



EU-China Circular Economy Action Project

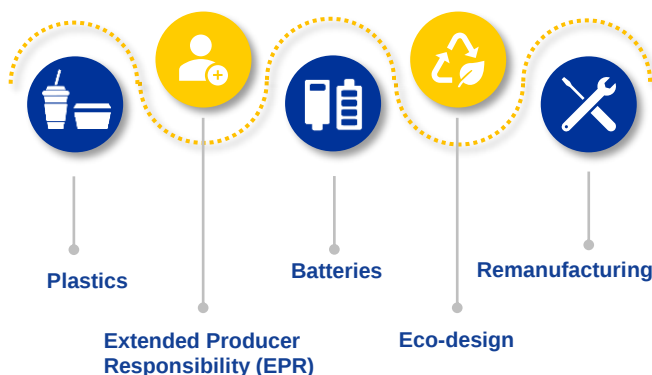
Background

There is only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three. The transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources, create sustainable growth and jobs, and is necessary to achieve the European Union's and China's climate target and to halt biodiversity loss. Against the background of the triple planetary crisis, European Union (EU) and China have a mutual interest and important role in promoting circular economy. The "EU-China Circular Economy Action Project is an important tool to support the EU-China High-Level Policy Dialogue on Circular Economy and the EU-China Circular Economy Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018.

The **EU-China Roadmap on Circular Economy**, established under the Memorandum, was launched in 2024, with its progress to be reviewed during the High-Level Dialogue on Circular Economy. The roadmap priorities for 2024 identified three key sectors: plastics, batteries, and remanufacturing.

The implementation of this project is largely guided by the framework outlined in the roadmap, while also aiming to advance the effectiveness of the EU's circular economy actions in China, with a particular focus on key areas.

Focal Topics of the Project



Partner Country	China
Volume	EUR 2,758,489 EUR 2,500,000 (EU contribution); EUR 258,489 (BMUV contribution)
Political Partner	National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China
Duration	January 2024 to December 2026 (36 months)
Implementing Partner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Chinese Partner	China Association of Circular Economy (CACE)

Our Impact and Approaches

The objective of this project is to engage in technical exchange and support high-level dialogues between the EU and China to jointly tackle global challenges, particular in the area of circular economy, and promote circularity in products and processes in China.

By the end of 2026, the project aims to:

- **Facilitate exchanges and foster understanding** between key stakeholders in China and the EU on the circular economy within key value chains of focal topics, by supporting high-level dialogues and providing platforms for exchanges between government and industry.
- **Enhance EPR scheme** for selected products and waste streams in China by proposing innovative EPR schemes and piloting proposed feasible solutions.
- **Advance the practices** of circular design, sustainable consumption and production in areas of plastics, batteries and remanufacturing, by showcasing pilot projects with advanced design concepts and practical expertise.
- **Increase awareness among public authorities and consumers** about the sustainable production and consumption, through targeted educational campaigns for different audiences.

Comparison of Key Circular Economy Legislations Between the EU and China on Focused Topics

Both the EU and China have solid legal and policy foundations in the field of circular economy and its key sectors, with corresponding strategic development plans for the relevant industries. Within the framework of these policies, this project will focus on promoting cooperation between the EU and China, fostering mutual understanding and knowledge exchange.

EU	China
Circular Economy (CE)	
- <u>New Circular Economy Action Plan</u> (March 2020), one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal	- CE as one of ten actions included in the <u>Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peaking before 2030</u> - <u>14th Five-Years-Plan on Circular Economy Action Plan</u> - <u>Action Plan for Promoting Large-scale Equipment Renewal and Trade-ins of Consumer Goods</u>
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	
- Regulatory framework for packaging, battery, plastics and electronic waste - <u>Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)</u>	- EPR scheme included in the <u>Law on the Prevention of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste</u> - <u>Pilot</u> on electronic devices, vehicle, battery, and beverage carton
Plastics	
- <u>Plastic strategy</u> - <u>Directive on single-use plastics</u> - <u>Proposal for a Regulation on packaging and packaging Waste</u> - <u>Policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics</u>	- <u>Opinion on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution</u> - <u>14th Five-Years-Plan on Plastic Pollution Treatment Action Plan</u> - <u>Policy on the Establishment of Waste Recycling System</u>
Batteries	
- <u>New Batteries Regulation</u> - <u>Regulation - rules on capacity labelling of portable secondary (rechargeable) and automotive batteries and accumulators</u> - <u>Regulation - rules on calculating recycling efficiencies of the recycling processes of waste batteries and accumulators and guidelines on applying this Regulation</u>	- <u>Interim Administrative Measures for the Recycling and Utilisation of EV Batteries of New Energy Vehicles</u> - <u>Regulations for the Management of New Energy Vehicle Manufacturers and Product Access</u> - <u>Administrative Measures for the Comprehensive Utilisation of EV Batteries for New Energy Vehicles</u>
Remanufacturing	
- Important component of a resource efficient manufacturing industry - EU's initiatives including <u>Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency</u>	- <u>Opinion on Promoting the Development of Remanufacturing Industry</u> - <u>Interim Measures for the Standardized Management of Automotive Parts and Components Remanufacturing</u>

Our Achievements and Beyond

Highlights so far	Future Activities
 EU-China Workshops on “Transition to a Circular Economy” - EU and China's approaches and the role of the plastics sector - May 2024 - Experience and cooperation prospects between China and the EU in battery recycling - October 2024 - EU-China Workshop on remanufacturing - February 2025	 Support the EU-China High-Level Policy Dialogue on Circular Economy
 Pilot Projects - Industry research and concept proposals aimed at exploring and advancing the EPR schemes in applicable sectors, such as packaging, vehicles, textiles, and wind turbine blades - Pilot project proposals for the demonstration of scalable solutions to promote circularity in the plastics, batteries, and remanufacturing sectors	 Pilot feasible solutions to improve EPR scheme and eco-design for the selected products and waste streams
 Policy Research - Policy analysis on <i>China's roadmap towards circular economy</i> and on the <i>State Council's “Action Plan for Promoting Large-Scale Equipment Renewals and Trade-ins of Consumer Goods”</i> - Policy news updates on China's latest regulatory, technological and industrial developments in the field of circular economy	 Identify pilot projects with practices in cooperation with industrial stakeholders, with evaluating and sharing best circularity practices for future growth
	 Drive educational campaigns to raise the public and consumers' awareness on sustainable consumption, and organise study tours for policymakers to explore European circular economy policies and practices
	 Provide quarterly policy analysis and updates , keeping stakeholders informed of the latest trends and developments in circular economy policy

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