

# **Southeastern's Circular Economy Plan** Summary

March 2025



# Circular economy in rail

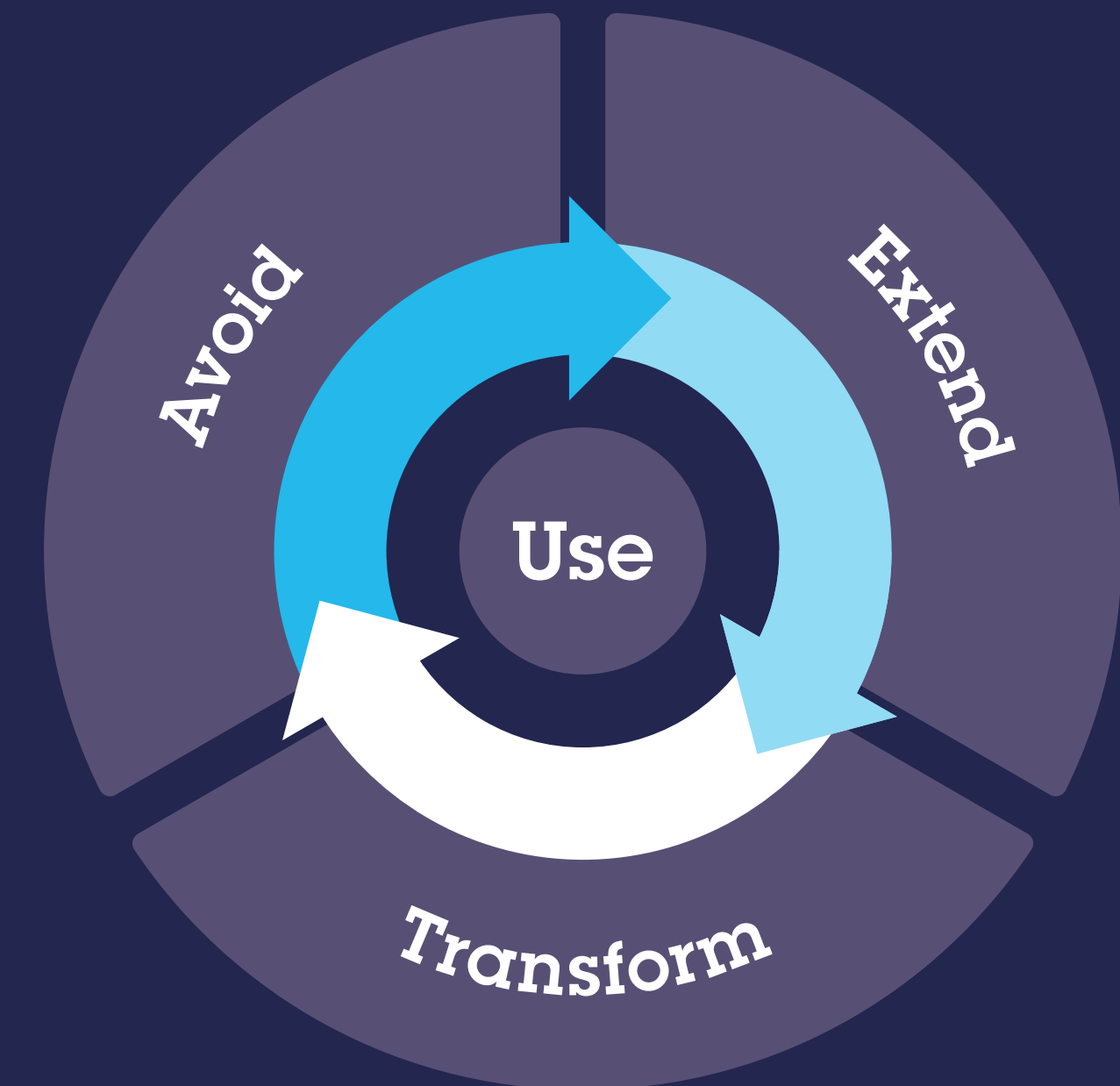
Public transport supports circular economy principles by maximising the use of assets like trains, stations, and depots. While rail extends asset lifespans through leasing, maintenance, and refurbishment, further efforts are needed to minimise waste and enhance sustainability. Each year, 125 million passenger journeys are made using trains leased for around 35 years, with infrastructure continuously upgraded.

By embedding circular practices across our operations, from procurement to asset management, we can further reduce resource consumption and environmental impact while continuing to deliver social and economic value.

