

# **RETRACTED:** Recycling in Textile Sector: A New Circular Economy Approach Towards Ecology and Environmental Sustainability

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Liu X, Wang S, Li Y, Ali S, Khan YA, Salem S and Huang X (2022) Recycling in Textile Sector: A New Circular Economy Approach Towards Ecology and Environmental Sustainability. Front. Environ. Sci. 10:929710. doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2022.929710 Sustainable supply chain management techniques have been developed over the last several decades to reduce accidental environmental damage during production and buying. Certifying a practical connection between ecosystems and economic development, circular economies push the limits of environmental sustainability. There are two types of rebound effects in the studied business. The impacts of circular business models and strategies are examined and put in a broader framework to get a better understanding of their role in the transition. In order to put transitory changes in a system perspective, this work approach to the problem in new way. Rebound effects and designing an eco-effective transition are discussed as theory-building elements. We conclude by suggesting several future research directions.

Keywords: environmental sustainability, manufacturing, circular economies, business models, ecosystem, textile industries

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

To make textiles we use a wide range of materials from cotton to wool to silk to synthetics like nylon and polyester. (Chatfield, 1978; Holt, 2004). Cotton is grown and dyed with water (Chatfield, 1978; Lynwood et al., 1990; Holt, 2004; Mahmoud et al., 2007; Ramesh Babu et al., 2007; Gelper et al., 2010; Imtiazuddin et al., 2012; Saiful, 2014). Workers have to deal with issues including a hazardous work environment and low pay (Mahmoud et al., 2007; Imtiazuddin et al., 2012; Saiful, 2014). A total of 46,400 million euros (Singh et al., 2009) was spent on clothing and textiles in Europe in 2015. In contrast, the finishing process is the primary source of air pollution in the material region. Pesticides, composts, and dyes are used in the fiber production process to harm the environment (Rauch and Harremoës, 1996; Zhu et al., 2002; Brooks and Rose, 2006; Brooks, 2009; Thompson, 2017). Additionally, it produces 1.2 billion tons of  $CO_2$  every year, which is greater than the total emissions of all worldwide air and sea traffic. The burning of fossil fuel is main cause of  $CO_2$ emissions (Elahi et al., 2021a; Elahi et al., 2022) which ultimately causes climate change (Elahi et al., 2021b). Machine washing and drying appear to have the highest carbon impact on clothing. Accordingly, it is a good opportunity to examine the possibilities of a circular economy and its reception (DePaoli, 2015; Durham et al., 2015; McKinsey Sustainability, 2016; Walter, 2016; CircleEconomy, 2017; Eder-Hansen et al., 2017). As global volatility increases and evidence of resource depletion grows, the call for a new economic paradigm grows stronger. Increasingly, businesses are looking into ways to repurpose products and components in order to make better use of the valuable resources, energy, and labor they consume. (Koszewska, 2011; Payne and Muthu, 2015; Eder-Hansen et al., 2017; Pomponi and Moncaster, 2017; Prieto-Sandoval et al., 2018).

On the other hand, over the course of the past 10 years developing consideration has been paid overall to the new idea and advancement model of Circular Economy, CE, with the mean to give a superior option in contrast to the prevailing monetary improvement model, purported "take, make and arrange" (Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2012). The adverse consequences brought about by the last option are compromising the steadiness of the economies and the trustworthiness of regular environments that are fundamental for humankind's endurance. Up until this point a wide range of CE studies (contextual analyses, audits, logical reports, and so forth) have been distributed overall. An enormous number of these examinations concern the execution of CE in China. This nation appears to be unequivocally dedicated and drawn in by roundabout economy (CE) due to the tremendous natural, human wellbeing and social issues presented by its actual fast and persistent financial improvement design.

