



Building Circular Economy

Thinking into your next kitchen and laundry design project

The Cost of Take-Make-Waste

The **construction sector** accounts for approximately

18.1%

of **Australia's carbon footprint**.¹

On 29 July 2021, it was estimated that **all humans on Earth** had collectively used up **more natural resources than can be reproduced in a year**.²

What is the Solution?

The Circular Economy and the Built Environment

The Circular Economy is an economic model focuses on designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use to reduce ecological impact, and regenerating natural systems.

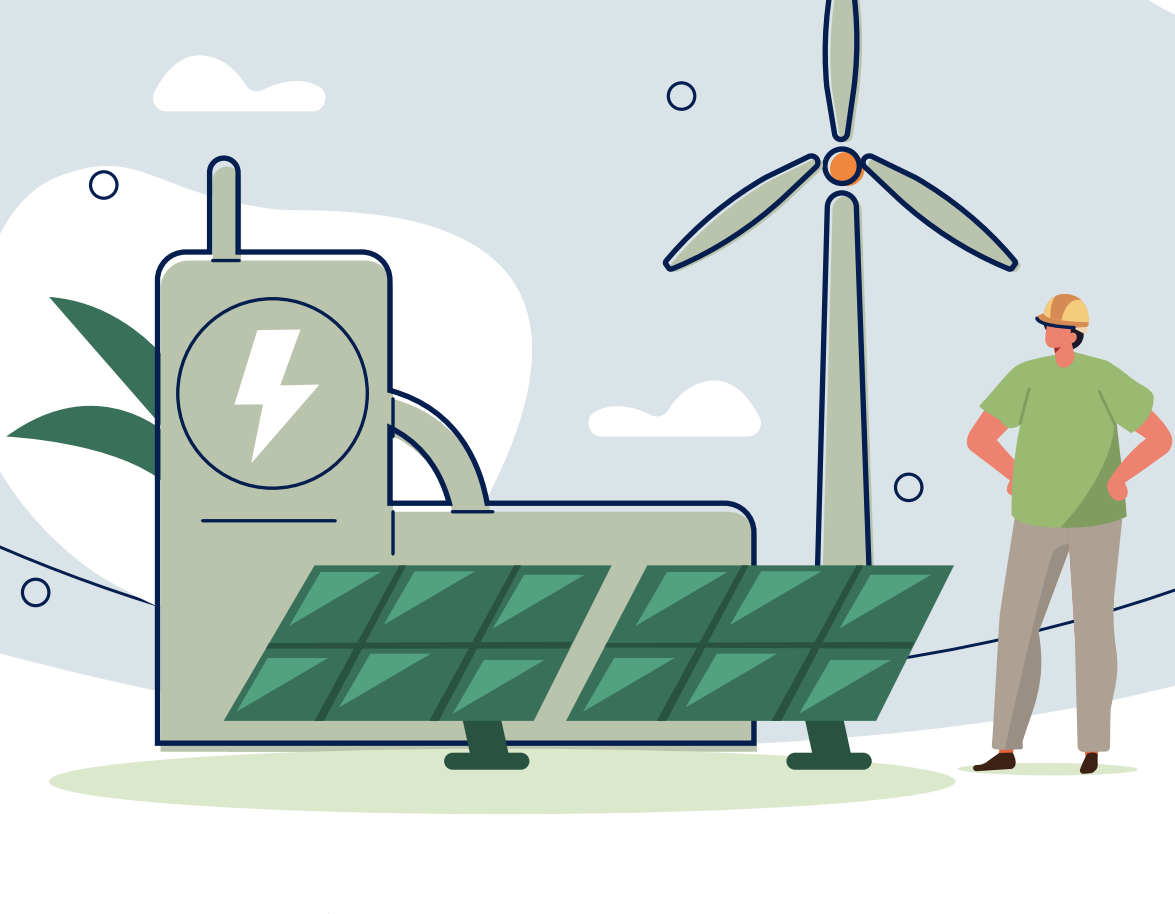
How can this approach be applied to building design and construction?

- Reduce** the amount of input required from the extraction of natural resources to construct buildings.
- Emphasise materials **recycling**, component **reuse** and **repairs/refurbishment** to extend the building's lifecycle.
- Reduce waste** and **energy consumption** over the life of the building.
- Focus on **renewable energy** utilisation and **sustainable operations**.
- Move towards long-term, **"circular" service models** such as subscription services for building assets.

Specifying for Circularity

How do you apply circular thinking to your next kitchen or laundry design project? Consider the following factors when choosing suppliers and products.

- Energy Efficiency**
Check the energy rating – the more stars, the more energy efficient the appliance is compared to similar products.
- Ease of Repairs and Assembly**
Manufacturer offers repairs, spare parts and comprehensive support to extend the life of the product.
- Quality Manufacturing**
High quality materials, strict quality controls and advanced manufacturing methods.
- Raw Materials**
Companies should be transparent about the materials in their products, and work towards reducing raw material usage.
- Technology and Automation**
Manufacturers can adopt new technology and automation to improve manufacturing processes.
- Eliminating Harmful Materials**
Choose products that are made of healthy, non-toxic materials.
- Ethical Supply Chains**
Seek assurances that the products have been sourced ethically and sustainably produced.
- Transportation**
Choose local suppliers with effective urban freight and logistics.
- Green Certification**
Check for Global GreenTag certification or certification under similar sustainable product schemes.
- Product Recycling**
Product take-back schemes and alternative models of product ownership.



Toward More Circular Products and Services with Electrolux

A sustainability leader in the appliance industry, Electrolux is proactively contributing toward the circular economy by integrating a circular approach into its products and solutions. This includes integrating recycled or renewable materials into their product platforms, promoting recyclability, using more sustainable packaging solutions, increasing the availability of spare parts, and developing circular business solutions.

Electrolux is committed to climate neutral operations by 2030 through their sustainability framework of better products, better operations and better living.

Designing for Change:

Building circular economy thinking into your next kitchen and laundry design project.

> [DOWNLOAD THE WHITEPAPER](#)



1 Yu, Man, Thomas Wiedmann, Robert Crawford and Catriona Tait. "The Carbon Footprint of Australia's Construction Sector." Procedia Engineering, Vol. 180 (2017): 211-220.
2 Australia Government. "National Waste Policy 2018." Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/publications/national-waste-policy-2018> (accessed 30 August 2021).