

# ***Circular Economy*** **development in Higher Education**

supported by:



The **Tennessee Materials Marketplace** connects organizations to develop and scale new reuse and recycling market opportunities.

Higher education users - *including students, faculty, and staff* - can easily post listings for wanted or available materials and browse materials listed for reuse, repurposing, or recycling.

The Marketplace serves as a source for free and low-cost materials that would otherwise remain in storage or be thrown into dumpsters. It can also be used to fulfill sustainability objectives across student organizations, institutional programs, and academic course development.



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# tennessee materials marketplace

When it comes to developing a “circular economy”, the [Tennessee Materials Marketplace](#) creates value for Tennessee Higher Education Institutions by eliminating procurement costs and costs associated with waste management.

The Marketplace is a user-friendly digital platform that provides schools and student groups the opportunity to collaborate with each other and nearby businesses in efforts to create less waste.

## Ideas for implementing the Materials Marketplace at your institution...

### Students

- Use the Marketplace to find used supplies, furniture, and other items
- Advocate for the use of the Marketplace within departments and facilities
- Create or join existing student groups that have a mission of diverting waste on campus

### Staff

- List recurring “waste” materials including organics and byproducts
- Post sources of bulk furniture and other items that accumulate within facilities and dorms
- Procure materials at no or lesser costs in a more localized and sustainable manner

### Faculty

- Incorporate the Marketplace and items sourced from it into curriculum development
- Source materials for labs including new materials research and development
- List excess supplies or materials available for reuse

## Examples of *circular economy* in curriculum development

A School of Architecture uses materials sourced from the Marketplace for teaching about “zero waste” building methods

Business courses incorporate projects in which business cases are made from creating new markets using materials sourced from the Marketplace

Engineering and Materials Science divisions can challenge students to find new uses for “waste” materials as feedstock



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