

Buenos Aires, Argentina:

The Circular Economy Network

Model: Non-Commercial Convening

The Buenos Aires Circular Economy Network aims to improve the **city's recycling system and encourage industrial material reuse**. It has set a precedent for a form of private sector collaboration that will underpin the city's emerging circular economy strategy.



THE CHALLENGE

While the city had a functional recycling ecosystem, it lacked a **strong legal framework** facilitating broader circular economy practices. The city government needed a mechanism through which to **collaborate with private stakeholders** to strengthen those practices.



HOW IT WORKS

Two city departments – Urban Hygiene and Public Space, and Local Economic Development – initiated the network in 2021. Through sustained and practical discussions, they **co-created it with private businesses, universities, and non-profit organisations**.

Membership gives companies access to sector intelligence, networking, learning opportunities, and entry points to the growing circular economy. The network holds regular discussions as well as site visits to locations like reclaimer cooperatives and recycling centres.

A flagship programme is the network's 'Green Seal', a waste management certification that businesses receive and display, giving them an advantage in the market. The network also facilitates agreements, for example between reclaimers and local businesses.



There is no joining fee and the city covers costs, largely through human resources and communications support. In 2023 the network had over 300 members. More than half of these were from the private sector.



LESSONS

When co-creating a network, dialogue focused on **practical actions and plans** is important. In Buenos Aires, businesses maintained interest as there were clear outcomes from their participation.

Networks also benefit from a **multi-dimensional approach** that includes a combination of activities and events, such as convenings, certification, and learning.