

# Consumption work in the circular economy: A research agenda

December 13 2021

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Circular Economy frameworks have become central to debates and interventions that aim to reduce global resource use and environmental despoilment. As pathways to both systemic and micro-scale transformations, there remain many challenges to making circular economy actionable.

One such challenge is facilitating the emergence of the "circular consumer." Here, we are all encouraged to shift everyday practices to consume new products and services and/or participate in the "sharing [economy](#)," all of which are claimed, in some prominent debates, to automatically offer more 'convenience' for the consumer. In response, this paper argues that viewing such debates through the lens of consumption work offers a different picture of what it takes to be, and what we need to know about, the circular consumer.

Consumption work refers to the labor integral to the purchase, use, re-use and disposal of goods and services. This paper argues that the nature and scope of such work has been underplayed in [circular economy](#) debates to date, and that becoming a circular consumer requires varied and unevenly distributed forms of consumption work, which in turn, has significant implications for the success of circular economy.

This [paper](#) thus proposes a research agenda into this topic, outlining five, inter-related, critical issues that a circular economy research agenda must address, including questions of who undertakes consumption work; to what ends; and how its multiple forms are coordinated within and beyond the household.

**More information:** Kersty Hobson et al, Consumption Work in the circular economy: A research agenda., *Journal of Cleaner Production* (2021). [DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.128969](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.128969)

Provided by University of Manchester

Citation: Consumption work in the circular economy: A research agenda (2021, December 13) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-12-consumption-circular-economy-agenda.html>

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