

1. What is the Circular Economy

2. So What? How does systems thinking relate to circular economy principles?

3. Now What? How does this understanding of the circular economy connect to your certificate learning, personal growth, or specific discipline?

Circular Economy refers to a societal structure that emphasizes restorative and regenerative methodologies in everyday living. The goal is to emulate the cyclic way of the environment, constantly using and reusing. This contrasts the use then dispose method that is currently in place. The idea of implementing a circular economy is excellent for the environment as it reduces waste. An example of this is one company has made a seaweed based wrapping that is biodegradable. They return what they took from the environment rather than taking and trashing. There are economic benefits, as well. One could make more “stuff” by embedding seeds into packaging that grows food. It can also cut production costs by reusing old parts (rather than buying a whole new set).

Circular economy principles deal with the process in which things are consumed. It is also synthesizing three major systems in place today: social, economic, and environmental. This relates to systems thinking because it is noting the relationship between these three systems and attempting to move forward in a proactive way. Circular economy does go into the technicalities, but it mainly deals with the overarching picture of society and its impact on the environment.

This concept seems to be a vital concept when talking about sustainability. This is helpful for me because I would like to enter an industry that emulates the circular economy idea. Moreover, I want to work for a company that creates a product that emphasizes the recycling of materials into the Earth.