The idea of circular economy follows back to various ways of thinking. The natural market analysts (Korhonen et al., 2018) fundamentally presented the idea of round monetary framework expanding on past investigations of environmental financial specialist (Glass, 1976). Boulding's concept of economy as circular framework is viewed as an essential for the support of the supportability of human existence on Earth (a shut framework with basically no trades of tssue with the external climate). In their hypothetical structure (Korhonen et al. 2018), make sense of the shift from the conventional open-finished financial framework to the round monetary framework as a result of the law of thermodynamics, that direct matter and energy debasement. As per these inventers, three monetary elements of the climate can be recognized: arrangement of assets, life emotionally supportive network, sink for waste and outflows. Like other financial capacities, these three fundamental capacities ought to have a cost. Most frequently, nonetheless, there is neither a cost nor a business opportunity for ecological merchandise (like air and water quality, public products) regardless of whether they have an unmistakable worth or utility for people and social orders. Different strategy blends, including guidelines, financial instruments (for example ecological charges) or deliberate measures intended to completely incorporate the externalities (for example, maker's liability) into the cost of items, administrations or exercises were intended to support a superior use and preservation of assets, relief of natural burden as well as advancement of a progress to CE designs (Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2012; Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013; Ghisellini et al., 2016; Blomsma and Brennan, 2017).

Foundations of CE are additionally found in General Systems Theory (Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2012) and Industrial Ecology. Past the Newtonian perspective on "coordinated straightforwardness" (Ghisellini et al., 2016), proposed all life forms be considered as frameworks, the primary trademark being connections among their parts (Blomsma and Brennan, 2017). Specifically, the connection among associations and their surroundings should be visible as the principal wellspring of intricacy and reliance and frequently the entire has properties that can't be known from examination of the constituent components in seclusion (Blomsma and Brennan, 2017), as the entire decides the way of behaving of the parts and not the other way around (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013). As an outcome, the way of behaving of a financial specialist or association ought to be explored inside the frameworks of monetary connections of different specialists in the economy (Kirchherr et al., 2017). General Systems Theory (GST) in this manner advances comprehensive quality, framework thinking, intricacy, hierarchical learning and human asset improvement (Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2012; Blomsma and Brennan, 2017; Kirchherr et al., 2017), all to be viewed as significant premises of CE. Modern nature, IE, arose contrary to the ongoing origination that ecological effects of modern frameworks ought to be concentrated by keeping separate the source "modern framework" and the receptor of the effects, "the climate". Modern Ecology presented an alternate point of view by investigating the modern framework and its current circumstance as a joint environment described by streams of material, energy and data as well as by arrangement of assets and administrations from the Biosphere [96]. Subsequently, IE comprises of three points of support (Huque, 1988): the initial two are scientific and strategic, mostly planning to get a handle on data on: "how the modern framework works, the way things are managed, and its association with the biosphere" (Lane, 2013) and about its modern digestion (Gopalakrishnan and Ganeshkumar, 2013), while the third one is proactive (Deeks et al., 2011), as IE can be utilized by organizations to work on their exhibitions or then again by strategy producers for fostering a guide to a more feasible turn of events (Glass, 1976; Huque, 1988; Gopalakrishnan and Ganeshkumar, 2013; Lane, 2013). At the premise of such improvement, notwithstanding a superior protection of virgin materials, a focal job concerns fitting waste administration and its coordination into the modern creation network as both material and energy source (Glass, 1976). Modern environment advances the change from open to shut patterns of materials and energy along these lines prompting less inefficient modern cycles (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013; Ghisellini et al., 2016; Blomsma and Brennan, 2017). The round economy expands on IE's ideas for the investigation of modern frameworks activity (modern digestion) and improvement (Glass, 1976), increasing them to an economy wide framework to lay out another model of financial turn of events, creation, dissemination and recuperation of items (Lane, 2013). In CE, items and cycles are updated to boost the worth of assets through the economy with the aspiration to decouple monetary development and asset use (Ritchie et al., 2020).

CE has most frequently been viewed as just as a way to deal with more fitting waste administration. Such extremely restricted perspective might lead CE to fizzle, in that some reusing, reuse or

recuperation choices may either be not proper in a given setting while rather fitting different circumstances and, more than that, some transformation choices in view of green science and biotechnology might turn out to be significantly costlier and affecting than the traditional innovation tended to, which calls for counteraction more than treatment. With everything taken into account, the test ahead towards a safeguard and regenerative ecomodern turn of events (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013) is anything but a "business as usual" approach, calling for expanded execution of "green" advancements, however rather requires a more extensive and substantially more thorough glance at the plan of fundamentally elective arrangements, over the whole life pattern of any cycle as well as at the cooperation between the interaction and the climate and the economy where it is installed, so the recovery is not just material or energy recuperation yet rather turns into an improvement of the whole residing and monetary model contrasted with past the same old thing economy and asset the executives. CE can possibly comprehend and execute profoundly new examples and assist society with arriving at expanded supportability and prosperity at low or no material, energy and ecological expenses.

