Rest to Resource – Circular Innovation and Business Development in SMEs

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The EU Regional fund project Rest to Resource runs from 2016-2018. The project investigates and seek to promote green and circular business development in Danish SMEs. Project leader is Danish Symbiosis Center with DTU as the main analytical partner.

A special feature of the project is that it works through and with six municipalities in region Vestsjaelland, analyzing and promoting the municipalities’ capacity to facilitate circular innovation in 100 SMEs.

In the preparation phase we developed a circular company screening tool, we educated the municipalities in green business development, we set out procedures for identifying potential companies and worked with the company-municipal interface.

Another core feature is that we in the circular screening tool and succeeding green business model workshops highlight both business model aspects and environmental aspects. In considering CE potentials we include both materials, water and energy and the trade off between resource efficiency, internal recycling and symbiotic recycling, see figure below.

Core outputs are company green screening reports, a company green database and for the companies green technical and business plans developed in collaboration with consultants, a few together with DTU students. The green industrial dynamics of the SMEs are being further analyzed based on the data provided feeding into eco-innovation and green and circular economy research. The project is ongoing and papers have still not been published.