

Methods for measuring impacts of circular-economy transitions



Modelling/ex ante studies

Modelling and ex ante studies aim to predict future developments.



Ex-post methods: studies, statistics and indicators

Ex-post statistics capture past changes and ex post studies can provide explanations.



Case studies

Case studies look closely at specific sectors, issues and processes.



Strengths



By simulating major economic processes, models provide a way to explore the potential of circular-economy transitions.



Ex-post methods are based on factual evidence and benefit from hindsight regarding complex causal effects.



Case studies offer a high degree of detail and can take into account contextual differences.



Weaknesses / limitations



Models are resource intensive. Outcomes can be uncertain, especially if fundamental systemic change is involved and whenever results are highly dependent on assumptions.



Ex-post results cannot alter the outcome of the analysed event. Establishing causality amongst different factors can still be difficult or data may not even be available.



Results are often not widely applicable as a result of the specificities of the case.

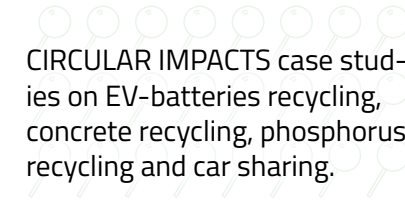
Find out more



OECD report 'The Macroeconomics of the Circular Economy Transition'



EU Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy



CIRCULAR IMPACTS case studies on EV-batteries recycling, concrete recycling, phosphorus recycling and car sharing.

The CIRCULAR IMPACTS Evidence Library has hundreds of resources, including reports, models, statistics and case studies. See: www.circular-impacts.eu/library