

Large-Area Electronics and the Circular Economy



Speakers and panelists include:



For the first time at innoLAE, we will be running a session dedicated to exploring the issues of LAE and the circular economy.

The circular economy is an economic model which provides an alternative to the traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) - aiming to keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value whilst in use and then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

Ref: <http://www.wrap.org.uk>

Society, governments and businesses are increasingly aware of the need to shift the design, manufacture and end-of-life treatment of products towards a more sustainable, circular model. This provides a timely opportunity for the LAE community to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the circular economy for our industry. On the first day of the conference [Marco Meloni](#), research analyst at the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), will set the scene by delivering a keynote presentation introducing the circular economy.

The workshop will take place on the second day, providing attendees the opportunity to explore the topic further with examples and discussion specific to LAE. The workshop includes expert input from Veolia, a leading player in the waste management industry, and presentations from the LAE research and industrial communities addressing emerging research in the field and presenting an industry initiative to identify the sustainability benefits of LAE in comparison to conventional electronics. The session will conclude with a panel discussion of key issues raised by the session and questions from the audience. This workshop is suitable for any and all conference attendees – researchers, academics, manufacturers, designers and decision makers.

Current speakers include:

- Chris Rider, director of the EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Large-Area Electronics, will be chairing the workshop.
- Clement Gaubert, WEEE Scheme Manager at [Veolia](#), will provide details of the current end-of-life processes for conventional electronics, and how flexible electronics could be handled.
- Sophie Verstraelen, Project Manager at the [Organic and Printed Electronics Association \(OE-A\)](#), will present what the industry is currently doing to address sustainability, and introduce the aims and activities of the OE-A Sustainability Working Group.
- Gillian Ewers, VP Marketing at [PragmatlC](#), will introduce PragmatlC's FlexlC technology for NFC applications and will present their thinking on end-of-life issues and opportunities for FlexlCs.
- Danick Briand, Team Leader of the EnviroMEMS, Energy and Environmental group at [Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne \(EPFL\)](#), will provide a research perspective on progress and challenges facing the production of biodegradable electronic materials and latest results from biomining efforts to recuperate metals deposited on paper and bio-polymers.
- Marco Meloni, keynote speaker and research analyst at the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), will join the panel discussion to lend his specialist insights to discussions of applying the circular economy to design strategies and business models.