At last, it ought not be dismissed that supportability designs (like CE) require creative ideas as well as inventive entertainers. Truth be told, because of the intricacy of the economic improvement vision, most frequently its execution should be upheld by development originators and mediators.

Sustaining the textile industry has been the subject of several research (Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2012; Ghisellini et al., 2016; Blomsma and Brennan, 2017). Circular economy approaches are urgently needed to fight the detrimental consequences of the fashion industry on the environment (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013). This is a hot issue right now in the literary world. In today's "take-make-dispose" economy, which efficiency-enhancing measures are most effective? Are there financial advantages to a restorative approach? Progress in understanding of the idea, secondly. Its objectives are: find out whether a powered solution can be developed to increase production without affecting the environment.

# 2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Meta-Analysis

Gene Glass defined meta-analysis as "the statistical investigation of a large collection of individual research outcomes" with the goal of combining the information. Analyzing many studies is referred to by Glass as meta-analysis. Because "meta" in Greek means "after," the scope of a meta-analysis extends much beyond a single study (Hernandez et al., 2020). Statistics that incorporate the results of many investigations that have been determined to be combinable, as defined by Huque. Generally, statisticians and social scientists were the first to actively create methods for dealing with large amounts of data. Meta-analysis is a technique for integrating and assessing the results of several investigations. Even in times of low interest, it still has difficulty operating (Graziano and Trogal, 2017). (Graziano and Trogal, 2017) The use of meta-analysis is widespread in the fields of

social science and health as well as criminology, psychology, and business. An average of the data from a large number of related studies is used to determine if there is any disagreement between two populations (Vinsel, 2017; Isenhour and Reno, 2019). It is critical to obtain study results since they may be used as a benchmark for future studies. Human studies are frequently tainted by bias and lacking sufficient power (Baumann, 2017). In addition, in the scientific world, new therapies might be difficult to implement, therefore publicizing results is critical. Researchers have a tough time classifying studies that yield inconsistent results. For review research, meta-analysis provides a useful framework for identifying comparable variables from related studies and integrating available effect data. Data must be combined into an overall effect, thus it is critical to do that first.

# 2.2 Statistical Approaches for Meta-Analysis Techniques

Inverse variance, Laird, Mantel-Haenszel, Peto and Der Simonian are a few of the statistical approaches for meta-analysis. The Peto, Inverse Variance, and Mantel-Haenszel techniques are used in the fixed effects model (ECAP, 2017; COHDA, 2018). Study variances can be estimated using these methods. For example, a random-effects model describes a distribution, where the overall impact is represented by its mean, but the particular study-level effects are represented by their variance (Spineli and Pandis, 2020b). Odds ratios can be used in IV and MH models, which use inverse variance. The odds ratio, risk differential, and relative risk should all be included, as should mean differences (standardized and weighted) (ECAP, 2017). The Mantel-Haenszel (MH) approach, on the other hand, is superior when there are few data points. Odds ratios can also be combined using the Peto method. However, DerSimonian and Laird's techniques may be avoided when dealing with unusual situations (Elahi et al., 2022).

