

Skills Bootcamp in Circular Economy

Course Overview

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Innovative Sustainable Solutions



**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**

**SKILLS
BOOTCAMPS**



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Launch Your Career in the Circular Economy

Future-proof your skills with the UK's first Skills Bootcamp in Circular Economy – funded by the Department for Education and delivered in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council.

Written and delivered by SOENECS, and guided by leading circular economy practitioners, this Skills Bootcamp equips you with the knowledge and practical skills to build a career rooted in circular, regenerative thinking.

Open to anyone in employment or self-employment living in Brighton & Hove, this programme is designed for people who want to upskill, apply circular principles in their work, and make a measurable impact.

The Skills Bootcamp is accredited (pending) by the Circular Economy Institute, and learners will be trained and certified to *Circular Economy Institute - 'Trained Level'*, giving you recognised credentials in this fast-growing field.

Index	Page
<u>About the Skills Bootcamp</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>What is the Circular Economy?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>For Employees/Self employed</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>For Employers</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Content & Schedule</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Eligibility & Cost</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Next Steps - How to Apply</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Meet the Lead Trainers</u>	<u>10</u>

About the Skills Bootcamp

This Skills Bootcamp in Circular Economy is designed for people in employment or self-employment who live in Brighton & Hove and want to build future-proof skills in the circular economy.

Developed with employers and shaped by real industry needs, this 60-hour Skills Bootcamp is delivered face-to-face over 10 weeks and equips adult learners with the knowledge, competencies, and behaviours needed to support circular, regenerative approaches within their organisation.

Skills Bootcamps are a priority *Skills for Life* programme within the Department for Education's It All Starts With Skills campaign, designed to encourage more people to start their skills journey.

They are flexible, sector-specific courses delivered with employers, training providers, and local government. Each Bootcamp responds to local and national skills needs, helping people build job-ready skills and progress into new or better work.

The Skills Bootcamp in Circular Economy will help learners:



Understand & apply circular economy principles in real organisational settings



Embed sustainability & circular thinking into everyday business practice



Gain practical, employer-valued skills that support operational change



Strengthen career development & progression pathways



Contribute to a more resilient, future-ready workforce

What is the Circular Economy?

The circular economy is a smarter alternative to the traditional “take, make, dispose” model. Instead of using resources once and throwing them away, the circular economy keeps materials, products, and resources in use for as long as possible – reducing waste and environmental impact while supporting economic resilience.

It's built on three core principles:



**Design
Out
Waste**

**Creating
products,
services, and
systems that
minimise waste
from the start**



**Keep
Products &
Materials in
Use**

**Through repair,
reuse,
refurbishment,
remanufacturing,
and recycling**



**Regenerate
Natural
Systems**

**Ensuring that
human activity
restores and
supports the
environment rather
than depleting it**

In practice, this means rethinking how we design, make, use, and reuse things – from business models and supply chains to the way cities manage resources. A circular economy benefits people, planet, and profit by:

- **Reducing waste and carbon emissions**
- **Conserving natural resources**
- **Driving innovation and creating green jobs**
- **Building more resilient, sustainable economies.**

For learners, it provides practical tools to help organisations reduce waste, cut costs, and innovate sustainably.

For employers, it offers a route to developing a workforce equipped for a low-carbon, circular future.

Recent research shows that scaling up circular economy practices across the UK could create more than 470,000 jobs by 2035 – from repair and remanufacturing to resource management, design, logistics, digital innovation, and local circular services.



With the publication of its Circular Economy Route Map to 2035, Brighton & Hove City Council became one of the first UK councils to set out a clear pathway for a more sustainable, circular city. Action 17 specifically committed to developing local green skills – including the creation of Circular Economy Skills Bootcamps.

For Employees – Develop Your Circular Knowledge & Skills

Whether you're new to sustainability or looking to enhance your professional expertise, the Skills Bootcamp in Circular Economy gives you the practical skills and confidence employers are actively seeking.

Throughout the programme, you will dive into real-world circular economy projects, learn from specialist practitioners, and join a growing community driving sustainability across Brighton & Hove.

Throughout the Skills Bootcamp, you will:



Gain a critical understanding of circular economy thinking & practice



Build in-demand sustainability & circularity skills



Strengthen your professional development with industry-recognised training



Explore new career pathways & progression opportunities



Connect with local experts, innovators & organisations shaping circular change

For Employers – Upskill Your Workforce

This Skills Bootcamp is a high-value opportunity to build the capabilities your organisation needs for a circular, resource-efficient future.

