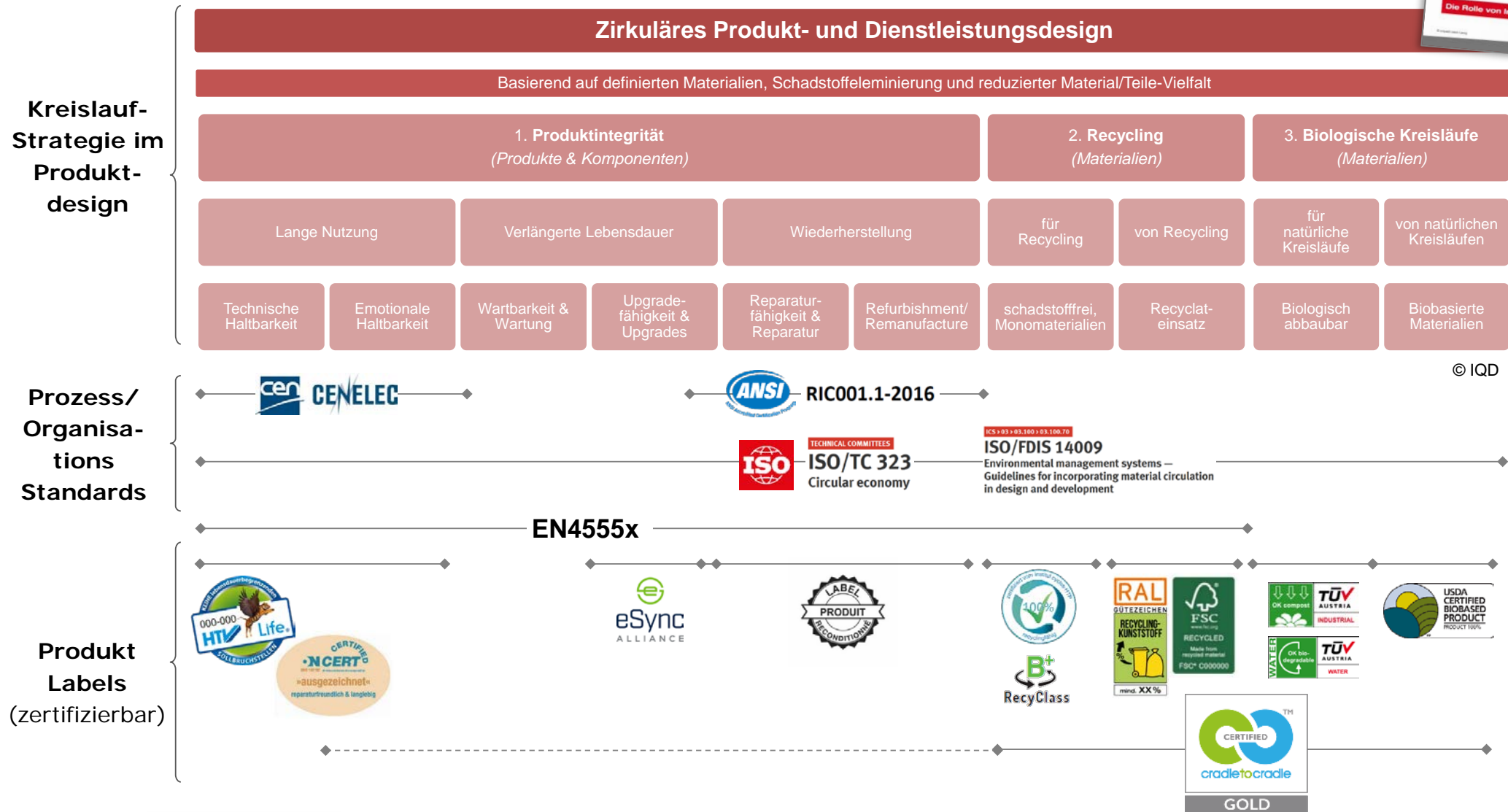


Loop 4: Closed-loop (mechanical) recycling



Source: <http://www.pet2pet.at> (14.12.2020)

Circular economy: New standards and product labels (selection)



Source: Hansen, E. G., Revellio, F., Schmitt, J., Schrack, D., Alcaayaga, A., & Dick, A. (2020). Circular Economy erfolgreich umsetzen: die Rolle von Innovation, Qualitätsstandards & Digitalisierung (Quality Austria White Paper. Retrieved from www.qualityaustria.com (accessed: 30.9.2020).

Goals of and necessary capabilities in the Circular Economy



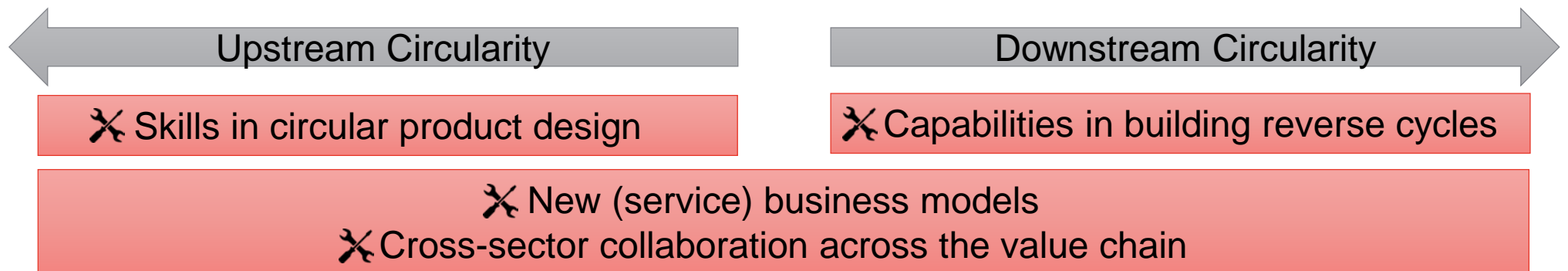
Circular Economy is a global economic model that **decouples economic growth and development from the consumption of finite resources.**

