

Open Source Circular Economy Day - Challenge Brief Template

“One-stop Circular Marketplace”

Challenge Description:

Waste is a design flaw. But often a company produces materials it has no use for and may not even be able to recycle. Meanwhile another businesses may have a use for those material, but isn't aware that it's available for free, low cost, or even with a reward. A typical way to connect producers and consumers is through a marketplace, but there is currently no established general marketplace for by-products/waste, only niche.

This project is intended to create such a marketplace, an eBay of waste. It could be used to announce availability and demand for by-products, whether one-off batches, or more likely, continuous supply/demand. Ideally, this will lead to business relationships, and establishing alternative supply chains for material output from one source to another.

The system would be location aware, such that local businesses could be connected, and reduce transportation needs. The system would also promote “highest use” of materials, for example prioritizing food production over fuel or compost.

And like eBay, the system could encourage an economy/ecosystem of third-party brokers that can market and deliver materials, and charge either or both parties. Niche marketplaces could even register as third party brokers, as they may offer the best solution for particular materials.

This marketplace will be a one-stop solution for companies interested in more environmental solution for their by-products and waste.

What aspect(s) of this challenge needs help? (e.g. marketing, design)

Marketing to businesses and creating a simple customer journey for both supplier and consumer.

Business model. Categorization of materials. Global scale.

Challenge sector: (e.g. textiles, waste management)

The system could cover any material, but in mainly intended for by-products from commercial processes

Where on the circular economy would this challenge be placed? (e.g. design, recycling, distribution)

This project fills a gap where a company is unable to reuse secondary/waste products it creates.

Who to contact for additional information on this challenge:

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Please feel free to attach a photograph or diagram to further explain the challenge.