By integrating circular principles into day-to-day decision-making, the programme helps future-proof your organisation – strengthening resilience, cutting costs, and preparing your workforce for the next wave of green economic growth.

Through expert-led training by SOENECS and insights from leading circular economy specialists, your employees will develop competencies to:



Improve resource efficiency & reduce waste



Support circular business models & innovation



Reduce environmental impact while enhancing competitiveness



Contribute to your organisation's sustainability strategy



Drive measurable progress towards net-zero goals



Valuable CPD that equips your workforce for the growing circular economy

Skills Bootcamp - Content & Schedule

The Skills Bootcamp runs on Thursdays for 10 weeks, starting 22 January and continuing weekly until 26 March (Field trip dates may vary slightly.)

Standard sessions run 10:00am - 5:00pm, including a one-hour lunch break and short breaks throughout the day.

Most sessions will take place at Plus X on Lewes Road – a leading hub for circular innovation in Brighton & Hove, and an inspiring space where learners can connect with local innovators, entrepreneurs, and sustainability practitioners.

The Skills Bootcamp includes:



Interactive talks, workshops & breakout exercises



Guest speakers showcasing circularity in action



Site visits to circular economy facilities & innovators

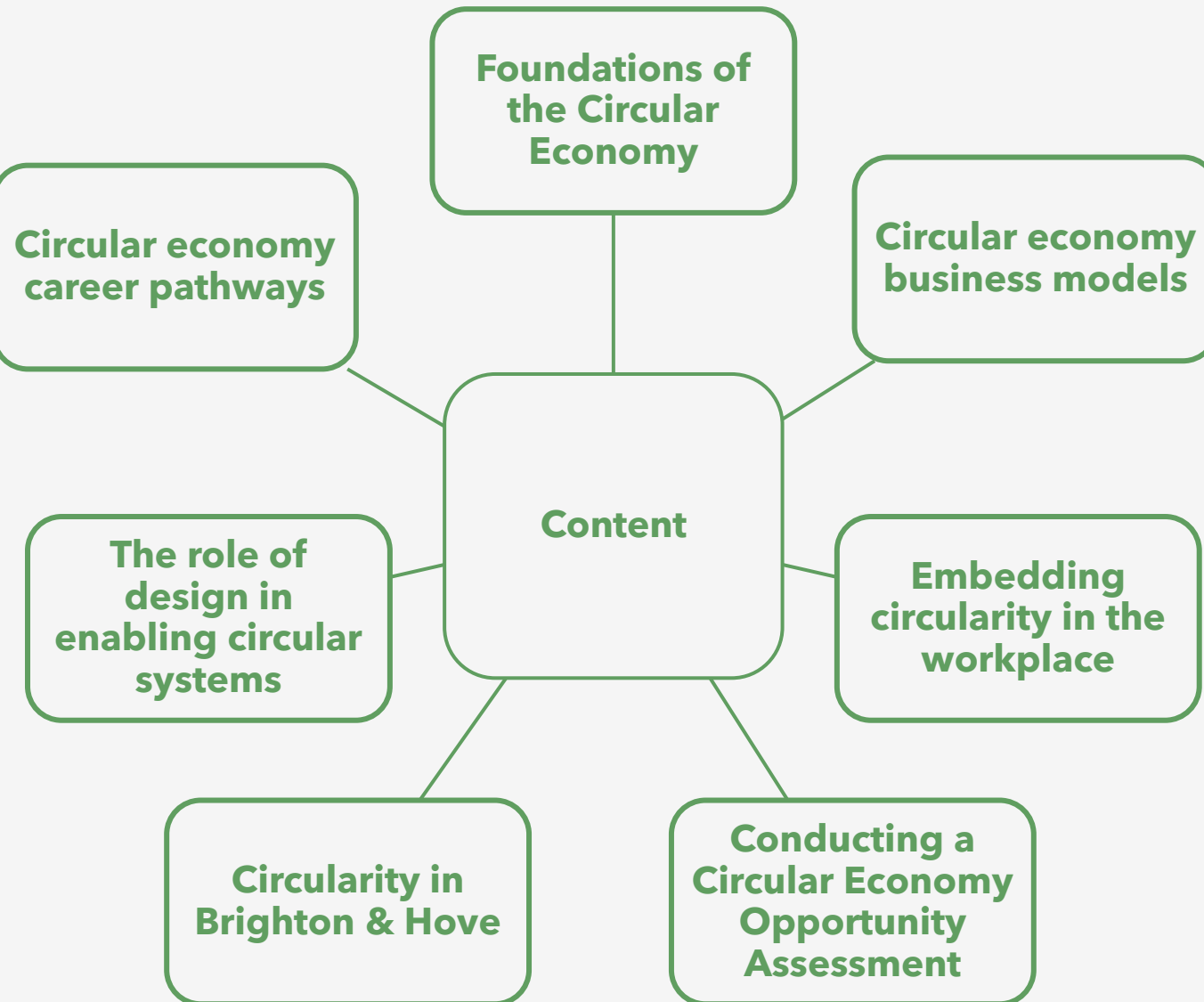


Peer-to-peer collaboration & knowledge sharing



One-to-one technical support & mentoring

You will gain a strong understanding of Circular Economy theory and practice across the following topics:



Accreditation

The Circular Economy Institute (CEI) is a global professional body and training organisation focused on the circular economy—helping people and organisations move from a “take-make-waste” linear model to one where resources are reused, repaired, and regenerated.

The Skills Bootcamp is accredited (pending) by the CEI, and learners will be trained and certified to CEI - ‘Trained Level’, giving you recognised credentials in this fast-growing field. In addition to receiving a certificate on successfully completing the Skills Bootcamp, learners will display the competencies required for CEI membership. Those wishing to join CEI will receive a 50% membership discount in year 1.

Eligibility & Cost

There are no formal academic requirements, but applicants must be:

- ✓ **aged 19 or over on or before 31 August 2025**
- ✓ **live in Brighton & Hove City**
- ✓ **are employed or self-employed**
- ✓ **have lived in the UK for at least the past three years**
- ✓ **not attended a Skills Bootcamp in the last 12 months**

The Skills Bootcamp is open to employees and self-employed individuals from all industries. No previous circular economy or sustainability experience is required. The Skills Bootcamp is ideal for complete beginners as well as professionals looking to upskill.

In line with Department for Education conditions, employers contribute to Skills Bootcamp costs:

- **Self-employed learners: Fully funded**