Source: Webster 2015, p.16

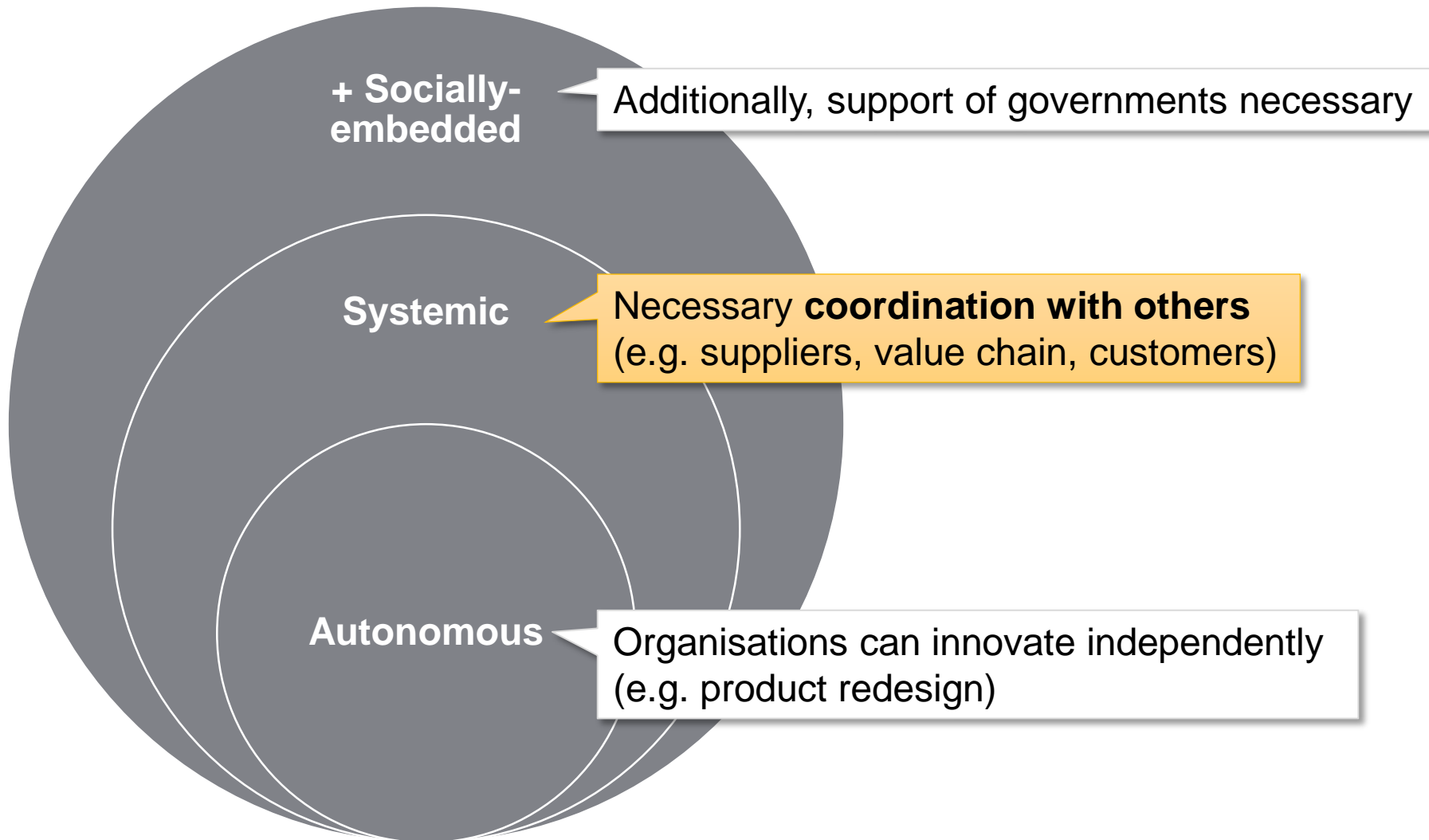
- replaces the 'end-of-life' concept with **restoration**,
- shifts towards the use of **renewable energy**,
- eliminates the use of **toxic chemicals**, which impair reuse, and
- aims for the **elimination of waste**



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF). (2013). Towards the Circular Economy 1: Economic and business rationale for an accelerated transition. Retrieved from <http://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/> (accessed: 25.12.2014).



Circular Economy as system innovation



Source: Pinkse, J., Bohnsack, R., & Kolk, A. (2014). The Role of Public and Private Protection in Disruptive Innovation: The Automotive Industry and the Emergence of Low-Emission Vehicles. *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, 31(1), 43–60. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpim.12079>.

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Collaboration as basis for circular innovation: two case examples



← Upstream Circularity

→ Downstream Circularity



✂ Skills in circular product design

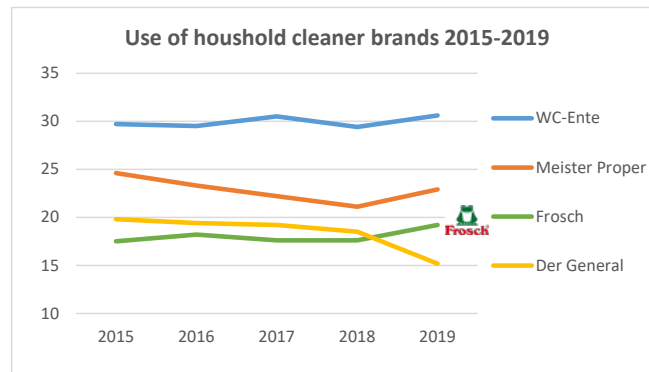
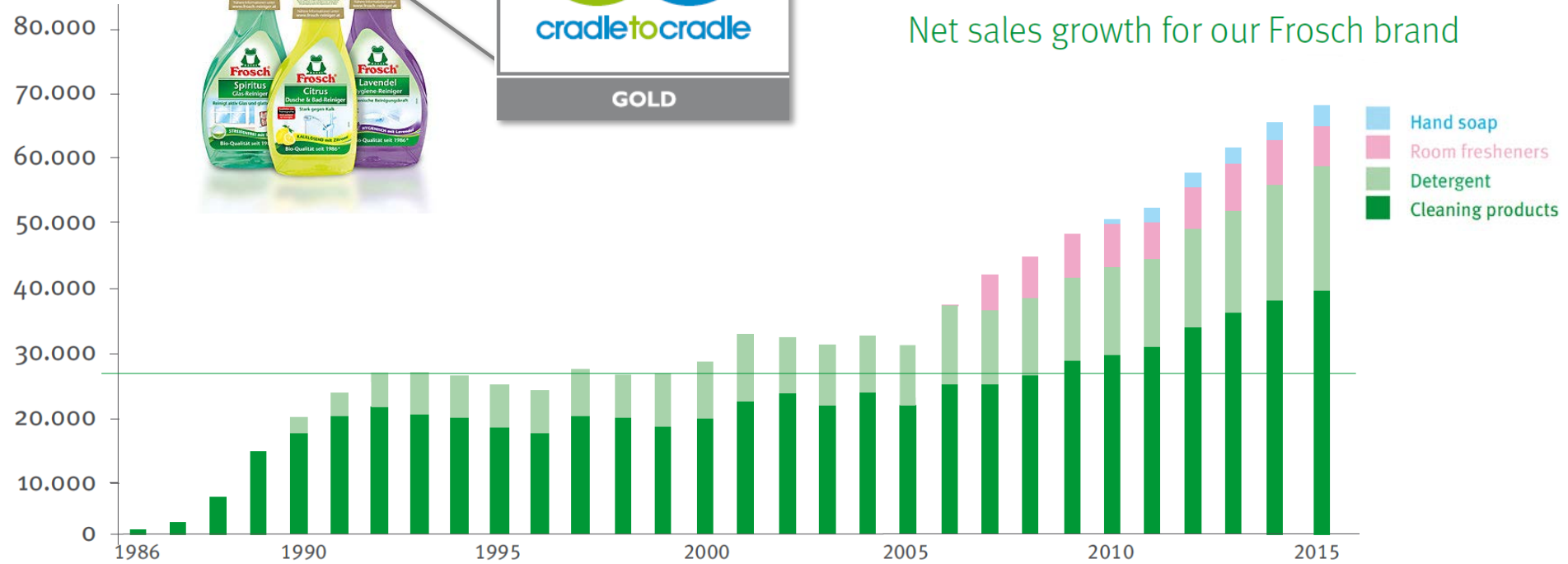
✂ Capabilities in building reverse cycles

