



## Circular Economy Webinar

### Session 3 Summary: Green Road: Integrated Waste Management and Circular Economy in Bhutan

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**Green Road:** The Green Road Project in Bhutan aims to use waste plastic, including plastic bottles, in road construction as a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to traditional methods. The project seeks to reduce the use of fossil fuels and reduce plastic waste.

### Key Takeaways

1. **Bhutan used to export plastic waste and other waste materials to India; however, after India changed its policy on waste importation, Bhutan recognized the need to establish its own recycling initiatives.** The Green Road project aims to create a recycling ecosystem within the country.
2. **Green Road mixes plastic waste with bitumen to create a plastic-bitumen mix for blacktopping roads.**
3. **This technology saves costs for the government.** Roads constructed in 2015 using this technology have remained durable, requiring minimal repairs over the past seven years. This allows the government to reallocate funds to other infrastructure projects.
4. **Plastic roads are an environmentally friendly solution to the plastic waste problem.** Instead of incinerating or sending plastics to landfills, they are recycled and incorporated into road construction. Plastic roads have reduced maintenance requirements, with a predicted maintenance-free period of at least five years. Traditional roads in Bhutan often demand yearly repairs due to the challenging mountain weather conditions.
5. **Plastic waste used in road construction is processed back into its original form, bitumen.** This approach allows for the reuse of plastic waste and reduces the generation of microplastics in the road construction process. Green Road does not generate microplastics.

[Watch the Recording here](#)