



3R Portfolio

- Good Practices to Promote the 3Rs -

Country: China

Major Activities

1. Initiating the concept of circular economy with “3R” principle as its core and enhancing the awareness of decision-makers in governments at all levels, of corporate entities and the general public

Under the careful arrangements of State Environmental Protection Administration and relevant departments, an extensive publicity and education campaign has been launched in China to guide governments at all levels to introduce the concept of circular economy into the economic restructuring of their locality and into the improvement of regional environmental quality and to guide enterprises to integrate such concept into their production and environmental management. Moreover, series of reports and publicity on circular economy have been released by CCTV as well as numerous news medias. In addition, SEPA has altogether held dozens of training programs, symposiums and forums targeting government officials at all levels, corporate legal representatives and scholars since 2002.

2. Establishing and improving laws and policies on circular economy

The enactment of the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Promotion of Clean Production* in 2002 laid the legal foundation for fully enhancing the implementation of “3R” activities in enterprises. In the same year, the Chinese Government enacted the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on Environmental Impact Assessment* in a bid to tighten the control of environmental pollution and ecological damage of upper-stream economic activities. In 2004, the newly revised *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes* identified “3R” as the basic principle in the management of solid wastes. It also introduced the new system of extending producers’ responsibility in the management of major solid wastes and clearly defined the responsibility and policies of the central government in fostering and vigorously developing the resource recycling industry. In the field of saving and effectively using resource and energy, five major policies and laws have been issued one by one from 2004 including the *Mid and Long-Term Plan on Energy Saving* and the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on Renewable Energy*. It is predicted, according to the latest news, that the State Council will issue the *Guideline on the Promotion of the Development of Circular Economy* in the near future. Presently, relevant departments are working on the formulation of the *Regulations on the Recycling of Waste and Old Resources* and on related policies and technical standards for the recycling of e-wastes and great quantity of consumption wastes. Meanwhile, the issue of developing a *Basic Law on the Promotion of the Development of Circular Economy* has also attracted great attention from concerning parties.

3. Promoting trial and demonstrations of circular economy at local levels

The practice of circular economy in China mainly covers two areas of production and consumption including, in specific, the implementation of clean production, construction of eco-industrial parks, environmental labeling of products, certification of environmental

management system for enterprise, comprehensive usage of solid wastes, construction of energy-saving buildings, initiative on green service and consumption, the gradual improvement of such industries as eco-industry, eco-agriculture, recycling and decontamination of wastes. Up to now, almost 4000 enterprises across China have passed the examination of clear production, covering various industries including chemical-industry, light-industry, power industry, coal industry, mechanical industry and the industry of building material. Eight state-level environmentally-friendly enterprises have been honored, 13 national eco-industrial parks have been established, and 5 pilot sites of provinces or cities for the implementation of circular economy have been identified. Likewise, the implementation of circular economy has been a crucial component in the construction of 8 eco-demonstration provinces.

4. Carrying out study on the formulation of circular economy planning

Currently, the central government is actively working on the formulation of mid-term and long-term plans for the development of circular economy. It's of great significance to integrate the task of developing circular economy into the 11th Five-Year Plan on National Economy and Social Development both at the central and the local levels. Thirteen eco-industrial demonstration parks and five pilot sites of provinces or cities nationwide have developed the plan on ecological industry or circular economy.

5. Actively exploring international cooperation in the realm of circular economy

In recent years, China has listed circular economy as a new field of international cooperation on environment and development. Extensive exchange and cooperation have been carried out from the perspectives of the theory, laws and policies and practices of circular economy with developed countries including Japan and Germany.

6. Fostering professionals on the scientific and technological study on circular economy

The Chinese Government has attached great importance to the development of relevant institutions on clean production examination and the fostering of such professionals. Up to now, over 40 industrial or local clean production centers have been set up across the whole country. The National Clean Production Center has held over 600 clean production training courses serving over 20,000 trainees, among which about 2000 are external examination staff on clean production. SEPA has also set up a national key lab of eco-industry for environmental protection for relevant study on circular economy. Presently, a great number of universities and institutions also start their research work on circular economy.

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