✂ Cross-sector collaboration across the value chain

Case study: Overview



Net sales growth for our Frosch brand



Sources: Werner & Mertz Gruppe (2016), p.102; statista (2013)



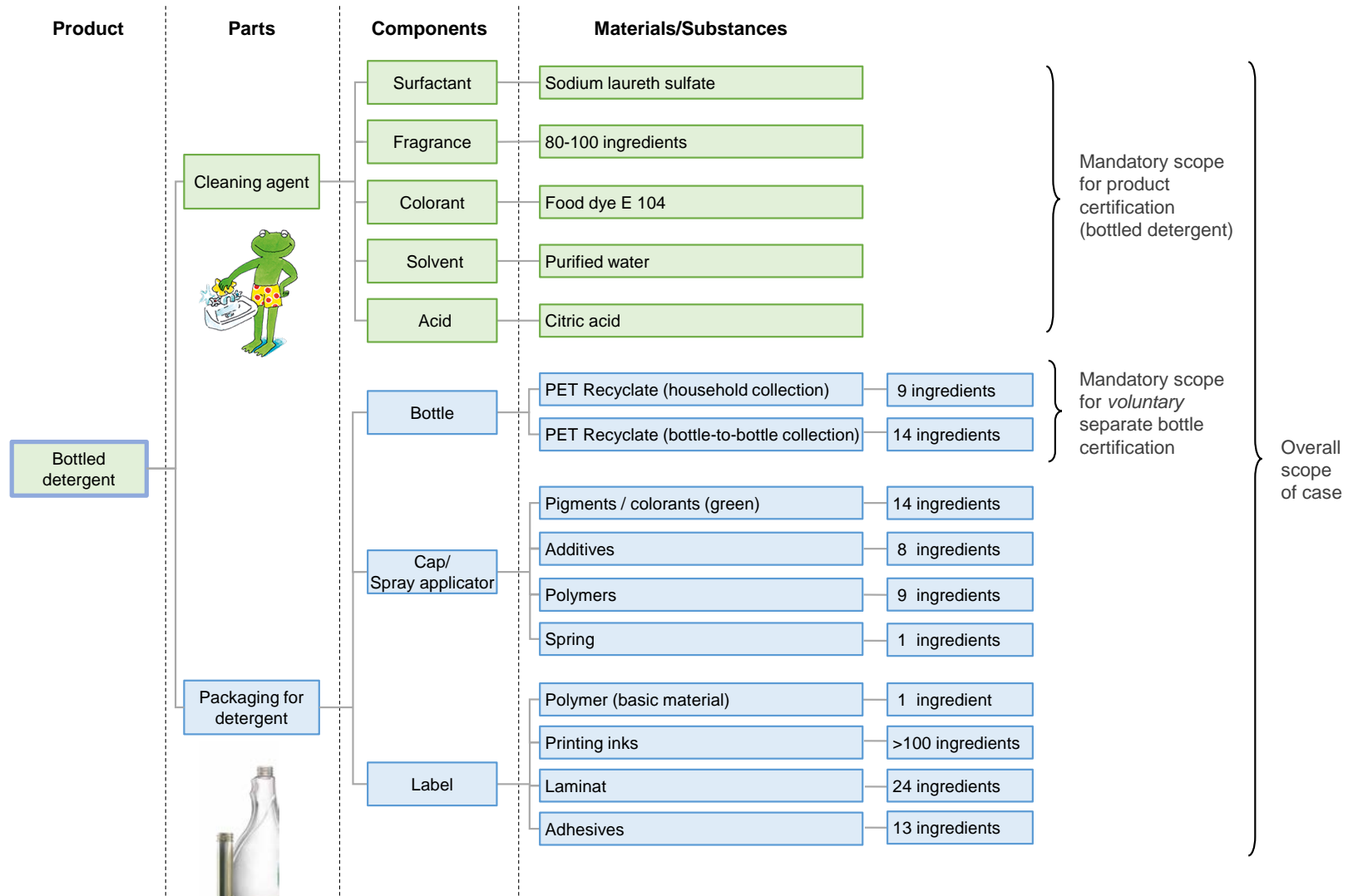
Product redesign following cradle-to-cradle philosophy



Source: Product catalogue, Green care 2015-1, tana-Chemie GmbH, S.5 (20.02.2016)



Product composition as basis for circular design assessment



Source: Hansen, E. G., & Schmitt, J. (2020). Orchestrating Cradle-to-Cradle Product Innovation Across the Value Chain: Innovation Community Evolution, Collaboration Mechanisms, and Intermediation. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jiec.13081>.

