Circular Cities: Challenges to Implementing Looping Actions

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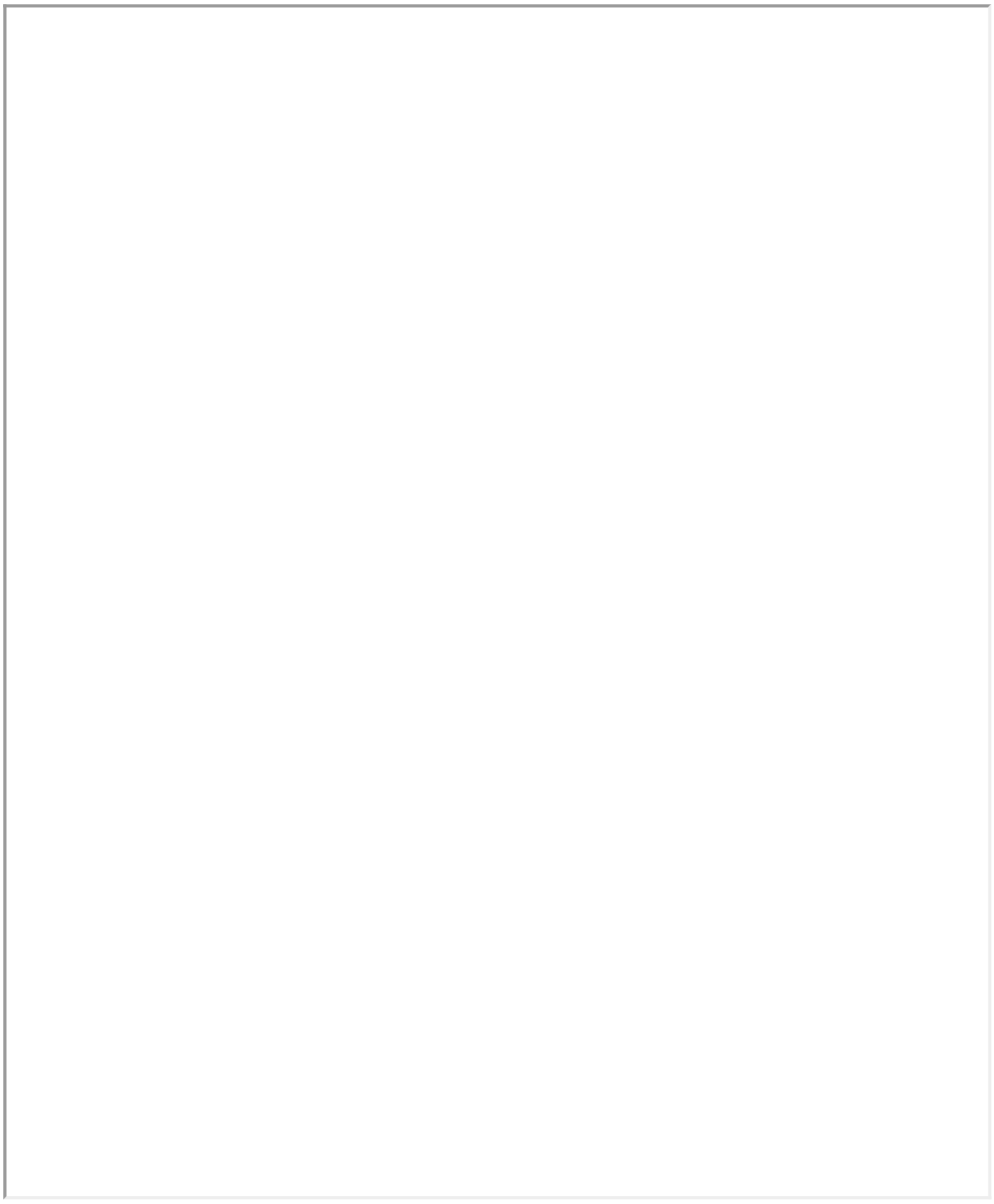
Why did we select this research?

Looping actions—reuse, recycling and recovery of resources (materials, energy, water, land and infrastructure)—can help to address resource scarcity and wastage in cities. Using a mixed methods approach, the paper identifies 58 challenges to looping actions across eight themes. It also establishes the challenges to implementing a nexus solution.

Key findings:

- Need for systemic cultural change in society and the restructuring of the economy to support looping activities.
- Difficulties in developing the levers—regulatory, institutional, educational, technical and political—needed for that transformation to occur.
- There must be political support for looping actions. Addressing resource "waste" in cities will need to be a priority in order to overcome conflicts with other political agendas.
- A multi-scaler, cross-sectoral regulatory framework for the management of resources will be needed to encourage looping actions and prevent conflicts. Introducing a management hierarchy across all resource types (similar to the 3 R's) could help implementation.
- Urban form which supports looping actions, for example by providing space for looping activities, mixed-uses to enable urban symbiosis, using a flexible/adaptable infrastructure which can be modified to meet the new requirements of urban citizens, should also be adopted. This socio-technical transformation could be achieved over the long-term through a process of urban renewal which engages the urban population, but only if there is the

political will.



Reference:

Williams, J. (2019). Circular Cities: Challenges to Implementing Looping Actions. *Sustainability*, *11*(2), 423.