



CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

CLOSING THE LOOP

DOCUMENTARIES / FACTUAL

ENVIRONMENT

Climate For Change: Closing The Loop

Waste is generated on an epic scale. As humans, we have adopted a linear approach to food, plastic and clothes in our daily lives. We take, we make, and we dispose. With the new buzz surrounding Circular Economy, is that our answer to sustenance?

Each time we do this, we eat into a finite supply of resources and produce toxic waste, which cannot work long-term unless we go circular. The Circular Economy? It is the buzzword nowadays, but its principles are based on pearls of wisdom. Circularity is production and consumption to create as little waste as possible. Where there is waste, it becomes a new resource. Ultimately, circularity, or zero waste, will significantly move the needle on climate change. However, the circular economy is more than an environmental concept. It is also about economics.

This series examines how Singapore, with its green plan and sustainable practices, is driving change, while other forward-thinking countries are unlocking economic opportunities by closing the resource loop. Meet the smart, motivated entrepreneurs who are making it happen.

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EP1

By 2050, there will be more plastic in our oceans than marine life. And plastic has a notoriously long life in landfills. We meet entrepreneurs discovering new ways to retrieve plastic from our waterways, turning it into fuel or back into plastic again. Others look to reduce single-use plastic in our daily lives, by working on alternative materials. Food waste does not seem to make sense in a world where so many are hungry, but it's a major problem. And food in landfills releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. We meet the people trying to divert food from landfills in New Zealand and Singapore by repurposing it for human consumption, animal feed and now even biofuel. We also meet entrepreneurs in the USA and Europe going a step further to avoid producing food from animals completely. They're developing cultivated meat, now on sale in Singapore. Is this the food of the future?

EP2

Billions of tonnes of food, clothes, electronics, and construction waste end up in landfills across the world every year. Firms and scientists in forward-thinking countries are now formulating circular economy business models, so that waste from one industrial activity is a resource for another. Reusing and recycling will also reduce the drain on nature to produce new materials. In Part 2 of this documentary series – a century-old tradition of clothes recycling in Italy; a hospital ward in Taipei built from recycled trash; precious materials for high-value manufacturing harvested from Black Soldier flies that feed on food waste; batteries recycled with the aid of discarded orange peel; energy-neutral buildings and circular industrial estates designed to reduce waste and maximise the efficiency of cities. How can firms, communities and cities unlock lucrative opportunities in closing the resource loop? How can a circular economy move the needle on climate change?