

# Circular Economy in Sweden – Where to Start?

## CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

The Swedish goal is to be fossil free by 2040. Its government realizes that a circular, bio-based economy is one of the keys to achieve this goal. However, a nationwide coordination for this transition is still lacking.

Therefore, a delegation of experts on Circular Economy (CE) will be formed to help the government support, coordinate, and prioritize. This way, a roadmap for further development with clear goals can be set. At the moment, the formation of the delegation is still in an early stage.

In the Netherlands, a [government-wide program](#) to stimulate CE has been launched, with the aim of creating a fully circular economy by 2050. The program prioritizes five crucial sectors for this transition. So, what is happening in these sectors in Sweden?

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY PLATFORMS

The platforms below provide more information on these specific sectors. We can help connect you to these platforms, [just let us know!](#)

[Cradlenet](#) – Sweden's network platform to accelerate its transformation towards a circular economy

[Re:Source](#) – Leading research and innovation investment within the resource and waste area

[Atervinningsindustrierna](#) – Recycling Industries' Association of companies within the recycling field

[IVL](#) – Swedish Environmental Research Institute ([Swedish Cleantech](#) is its business-related network)

## SECTORIAL CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENTS SWEDEN



### Biomass & Food

Sweden is an expert on bioenergy and it is the country's leading energy source (accounts for 36% of total energy consumption). Also, the food sector has set a national strategy to change its supply chain, but so far it lacks concrete action and sector-wide cooperation.



### Plastics

The Swedish government is tightening national policies regarding plastics and is pushing the topic in the EU as well. In total, 53% of plastic material is recycled. However, largely due to the incineration of plastics, only 15% of its original value is retained. A change in thought is required.



### Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector is a pillar of Sweden's economy (77% of its exports & 20% of its GDP). The country has more global manufacturing companies per capita than any other country in the world. These companies are taking initiative to become more circular and are leading the way.



### Construction

The sector is responsible for the majority of waste and only 50% is recycled (ambition is 70% by 2020). Even though its public procurement rules are encouraging CE, legislation is still falling behind. Currently, this is still blocking CE innovations and initiatives.



### Consumer goods

Over 99% percent of Swedish household waste is recycled, but the biggest share is just incinerated for its energy. A national strategy aims to direct consumers towards a more sustainable consumption pattern, with a focus sustainable design and the re-usage of products and materials.

## SECTORIAL PLATFORMS

[SVEBIO](#) – Promotes development of bioenergy for a sustainable society

[National Food Strategy](#) – Aims for a sustainable food supply chain by 2030

[Swerea's Network for Plastics Recycling](#) – A network of government agencies, research projects and companies

[Teknikföretagen](#) – The Association of Swedish Engineering Industries

[Produktion2030](#) – Innovation program promoting sustainable manufacturing

[Sveriges Byggindustrier](#) – Construction federation that stimulates sustainability

[Upphandlingsmyndigheten](#) – National Agency for Public Procurement

[National Strategy for Sustainable Consumption](#) – A general idea of how Swedish consumption should change

Do you want to get in touch with our Embassy team? See our [contact details here!](#)