

Building a Circular Community Hub in Motherwell, South Africa

Attendee: Nicole Crozier

Course: Arca Building a Circular Business Online Course

Date: 6th June – 7th July 2022

Nicole Crozier is an independent consultant and researcher who works with The Motherwell Community and Enviro Hub, a social enterprise based in Motherwell, South Africa.

Motherwell is facing significant challenges such as high unemployment & poverty levels, malnutrition, and limited municipal services such as refuse collection.

The Motherwell Community and Enviro Hub brings together three local community organisations fighting pollution and offers a central community space for their activities.

The Motherwell Community and Enviro Hub aims to help its beneficiaries to gain networks and skills, as the small business sector has been identified as key in driving job creation. To facilitate this, the facility provides a space for environmental education, and aims to generate revenue to support livelihoods

through a range of activities such as crafting with recycled plastics, food gardens, and creating a viable recycling operation for the residents of Motherwell.

Project and Impact



- Through Arca's Building a Circular Business course, Nicole analysed the Hub's current circumstances by mapping the inputs, processes, and outputs of the project, to identify untapped resources and revenue streams such as installing solar panels to capture energy from the sun.
- Working with other course participants, and Arca academics Guy Hopkinson, and Stefano Pascucci, Nicole has created an action plan, including composting food waste to improve soil quality, demonstrate what can be done with waste to generate income, using rainwater tanks to collect water, and installing solar panels.



Photo: Nicole Crozier

“Working as a researcher and consultant in the circular economy, the Arca ‘Building a Circular Business course’, was highly beneficial.

It offered a framework to consider how to include circularity in business development.

It was not overly theoretical. Rather the aim was to allow business owners and managers to consider how their business inputs, processes, and outputs could be made more circular.

This is a great approach, and it will assist me in my own consulting work.”

Nicole Crozier