

INDIAN YOUTH CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK



IYCEF

Empowering Youth Led Solutions
For Circular Economy Innovations



Indian Youth Climate Network

Support.Unite.Share.Engage.Inspire.Change

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1. Organisational Background

The story of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) is a story not just of youth using new technologies to excite broad changes and awareness among the already empowered but the story of a unique attempt to build an organisation that seeks to create larger systemic change by inspiring a movement. In December 2007, the UNFCCC hosted a historic conference, where the future of the Kyoto Protocol was to be charted out - The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) was held in Bali, Indonesia. But something different was happening at the sidelines of this COP: youth in large numbers were gathering and getting their voices heard - in an organised fashion. At the CoY held just before COP 13 in 2007, the atmosphere was ripe to launch similar youth movements across Asia. In two years' time, youth climate movements from countries like Canada, the US and Australia had matured to a point that their presence dominated the CoY.

The reasons to establish IYCN were clear, it was quite challenging to establish the network and separate the difference between an organisation and a network, both of which IYCN was trying to be. In 2008, IYCN sent the first-ever Indian youth delegation to the COP. This historic event created a strong ripple effect in South Asia marking a pivotal moment for youth engagement in the country. And then happened, Historic Climate Solutions Road Tour: a journey that spanned from Kashmir to Chennai in electric cars which inspired and celebrated Indian youth climate solutions movement of India in the previous decade.

The Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) is not just an organisation, it is a powerful network, movement and story of thousands of young people who are engaged in climate action. The board and governance is led by youth and all the projects handled by IYCN are conceived, directed and managed by youth with representation from various Indian States.



IYCN members engage in advocacy and policy-related activities by engaging with policymakers at local, national and international level. Many of IYCN members and our advisors are currently working in various ministries, Policy Think Tanks and development agencies and those who are now running successful social enterprises.

Since its inception, more than 100 members of IYCN have represented at key policy deliberations at COPs through its flagship Agents of Change Program. IYCN took the Indian climate youth movement from the grassroots level to the global arena by raising voices of Indian Waste pickers, youth from vulnerable communities from remote areas of India, and demystified complex climate negotiations.

In this decade of action, we are excited about the youth-led solutions towards Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency in India.

2. Objectives of this Framework

A Reference Document: The primary objective of this operational framework for the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum is to serve as a reference document to act as a guide for operating the forum in alignment with the principles and values of the Indian Youth Climate Network. This framework outlines the membership structure, activities, and ground rules for future generations to continue operating the forum.

Establish Membership Guidelines: This framework outlines the guidelines for membership in the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum, including eligibility criteria, application procedures, and responsibilities of members. It would ensure that members uphold the values and principles of the IYCN and actively contribute to the advancement of circular economy practices.



Forum Activities: This operational framework provides a comprehensive overview of the activities and initiatives that the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum may undertake. It outlines the scope of projects, campaigns, events, and collaborations that align with the goals of promoting and implementing circular economy principles.

Ground Rules and Governance Structure: This framework establishes the ground rules and governance structure for the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum, defining decision-making processes, roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms for accountability. It would ensure transparency, inclusivity, and effective management of the forum's operations.

Support Network Expansion: The framework provides guidance on expanding the network of the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum, including strategies for outreach, partnerships, and collaboration with other youth-led organisations, academic institutions, industry stakeholders, and relevant networks.

Ensure Continuity and Succession: By establishing this operational framework, the aim is to ensure the continuity and smooth transition of the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum to future generations. The framework provides a roadmap for future leaders to carry forward the mission and vision of the forum while maintaining its alignment with the principles of the Indian Youth Climate Network.

Alignment with IYCN's Legacy: The objective of this operational framework under the principles and values of the Indian Youth Climate Network is to ensure that the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum continues to carry forward the legacy and spirit of the IYCN. It will ensure that the forum remains connected to the broader climate action movement and contributes effectively to addressing the challenges of sustainability and climate change.



3. Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum

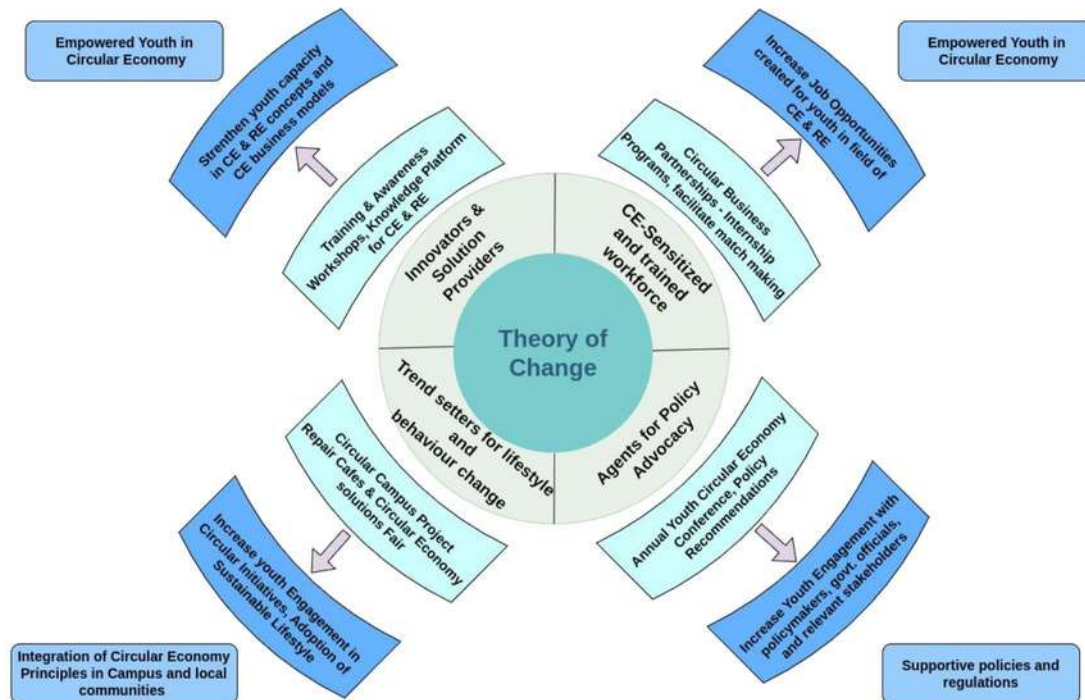
The Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum (IYCEF) is an initiative led by the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN). IYCEF is a platform to amplify the impact of the Agents of Change program by creating an ecosystem that nurtures youth-led circular economy solutions, fosters innovation, advocates for supportive policies, enable a mindset shift towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles and enables youth to access opportunities in CE & RE.

The IYCEF represents a significant step forward from the Agents of Change program implemented by the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) with support from the European Union Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) in India in 2023. While the Agents of Change 2023 program focused on training and awareness workshops on circular economy for youth, the IYCEF takes this initiative to the next level. The IYCEF serves as a specialised platform within the IYCN ecosystem, focusing on circular economy practices, innovation, capacity building and policy advocacy. It leverages the existing network, resources, and expertise of IYCN to drive its activities, ensuring a synergistic approach towards addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and resource depletion.

By establishing a dedicated forum, the IYCEF provides a sustainable platform for continuous engagement, collaboration, and collective action among experts, industry leaders, policymakers, and youth innovators. With the IYCEF, the legacy of the Agents of Change program expands into a powerful force driving the circular economy transition and empowering the youth as leaders in sustainability.



Theory Of Change





4. Values and Principles

The IYCEF adopts the values and principles of IYCN and prescribe to the collective principles of solidarity, universality, justice, equity, inclusion, human rights, and the integrity of the planet.

5. Membership

Membership in the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum (IYCEF) is facilitated through the same process as becoming a member of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN). Individuals interested in joining IYCEF will first become a member of IYCN and then sign up for the IYCEF pledge. This ensures alignment with the principles and objectives of IYCN, promoting a holistic approach to sustainability and circular economy practices.

The membership process consists of the following steps:

a) Joining IYCN: Interested individuals can join IYCN by signing up through the designated online application or participating in in-person registration events, as facilitated by IYCN.

b) Membership Confirmation: Once the individual's membership in IYCN is confirmed, they will receive a membership ID or acknowledgment.

c) IYCEF Membership: IYCN Members can express their commitment to the circular economy by signing up for the IYCEF pledge. This can be done online through the IYCN website or through specific events or campaigns organised by IYCEF. However, to become an official member of IYCEF, individuals are required to complete a separate application process. The application form will be developed and implemented by the Steering Committee in collaboration with the IYCN board and may be revised from time to time to ensure the form captures the



most relevant and up-to-date information, aligns with the evolving needs and objectives of IYCEF.

d) Access to IYCEF Resources: Upon completing the membership process and pledge, members will gain access to the resources, activities, and events organised by IYCEF, enabling their active participation in circular economy initiatives.

6. Criteria/Requirements for Membership

6.1 Individuals:

a) Age: Members must be between the ages of 18 and 35. This age range aims to engage young individuals who are enthusiastic, dynamic, and capable of driving positive change in the circular economy sphere.

b) Membership in IYCN: Prospective members of IYCEF must first become a member of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) and must demonstrate their commitment to climate action and sustainable development through their affiliation with IYCN.

c) Interest and Commitment: Members should possess a genuine interest in circular economy principles, sustainable development, and promoting circularity in India. They should demonstrate a willingness to actively engage in the activities, initiatives, and projects organised by IYCEF.

d) Volunteer Commitment: Members of IYCEF are required to commit to volunteering their time and skills to actively contribute to the initiatives, projects, and activities of the forum. This commitment ensures a collective effort towards driving the circular economy agenda and promoting sustainable practices.



