

# Closed Cycles and the Circular Society - The Power of Ecological Engineering

<https://closedcycles2020.ch/>

## Concept of Task & Case Study Sessions Information for hosts and participants

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At the Closed Cycles 2020 Symposium, we put a strong focus on the practice of closing material cycles by following an integrative ecological engineering approach. This “marriage” of ecology and engineering to a single, innovative design framework requires new procedures and new tools (which in parts do not even exist yet).

During the “Task and case study” sessions at Closed Cycles 2020, we aim to explore and contribute to the development this design framework. A mandatory prerequisite is sufficient time: time for getting to know each other’s perspectives, exploring this new approach, listening, asking questions and getting into a creative mindset.

Usually, scientific conferences do not care too much about integration. In this symposium, we will! Based on the “Task and case study” sessions, a state-of-the art paper on the “ecological engineering design framework” (working title) is planned after the symposium.

### What is the difference between “task” and “case study” sessions?

- Tasks are unsolved & complex problems that need to be tackled, and where a concrete interest exists, e.g. the revitalization of a former industrial zone that was abandoned, the transition from non-renewable to renewable energies, the transformation of an urban district with old houses towards zero carbon etc.
- Case studies either are existing projects, in their realization phase, or completed projects, that raise new open questions (e.g., upscaling issues, operative or conceptual issues etc).

### How does the setting of the “Task and case study” sessions look like?

- Each “task or case study” (T&C) session will have a host who facilitates the session
- The host is responsible for an open and welcoming atmosphere. Ideally, a T&C session should “feel” like a meeting among friends
- It is up to the hosts how they want to direct and facilitate their session (e.g., use of a design thinking approach, a world café or other facilitation methods...)
- The host must formulate open questions to stimulate the discussion
- A maximum of 1/3 of the time can be assigned to thematic input (less may be more)  
A minimum of 2/3 of the time must be reserved for discussion (more may be better)

- A T&C session may contain one or several tasks/case studies and may last from at least 1 hour one day to a max. of 7 hours within 3 days (if related several tasks and case studies are lined up and combined).
- The duty of the T&C session hosts is to summarize the outcome (e.g., a list of suggested ideas or measures) for the envisioned “ecological engineering design framework”

**Symposium’s program (state of Jan. 27, 2020):**

Closed Cycles 2020 Draft program 2.-6.9.2020	Tuesday Sep. 1, 2020	Wednesday Sep. 2, 2020	Thursday Sep. 3, 2020	Friday Sep. 4, 2020	Saturday, Sep. 5, 2020	
8:15 - 9:00	Arrival	Welcome + Keynote 1	Keynote 3	Parallel sessions 5	Excursion (optional)	
9:00 - 9:45		Keynote 2	Parallel sessions 2			
Coffee Break (30 min)		Coffee break				
10:15 - 12:15		Tasks / Case studies 1	Parallel sessions 3	Tasks / Case studies 4		
Lunch break (1h 15 min)		Lunch				
13.30 - 14:15		Parallel sessions 1	Keynote 4	Keynote 5		
14:15 - 15:30			Parallel sessions 4	Farewell		
Coffee break & Posters (1 h)		Coffee break & Posters				
16:30 - 18:00		Registration	Tasks / Case studies 2	Tasks / Case studies 3		Individual activities e.g., swimming in Lake Zurich
18:00-19:00			Activities organized by students	Activities organized by students		
Evening	Welcome reception	IEES assembly	open slot		Departure	
		Space for activities yet to be defined	Symposium dinner			

The green boxes in the program are **time slots** reserved for tasks and case studies. In total, 7 hours are currently reserved for them (the final program will depend on the actual submissions):

- 2 hours in the morning of Sep. 2
- 1:30 in the afternoon of Sep. 2
- 1:30 in the afternoon of Sep. 3
- 2 hours in the morning of Sep. 4