

CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

Value Proposition and Startup Landscape in India





India in Numbers

Close to 30% of waste generated in India is unaccounted for (neither treated nor ended up landfill). This poses a great challenge in the wake of high resource extraction levels and increasing material consumption





CE's Value Proposition for India

Linear vs. Circular Economy



Circular Economy (CE) advocates a closed-loop production model where resources are reused, allowing for more value generation.

Did you know?

India, accounting for 18% of global population but only 2.4% of landmass, 2% forest and 4% of freshwater resources, faces severe resource constraints.

It will **require 2.5 times more natural resources** to meet its demand by 2030.



Transitioning to CE in India

can create economic, environmental and social value

- Existing CE market opportunity of \$45 billion (~1% of GDP)
- Over \$600 billion annual value creation opportunity in 2050 (~3% of projected GDP in 2050)
- Potential for 44% reduction in projected GHG emissions in 2050



CE Startup Landscape in India

Did you know?

Despite being a high growth potential sector there are only <u>200 startups</u> (estimated) building products / solutions to promote and facilitate adoption of circular econo<u>my in India.</u>

Indian startups are predominantly building three kinds of solutions

Circular economy startups in India are predominantly offering the following services using SaaS based platforms and advance technologies such as biotechnology, robotics, etc.

Solution	Description	Startups
Recovery & Recycling	Capture value from the waste. (end-of-life products, waste products, by-products etc.)	Li-Circle NEPRA
Circular Supply Chain	Fully renewable, recyclable, or biodegradable materials that can be used across lifecycles.	Products for better future
Product Life Extension	Extend working lifecycle of products that might be broken, out of fashion or no longer needed by way of repairing, upgrading, and reselling.	Re love



Investments in CE Startups

Investments in CE Startups are higher than waste management but a tiny fraction in the overall climate tech sector

Between 2011 - 2022, circular economy startups raised only **2x** the funding as compared to startups in the allied waste management sector. The total funding in the large climate sector is over 52 times (about \$3.34 Bn).

Further, while most of the funding in waste management remains concentrated at early stage (seed and series A), circular economy startups have gone on to raise growth stage funding (series B and series C), indicating greater investor confidence in these solutions.



Prominent Investors in the Circular Economy Sector



















Opportunities for Startups



Scope for Increased Interventions in Product Life Extension based Solutions

- Currently interventions are limited to fashion, consumer electronics and automobile segments
- Over \$7 billion used consumer goods market in the country



Nanotechnology for Material Development

- Nanotechnology based products are proven to offer increased durability and energy efficiency
- This extends product life cycle, reduces overall material consumption and enhances sustainability



Role of Biotechnology in Circularity

• Bio-fuels and biodegradable materials offer more sustainable alternatives compared with conventional fossil fuel based products



Other Emerging Models

- Product as a service: Manufacturers bear the total cost of product ownership, offering it to customers as a service. The customers become users rather than product owners
- Sharing as a service: Connecting two or more parties to drive up the net asset utilization through co-access or co-utilization



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