6.2 Role of Members:

Members of IYCEF play a crucial role in advancing the objectives and activities of the forum. Their active participation and contributions are essential for the success and impact of IYCEF. The roles and responsibilities of members include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Active Engagement:** Members shall actively engage in the activities, projects, and initiatives of IYCEF. This includes attending meetings, participating in discussions, and contributing their ideas, knowledge, and skills to advance the youth circular economy agenda.
- **Collaboration:** Members shall collaborate with fellow members, working groups, and project teams to collectively address challenges, develop innovative solutions, and promote circular economy principles and practices.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Members shall share their knowledge, expertise, and experiences related to the circular economy. This can involve sharing research findings, best practices, case studies, and relevant resources to enhance the collective understanding of circular economy concepts and their application.
- **Advocacy:** Members have a role in advocating for the circular economy at various levels, including within their networks, organisations, and communities. They may raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and advocate for policy changes that support the transition to a circular economy.
- **Support and Mentorship:** Members shall support and mentor fellow members, particularly newcomers or those seeking guidance. This can include sharing insights, providing advice, and offering mentorship to foster personal and professional growth within the circular economy field.



- **Reporting:** Members shall provide periodic reports, updates, or documentation related to their involvement in specific projects, initiatives, or working groups. This helps to track progress, measure impact, and ensure accountability within IYCEF.
- **Represent IYCEF:** Members shall represent IYCEF in external events, conferences, or engagements related to the circular economy. They are expected to uphold the values and mission of IYCEF and effectively communicate its objectives and activities to a wider audience.

6.3 Organisations

To facilitate the thorough evaluation and selection process for organisational membership in the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum (IYCEF), an application form shall be implemented by the Steering Committee. This form will allow organisations to provide detailed information about their circular economy initiatives, practices, and commitment to sustainability. The form and its contents may be subject to review and potential revisions by the Steering Committee.

6.4 Role of Organisational Members

The organisational members of the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum (IYCEF) shall have an obligation to support and empower youth in their pursuit of a sustainable future. Their engagement and contributions are essential for providing resources, guidance, and opportunities to youth members. The role of organisational members shall include, but not be limited to the following obligations:



Mentorship and Guidance: Organisational members shall provide mandatory mentorship and guidance to youth members. They shall offer their expertise, experience, and insights



to assist youth members in navigating their career paths within the circular economy. This obligation includes sharing industry knowledge, providing career advice, and facilitating skill development.



Networking and Collaboration: Organisational members shall actively facilitate networking opportunities for youth members. They shall connect youth members with professionals, experts, and potential collaborators in the field of circular economy. This obligation aims to enable youth members to expand their professional networks, establish partnerships, and access valuable resources.





Capacity Building: Organisational members shall contribute to the mandatory capacity building of youth members. They shall offer training programs, workshops, or educational resources focused on circular economy principles, sustainable practices, and relevant skill development. This obligation ensures that youth members enhance their knowledge and capabilities in the field.



Employment and Internship Opportunities: Organisational members shall create mandatory employment and internship opportunities specifically tailored for youth members. They shall provide internships, entry-level positions, or project-based engagements to offer youth members valuable hands-on experience and exposure to real-world circular economy projects.





Financial Support and Sponsorship: Organisational members shall provide mandatory financial support or sponsorship for youth-led initiatives, projects, or events related to the circular economy. This support may include funding, in-kind contributions, or access to resources. The obligation aims to assist youth members in implementing their ideas and making tangible contributions.



Advocacy and Recognition: Organisational members shall advocate for the inclusion and empowerment of youth in circular economy initiatives and decision-making processes. They shall actively support and promote the achievements, ideas, and contributions of youth members. This obligation ensures that youth voices are heard and recognized within the wider circular economy community.





7. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee plays a crucial role in guiding and overseeing the strategic direction and activities of IYCEF. The appointment of the steering committee will be carried out by the board of IYCN in consultation with the advisory committee. The steering Committee will play the role of managing the network as a body of 3 National Coordinators who will jointly take decisions for IYCEF at the highest level.

7.1 Composition

The Steering Committee shall consist of a diverse group of individuals with expertise in various relevant fields, such as circular economy, sustainability, youth engagement, policy advocacy, and entrepreneurship.

The committee may include representatives from academia, industry, nonprofit organisations, government bodies, and youth-led initiatives. The composition aims to ensure a holistic and inclusive approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities in the circular economy space.

7.2 Term & Renewal

The members of the steering committee shall be appointed by the governing body of IYCN for a specific period based on the needs of IYCEF.

7.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Steering Committee

7.3.1) Strategic Planning: The Steering Committee is responsible for developing and implementing the strategic plan for IYCEF. They set the overall goals, objectives, and priorities of the forum, aligning them with the broader mission and vision of IYCN



7.3.2) Governance and Policy Development: The Steering Committee establishes governance structures and policies that guide the operations of IYCEF. They develop policies related to membership, decision-making processes, financial management, ethical guidelines, and any other necessary policies to ensure transparent and accountable practices within the forum.

7.3.4) Membership Oversight: The Steering Committee oversees the membership process, including the screening and approval of individual and organisational members. They ensure that the eligibility criteria are met, review membership applications, and monitor the engagement and participation of members within IYCEF.

