

“Sevilla EcoIndustrial City” Project

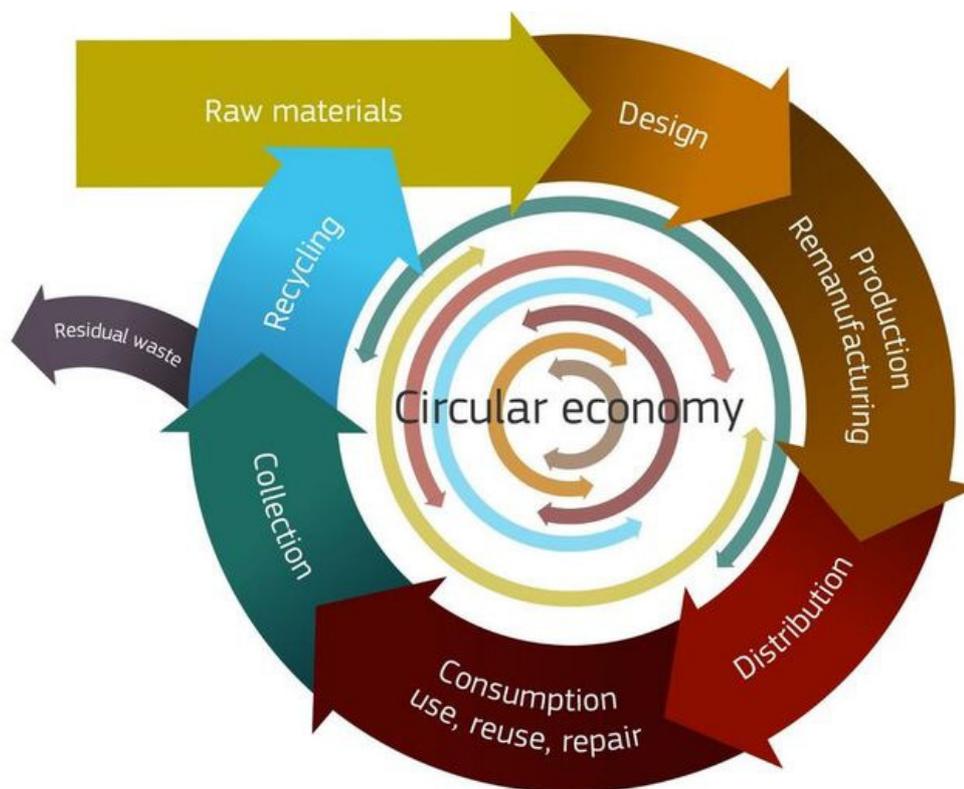
Carmen Arnaiz y Jose Morillo

Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, University of Seville

In a highly technological society, can we still learn something from nature? In Seville we think there are powerful lessons to learn from nature.

Natural ecosystems are characterized by a closed cycle of matter; the waste from one organism becomes the feedstock of another. Cooperation, complementarity and diversity are characteristics of the natural systems which lead to the efficiency in the use of matter, water and energy.

After decades of linear economy that consumes a lot of resources, water and energy, and generates a lot of waste, the University of Seville and the Seville City Council jointly promote an exciting initiative to boost circular economy in the industrial and business parks of our city.



Vs

Linear economy



Circular economy *versus* linear economy¹

However, universities and public administration cannot accept this challenge alone. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), representing 99% of all businesses in the EU, and local and regional innovation agencies, must work with each other to achieve this goal: evolution and transformation of our industrial and business parks into Eco-Parks.

In this sense, the Sevillian Association of Business Parks, the Seville Business Confederation and the Andalusian Technology Institute join with the University of Seville and the Seville City Council with passion, all of us aware that *Technology makes things possible but people make things happen!*²

Circular economy, cradle to cradle, eco-efficiency, eco-business park, eco-industrial development, eco-industrial park, efficient energy use, industrial ecology, industrial metabolism, industrial symbiosis, pollution prevention, life-cycle assessment, waste hierarchy, waste minimization... we really want to take these concepts off the books and take them into practical implementation.

We begin to take the first steps on this continuous green and clean improvement road at the business park named PICA. PICA, located in the heart of Seville, is not only a benchmark in the economic history of the city but also the oldest and the most central industrial park in the city.

One million square meters... 250 enterprises... 3,500 workers... This is our first local laboratory for circular economy and industrial ecology in Seville. We have high hopes that it not be the last one. More than 10 industrial and business parks are waiting for an opportunity to improve competitiveness while protecting the environment of our beloved city of Seville.

Let's go started!

Seville, March 9, 2017.

¹The Circular Economy Connecting, Creating and Conserving Value. European Commission. 2014. ISBN 978-92-79-37810-2. <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/the-circular-economy.pdf>

²Erich Block, Director of the National Science Foundation, USA (EDUCOM '88).

