



Key Forces Analysis

Analyze the key forces impacting the circular economy.

Key Forces Table

Key Forces Table

Key Forces	Example	Type	SAT Categories	Context-Specific Categories	Upstream Causes	Downstream Effects
Cultural Attitudes	"Throwaway culture" – Consumers discard items quickly rather than repairing or reusing them.	Barrier	Attitudinal	Social	Consumer Perception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing promoting convenience and disposability - Lack of education on waste impacts - Corporate profit motives 	Waste Accumulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased landfill waste - Consumer resistance to repair and reuse - Social normalization of disposability
Recycling Programmes	Over-reliance on curbside recycling programmes as a "solution," despite their high energy use and limited impact on waste reduction.	Enabler (Misguided)	Structural	Policy	Overemphasis on Recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public campaigns prioritising recycling - Lack of focus on reuse and composting - Misleading eco-labelling 	Misguided Responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - False sense of environmental responsibility - High energy use in recycling processes - Diverted attention from reuse
Biodegradable Plastics	Use of "biodegradable" bags that break down into microplastics, contaminating compost and soil.	Enabler (Misguided)	Structural	Regulatory	Misleading Marketing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loopholes in compostability standards - Corporate greenwashing - Misleading marketing terms 	Environmental Contamination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil contamination from microplastics - Public misconceptions about biodegradability - Improper compost facility use
Infrastructure Gaps	Lack of municipal composting facilities or repair centers in rural areas.	Barrier	Structural	Infrastructure	Lack of Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient local composting facilities - High initial costs for repair centers - Lack of corporate investment 	Limited Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dependence on landfilling and incineration - Limited options for reuse and repair - Reduced accessibility for consumers
Corporate Accountability	Companies continuing to produce non-recyclable packaging due to weak producer responsibility laws.	Barrier	Transactional	Regulatory	Weak Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ineffective extended producer responsibility (EPR) - Lack of penalties for polluters - Short-term profit focus 	Systemic Inequality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued production of non-recyclable goods - Environmental degradation - Inequality in waste management outcomes
Community Networks	Tool libraries and repair cafés that promote sharing and reuse within neighborhoods.	Enabler	Transactional	Social	Grassroots Movements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education on composting and repair - Sharing economies (e.g., tool libraries, repair cafés) 	Social Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased adoption of reuse and repair - Reduced waste generation - Greater social cohesion
Economic Incentives	Landfill subsidies making disposal cheaper than repair or reuse.	Barrier	Structural/Financial	Economic	Financial Prioritisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subsidies for landfilling or incineration - Low costs of new materials - Lack of financial incentives for reuse 	Economic Consequences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses prioritise disposability - Reduced investment in repair and reuse systems
Policy Misalignment	Policies that focus on large-scale waste-to-energy projects instead of composting or reuse.	Barrier	Structural/Regulatory	Regulatory	Resource Allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies favour large-scale waste management - Lack of mandates for composting and reuse - Weak environmental standards 	Uneven Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited regulatory pressure for systemic change - Inconsistent progress across regions
Education Deficits	Misleading information that suggests recycling is more impactful than reducing or reusing waste.	Barrier	Attitudinal	Social	Awareness Gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient public awareness campaigns - Lack of integration in school curricula - Misinformation about sustainability 	Behavioural Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumer confusion about effective practices - Dependence on unsustainable habits