7.3.5) Appointment and Review of Key Positions: The Steering Committee is responsible for appointing key positions within IYCEF, such as the National Coordinator, Regional Coordinators, and Project Focal Points. They review and approve the appointments made by the project implementation teams, ensuring that qualified and capable individuals are assigned to these roles.

7.3.6) Resource Mobilisation: The Steering Committee plays a vital role in resource mobilisation efforts for IYCEF. They explore funding opportunities, establish partnerships with relevant organisations, and seek sponsorship or grants to support the implementation of projects and initiatives.

7.3.7) Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: The Steering Committee fosters collaboration and engagement with external stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, industry experts, and other relevant organisations. They identify potential partners, establish relationships, and seek opportunities for collaboration to enhance the impact and reach of IYCEF's activities.



7.3.8) Project Oversight: The Steering Committee provides oversight and guidance to the various projects and activities undertaken by IYCEF. They review project proposals, monitor progress, and ensure that projects are aligned with the strategic objectives of the forum.

7.3.9) Evaluation and Reporting: The Steering Committee monitors the performance and impact of IYCEF's initiatives. They evaluate the effectiveness of projects, track progress towards goals, and prepare regular reports to update the board, members, and stakeholders on the forum's activities and achievements.

7.3.10) Communication and Advocacy: The Steering Committee serves as the primary communication channel between IYCEF, IYCN governing body and executives, IYCEF members, partners, and stakeholders. The Steering Committee promotes the forum's initiatives, advocates for the circular economy agenda, and raises awareness about the work of IYCEF among the broader youth community.

8. Coordination Structure

8.1 National Coordinator: The National Coordinator serves as the central point of contact and coordination for IYCEF. They oversee the overall functioning of the forum, facilitate communication among different stakeholders, and ensure the alignment of activities with the forum's goals and objectives. The National Coordinator works closely with the Steering Committee and provides updates and reports on the progress and activities of IYCEF.

8.2 Regional Coordinators: Regional Coordinators are responsible for specific geographical regions within the country. They act as representatives of IYCEF at the regional level, liaising with local stakeholders, organising regional events, and facilitating engagement with members in their respective regions. Regional



Coordinators provide support and guidance to local initiatives and projects related to the circular economy.

8.3 Project Focal Points: For each project or activity undertaken by IYCEF, a designated Project Focal Point must be appointed by the steering committee. The Project Focal Point is responsible for overseeing the planning, execution, and monitoring of the specific project. They communicate project updates, progress, and challenges to the Steering Committee and ensure effective coordination among team members. The Project Focal Point serves as the primary point of contact for any inquiries or discussions related to the project.

8.4 Working Groups: IYCEF members may establish dedicated permanent and temporary Working Groups to focus on specific areas of work. These Working Groups will operate under the governance and policies set forth by IYCN, as outlined in the Working Group Policy (2020).

Working groups within IYCEF may also be proposed by the Steering Committee to the IYCN board in addition to members' initiatives. The Steering Committee, being responsible for the strategic direction and overall management of IYCEF, may identify specific areas or projects or day to day operations of IYCEF that require dedicated working groups to address them effectively. These working groups can be formed based on the needs and priorities identified by the Steering Committee.

Furthermore, the working group focal points and steering committee have the flexibility to open positions for interns and volunteers from time to time. This allows for broader participation and involvement of individuals who are passionate about the circular economy and wish to contribute their skills and enthusiasm to the initiatives undertaken by IYCEF.



9. Screening Process

- The National Coordinator and Regional Coordinators of IYCEF will undergo a screening process conducted by the Steering Committee, governing body and executive committee of IYCN. This screening process ensures that individuals appointed to these positions possess the necessary qualifications, skills, and commitment to effectively carry out their roles.
- To ensure transparency and opportunities for a wider pool of candidates, the Steering Committee of IYCEF must open applications for the positions of National Coordinator and Regional Coordinators at least three times within each financial year. This periodic opening of applications allows for a fair and competitive selection process, enabling individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise to apply for these leadership roles.
- After the review process, the Steering Committee will conduct interviews or assessments with shortlisted candidates to further evaluate their suitability for the leadership roles. Based on the assessment outcomes, the Steering Committee will make final selections for the positions of National Coordinator and Regional Coordinators
- The specific timeline and duration of each application period will be determined by the Steering Committee in accordance with the operational needs and objectives of IYCEF. The announcement of the application period will be communicated through various channels, such as the IYCN website, official social media platforms, and email notifications to members.



- The Project Focal Points for specific projects or activities within IYCEF may be elected by the project implementation team. The project implementation team, consisting of IYCN members directly involved in the project. Once the Project Focal Point is elected by the project implementation team, their appointment will be communicated to the Steering Committee for approval. The Steering Committee will review the selection and ensure that the appointed individual is qualified and capable of fulfilling the responsibilities associated with the role.

