

WORK THROUGH THIS LIST AND TICK OFF AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

01 OBSERVE AND INTERPRET THE CURRENT SYSTEM IN WHICH YOU ARE WORKING

- Understand how the system works, why it works that way, and where circular opportunities or unintended consequences may arise.
- Decide what's in the system: define system boundaries early to manage complexity, align the scope with the design brief, and identify clear entry points to begin mapping.
- Map the entire system by identifying material flows, exchanges, user journeys, and where waste occurs. Engage with key actors on their circular readiness and understand their aspirations. Understand which forces enable or resist change for a circular economy, and where activity is already underway.
- Ensure inclusive representation: involve diverse voices early (e.g. local businesses, citizens, or users) to surface needs, challenges, and hopes.

02 ENVISION CIRCULAR FUTURES

- Facilitate group workshops to explore transformative 'what if' scenarios that apply the circular principles (eliminate, circulate, regenerate). Think expansively and beyond today's linear reality.
- Use creative methods to communicate what circular futures could look like, across different scales (e.g. a city, a shop, a key user interaction) and for different actors (e.g. a user, a business, a community). Build shared purpose by highlighting circular design's transformative values, principles, and benefits for all.
- Ask the big questions to consider what might be needed to shift the current system. E.g. What no longer serves its purpose? What enablers need to be put in place? How do products or services need to be redesigned?
- Combine communication techniques — such as storytelling, animation, or experience design to develop powerful visions that create buy-in from individuals, teams, and organisations. Use techniques such as future building and prototyping to highlight the opportunities and potential obstacles, and force 'what next?' decisions.

03 CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR COLLABORATION

- Work with experienced facilitators to design the experiences and processes that can bring a shared mindset, e.g. design sprints or workshops to kickstart collaboration, facilitated by a design agency or an NGO.
- Define the roles of each contributor by identifying their strengths and leveraging their unique abilities in the project context. Ensure every individual is accountable for their contribution.
- Take different environments into account, such as cultural contexts, standards, and regulations across regions.
- Open up information beyond your network and look for others who are tackling similar challenges. Seed an ecosystem of reciprocity and an understanding that the more you put in, the more you get out.