Collaboration processes in the circular redesign/innovation process

DOI: 10.1111/jiec.13081

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Orchestrating cradle-to-cradle innovation across the value chain

Overcoming barriers through innovation communities, collaboration mechanisms, and intermediation

Erik G. Hansen | Julia C. Schmitt

Institute for Integrated Quality Design, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Linz, Austria

Abstract

The circular economy (CE) aims at cycling products and materials in closed technical and biological loops. Cradle to cradle (C2C) operationalizes the CE with a product design concept rooted in the circulation of "healthy" materials because contamination of materials with substances of concern hampers cycling and may pose risks to people in contact with them. Extant research shows that barriers often hinder organizations from successfully pursuing cradle-to-cradle product innovation (CPI). Innovation community theory helps to explain how to overcome barriers and further the innovation process by taking a microlevel perspective on intra- and interorganizational collaboration of individual promoters (or champions). We elaborate innovation community theory with a longitudinal embedded case study of a C2C frontrunner company with the goal to get a precise understanding of how promoters collaborate in the CPI process. Our contribution is threefold: We identify eight collaboration mechanisms used between promoters to sequentially overcome a hub firm's individual, organizational, value chain, and institutional level barriers to circularity. Second, we differentiate these mechanisms according to their cooperative and coordinative facets and put emphasis on the coordinative functions of those mechanisms linked to the C2C standard. Third, we highlight the importance of promoters at the linking level who facilitate the CPI process as intermediaries.

KEYWORDS

circular economy, cradle-to-cradle product design, industrial ecology, innovation community, innovation intermediary, network orchestration process

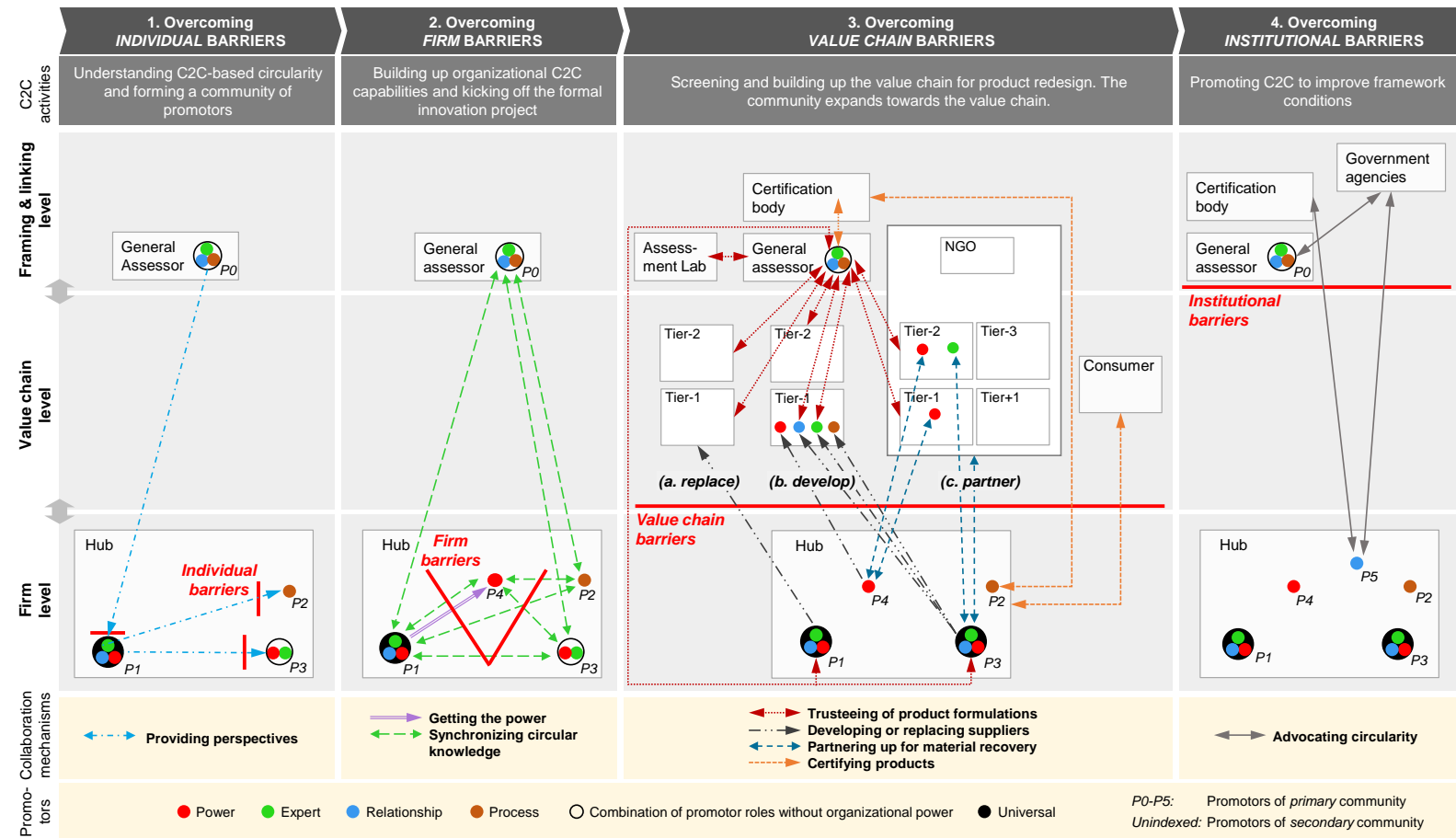
1 | INTRODUCTION

The circular economy (CE) aims to be a restorative system (Morseletto, 2020) by keeping products, components, and materials in closed technical and biological loops at their highest utility and value (Bocken, Olivetti, Cullen, Potting, & Lifset, 2017; Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013). This

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Journal of Industrial Ecology 2020;1-21. [wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/jiec](https://doi.org/10.1111/jiec.13081)