10. Rewards and Incentives

10.1 Networking Opportunities: Members of IYCEF can benefit from networking opportunities with like-minded individuals, industry experts, and professionals in the circular economy field. This can include participation in projects, conferences, workshops, seminars, and networking events organised by IYCEF or in collaboration with partner organisations.

10.2 Recognition and Visibility: IYCN may recognize the contributions of IYCEF members through certificates, awards, or testimonials, highlighting their involvement and achievements in circular economy initiatives. This recognition can enhance their professional profiles and increase their visibility within the field.

10.3 Access to Mentorship: The Steering Committee of IYCEF may facilitate mentorship programs to connect experienced professionals or mentors with interested members. Mentors can provide valuable guidance, advice, and support to mentees, assisting them in navigating their career paths or specific projects related to the circular economy. Members who wish to participate in the mentorship program must demonstrate their engagement and active involvement with IYCEF by writing an



email to the Steering Committee and IYCN board. This email should document their contributions, activities, and achievements within IYCEF.

10.4 Stipend: IYCN may offer a stipend or financial support to individuals who actively participate in specific projects, research activities, or leadership roles within the forum. The stipend will serve as a form of recognition and appreciation for their dedicated efforts and can help support their involvement in the circular economy initiatives.

10.5 Letter of Recommendation: IYCN may provide IYCEF members with a letter of recommendation that acknowledges their active participation, contributions, and achievements within the forum. This letter can be valuable for members who are seeking educational or professional opportunities, as it can serve as a testament to their involvement in sustainable development and the circular economy.

11. Termination

This Termination Clause ("Clause") is incorporated into the operational framework of the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum (IYCEF) to address circumstances where a member, including a member of the Steering Committee, fails to fulfil their responsibilities or engages in actions that are detrimental to the objectives and values of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN). The Clause outlines the grounds for termination and the process by which termination may be executed.

11.1) Grounds for Termination: Any member of IYCEF, including a member of the Steering Committee, may be subject to termination if found to be in violation of the following:

11.1.a) Non-compliance: Non-compliance with the code of conduct, policies, or guidelines established by IYCN and IYCEF.



11.1.b) Failure of Responsibilities: Failure to fulfil the responsibilities and commitments associated with their role within IYCEF.

11.1.c) Detrimental Actions: Engaging in actions that are detrimental to the reputation, objectives, or values of IYCN and IYCEF.

11.1.d) Unlawful Conduct: Conduct that is illegal, unethical, or harmful to the interests of IYCN, IYCEF and public.

11.2) Termination Process: Termination of a member, including a member of the Steering Committee, shall be conducted following a fair and transparent process, in adherence to the principles of natural justice. The process shall include the following steps:

11.2.a) Investigation: Upon receipt of a complaint or awareness of potential violations, the governing body of IYCN shall initiate an investigation to gather relevant information and evidence.

11.2.b) Opportunity to Respond: The member under investigation shall be provided with an opportunity to respond to the allegations, either through written submissions or a hearing conducted by the governing body.

11.2.c) Review and Decision: The governing body shall review the findings of the investigation, consider the member's response, and evaluate any additional pertinent information. A decision regarding termination shall be made, taking into account the severity of the violation and the best interests of IYCN and IYCEF.

11.2.d) Communication: Written notice of the decision, including the grounds for termination and the effective date thereof, shall be provided to the member.



12. Commitment Form

As part of their involvement in any project undertaken by IYCEF, each participant involved in the project activities shall be required to fill a commitment form. This commitment form will serve as a formal acknowledgment of their dedication and adherence to the project's objectives and guidelines. The commitment form shall be made available on the Indian Youth Circular Economy Network (IYCN) website by the steering committee and may be revised from time to time. Participants can commit to doing any one activity. Multiple engagements may be allowed only with prior approval of Regional Coordinator.

13. IYCEF Activities

All activities carried out by regional chapters shall adhere to the guidelines set forth in the IYCN Chapter Guide. The Chapter Guide provides the framework and governing principles for regional chapters to ensure consistency, alignment, and effectiveness in their operations and activities. Regional chapters shall comply with the guidelines and seek guidance and support from the IYCN governing body to ensure the successful implementation of activities under each category.

All activities undertaken by IYCN regional chapters under the umbrella of IYCEF shall be classified into the following four categories:

- **Circular Economy Training & Awareness Workshops:** Under this category, the project will organise and conduct training workshops focused on circular economy principles, concepts, and practices. These workshops aim to enhance the knowledge and capacity of participants in understanding and implementing circular economy strategies. The workshops may cover topics such as resource efficiency, waste management, sustainable consumption and production, circular business models, and innovation in the circular economy.



