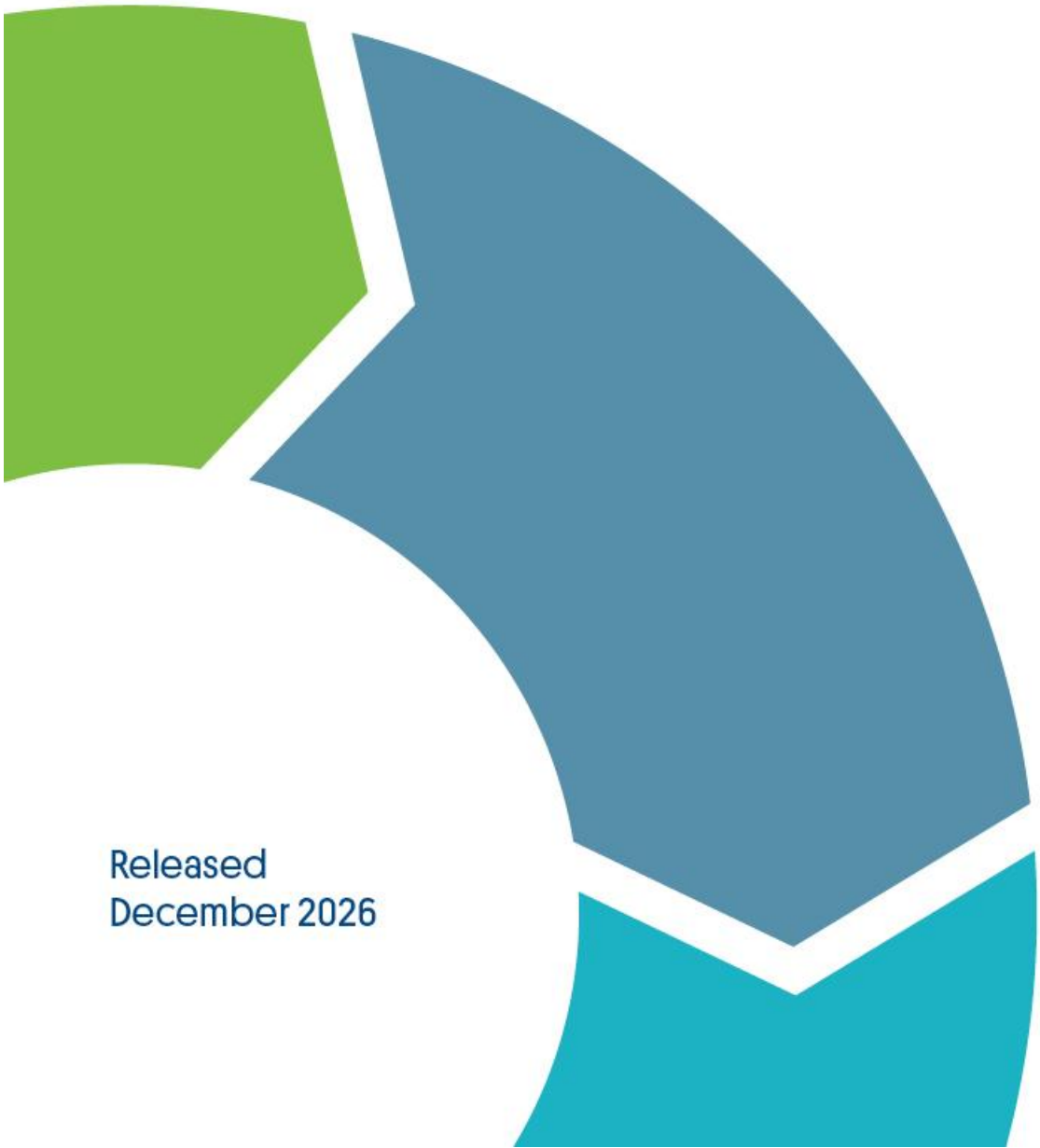
Business Support Program

2026-27
Training Program
Guidelines

Circular Economy Training for South Australian Businesses



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Green Industries SA

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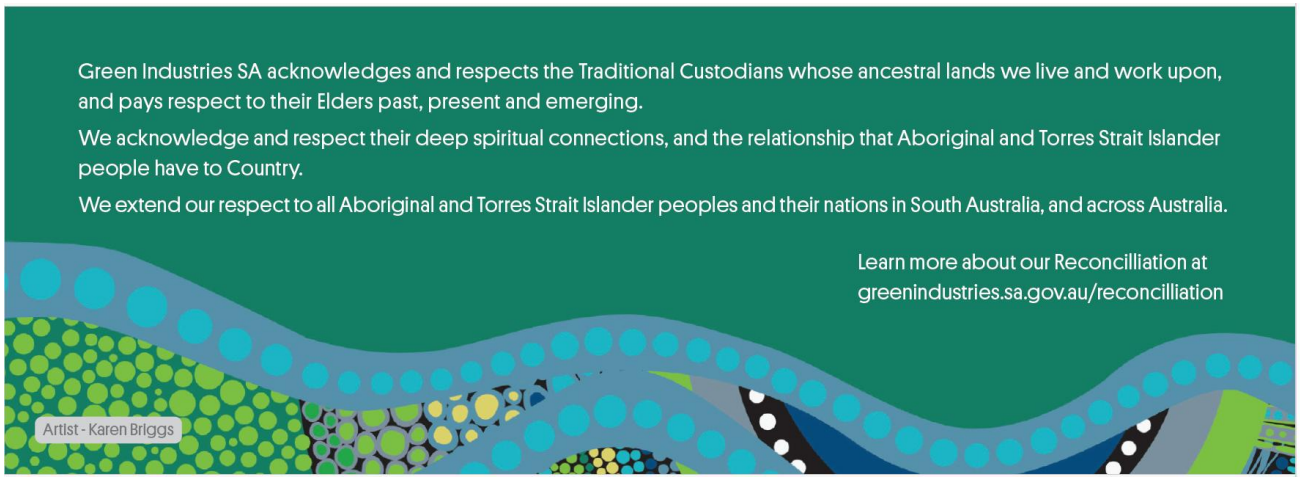
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About Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA (GISA) is an enabler and driver of change, supporting the development of the circular economy through diverse collaborations which improve productivity, resilience, resource efficiency and the environment.

GISA works to transform how South Australians use and value resources, and the agency's objectives under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* are to:

- promote waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill
- promote innovation and business activity in the waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors, recognising these areas present valuable opportunities to contribute to the state's economic growth.

Learn more about GISA.

About GISA's Business Support Program

The **Business Support Program (BSP)** supports South Australian businesses to identify and act on opportunities that improve productivity, competitiveness, resilience and sustainability through circular economy approaches.

The Program provides access to capability-building activities, practical tools, networks and targeted support to help businesses at different stages of their circular economy journey overcome knowledge and implementation barriers and transition to more circular and resource-efficient practices.

Business Support Program staff are available to provide advice on available initiatives and opportunities to engage with Green Industries SA programs.

About the Circular Economy Training for South Australian Businesses Program