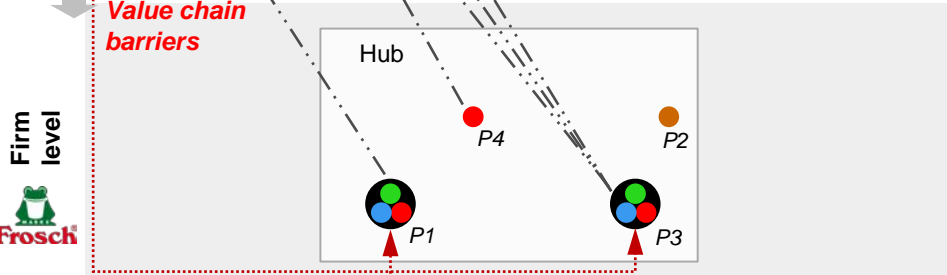
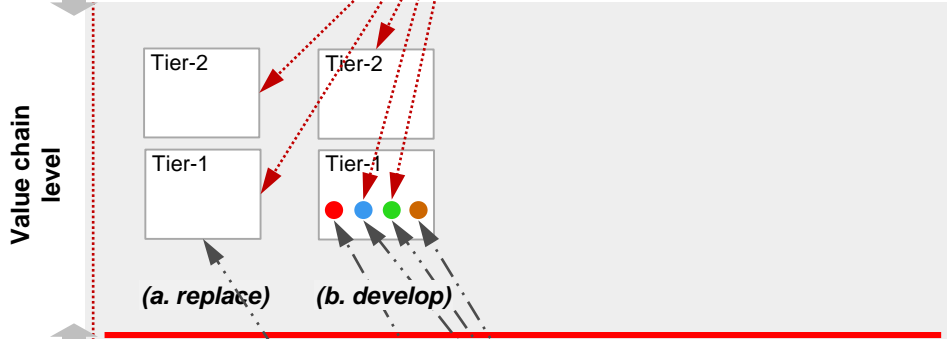
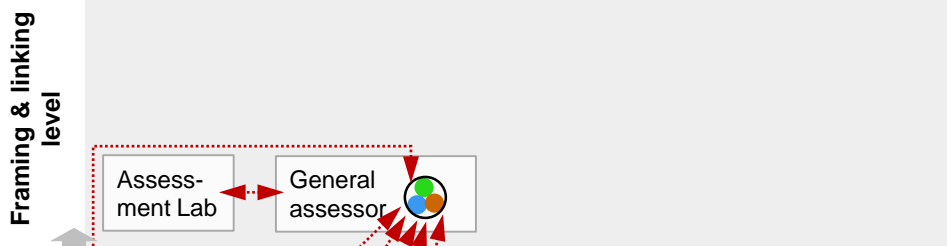


Source: Hansen, E. G., & Schmitt, J. (2020). Orchestrating Cradle-to-Cradle Product Innovation Across the Value Chain: Innovation Community Evolution, Collaboration Mechanisms, and Intermediation. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jiec.13081>.

Phase III: Collaboration mechanisms to overcome value chain barriers

III. Overcoming VALUE CHAIN BARRIERS

C2C activities
Screening and building up the value chain for product redesign. The community expands towards the value chain.



◀.....▶ Mechanism M4 Trusteeing of product formulations

Coordinating non-disclosure agreement (NDA)-secured information sharing of material compositions to achieve required material transparency in the value chain.



Class	Name	Description
A	Optimal	The material is ideal from a Cradle to Cradle perspective for the product in question.
B	Optimizing	The material supports largely Cradle to Cradle objectives for the product.
C	Tolerable	Moderately problematic properties of the material in terms of quality from a Cradle to Cradle perspective are traced back to the ingredient. The material is still acceptable for use.
X	Not acceptable	Highly problematic properties of the material in terms of quality from a Cradle to Cradle perspective are traced back to the ingredient. The optimization of the product requires phasing out this ingredient or material.
Grey	Not characterised	This material cannot be fully assessed due to either lack of complete ingredient formulation, or lack of toxicological information for one or more ingredients.
Banned	Banned	BANNED FOR USE IN CERTIFIED PRODUCTS This material contains one or more substances from the Banned list and cannot be used in a certified product

— . ▶ Mechanism M5 Developing or replacing suppliers

Sharing knowledge with suppliers to develop their circular capabilities. In case of lacking cooperation in the innovation project, components are omitted or suppliers replaced.



Source: Hansen & Schmitt (2020)

Assessment of substances of concern (Cradle to Cradle 'Material Health'): going much beyond European chemical regulation (REACH)

Lfd - Nr.	CAS-Nummer	Bezeichnung	Funktion	abcx	abcx Kommentar	Gehalt %/ ppm
1	7732-18-5	Wasser		b		65-75
2	0815-55-7	Harz		b	No major concern expected with this polymer.	20-40
3	777-44-2	Lalensäureester		c	Moderate to high aquatic toxicity but biodegradable under aerobic and anaerobic conditions. The degradation product might exhibit reproductive toxicity; the issue is currently under regulatory discussion. Causes serious eye damage/eye irritation (H318), moderate skin irritation (H315), moderate oral toxicity -Not expected to reach the environment in this use scenario, minor exposure to end users, and adequate protection of workers.	5-10
4			Pigment	grey	unbekannt	0-3
5			Lösemittel	grey	unbekannt	0,5-5
6	4711-23-6	Pigment	Pigment	x	Halogenated organic compound, contains copper. Loss of the scarce resource Cu.	1
7	4712-34-1	Colora 5	Pigment	b	Chinacridon-Derivat	2
8	22-33-45454	"1,2-Konservodol	Konservierung s- mittel	c	Generally sensitization potential. Considered EXPOSURE very limited (very small amounts). Severely toxic for aquatic organisms, slowly aerobically biodegradable and not bioaccumulative.	ca. 100ppm
9	11-22-232	"1-halo-3-phantastodiol"	Konservierung s- mittel	x	Halogenated preservative. Sensitizer (BfRCat B; Mak Sh), high oral and dermal toxicity. Highly toxic to aquatic organisms, but expected to degrade at low concentrations. High amounts of this preservative are not expected to enter water streams systematically in this use scenario.	200ppm
10	7777-2-33	Eisen (23)-dingstat	Trocknungsbeschleuniger	x	CMR: According to REACH considered reprotoxic (H316).	200ppm

Regulated toxic substance, but below REACH threshold

Non-regulated toxic substance to be eliminated

Source: based on EPEA Switzerland GmbH, Albin Kälin

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So ... how on earth do I get it repaired now?



Send your product to Apple

Online or over the phone, we'll arrange shipment for your product to an Apple Repair Center — all on your schedule and without an appointment. This service is available for most Apple products.



Apple Repair



Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/science-technology/641336/Broken-iPhone-Screen-Apple-Store-Reuse-and-Recycling> (21.0.2016)

nbs.net/articles/4-ways-to-make-your-business-circular

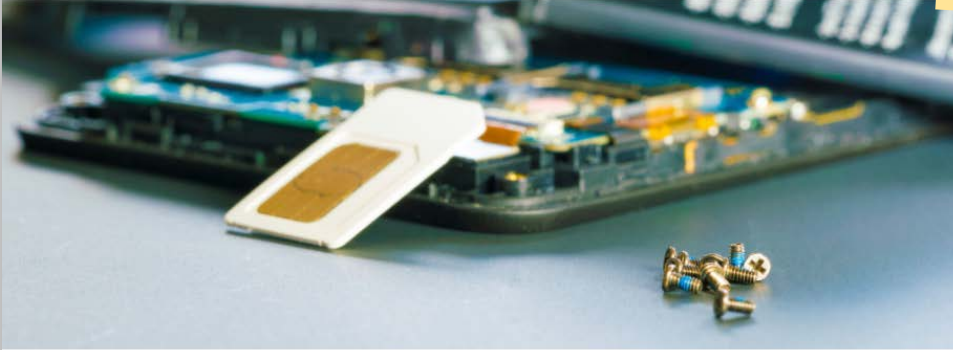
Network for Business Sustainability

HOME OUR RESOURCES OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT US ENGAGE | FR

4 Ways to Make Your Business Circular

Alisha Tuladhar and Maya Fischhoff · May 18, 2021

f t in ♥



Companies can engage with the circular economy in four different ways. Here's how to make your choice.

