Lahti Declaration of Circular Economy

The Lahti region is an internationally known hub of environmental expertise and cleantech business. Lahti has attracted attention for its pioneering waste management solutions, cleantech marketing and internationalisation, promotion of water resources protection and ambitious climate goals. International environmental agreements and programmes (the Paris Agreement, the EU Circular Economy Package, the UN Agenda 2030) place an increasing emphasis on an economy that distances itself from fossil fuels and the consumption of natural resources. Finland ranks fairly high in cleantech innovations (Global Cleantech Innovation Index 2014), but the lack of first references on domestic markets is slowing down the commercialisation of innovations. Thus, innovative public procurements can be a significant factor in the transfer to circular economy. The EU strives to move towards circular economy, where materials and value circulate and added value for products is created via services and intelligence.

The goal of the Lahti region is to create an internationally interesting and rapidly reacting region for the development of circular economy. The shift to circular economy plays a key role in the new strategy approved by the City of Lahti in April 2016, the foci of education and research in the area, and in the national and international collaboration with Lahti’s partner cities.

**We, the signatories, commit ourselves to:**

* 1. Taking alternative solutions offered by circular economy into account in public procurements and investments.
	2. Investigating the industrial-scale value chains in circular economy, and the local opportunities for product development and research.
	3. Developing new business in the fields of resource efficiency and the reuse, repair and maintenance of products and materials.
	4. Maintaining the pioneer status of the Lahti region in waste sorting and recycling, and developing new opportunities connected to this.

Lahti, 10 May 2016, at the Smart Cities in Smart Regions conference,

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Jyrki Myllyvirta, Mayor of Lahti Jukka Rantanen,
 CEO of Lahti Region Development, LADEC

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Tuula Honkanen, Outi Kallioinen,
CEO of Päijät-Häme Waste Management Ltd. Principal of Lahti University of Applied Sciences

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Martti Lipponen, CEO of Lahti Aqua