- **SME employer (fewer than 250 staff): £300 + VAT**
- **Large employer (250+ staff): £900 + VAT**

To be eligible for training, learners must show the impact of the Skills Bootcamp within six months of completion.

For employed learners: You need to demonstrate how your new circular economy skills are being applied in the workplace. This could include:

- **Taking on sustainability- or circular-focused responsibilities**
- **Expanding or moving into a role that uses your new skills**
- **Embedding circular economy practices and driving organisational change.**

For self-employed learners: Show how the Skills Bootcamp has helped you gain new contracts or business opportunities using your circular economy skills.

Next Steps – How to Apply

1. Talk to your employer

If you are employed, have a quick chat with your manager – you'll need their support to take part.

2. Register your interest

Complete the short registration form to let us know you are interested in joining.

3. Initial conversation

We will arrange a friendly chat to explain how the Skills Bootcamp works and check it aligns with your goals.

6. Attend the 10-week Skills Bootcamp

Take part weekly, building confidence and practical circular economy skills.

5. Create your learning plan

Together we will build an Individual Learning Plan, updated throughout the programme.

4. Full application

If it's a good fit, we'll guide you through the simple application process.

7. Measure your impact

At the end, we'll capture how the Skills Bootcamp has supported your progress, development, and impact.

8. Apply for Circular Economy Institute Membership

If you decide to, apply for membership - we will support you.

Register your interest and we will be in contact



Meet the Lead Trainers

SOENECS is a Sussex-based research, innovation, and consultancy practice specialising in the circular economy, waste management, and resource efficiency. They support organisations, local authorities, and communities to develop solutions that reduce environmental impact and enhance circularity.



Dr David Greenfield is Managing Director of SOENECS and a recognised leader in the circular economy with 25+ years' experience. David is current President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and member of the government's Circular Economy Taskforce, he drives regional and national initiatives, leads major training programmes, and co-founded Tech-Takeback to support reuse, innovation, and resource efficiency addressing the challenges of e-waste and digital exclusion. He is also Visiting Professor of Circular Economy at the University of Brighton.

Dr Ryan Woodard brings over 25 years' experience in waste management, circular economy research, and education. He has led teaching and learning programmes ranging from MSc course leadership, apprenticeships, through to community training initiatives in South African townships. With experience of completing over 60 waste and circular economy projects and authoring over 100 publications, Ryan is a leading practitioner connecting academic insight with real-world circular solutions.



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