If the circular economy is the destination, there are a number of ways to get there. And "SmartMan," "TelcoPro," "TelcoBasic," and "MaintainOp4" provide models.

These are the names that researchers gave different companies in the European smartphone market. Researchers Erik Hansen (Johannes Kepler University) and Ferdinand Revellio (Leuphana University & Johannes Kepler University) spent four years looking at the strategies that different manufacturers and retailers used to become more circular. Their insights apply to multiple industries.[1]

Why move to a circular model? Many say that the circular economy is the future of sustainability. That's because a circular economy provides ways to keep materials and products in use, by repairing, reusing, and finally recycling them. Used products don't just

Prof. Dr. Erik Hansen
Ferdinand Revellio

dif Circular Value Creation Architectures: The case of the Smartphone Industry

thinkdif.co #thinkdif

8th November 2018 - 12:00 GMT

Watch video @ Disruptive Innovation Festival:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5k7SaBhPwY>

Source: <https://www.nbs.net/articles/4-ways-to-make-your-business-circular> (9.6.2021)

DOI: 10.1111/jiec.13016

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Circular value creation architectures
Make, ally, buy, or laissez-faire

Erik G. Hansen^{1,2} | Ferdinand Revellio^{1,2}

¹Institute for Integrated Quality Design (IQD), Johannes Kepler University (JKU) of Linz, Linz, Austria
²Centre for Sustainability Management (CSM), Leuphana University Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany

Correspondence
Erik G. Hansen, Institute for Integrated Quality Design (IQD), Johannes Kepler University (JKU) of Linz, Altenberger Str. 69, 4040 Linz, Austria. Email: erik.hansen@jku.at

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Editor Managing Review: Charles Corbett

Abstract
Slowing and closing product and related material loops in a circular economy (CE) requires circular service operations such as take-back, repair, and recycling. However, it remains open whether these are coordinated by OEMs, retailers, or third-party loop operators (e.g., refurbishers). Literature rooted in the classic make-or-buy concept proposes four generic coordination mechanisms and related value creation architectures: vertical integration, network, outsourcing, or doing nothing (laissez-faire). For each of these existing architectures, we conducted an embedded case study in the domain of smartphones with the aim to better understand how central coordinators align with actors in the value chain to offer voluntary circular service operations. Based on the above coordination mechanisms, our central contribution is the development of a typology of circular value creation architectures (CVCAs) and its elaboration regarding circular coordination, loop configuration, and ambition levels. We find that firms following slowing strategies (i.e., repair, reuse, and remanufacturing) pursue higher degrees of vertical integration than those following closing strategies (i.e., recycling) because of the specificity of the assets involved and their greater strategic relevance. The typology also shows that higher degrees of vertical integration enable higher degrees of loop closure (i.e., from open to closed loops) and better feedbacks into product design. Furthermore, we differentiate the understanding on third-party actors by distinguishing between independent and autonomous loop operators. Overall, we strengthen the actor perspective in product circularity literature by clarifying the actor set, their interrelationships, and how they form value creation architectures.

KEYWORDS
business model innovation, circular economy, consumer electronics, corporate sustainability, partnerships, product design

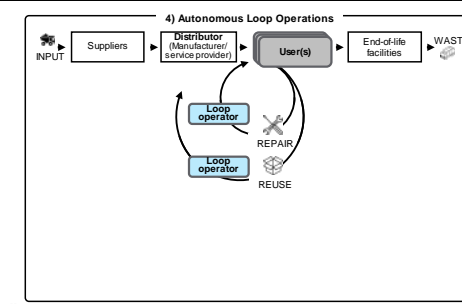
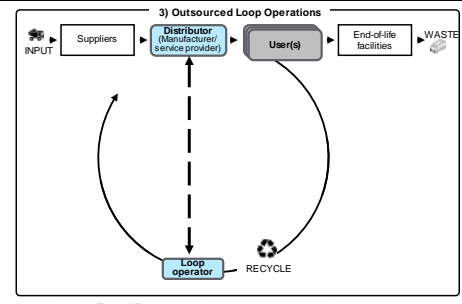
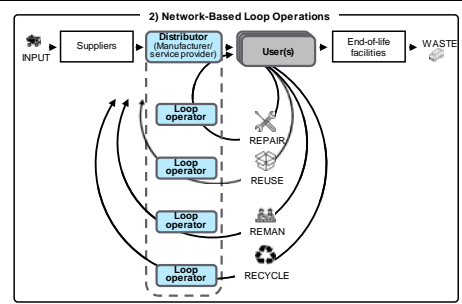
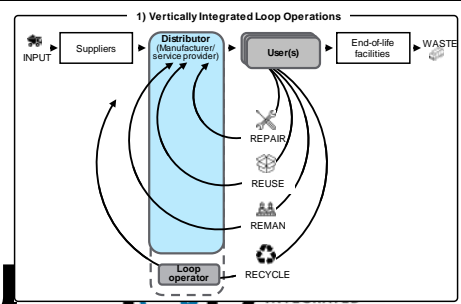
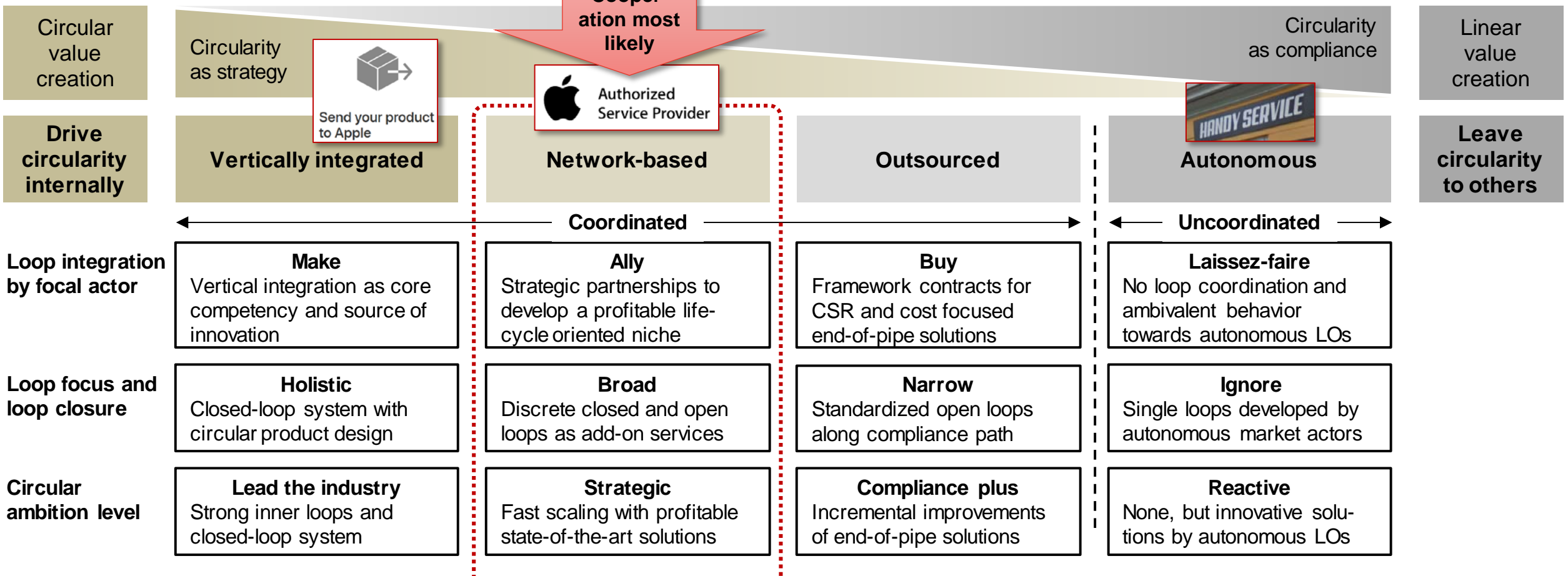
1 | INTRODUCTION

