



Stadt Winterthur



Call for Ideas for smart, circular cities



How can circular economy benefit smart cities or vice versa?

How can digitalization help perform the transformation to a successful circular economy?

How can innovative solutions for real challenges related to the circular economy and smart cities be developed?

How can radical ideas for sustainable urban development be generated to attract viable innovation?

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a key success factor because sustainable and intelligent solutions require the participation of a wide range of actors. The transition from a linear to a circular economy is just one piece of the puzzle towards a sustainable society. Cities and municipalities face various challenges, as the following three examples show.

logistics

So far, the traditional supply chain has worked according to the principle of delivery and management of the subsequent waste streams. Occasionally this is supplemented by some returns and recycling. In a circular economy, linear flows must be eliminated and various, sometimes complex, returns must be implemented. New business models will change the type and number of actors as well as the dynamics of flows. The question is: What an intelligent, resilient logistics network of a circular city could look like and which stakeholders would be involved.

digitalization

How can the integration of “smart” technologies (sensors, Internet of Things, data cloud) increase the circularity potential within cities and communities? The example of smart homes already shows how we can use technology to create digital copies that can optimize processes and make them more efficient. The aim here is to look at the possibilities of digitalization from the perspective of the circular economy and extend them to the area of cities.

energy

The current energy crisis shows how great the need for action is in the area of self-sufficient, intelligent energy supply. A clean, CO₂-neutral energy supply is the basis for making all processes within a city or community sustainable. Buildings, production facilities, mobility – a secure and decarbonized energy supply is necessary in all areas. Solutions must be developed as to how energy can be generated, used and stored intelligently and efficiently.

These and other challenges are looking for radical ideas for innovative solutions. Apply as an interdisciplinary team (implementation partner + research partner) with your idea with the chance of receiving funding of up to 25,000 CHF. (Deadline is the end of October 2023.)

Good luck!

[Link](#) to Application.