



Circular Economy Strategy of North Rhine-Westphalia

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Economic Relevance of the Circular Economy

> 240,000

*Circular economy jobs
already exist in NRW*

€20 Billion

*Current value added
through circularity in NRW*

€125 Billion

*Value added by 2045 through
circularity in Germany*

20–40%

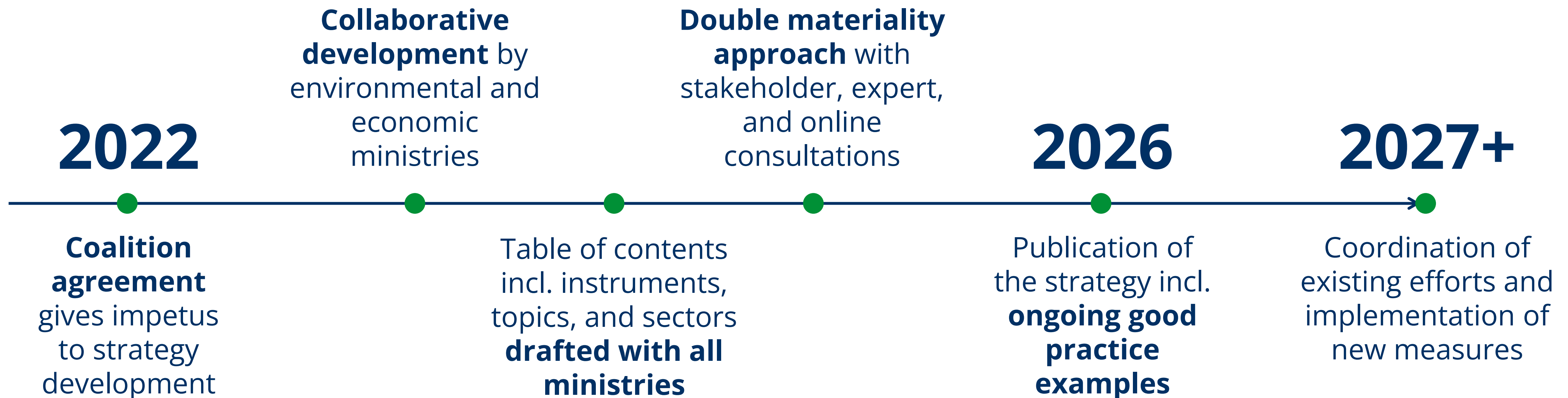
*Strategic resource imports
potentially substitutable*

Strategic Goals

- ❖ **Lower risks** related to resources
- ❖ **Accelerate innovation**
- ❖ **Integrate conservation** of climate & resources
- ❖ **Retain industry** in NRW



Broad Overview of Strategy Development Process





Establishing NRW as a Leading Region for the Circular Economy in Europe

Preconditions

- Digitization
- Logistics & Transport
- Bioeconomy
- Science & Research

State Levers

- Regulation
- Networks & Partnerships
- Financing
- Business Models & Advisory
- Skills & Education
- Public Procurement

Focus Sectors

- Circular Construction
- Chemicals & Plastics
- Machine & Plant Engineering
- Metals
- Electrical Engineering
- Secondary Resources



Learnings From Developing Germany's First State-level Circular Economy Strategy

Success Factors

Challenges

Collaborative Governance

- + early buy-in, feeling of co-ownership
- + raised awareness across all ministries
- + avoided over-weighting of special interests
- + legitimized strategy vis-à-vis stakeholders

- complex coordination across ministries
- slower decisions due to consensus-building
- stakeholder selection risks imbalance

Focused Scope

- + limited scope helps prioritize actions
- + manageable total document length (62 pages)
- + centers short-term implementation

- potential levers left untouched (for now)
- conflict between horizontal and sector topics
- can constrain breadth of double materiality

Iterative Development

- + early structure helped focus work
- + workshops/consultations gave concrete ideas
- + regular syntheses produced coherent drafts

- big effort managing versions and expectations
- chapters kept expanding, requiring many cuts
- slow process due to lots of inhouse work



Circular Week 2026

Online Conference

5 themes, 3 formats:

- Mind-opening sessions:
New perspectives & fresh inspiration
- Pioneering sessions: Practical examples & innovations
- Networking sessions: Exchange & discussion

Build your own experience within our programme:

- Choose your favorite sessions
- Switch freely between parallel streams
- Create your personal timetable

Your conference. Your choice.
After the opening session, you
can choose what matters most to
you.

This is not just another online
conference—it's your personal
Circular Economy experience.



27 October 2026, 9.15–15.30



Circular Economy Strategy NRW



Currently only available in German

Sustainability Strategy NRW



Available in German, English version coming soon