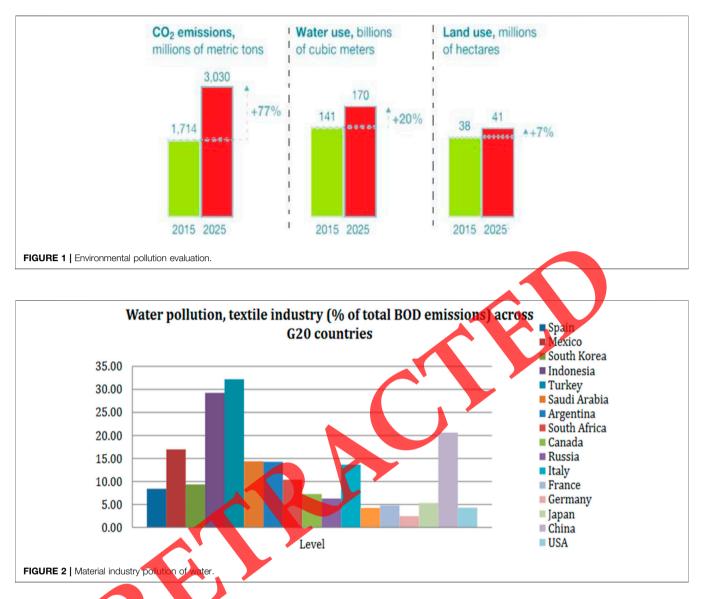
A random-effects meta-analysis is used in this investigation. That is to say, a historical timeline of protein-based fiber advancements was compiled based on current and archival journal articles and patents, and compared to important worldwide social and technological events. Using recycled and repurposed textile fibers, this re-generation of value contributes to a circular economy. In addition, the references section contains a list of all the works consulted in developing the meta-analysis random-effect model.

# **3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

There are multiple subheadings in this section. It should detail the results of the experiment, the interpretation of those results, and the experimental conclusions that may be drawn.

# **3.1 Environment Protection and Industrial Revolution**

The effects of endocrine disruptors include developmental delays, cancer, and neurological issues (Kirchherr et al., 2017; Korhonen et al., 2018; Glass, 1976). We don't know



the long-term health effects of heavy metals or chemicals used in the creation of technological textiles (**Figure 1**). Through clothing and physical contact, the end user is continually exposed to these compounds (Huque, 1988; Gopalakrishnan and Ganeshkumar, 2013; Lane, 2013). On the other hand, textile workers are routinely exposed to pollutants that are harmful to individuals and the environment alike because of their employment. As a result, fashion is now one of the most polluting sectors. Adidas, (via H&M and Gap) have all agreed to reduce their carbon footprint. Goals include eliminating  $CO_2$  emissions by 2050 and achieving 100 percent renewable energy in 2030 through the "Fashion Pact."

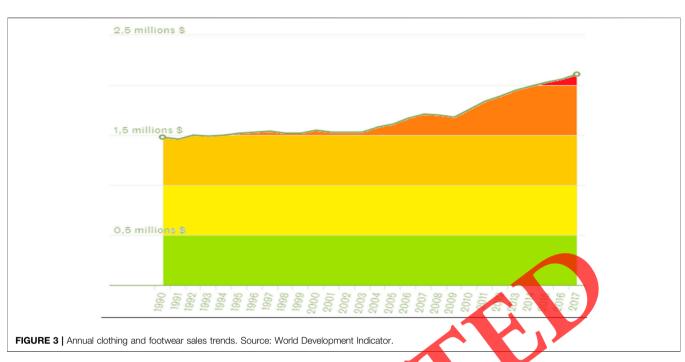
During the period from 1996 to 2012, EU clothes purchases grew by 40%. New clothing purchases in Europe totaled 6.4 million tons in 2015 (Aldieri and Vinci, 2020). This consuming frenzy has grown in recent years, according to a green peace. Increased environmental effects may be seen in **Figures 2**, **3**.

# **3.2 Textile Recycling as an Eco-Friendly Alternative**

Textile recycling is a smart business decision that also benefits the environment. Various recycling methods, such as mechanical and chemical recycling, are demonstrated in this research.

# 3.2.1 Chemical Recycling

Regeneration of synthetic and chemical fibers is achieved by chemical recycling. Disintegration into molecules and repolymerization to form new fibers is occurring in textiles. This would allow them to displace natural fibers. Recent developments enable the manipulation of cellulose fibers. In Europe, there is a shortage of chemical recycling. Today's recycling practices have a short useful life cycle and do not protect the environment. A future eco-system was deemed to be lacking in chemical and mechanical recycling. We thus require new approaches to the circular economy.



#### 3.2.2 Mechanical Recycling

Recovery of fibers after mechanical treatment is most frequent. Step 1: Unraveling produces shorter than virgin fibers, limiting

outlets to textile techniques. In addition. Step 2: Compounding fabrics and shoes into small pieces of

powdering them. Finally.

