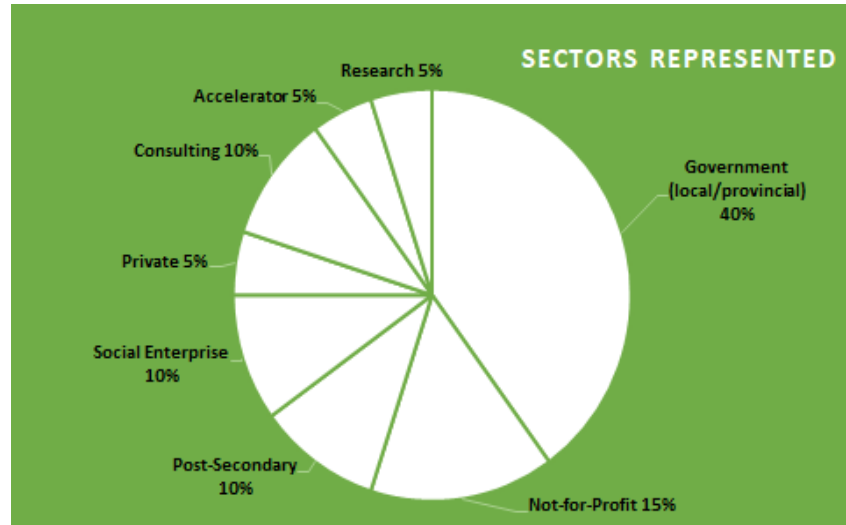


Growing Inclusive Circular Jobs in Our Region

A MEETING CONVENED BY THE SHARE REUSE REPAIR INITIATIVE

Who was in attendance?

22 people were in attendance from a variety of sectors, primarily the public sector. Those from other sectors were invited due to their connection to economic development in the region, or due to their knowledge around policy and strategic planning with public sector entities.



Panelists

SRRI welcomed Neha Sharma, PhD student at Institute for Resources, Environment & Sustainability (IRES) at UBC; Louise Schwarz of Recycling Alternative; and Sean Miles of Binners' Project as panelists. Neha presented findings from the ['Exploring a Just and Inclusive Circular Recovery'](#) report produced during her time as a UBC Sustainability Scholar with SRRI. Louise and Sean presented on [Circular Business Priorities](#) and [Social Economy/Employer Service Provider Priorities](#) respectively, and how they pertain to the growth of circular jobs in the region.

"The Greater Vancouver Region, as it transitions to a more Circular Economy, [must] manage the potential trade-offs in the labour market in a just and equitable manner to lay the course for circular jobs to be decent and inclusive work opportunities." – Neha-Sharma Mascarenhas

"For businesses operating within the field of circularity, [they need] to start to understand, do you have other colleagues [or] other parallel sectors or complimentary business models that you are working with?" – Louise Schwarz

"When we talk about accessible employment; we maybe able to carve a job out of those [circular] tasks that fit more inclusively with a group or a population of people who are typically marginalized or excluded from the job market." – Sean Miles

What we heard

“[A municipality’s approach shouldn’t] just focus on the waste management process when the waste is created; we need to go back from the beginning [and see] how we can evolve waste planning.”

“[As municipal employees, we need to] try to understand how [municipal] contracts contribute to more jobs in the region.”

“We need leadership from the provincial government in driving the demand side [of circularity].”

“Circularity, by its very nature, really should be a very hyper localized model [to create local jobs].”

“Storytelling within the circular space [covering marginalized individuals employed with social enterprises] would be a really powerful [promotional] tool.”

Priorities for growing inclusive circular jobs within our region

Presented in order of importance as voted on by those in attendance.

- » Forming a network of circular businesses and employment service providers that can support each other in the creation and growth of inclusive circular jobs.
- » Job-matching platform to match skills of employment seekers with tasks or jobs within circular businesses.
- » Showcasing the stories of circular businesses that have pursued inclusive employment.
- » Policy changes that move the focus from materials management towards reuse models
- » As businesses, organizations, and public sector/economic development entities are just starting this journey, knowing where others are at and where they’re going
- » Incentives for inclusive employment in circular businesses (i.e. wage subsidies)
- » Procurement policy that rewards both inclusivity and circularity

Look out for our upcoming Strategy Brief for a Just Circular Recovery and Transition, which will feature on-the-ground success stories and examples from close to home and afar, as well as a summary of our engagement and an implementation framework for moving forward.