10 circular investment opportunities for a resilient recovery

Built environment

Shaping a liveable, cost-effective, and low-carbon built environment

1. Renovation and upgrade of buildings
2. Building materials reuse and recycling infrastructure

Every **EUR 1** invested in energy-efficiency renovations can yield **EUR 5** in public finance returns.[1]

2 million energy-efficient homes = **2 million** new jobs

Retrofitting **2 million homes** for energy-efficiency could create nearly **2 million new jobs**.[3]

25%

Utilising recycled or reused steel for building construction could generate up to **25%** in material cost savings per tonne of steel.[2]

40%

The processing of recycled aggregates compared to virgin ones could reduce GHG emissions by **40%** or more.[4]

Mobility

Shaping an interconnected, low-carbon, and resilient mobility system

3. Multimodal mobility infrastructure
4. Automotive refurbishment, remanufacturing, and repair infrastructure

USD 1.6 trillion

Multimodal mobility systems could bring **USD 1.6 trillion** in benefits in **2030** for **China**, assuming 42% of all car kilometres were made by shared vehicles.[5]

70%

Multimodal mobility systems reduce **global** CO_2 emissions by **70%** or 0.4 billion tonnes of CO_2 in **2040**.[7]

120%

The remanufacturing of vehicle parts can increase skilled labour requirements by up to **120%**.[6]

10 million

The number of EVs on the road is expected to reach almost **10 million this year**, as sales grow despite the Covid-19 pandemic.[8]

Plastic packaging

Shaping a more competitive and less polluting plastic packaging industry where plastics are kept in circulation

5. Innovative reuse business models for plastic packaging
6. Plastic collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure

20% → **USD 10 billion**

Replacing just **20%** of single-use plastic packaging with reusable alternatives **globally** offers an economic opportunity worth at least **USD 10 billion**, while saving about **6 million tonnes** of material.[9]

Landfill jobs — **Recycling jobs** (20x)

The processing of recyclables can sustain about **20 times more** jobs than landfill, and plastic manufacturers making use of recycled materials, about **100 times more**.[10]

2018 → **2026**

Returnable packaging market projected to grow from **USD 37 billion** in **2018** to **USD 59 billion** by **2026** (across industries).[11]

one-third

Reducing growth in plastic production and consumption can avoid **one-third** of **global** projected plastic waste generation by **2040**.[12]

Fashion

Shaping a competitive and low-carbon fashion industry that promotes increased utilisation

7. Rental and resale business models for clothing
8. Clothing collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure

3,040 litres

Compared to buying new, one pre-owned purchase is said to save on average **1kg** of waste, **3,040 litres** of water, and **22kg** of CO_2.[13]

USD 100 billion

The lost value of textile waste amounting to more than **USD 100 billion** annually could be retained, by capturing and recirculating materials.[14]

2x by 2029

The secondhand market is projected to reach nearly **twice the size** of fast fashion by **2029**, with resale models expected to drive the increase (growth projected at **414%** in the next five years)[15]

71%

71% of customers are expressing a greater interest in circular business models, such as rental, resale, and refurbishment, as well as investing in higher quality apparel **following the pandemic**.[16]

Food

Shaping a resilient, healthy, and food-secure food system

9. Tools enabling farmers to shift to regenerative agricultural production
10. Food surplus and by-product collection, redistribution, and valorisation infrastructure

USD 2.3-3.5 trillion

Spending **USD 78–116 billion** (on accelerating the adoption of regenerative annual cropping) could save **USD 2.3-3.5 trillion** in lifetime operational costs.[17]

USD 700 billion

USD 700 billion in environmental costs caused by the food waste created in the current system could be avoided.[18]

72%

72% of Europeans have reported a greater willingness to put effort into healthier eating in the future.[19]

1.7 billion tonnes of CO_2

Reducing edible food surplus and increasing the composting of inedible by-products and green waste could save **1.7 billion tonnes** of CO_2 annually.[20]

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