The Circular Economy Training for South Australian Businesses (the Training Program) aims to build practical circular economy capability within South Australian businesses by increasing awareness of circular economy principles, helping businesses identify opportunities to create long-term business value, and supporting the development of practical initiatives that can be implemented within their operations.

The Training Program supports the objectives of South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030 by building business capability to identify and act on opportunities to avoid waste, increase material efficiency, improve sustainability outcomes and adopt circular economy principles in day-to-day business operations.

Aim

The Training Program aims to build the knowledge, skills and confidence of South Australian businesses to identify, assess and progress circular economy opportunities that create long-term business value and improve resource efficiency.

Objectives

The Training Program objectives are to:

- Increase business understanding of circular economy principles and opportunities.
- Develop practical skills that support the identification and assessment of circular economy opportunities.
- Improve business capability to independently progress early-stage circular economy initiatives.
- Support businesses to identify opportunities to improve resource efficiency, productivity and sustainability outcomes.
- Encourage peer learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration between participating businesses.

Outcomes

The Training Program is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness and understanding of circular economy principles among participating businesses.
- Improved confidence and capability to identify and evaluate circular economy opportunities.
- Identification of practical circular economy initiatives relevant to participating businesses.
- Increased readiness of businesses to progress circular economy projects and seek specialist support where required.
- Increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between participating businesses.