- **Circular Campus Initiative:** The Circular Campus Initiative focuses on implementing circular economy principles within educational institutions. This includes identifying areas within college campuses where circular practices can be implemented, such as waste reduction, recycling programs, sustainable procurement, energy efficiency, and water conservation. The initiative aims to create a sustainable and circular campus environment while raising awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of circular economy practices.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Under this category, the project will engage in policy advocacy activities to promote and support the integration of circular economy principles into local, regional, and national policies. This may involve engaging with policymakers, government officials, and relevant stakeholders to advocate for the development and implementation of policies that encourage circular economy practices. The project will collaborate with relevant organisations and participate in policy discussions, consultations, and initiatives to shape the policy landscape and promote a supportive regulatory environment for the circular economy.
- **Community-Based Projects on Circular Economy:** The projects under this category will implement community-based projects focused on implementing circular economy practices at the local level. These projects aim to address specific challenges or opportunities related to resource efficiency, waste management, and sustainable livelihoods within the community. Examples of community-based projects could include upcycling initiatives, circular supply chain collaborations, eco-design workshops, or circular business incubation programs.



These projects aim to foster local engagement and participation while demonstrating the tangible benefits of circular economy practices to the community.

The project team, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, will plan, implement, and monitor activities under each category to ensure the effective and impactful delivery of the project objectives. Regular evaluation and feedback mechanisms shall be established by the chapter in consultation with Regional Coordinator to assess the progress, outcomes, and impact of each activity category, allowing for continuous improvement and refinement of the project's approach.

14. Circular Campus Initiative (CCI)

The framework for implementing the Circular Campus Initiative shall be developed through close consultation between the Steering Committee and regional chapters, taking into account the specific needs and context of each chapter.

The CCI framework shall include the following elements:

Identification of Areas for Implementation: Regional chapters (in campus), will identify specific areas within college campuses where circular practices can be implemented effectively. This may include waste reduction strategies, establishment of recycling programs, adoption of sustainable procurement practices, implementation of energy-efficient measures, and water conservation initiatives.

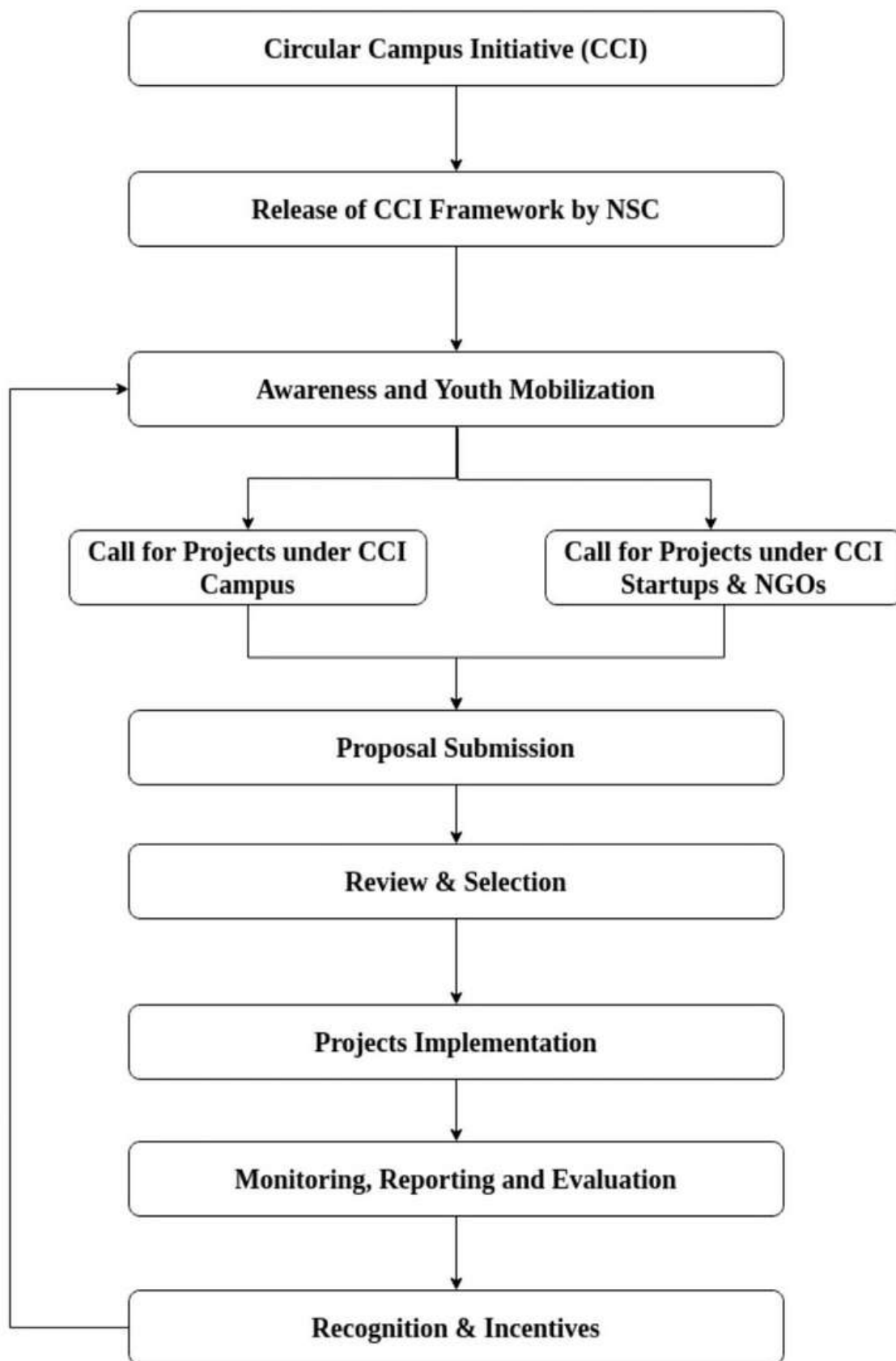
Awareness and Education: Initiatives to raise awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of circular economy practices. Regional chapters will organise awareness campaigns, workshops, and educational activities to promote understanding and engagement with circular economy concepts. This will involve collaboration with academic departments, student organisations, and campus sustainability teams.