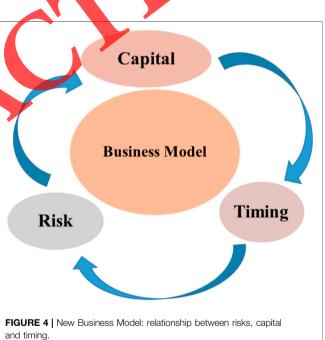
Step 3: De-fabrication enables long fiber recovery new textiles woven or knitted.

## 3.3 Extension of the Duration of Use

The environmental impact of textile production and transportation is the greatest. Reduce the need to buy new clothing by making better use of what you already own. In Europe, the average lifespan of a garment was 3.3 years in 2015 (Benitta Christy and DrKavitha, 2014; Global Opportunity Explorer, 2017; Wang et al., 2020). The longevity of a garment is determined by the quality of the materials used. Some firms stand behind their products and so assume responsibility for the quality of the textiles they sell. Reconditioned clothing is even guaranteed by some. A multi-purpose clothing saves you money by removing the need for multiple purchases. (Deo, 2001; Soundri, 2014). Technology is fueling the growth of the resale market for secondhand apparel. France is home to a 58 percent resale rate for TLC, and 6 out of every 10 French people own a used one. Many opportunities for textile sector re-invention were presented by environmental concerns.

## 3.4 New Business Models

The percentage of clothing that is worn before it is thrown away has decreased by 36% in the last several years, and the circular economy may analyze this quality. In terms of manufacturing and creative design, the business model promotes consistency and tends to ensure the risk, money, and time links depicted in the image. Considering the necessary enablers, such as eco-system



emphasis and new methods to share the value among their contributors, such as their users, would be a priority for them (UN Transforming Our World, 2015). Company design, the final step, is critical for ensuring high-quality products and services.

Innovation and competitiveness in the energy sector might benefit from new business models (Zhong et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2021). Fun-based business models (Bi, 2011; Joung et al., 2013; EU Sustainable, 2020). Once a product or service has been sold to a consumer, the business model determines how the money is distributed. Investments, income, and risk allocation are all



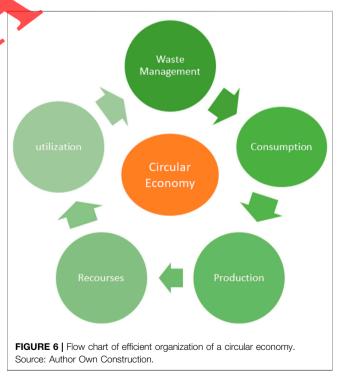
examples of this. By offering repair services, retailers may encourage customers to retain their items for extended periods of time. Emotional durability of textiles is improved by this method (Brown et al., 1987; Paraschiv et al., 2015; Nathalie et al., Customization, stitching, and up cycling are all skills that certain businesses may teach their employees (Marie and Quiasrawi, 2012; VanStijn and Gruis, 2012). Innovative marketing tactics incorporate customers into product development in order to boost customer attachment and product life span. These unique company ideas require financial aid to grow as illustrated in Figure 4. A variety of methods are used to wear, sell, exchange, mend, and reuse clothing. Aside from environmental advantages, these programs offer extra local activities and possibilities for sociability within the community. Understanding customers' wants and demands is the key to maximizing profits. Those in charge of allocating resources must adapt to these dramatic shifts in consumption.

# 3.5 Actors of Change

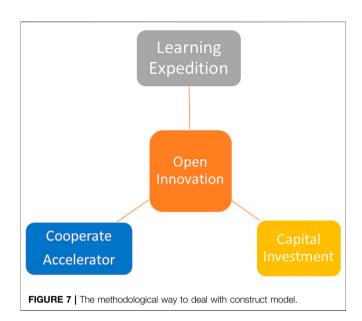
In addition, for both public and private participants, modifying connections and investments may have an ecological impact, which is visualized in **Figure 5**.

