

II. A Recycling Based Economy - The Vision

An RBE is one where resources are used sustainably, where energy is used efficiently, and where waste from one process becomes the inputs into another process. It is about meeting the needs of today, without adversely impacting on the needs of tomorrow. It includes the protection of the environment and ensuring the safety of working conditions.

To achieve an RBE, attitudes and processes need to shift from linear to cyclical as schematically demonstrated in Figure 2.

In a business sense, the key messages of an RBE tie in with what are generally considered to be 'sound' business practices, such as maximising the use of resources through increased efficiency, and minimising waste.

The elements of an RBE will include measures for waste recovery and cleaner technologies, promoting eco-efficiency in the manufacturing sectors, and reduction in use of raw materials, energy and pollution. There is an important need for proper waste management rules and legislation, incentives, infrastructure, awareness, motivation, education, and disclosure of information. .

Figure 2: Linear versus cyclical approaches to resource use