Collaborative Approach: The framework must encourage collaboration and partnerships between regional chapters, other educational institutions, and relevant stakeholders. This may involve engaging with campus administration, sustainability committees, local businesses, and community organisations to foster a collective effort in implementing circular practices on campus.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The framework must incorporate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the progress and impact of the Circular Campus Initiative. Regional chapters shall establish performance indicators and data collection methods to assess the effectiveness of implemented measures, identify areas for improvement, and showcase the positive outcomes of the initiative.

The Steering Committee, in consultation with regional chapters, shall provide the necessary guidance, support, and resources to ensure the successful implementation of the Circular Campus Initiative. Regular communication channels shall be established to facilitate knowledge sharing, best practices, and ongoing coordination between the Steering Committee and regional chapters on campus.





15. Call for Projects under Circular Campus Initiative (CCI)

The Steering Committee of IYCEF shall announce a biannual call for Circular Campus Initiative (CCI) projects. The purpose of this call is to invite regional chapters and educational institutions to submit project proposals that aim to implement circular economy principles within college campuses. The call for projects will follow a structured process and timeline, ensuring transparency and equal opportunity for all interested parties. The key elements of the call for projects are as follows:

Announcement: The Steering Committee will issue an official announcement, clearly stating the objectives, guidelines, and timeline of the call for CCI projects. The announcement will be widely circulated through official communication channels, including the IYCN website, social media platforms, and direct communication with regional chapters.

Eligibility Criteria: The call for projects will specify the eligibility criteria that projects must meet to be considered for selection. This may include requirements such as active affiliation with a regional chapter, collaboration with an educational institution, alignment with circular economy principles, and adherence to the guidelines provided by the Steering Committee.

Proposal Submission: Interested regional chapters, in collaboration with educational institutions, will be required to prepare and submit project proposals according to the guidelines provided in the call. The proposal will outline the project objectives, implementation plan, expected outcomes, budgetary requirements, and evaluation strategies. The submission process may involve an online submission portal or designated email address for receiving the proposals.



Review and Selection: The Steering Committee, in consultation with designated evaluators, will review the submitted project proposals based on predetermined evaluation criteria. The evaluation process will consider factors such as the project's alignment with circular economy principles, innovation, feasibility, potential impact, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The selection process will ensure impartiality and fairness.

Notification and Feedback: Once the review process is completed, the Steering Committee will notify the regional chapters and educational institutions of the outcome of their project proposals. Feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants to assist them in improving their proposals for future calls.

Project Implementation: Selected projects will receive confirmation and support from the Steering Committee to proceed with project implementation. The regional chapters, in collaboration with educational institutions, will be responsible for executing the projects according to the approved proposals and the guidelines provided by the Steering Committee.

16. Recognition and Incentives for CCI

IYCN will recognize the importance of acknowledging the efforts and achievements of educational institutions that successfully implement circular economy practices through the Circular Campus Initiative (CCI). To incentivize and promote the adoption of circular practices, IYCN proposes the establishment of a recognition and certification program for Circular Campuses. This program aims to:

Acknowledge Excellence: The recognition and certification program will identify and acknowledge educational Institutions



and regional chapters that demonstrate exceptional commitment and achievement in implementing circular economy practices within their campuses. This recognition serves to highlight their efforts and acts as a testament to their dedication to sustainability and circularity.

Promote Best Practices: The recognition program will showcase the innovative strategies, initiatives, and success stories of these campuses, encouraging others to follow suit and promoting the replication of best practices.

Certificates: Students who actively participate in the Circular Campus Initiative, engage in workshops, lead projects, or show exemplary dedication to promoting circular practices, will be awarded certificates of recognition by IYCN. These certificates will highlight their involvement and showcase their commitment to sustainability and circularity. The certificates can be included in their portfolios, resumes, or academic records, serving as a testament to their contributions towards a sustainable future.

Letters of Recommendation (LoRs): Exceptional students who showcase outstanding leadership, innovation, and impact in driving circular economy initiatives within their college campuses may be eligible to receive personalised Letters of Recommendation from IYCN secretariat. These LoRs can be valuable assets when applying for internships, jobs, or higher education opportunities, as they provide a strong endorsement of the student's skills, dedication, and commitment to sustainable practices.

