

CALL FOR PAPERS

California Management Review

Special Issue: Generative Innovation Opportunities in Circular Cities

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There is growing consensus in the scientific community that the current trajectory of our global economy is not conducive to sustaining quality of life for humans and for our ecological ecosystems. In fact, in 2023, new research suggests that we are collectively overshooting on six of nine planetary boundaries.¹ Radical changes to our consumption and production systems are required to transform our economy into one that can meet the needs of our growing global population while also sustaining critical natural ecosystems.

The circular economy has emerged in the past twenty years as an opportunity to shift from the traditional linear take-make-waste industrial activity of the industrial revolution towards a circular economy whereby resources are optimized for reuse in an effort to achieve more eco-friendly outcomes.

In 2018, the *California Management Review* dedicated an entire special issue to the innovation opportunities and managerial implications of the circular economy.² Over the past five years, though, the interest in the under-researched roles that cities can play in the circular economy has grown³. On the one hand, cities have the ability to serve as platforms for open innovation⁴, uniting their growing civic populations, diverse private sector actors and the public sector around topics related to sustainability and circularity. On the other hand, cities are responsible for more than 70% of global emissions and energy consumption. Together, these two forces suggest that cities are where the climate battle will be won or lost.⁵

California Management Review now invites submissions for a special issue dedicated to the the generative opportunities for private sector innovation in circular cities. The aim of this Special Issue is to understand the pathways for circular cities to become platforms for sustainable, restorative or regenerative innovation. Proposals can be based on all types of research, disciplinary or interdisciplinary, conceptual or empirical, but need to follow the submission and style guidelines of California Management Review and *must be of managerial relevance*. Some exemplary themes that this Special Issue intends to cover include, but are not limited to:

- The role of the private sector in the governance of circular cities initiatives
- The emergent opportunities for startups to accelerate circular economic activity in cities
- Resource optimization as a competitive advantage across multiple industrial sectors in cities and regions
- Sector specific innovation opportunities in circular food, water, energy, construction, waste and transportation
- From sustainability to regeneration in circular cities (i.e., how and why startups and corporates embed regenerative principles into their production process and outcomes)

- Alternative business models for circular cities innovation
- Emerging Peer-to-Peer and B2B platforms designed to resolve information asymmetry and accelerate the velocity of sharing of resources, products and services
- Embracing open innovation in circular cities
- Digital solutions for circular cities with particular interest in AI/ML and blockchain

Submissions will be processed continuously after being submitted, and must be submitted no later than **June 15, 2024**.

Authors should submit a full manuscript to the attention of Boyd Cohen (cmr.circular.cities@gmail.com)

Manuscripts should run between 5,000 and 8,000 words (excluding charts, tables, figures, and endnotes). Please bear in mind that CMR publishes original articles that are research based and provide practical advice to managers. Thus, submissions should clearly state:

- (i) the purpose of the study;
- (ii) the particular management issue addressed;
- (iii) the context in which this particular management issue is examined; and
- (iv) the relevance of the study for practitioners and academic scholars.

Additional CMR submission guidelines can be found at <http://cmr.berkeley.edu/resources/submit/>.

Please note that while Guest Editors make recommendations, all final publication decisions are made by the CMR Editorial Team. The Guest Editors and CMR Editors will select submissions which are likely to result in first-rate, high-impact contributions, and the authors of these submissions will receive an official invitation to submit their article online through the CMR submission portal to be peer reviewed. Submissions received without an official invitation will not be considered.

¹ <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

² Esposito, M., Tse, T., & Soufani, K. (2018). Introducing a Circular Economy: New Thinking with New Managerial and Policy Implications. *California Management Review*, 60(3), 5-19.

³ Williams, J. (2019). Circular cities. *Urban Studies*, 56(13), 2746–2762.

⁴ Cohen, B., Almirall, E., & Chesbrough, H. (2016). The City as a Lab: Open Innovation Meets the Collaborative Economy. *California Management Review*, 59(1), 5-13.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0008125616683951>

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/news/guterres-cities-are-where-the-climate-battle-will-largely-be-won-or-lost>