Invitation Letter

Rotterdam, June 2020

Dear Mr, Ms,

You are hereby invited to participate in the “CALC City Network” first digital meeting, on the 23rd of June, where you can share experiences, learn and discuss matters regarding materials flow through the city, integrated with carbon dioxide issues. This letter comes to you from the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), as part of the Circular and Low Carbon Cities Project (CALC).

ISWA and the City of Rotterdam started the “CALC-project” to develop and test metrics and tools to integrate CO2 considerations into decisions for cities and calculate the circularity of products linking to the mitigation of carbon output. The project has a goal to research, develop, test and support the basic metrics of circularity and low-carbon city, through elaboration of an open-access tool, in the form of a calculator, for cities and regions. An important part of this work is to create a “CALC City Network” where the network function as a soundboard for the calculator, as well as share experiences and knowledge.

You are hereby invited to take part in the first meeting of the “CALC City Network”!

Date: 23rd of June
Time: 9-12 AM (Central European Summer Time)
Place: Digital

At the first meeting you will listen to Rotterdam presenting their case as well as hear about the CALC-Project. There will also be an opportunity for the participants to share expertise and experience, as well as questions and dilemmas, on CO2 and circularity.

Your participation at the event would be a great honour and greatly benefit the project outcome!

We are looking forward to your positive reply sent to Ms Dienke Dijksterhuis at ddijksterhuis@iswa.org at the latest on the 17th of June.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne Scheinberg
ISWA Project Leader for the CALC-project

Ms Gunilla Carlsson
CALC City Network Coordinator
The CALC Project
The project has a goal to research, develop, test and support the basic metrics of circularity and low-carbon city, through elaboration of an open-access tool, in the form of a calculator, for city and regions. The purpose of the tool is to provide quantitative, transparent, comparable and practical points of measurement for city using the tool, as input to decision-making about materials management on a city-wide basis. The calculator should empower cities to understand how their materials management systems "perform" in terms of circularity and CO₂ emissions; how the processes in the city promote or degrade sustainable resource use, and what kinds of interventions -- in the city or in the value chains of the materials flowing through the city -- could produce improvement.

The CALC project works at the intersection of two critical global challenges: climate change and resource scarcity. CALC addresses these challenges from the point of view of solid waste and materials management systems in city, the main constituency of ISWA and the stakeholders that are confronted daily with managing and mitigating the impacts of too much waste, coming from a growing use of extractive resources for single-use or short-lived packages and products.

Aim
The aim of the project is to develop heightened awareness and improved knowledge of the potential for city and producers to combine goals for a circular economy with those for low-carbon production and management strategies.

The Project is a joint project between the Working Groups on Recycling and Minimisation, Climate Change and Waste Management and Biological Treatment of Waste. Initial funder of the CALC Project is the Dutch Association for Waste Management (NVRD) and the project receives in-kind contributions from the ISWA General Secretariat, its Working Group members and its Young Professionals Group, as well as external volunteers. The leader of the project is Dr Anne Scheinberg, Chair of the Working group on Recycling and Minimisation.

CALC City Network
The “CALC City Network” aims to be a platform to help representatives to

- exchange information and give support in adapting to a changing global resource and climate situation
- co-develop a consistent set of metrics and indicators that allow us to compare with each other and benchmark improvements against the starting baseline situation in our city
- take considerations of circularity and CO₂ avoidance into activities and plans for improvements in operations
- understand, measure, compare, and map, good and best practices, services, and products in terms of circularity and climate resilience
- identify and improve bad or inadequate practices
- create a community of practice that allows for peer support and building an international critical mass for positive change.

Preferred criteria’s for persons and cities in the network

- City in high-income countries, or high-income city in middle and low-income countries,
- Persons preferably working with waste, circular economy, carbon dioxide, environmental issues, policy officers, or alike,
- Persons working for local authorities, municipalities, NGOs as well as organisations,
- People in the network provide enthusiasm, positive energy and create new ideas