Social Media Visibility: IYCN will feature and promote the Circular Campus Initiative and its participating campuses on its official social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Regular updates, success stories, project highlights, and relevant campus events will be shared to raise awareness and



inspire others to adopt similar initiatives. By showcasing the campuses' dedication and progress in implementing circular practices, IYCN aims to amplify their impact and encourage wider engagement from the audience.

Internship Opportunities: IYCN, in coordination with its green job partners, will identify and curate internship and fellowship opportunities that align with the goals and focus areas of the Circular Campus Initiative. These internships may involve working on projects related to circular economy, sustainable practices, renewable energy, waste management, or other relevant areas. The internships can be offered during specific periods, such as summer breaks, or throughout the year, depending on the availability of projects and the requirements of the partners.

17. Conclusion

In conclusion, this operational framework aims to establish a robust platform for youth-driven action and collaboration in promoting circular economy practices in India. This document serves as a reference guide for current and future generations to operate the forum effectively and uphold the core values of the IYCN.

The framework emphasises the importance of embedding the principles of the IYCN within the operations of the IYCEF, ensuring a strong commitment to sustainability, youth empowerment, collaboration, and advocacy for climate action. By deeply integrating these principles, the forum will contribute to the broader mission of addressing climate change and fostering a sustainable future.

Through the operational framework, the guidelines for membership, activities, and governance structure are defined, promoting inclusivity, transparency, and effective management. It outlines the eligibility criteria for membership, encourages knowledge sharing, supports capacity building, and advocates for policy change. The framework also highlights the significance of



collaboration, partnerships, and the exchange of best practices with stakeholders in academia, industry, government, and civil society.

By providing a roadmap for the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum, this framework ensures the continuity of its mission and the replication of its success in future generations. It promotes collective action, innovation, and the adoption of circular economy principles on college campuses, within communities, and at the national level.

The proposed operational framework aligns the forum's activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to sustainable consumption and production, climate action, responsible consumption and production, and partnerships for sustainable development. It recognizes the urgency of addressing global challenges and positions the IYCEF as a key driver of change.

The operational framework for the Indian Youth Circular Economy Forum serves as a foundational document that empowers youth to lead the transition to a circular economy in India. By operating under the principles of the Indian Youth Climate Network, the forum can create a meaningful impact, inspire change, and contribute to building a sustainable and resilient future for all.



Annexure - I

Indian Youth Circular Economy Pledge

I, a youth of India, recognize the urgent need to address the environmental challenges facing our nation and the world. I understand that transitioning to a circular economy is crucial for sustainable development and the well-being of future generations. Therefore, I pledge to actively participate in creating a circular economy by adopting the following principles:

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: I commit to reducing my consumption of resources and materials by practising conscious purchasing and adopting a minimalist lifestyle. I will prioritise reusing items whenever possible and recycling materials to prevent them from becoming waste.

Promote Sustainable Production: I will support businesses and initiatives that prioritise sustainable production practices. I will encourage and advocate for the use of renewable energy, eco-friendly technologies, and resource-efficient manufacturing processes.

Embrace Sharing and Collaborative Consumption: I will actively participate in sharing economies, sharing resources, and encouraging collaborative consumption. I will explore alternatives to ownership, such as borrowing, lending, and swapping, to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption.

Support Local and Circular Businesses: I pledge to support local businesses that prioritise circular economy principles, including those that utilise recycled materials, offer repair services, or follow sustainable business models. I will actively promote and patronise such enterprises.

Educate and Raise Awareness: I recognize the importance of education and awareness in driving the transition to a circular economy. I commit to educating ourselves and others about the benefits of a circular economy and the actions individuals can take to contribute. I will engage in conversations, organise workshops, and leverage social media platforms to spread



knowledge and inspire change.

Advocate for Policy Change: I understand the significance of policy changes in driving systemic transformation. I will actively engage with policymakers, government bodies, and relevant stakeholders to advocate for the adoption and implementation of circular economy policies and regulations.

Foster Innovation and Collaboration: I will foster an environment of innovation and collaboration by actively participating in circular economy initiatives, hackathons, and incubation programs. I will work together to develop sustainable solutions, products, and services that support the principles of a circular economy.

Be Responsible Consumer and Producer: I will take responsibility for the environmental impact of my consumption and production choices. I will make informed decisions, favouring products with sustainable design, packaging, and end-of-life considerations. I will strive to extend the lifespan of products through repair, repurposing, and responsible disposal.

Engage in Circular Waste Management: I commit to practise responsible waste management by segregating and recycling waste at source, promoting composting and biodegradable alternatives, and supporting initiatives that focus on waste-to-resource conversion.

Collaborate with Communities: I acknowledge the importance of community engagement and collaboration in creating a circular economy. I will actively involve our local communities, educational institutions, and civil society organisations to promote circularity, organising clean-up drives, awareness campaigns, and community-based recycling initiatives.