For more information visit the Training Program information on the GISA website.

Program participation overview

The Training Program is designed for South Australian businesses seeking to build practical knowledge and skills to identify circular economy opportunities and identify opportunities to create long-term business value through improved resource efficiency, innovation and circular business practices.

Places are limited and participants will be selected through a competitive application process. Eligible applications will be assessed against the eligibility and selection criteria in these guidelines to identify businesses most likely to benefit from the program and contribute to its objectives.

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The Training Program is intended to support businesses that:

- Are interested in identifying and progressing circular economy opportunities.
- Are committed to actively participating in the Program and associated activities.
- Have the capacity to apply learnings within their business.
- Are willing to share experiences and participate in peer learning activities.
- Want to improve their understanding of circular economy principles and practical applications.

To maximise learning outcomes and program impact, GISA may establish cohorts with common characteristics, including industry-specific, regional or remote cohorts.

Examples of opportunities businesses may explore through the program include:

- Improving resource productivity and material efficiency.
- Reducing waste and avoiding unnecessary material consumption.
- Reuse, repair, refurbishment and remanufacturing opportunities.
- Circular procurement and supply chain opportunities.
- Product, service or business model innovation.
- Improving sustainability and business resilience through circular economy approaches.

Applicants will be asked whether they are able to participate in in-person workshops in metropolitan Adelaide, online workshops, or either format. This information will help GISA determine the most appropriate delivery model and establish participant cohorts. Participation in the Training Program may be offered in-person, online or via mixed cohorts depending on participant demand and cohort composition. Nominated participants from a business must attend the same cohort and delivery format.

What Participants Will Receive

Selected businesses will receive:

- Free training delivered by experienced circular economy specialists.
- Three facilitated workshop sessions.
- One-on-one support to help apply learnings to your business.
- Practical tools, resources and templates.
- Opportunities to learn from other South Australian businesses.
- Guidance to identify opportunities that may reduce waste, improve efficiency and create long-term business value.

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Conditions of participation

Eligibility criteria

Applications will be accepted from businesses that:

- Are currently operating in South Australia or undertaking a substantial portion of their business activities within South Australia; with plans to continue operating in South Australia for the duration of the training program.
- Hold a valid Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Are a legally and financially viable entity that is not bankrupt, insolvent, or under external administration.
- Are compliant with federal and state laws and/or regulations, including those related to environmental protection and Work Health and Safety; *or* where a statutory notice (e.g. Improvement or Prohibition Notice), enforceable undertaking, or prosecution by any state, territory, or federal Work Health and Safety (WHS/OHS) regulator has occurred in the last three years, the applicant can demonstrate the action taken or proposed to address the breach (including any corrective or remedial measures to prevent recurrence).
- Are new to the Training Program / have not previously participated in a Training Program cohort delivered by GISA.

First Nations, women-owned and social enterprise businesses are encouraged to apply.

Successful applicants must:

- Nominate two participants to attend the Training Program.
- Ensure nominated participants attend all training sessions and actively participate in the program and associated activities.
- Participate in evaluation and feedback activities.
- Submit a complete application by the advertised closing date.

Applicants should note:

- Participation in the Training Program is competitive and places are limited.
- Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee participation.
- Applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria included in this guideline.
- GISA may consider overall cohort composition against the aim, objectives and outcomes when making final participant selection decisions.
- Depending on participant demand, GISA may establish industry-specific, regional, remote or mixed cohorts.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- Be submitted electronically using the online application form by the advertised closing date and time: Application Form
- Be completed and submitted by an authorised representative of the applicant business.
- Include all information required to enable assessment against the eligibility and selection criteria.

Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the eligibility criteria may not be considered.

Applicants will receive confirmation in writing that their application has been received. If confirmation is not provided within 10 business days, please contact the Training Program staff (see Further Information section for contact details).

Applications close on 22 January 2027.

Late applications will generally not be accepted. GISA may, at its sole discretion, consider late applications where exceptional circumstances exist.

Please note: The online application form cannot be saved and must be completed in one session. Businesses requiring additional time to prepare their responses may request a PDF copy of the application form from Training Program staff. The PDF is provided for preparation purposes only. Applications must be submitted using the online application form, and emailed applications will not be accepted.