#### 3.5.1 Public Actors

Textiles' environmental implications are becoming more and more important to public actors. In order to do this, they rely on detailed plans or roadmaps that outline specific objectives backed by financial resources. The European circular economy package,



which was agreed in May 2018 (ECAP, 2017; Eco TLC, 2017; Green Peace International, 2017), stipulates that a textile collection be established by 2025. Initiatives such as the European Clothing



Action Plan (ECAP) are also supported by the EU. Governments have the power to influence the market in order to reward highperforming employees. Taxes are used to stimulate the production and repair of clothing that can be recycled. Limits like required assurances (Ellen Macarthur, 2017; Eco TLC, 2018) may be imposed by legal advantage The circular economy roadmap in France calls for a plan to eliminate clothing waste by 2019 (ECAP 2017; Green Peace International, 2017; VanStijn and Gruis, 2019). Human rights, fundamental freedoms, health and safety, and the environment must be monitored by businesses' subcontractors since 2017. A regulatory framework impacting data collectors and their authorizations is established by each state.

#### 3.5.2 Private Performers

Brands are essential to the prove to a circular economy. Only 4% of marketers have clearly defined circular economy goals and 23% have established collection operations, according to EcoTLC study. When it comes to promoting longer product lifespans, responsible consumption, and responsible shopping, brands lead the way. Fast fashion companies have a vested interest in joining the conversation because of the pressures on resources. Among the companies that have pledged to use only eco-friendly cotton by 2020 are H&M and banana republic.

#### 3.6 Circular Economy

Reduced waste and longer life spans for environmental resources can be achieved by the use of CE (Stål and Corvellec, 2018; Cherry and Pidgeon, 2018; Stål and Jansson, 2017). According to the theory, programmers at every stage of the value chain can boost productivity and uptake, hence reducing waste and the need for excessive extraction of resources. The employment market gains from a decrease in demand for natural resources and energy, rather than the environment. It is easy to lose track of the notion while we're referring to it. We can get to this CE by focusing on current and proposed policies and solutions. Applicability at various points in the supply chain. The Circular Economy relies heavily on cross-sector cooperation. Every stakeholder must agree on the same strategy in order to meet measurable goals. Scaling current technology requires a new ecosystem of innovators. The interactive technique is used by a large number of firms. Businesses may use the tool to compare their own performance to that of their rivals and prioritize their workloads. Employers may benefit from the errors of other businesses while making more money. Figure 6: The circular economy as a path for efficient businesses Ecosystem service value, a bio-based economy, and renewable energy are all part of the circular economy. However, each of them poses a unique set of challenges to efforts to safeguard biodiversity. More research is needed into how biodiversity and a circular economy interact, and advocates of the concept should be clear about its limitations, pointing out the necessity for intersecting and complementing policies (Marie and Quiasrawi, 2012; VanStijn and Gruis, 2019).

# 3.7 Multifaceted Innovation Centers

It was necessary to share resources including space, training, mentorship, and more in order to develop innovation centers and corporate startup accelerators, successful business models may be created and relevant goods and services can be developed in a short period of time using client input (Ellen Macarthur, 2017; Eco TEC, 2018). Entrepreneurs, startups, and corporate innovation teams must collaborate to establish an innovation unit and network if they are to achieve their greatest outcomes. The criteria and committees for these excellent programs (ECAP, 2017; Eco TEC, 2017; Ellen Macarthur, 2017; Green Peace International, 2017; Eco TLC, 2018) are also critical. Despite their differences, their problems may be related. Various initiatives and shared mentors or sponsors to assist entrepreneurs might build on this base.

# 4 CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Sustainability in supply chain management strategies has been explored since the late 1990s. Circular economies generate affordability in ecosystems and GDP. Reflection effects may be found in a variety of industries, including research. Research on the environmental impact of circular business models and strategies is conducted in a more comprehensive manner. Sustainability can be tackled while keeping the fashion industry's uniqueness: innovation, design and user well-being are all supported by the powered circular economy.

The industry is being pushed to explore new business structures and technologies that have the potential to profoundly transform the way we generate and consume content. Allies are drawn in by a variety of complementing action scales. To limit resource extraction and close the loop, large-scale worldwide trials are necessary. For the sake of people and the environment, research findings must be compared and used to formulate policy. As a result of the authors' findings, it is suggested that further study be conducted on how bio-diversity interacts with the circular economy, and that circular economy proponents admit their own concepts' limits.

# **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

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