The circular economy (CE) has emerged as an umbrella concept for integrating various life cycle-based approaches from research and practice with the aim to decouple economic growth from absolute resource use (Blomsma & Brennan, 2017). Acting as a long-term vision for closed product, parts, and material loops, the CE concept aims to displace primary production, while evading potential rebound effects (Zink & Geyer, 2017). It covers both technical (i.e., products of use) and biological (i.e., products of consumption) cycles (EMF, 2012; McDonough & Braungart, 2002). We focus on product circularity, which goes beyond traditional waste management approaches by covering slowing strategies for product life extension (repair, reuse, remanufacture) and closing strategies for material recovery (i.e., recycling) (Bocken, de Pauw, Bakker, & van der Grinten, 2016; Bocken, Olivetti, Cullen, Potting, & Lifset, 2017; Lüdeke-Freund, Gold, & Bocken, 2018; Stahel, 2010). Taking a systems perspective, it spans diverse actors, organizations, and life cycle stages (EMF 2012; Geissdoerfer, Savaget, Bocken, & Hultink, 2017; Stahel, 1984), transcending the narrow

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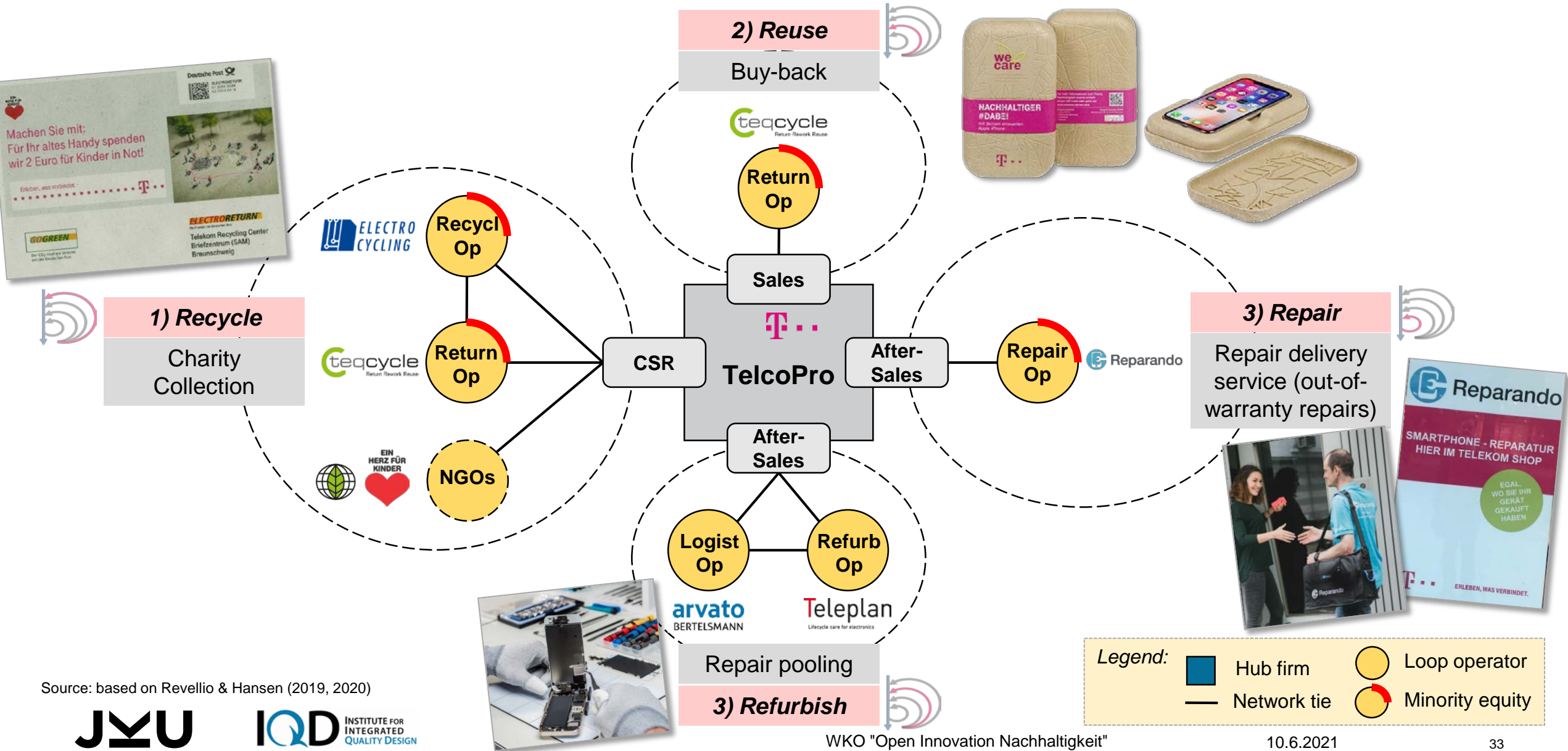
Underlying research