Further information

Do you have a question?

Please check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) before contacting the Training Program team, as the information you need may already be available.

If your question is not addressed in the FAQs, please email the Business Support Program Team using "Training Program" as the subject line at gisa.bspteam@sa.gov.au.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed in three stages:

Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment

Applications will be reviewed to confirm they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in these guidelines. Only eligible applications will proceed to assessment.

Stage 2: Assessment Against Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed by a Selection Panel against the assessment criteria outlined below. The Selection Panel may include GISA staff and, where appropriate, external advisers. All panel members will adhere to confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.

GISA may seek clarification or additional information from applicants where required to support assessment.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following weighted criteria:

Assessment Criterion	What to address in your application	Weighting
1. Alignment with Program Objectives	Why is your business interested in participating in the Circular Economy Training Program, and what opportunities or challenges would you like to explore through the program?	30%
2. Commitment and Capacity to Participate	How your business will ensure participation in the Training Program, including attendance at training sessions and application of learnings. This includes participants ability to influence decisions or help make changes within the business.	30%
3. Potential to Benefit from and Apply the Learning	How do you expect your business to benefit from participating in the program, and how might you apply the knowledge, tools or opportunities identified through the training?	20%
4. Contribution to Cohort Objectives and Learning Outcomes	How your business will contribute to and benefit from peer learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration with other participating businesses.	20%

Applicants should note that assessment scores will be used as the primary basis for participant selection. However, GISA may also consider cohort composition and program objectives when making final selection decisions.

Stage 3: Cohort Formation and Participant Selection

Following assessment, GISA will consider the overall composition of the participant cohort when making final participant selection decisions. Factors that may be considered include business size, industry sector, geographic location, circular economy maturity, business

challenges and opportunities, and the potential for peer learning and collaboration between participants.

To support achievement of program objectives, GISA may establish cohorts with common characteristics, including industry-specific, regional or remote cohorts.

Meeting the eligibility requirements and performing well against the assessment criteria does not guarantee participation in the Training Program. Final selection decisions will be made by GISA.

Program delivery and participation requirements

Program Delivery

The Training Program will be delivered by Circular Vision between March and April 2027. Participants will be advised of key dates, training session topics and associated activities before the program commences.

The program will include up to three training sessions or workshops, practical activities between sessions, and engagement with the training provider. Depending on the delivery model adopted and the needs of participating businesses, the program may be delivered through in-person or online workshops.

Participants should allow time to attend all sessions and complete the required activities:

- If delivered in-person: this is expected to include three 6-hour workshop sessions and one follow-up call with the trainer.
- If delivered online: this is expected to include three 3.5-hour workshop sessions and three 45-minute support calls with the trainer between sessions.
- All participants will be required to complete a short survey before and after the program.
- All participants will be required to complete activities between sessions, as instructed by the trainer.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Information provided through the application process will be treated confidentially and used by GISA for the purposes of assessing applications, selecting participants, administering the Training Program and evaluating the Training Program outcomes.

Applicants should be aware that aggregated, de-identified information may be used by GISA for reporting, monitoring and continuous improvement purposes.

Promotion and Case Studies

Successful participants may be invited to participate in promotional activities associated with the Training Program, including case studies, photographs, videos, interviews, website content and other communication materials.

Program Evaluation and Feedback

Successful participants will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities related to the Training Program. This may include providing feedback through surveys, interviews, workshops, case studies or other evaluation methods during and after completion of the Training Program.

Information collected through these activities will be used by GISA to evaluate the Training Program outcomes, identify opportunities for improvement and inform the development of future business support initiatives.

Participant Responsibilities

Successful participants are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled training sessions and associated program activities.
- Actively participate in discussions, workshops and learning activities.
- Provide information required for program monitoring and evaluation.
- Advise GISA if they are unable to continue participating in the program.

Unsuccessful Applications

Applicants who are not selected to participate in the Training Program will be notified in writing.

Due to the competitive nature of the selection process and the limited number of places available, GISA may not be able to offer a place to all eligible applicants. Participant selection decisions are final.

Ready to apply?
Submit your application online by **Friday, 22 January 2027**.
Online Application Form: Application Form

Have a question?
Please check the FAQs for further information.

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