**FIVE-C Network – Terms of Reference**

**1. Purpose**

To provide an interdisciplinary, collaborative platform for advancing circular economy research, innovation and implementation in five priority sectors, drawing on the collective expertise of its members.

**2. Scope**

FIVE-C’s work will encompass:

* **Research & Development**: Advancing technical solutions such as renewable energy storage, additive manufacturing with recycled feedstocks, textile recycling, smart microgrids and circular digital infrastructure.
* **Social Impact & Engagement**: Embedding circular principles into communities and businesses through co-creation workshops, public engagement and knowledge exchange.
* **Policy & Systems Change**: Influencing procurement, governance, and regulatory frameworks to embed circularity in practice.

**3. Principles**

* **Interdisciplinarity** – Integrating engineering, design, social science and policy expertise.
* **Co-creation** – Working with stakeholders, not just for them.
* **Evidence-based Action** – Decisions informed by robust life cycle assessments, cost-benefit analyses and social impact metrics (whether they exist, depending on specific application).
* **Equity & Inclusion** – Ensuring benefits and opportunities are shared across communities.
* **Global Perspective, Local Action** – Learning from diverse geographies while tailoring solutions to place.

**4. Membership**

* **Composition**: Currently ‘Academics’ only, with the prospect to include industry practitioners, policymakers, NGOs and community representatives.
* **Expectations**: Active contribution to bidding activities, projects, sharing of expertise, participation in events and promotion of FIVE-C values.
* **Collaboration**: Members are encouraged to initiate and join interdisciplinary projects that align with FIVE-C’s mission.

**5. Governance**

* **Steering Group**: Network leads and theme representatives from each sector.
* **Decision-making**: Consensus-based where possible; transparent voting when required.

**6. Ways of Working**

* **Knowledge Exchange**: Regular webinars, circular design sprints and public-facing workshops.
* **Innovation Labs**: Pilot projects that test and refine circular economy approaches.
* **Joint Bidding for Grants**: Coordinated applications to secure research and innovation funding.
* **Shared Academic Publications:** Collaborative authorship to disseminate findings and increase impact.