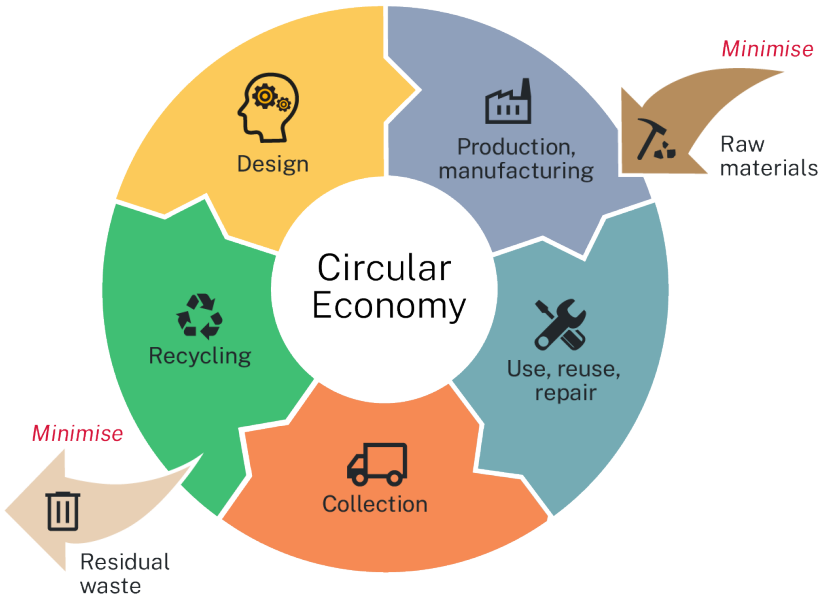


# Going circular in clean energy

## Issues paper FAQs

January 2023

Question	Answer
What is an issues paper?	An issues paper outlines a range of issues on which the Government seeks information and feedback. Issues papers are an important part of the government's engagement with industry and the community.
Why has this issues paper been prepared? What is the purpose?	<p>The NSW Government has released the <b><u>Going circular in clean energy</u></b> issues paper to understand how NSW can create more value from a circular clean energy sector.</p> <p>This paper aims to outline some of the issues NSW faces in progressing a circular economy for clean energy technologies. This paper does not propose solutions but aims to start a conversation to help us understand key barriers and opportunities to adopting a circular economy for clean energy.</p>
How can I provide feedback on the issues paper?	<p>To provide your feedback, complete the survey or upload a written submission on the NSW Climate and Energy Action webpage under <b><u>Going circular in clean energy</u></b>.</p> <p>The issues paper includes 6 questions to guide your feedback. You may wish to answer all or some of the questions. You may also wish to include feedback not directly related to the questions.</p> <p>The survey and written submissions to the issues paper are due by <b>2:00 pm AEDT Thursday 2 March 2023</b>.</p>
What will happen with my feedback?	<p>Your feedback will help the NSW Government understand key barriers and opportunities to adopting a circular economy for clean energy.</p> <p>It may also be used to inform the development of a circular economy plan for clean energy in NSW.</p> <p>All submissions will be made publicly available unless you specifically request otherwise.</p>
What is a circular economy?	The circular economy involves shifting away from a linear 'take, make, use and dispose' approach towards one that maximises the value of resources. This means instead of taking resources from the earth, using them once, and disposing of them in landfill, resources are kept in use and circulating through the economy for as long as possible.

Question	Answer
	<p>The circular economy is driven by three key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate waste and pollution</li> <li>• circulate and reuse products and materials (at their highest value)</li> <li>• regenerate nature.</li> </ul> <p>The figure below demonstrates the key elements of the circular economy.</p> 
<p>What is clean energy?</p>	<p>Clean energy comes from renewable energy sources like the sun, wind and water. Clean energy can be used on-site, transmitted to the grid and also stored in energy storage systems.</p> <p>In Australia, the main source of carbon emissions is energy production. We can reduce carbon emissions by using clean energy.</p>
<p>Why is a circular economy key for the transition to net zero?</p>	<p>A circular economy for clean energy technologies can provide benefits for NSW and support the transition to net zero. Scaling up clean energy is critical, however, it is vital that this transition is as environmentally sustainable as possible.</p> <p>Adopting a circular economy for clean energy technologies presents a significant opportunity for NSW to build new economic value across the supply chain while reducing waste, carbon emissions and impacts on our environment.</p> <p>While transitioning to a circular economy is not the only solution, it can play an important role in addressing some of the challenges with our clean energy transition.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>What are the types of clean energy technologies considered in this issues paper?</p>	<p>This paper covers issues related to the following clean energy generation and storage technologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• solar photovoltaics (solar)</li> <li>• wind</li> <li>• hydroelectricity</li> <li>• battery storage</li> <li>• electric vehicle (EV) batteries</li> <li>• pumped hydro energy storage (PHES)</li> <li>• green hydrogen.</li> </ul> <p>The scope includes all materials, equipment, and assets in clean energy developments involving the technologies listed above. This includes at residential, commercial and utility scale.</p> <p>The scope does not include bioenergy or energy from biomass sources. It does not include offsite supporting energy infrastructure, such as transmission lines and substations.</p>