Call for Papers

We invite you to submit your research to explore the theme of "Bringing Research Together" for the 26th biennial NFF Conference in Örebro. We are looking forward to receiving your submissions.

Track 10.3 – Stakeholder Engagement in Advancing a Sustainable Circular Economy

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Description:
A sustainable circular economy is a pathway to a more environmentally safe and socially just society. The central objective of the circular economy is to conserve natural resources and use materials efficiently and sustainably and to achieve balance and harmony between economy, environment, and society (Murray, Skene & Haynes 2017). In addition to redesigning products and business models to minimize waste and increase the material reuse, the transition towards a sustainable circular economy requires stakeholder engagement at multiple levels and fields in the society.

The need for stakeholder engagement has been recognized in circular economy literature (e.g. Kujala, Heikkinen, Tapaninaho, Marjamaa & Gonzales Porras, 2019). We refer to stakeholder theory (Freeman, 1984), and define stakeholders as any group or individual that can affect or be affected by a focal issue, namely the transition to circular economy (Freeman, 1984). Stakeholder engagement is often used to address sustainability issues (Hörisch, Freeman & Schaltegger, 2014) and it covers different practices and processes that organizations and individuals undertake to collaborate, cooperate and communicate with each other (Greenwood, 2007).

Previous literature on circular economy has examined stakeholders from various perspectives. However, there is still a need to better understand the role and importance of stakeholder engagement in supporting transition to a sustainable circular economy. It has been noticed that, in addition to individual stakeholders, stakeholder engagement processes can provide change agency and act as catalysts in sustainability transitions (Gonzalez Porras, Heikkinen, Kujala & Tapaninaho 2021).
Therefore, we invite interested researchers to join this workshop to develop research ideas in the intersection of stakeholder engagement and circular economy and to explore how stakeholder engagement can support transition to a sustainable circular economy. The workshop is part of the CICAT2025: Circular Economy Catalysts: From Innovation to Business Ecosystems research consortium funded by the Strategic Research Council, Academy of Finland (cicat2025.fi).

Keywords:
Stakeholder, Stakeholder Engagement, Circular Economy, Transition, Corporate Sustainability, Sustainable Development

References:

Author guidelines:

We very much look forward to welcoming you in Örebro!