



30/4/20

48 HOUR ONLINE CHALLENGE on CIRCULAR ECONOMY May 16 – 17, 2020

ECOWEEK organizes its first **online event**. Experts in the field of **Circular Economy** will share their expertise and work around the globe, and will engage participants in a hands-on design challenge. ECOWEEK events are an opportunity to meet professionals, and network with peers from around the world.

ECOWEEK will host **Jan Jonjert** and **Lizanne Dirkx** of **Superuse**, **The New Raw**, **MOR** team of **TU Delft**, **Democritus Center for Scientific Research**, and **Benjamin Gill** of **Bioregional**. All leading professionals in the field of Sustainable Design, Design for Disassembly, Internet of Things and Material banks, aim to optimize circular construction practices, environmentally friendly spaces and materials, and reuse of resources in the construction chain.

Why Circular Economy?

“In the current global circumstances and looking ahead to the opportunities after the COVID-19 crisis, we must be looking to balance between sustainable economy and environmental and social sustainability. Within this context ECOWEEK launches its first online event”, explains architect Dr. Elias Messinas, ECOWEEK founding chairman and coordinator who is leading one of the workshops with Despoina Kouinoglou. ‘ECOWEEK brings together **professionals** and **students of Architecture, Design, Landscape Architecture**, and other disciplines for a stimulating, educating and empowering challenge on Circular Economy’ he adds.

The building industry is responsible for the use of up to 40% of produced energy, up to 40% of the materials produced globally and about 35% of the world’s waste. Current and future advancements show that the request for natural resources will rise three times in 2050. The main reasons are the global economic growth and the increase of the world population which has already reached 7.5 billion.

In order to create a sustainable, clean and safe living environment for future generations, a change has to be made in the way we design and build our buildings and our cities. For example, according to EU waste legislation, European countries are aiming to a recovery target of construction and demolition waste up to 70%. This requires a fundamental shift in the current practices, an increase in the quality and quantity of recycling and reuse of construction and demolition materials, and a move from Linear Economy (Produce-Use-Waste) to a Circular Economy in construction (Produce-Use-Reuse).

ECOWEEK is a non-profit organization with the mission to raise environmental awareness and to promote the principles of social and environmental sustainability through design. Since 2005, ECOWEEK has developed programs in 17 countries and a network in 56 countries. ECOWEEK workshops develop site-specific projects based on sustainable design, green buildings, and placemaking.

ECOWEEK Online team: Despoina Kouinoglou, Margarita Kyanidou, Eleni Mantika, Vicky Panagiotidou, Sofia Passia and Pavlos Symianakis. Contact ecowee@ecowee.online More details at www.ecowee.online