Typology of Circular Value Creation Architectures



Source: based on Hansen & Revellio, 2020

TelcoPro's "Ally" coordination: circular services and related loop operators



AGENDA

1. Challenges and motivation
2. Today's downcycling economy
3. Principles of a (real) circular economy
4. Collaboration becomes key to innovation in the area of ...
 - ... circular product redesign
 - ... circular service operations (=reverse flows)
5. Conclusion

Conclusion

- Circular Economy: Long term development driven by political, economic and science spheres
 - Goal: decouple growth from resource use while creating regional (service) jobs
 - Strategies:
 - technical cycling (repair/maintain, reuse, remanufacture, recycle)
 - biological cycling for specific applications requiring biodegradability
 - Prerequisite for effective cycling: healthy materials
- Cross-sector collaboration basis for circular product redesign and reverse service development
- Collaboration in circular *product* (re)design
 - Supply chain screening and redevelopment of materials/components
 - New partnerships for sourcing circular/recycled materials
 - Often a need for intermediaries (knowledge trustees) to broker knowledge between organisations
- Collaboration for circular *services* addressing reverse cycles (e.g. repair, take-back, remanufacture)
 - Make-ally-or-buy decision vs. emergence of autonomous actors
 - Make vs. buy drives intensity of learning

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LEITARTIKEL

Circular Economy

Potenziale für Produkt- und Geschäftsmodellinnovation heben

Was nützt eine steigende Material- und Energieeffizienz, wenn die Produktlebenszyklen immer kürzer werden? Eine Lösung bietet die Circular Economy durch geschlossene Wertschöpfungskreisläufe.

Unternehmen sind seit einigen Dekaden bereits darauf fokussiert ihre Betriebsabläufe zu optimieren und Ressourcen einzusparen, um die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit zu erhöhen. Durch die steigende Bedeutung der Lebenszyklusorientierung – wie sie auch von zertifizierten Umweltmanagementsystemen seit Kurzem gefordert wird (vgl. ISO 14001:2015) – rücken auch die Produkte zunehmend in diesen Fokus und werden nach Gesichtspunkten der Material- und Energieeffizienz optimiert. Dies sind sehr wichtige Schritte auf dem Weg zu umweltverträglichem Wachstum. Allerdings werden viele dieser Fortschritte durch immer kürzere Produktlebenszyklen konterkariert, da nimmt die Nutzungsdauer von Mobiltelefonen seit Jahren rapide ab. In anderen Branchen entsteht im Extremfall durch schlechteren Produktqualität ein Energieverbrauch, der die Energieeffizienz übersteigt.

an ihre Grenzen. Da moralische Appelle zur längeren Nutzung von Produkten (z.B. Suffizienz-Ansatz) meist nur in über-öffentlichen Diskussionen auf fruchtbaren Boden stoßen, verbleibt als weiterer Lösungsansatz jener der geschlossenen Wertschöpfungskreisläufe oder modulare Circular Economy (Konsistenz-Ansatz).

Grundlagen der Circular Economy

Die Circular Economy basiert auf dem bereits aus den 1970er Jahren bekannten Konzept der Kreislaufwirtschaft, wurde aber konzeptionell erweitert und primär als innovationsstrategische Neuauflage. Sie führt den Lebenszyklusansatz fort und ist darauf ausgerichtet Ressourcen, Komponenten oder Produkte in stabilen Nutzungskreisläufen zu halten, um die

Dienstleistungen für Wartung, Reparatur, Wiederaufbereitung und Recycling. Da diese Prozesse überwiegend regional stattfinden können, ersetzen neue (Service-) Arbeitsplätze vor Ort – im Gegensatz zur heute überwiegend in Übersee stattfindenden zentralisierten Produktion. Die Grundidee der Circular Economy verspricht daher den Austausch von energieintensiver und umweltbelastender, mit Primärressourcen Abbau einhergehender Produktion durch serviceorientierte aber umweltlastedie regionale Wertschöpfung. Aus diesem Grund ist auch die europäische Politik an der Förderung dieses Konzepts interessiert und hat Ende 2016 das erste circular-Economy-Markt mit zahlreichen regulatorischen Verbesserungen verabschiedet.

1. Einleitung

Unternehmen sind seit jeher darauf fokussiert ihre Betriebsabläufe zu optimieren um Ressourcen einzusparen und damit ihre Wettbewerbsfähigkeit zu erhöhen. Durch die steigende Bedeutung der Lebenszyklusorientierung – wie sie zB durch die EcoDesign Richtlinie der EU und zertifizierten Umweltmanagementsystemen seit kurzem gefordert wird (vgl. ISO 14001:2015), werden zunehmend auch die Produkte nach Gesichtspunkten der Material- und Energieeffizienz optimiert.

SCHWERPUNKT NACHHALTIGKEIT: Zirkularwirtschaft als Chance

Zirkulärwirtschaft als Chance: Innovative Produkte, Dienstleistungen und Geschäftsmodelle wertschöpfungsübergreifend gestalten

Erik G. Hansen/Julia Schmitt

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Was nützt eine steigende Materialeffizienz, wenn Produkte immer kürzer genutzt werden? Die Zirkularwirtschaft (Circular Economy) stellt einen Paradigmenwechsel hin zu geschlossenen Wertschöpfungskreisläufen dar. Sie fungiert als Quelle für neue Produkte, Dienstleistungen und Geschäftsmodelle und bietet Unternehmen die Möglichkeit sich langfristig Wettbewerbsvorteile zu erschließen. Um jedoch Innovationen in der Zirkulärwirtschaft erfolgreich umzusetzen, benötigen Unternehmen neue Kernkompetenzen in den Bereichen Produktdesign, Geschäftsmodellentwicklung, Management der Produktrückflüsse und – als Querschnittskompetenz von besonderer Relevanz – interorganisationale Zusammenarbeit mit Partnern entlang der gesamten Wertschöpfungskreisläufe.

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