



Breakout sessions Circular economy and resource efficiency track

Resource efficiency and circular economy

Are we doing more with less?



Food for thought

- Do circular economy and resource efficiency require completely new policy instruments?
- Do they require a new / different approach to policy evaluation?
- Monitoring progress (measuring activity) versus evaluation of results (environmental effects) - how do you define the success of RE / CE policies at the national level?
- How to ensure that policies on circular economy go beyond higher recycling and recovery?
- How do you encourage stakeholder involvement and ownership of policy initiatives?



Key outcomes /1

- Tension about the terminology.
 - ✓ 'Policy evaluation' might scare some people off
 - ✓ Analysis, assessment, appraisal, study
 - ✓ What is important is the knowledge and insights gained from the exercise

- Align the policy evaluation with the stage of the policy cycle. Depending on that stage, the focus of the evaluation will be different:
 - ✓ Early stage: Specific role of governments (legislator, facilitator), relations and interactions between stakeholders
 - ✓ Later stage: More focus on the impacts: 'Don't measure the effort but the effect'
 - ✓ NB, at an early stage of product design, potential to influence life-time impacts is greatest



Key outcomes /2

- Circular economy is complex issue.
 - ✓ Evaluation at a too general level won't deliver a useful outcome
 - ✓ Evaluation focussed on specific aspects that only cover part of the circular economy



Observations beyond policy evaluation /1

- Circular economy policies have a tendency to focus on (municipal) waste.
 - ✓ The policy area is known
 - ✓ Targets are set
 - ✓ Data are available to certain level
 - ✓ Focussed
- Circular economy is about systemic change which means it is complex and this pushes some actors outside their comfort zone.
- The complexity of the concept of circular economy can help / encourage a different way of interactions between the stakeholders – e.g., government as a facilitator, not just regulator /enforcer.



Observations beyond policy evaluation /2

- Leave room for learning, failing and moving on step by step.
- The need for dialogue / exchange about the reality in which different stakeholders operate (importance of policy predictability).