TOP TIPS FOR EMBEDDING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

FOR MATERIAL AND COMPONENT SUPPLIERS AND MANUFACTURERS
01.

Communicate end of life options

Describe the potential options for your product/material at the end of life for your customer’s benefit. For example, is it recyclable? Can it be returned to you for remanufacture? Clearly communicate this in your product information.
Consider take-back schemes

Assess whether take-back schemes are viable for your components or materials. Take-back enables you to recover the value of materials at the end of life and reduce virgin material inputs into your manufacturing process. If a take-back scheme isn’t feasible, can you collaborate with others in the industry who can reuse or recycle your products?
03.

Consider offering your product as a service

Consider whether selling your product as a service is viable and makes commercial sense. With this business model, you sell the benefits of your product (rather than the product itself), retain ownership of the product and responsibility for it at end of life, and have a longer-term relationship with your customers. This business model works best if the contractual relationship is directly with the end user.
04.

Minimise waste during manufacture

Establish how much waste is generated in your own manufacturing process and set targets for year on year reduction. Include this in your marketing. Also review whether your by-products can be used by other companies.
05. Optimise packaging

Your packaging should use the minimum amount of material to deliver your product without damaging it. Can some or all of the packaging be taken back for reuse (e.g. crates or pallets)? Is your packaging recyclable?
Design for remanufacture

Remanufacturing is the rebuilding of a product to specifications of the original manufactured product using a combination of reused, repaired and new parts. Can you design the product, component or material for remanufacture, so it can be kept at its highest utility in the future? Can you offer a remanufacturing service? If remanufacture is not appropriate or possible for some product sectors, then consider other design options for improving circularity.
Optimise secondary materials

Optimise the amount of secondary (recycled) material in your product. This means using the maximum amount for the intended quality and durability requirements, without having a detrimental impact on the product’s environmental footprint.
Top Tips for Embedding Circular Economy Principles in the Construction Industry

This resource is intended to help the construction industry start its journey towards the circular economy. It offers a series of practical tips - for Clients, the Design Team, Contractors, Material and Product Manufacturers, and Demolition Contractors. Those who have already developed and are practicing a sophisticated approach to circular economy may find these tips useful as a checklist.

Read more about it on the website: www.cetoptips.com

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