There are still many areas where we operate a linear consumption system, where materials are extracted from the earth to make products that have a short life before being disposed of. Reducing our use of this system is at the heart of this Plan. We intend to work with our procurement and operational teams to find new solutions that reduce the waste we create.

Our ambition is to further develop our circular value chain, where we buy products that are designed to be durable, repairable and reusable. This approach will reduce our reliance on unsustainable raw materials — making the essential products we buy work as long and hard as possible. Then only at the end of life will we use recycling to recover materials so they can be transformed and reused.

To realise this change, we will need to transform how we buy and use some products and resources.

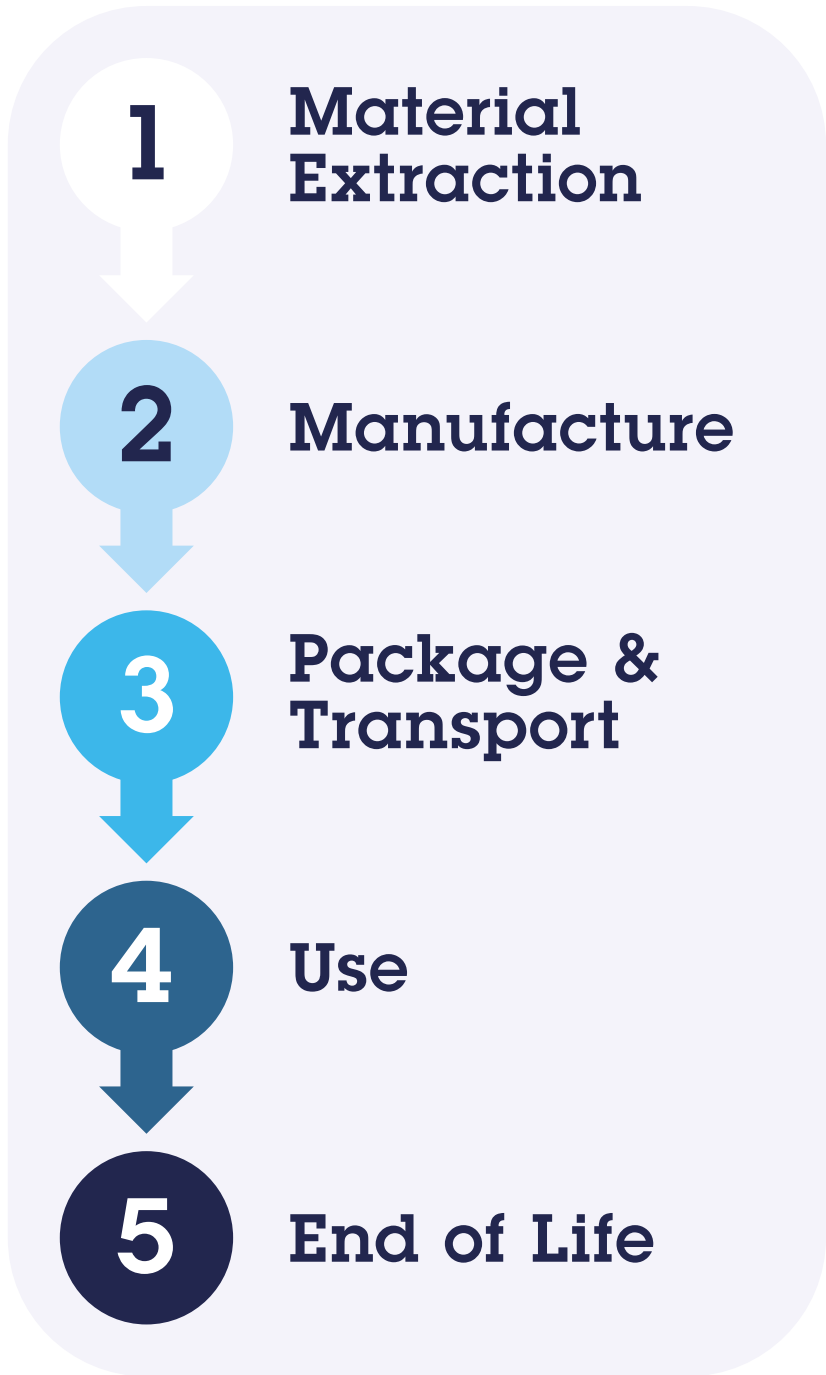


# Lifecycle Thinking in Action: Circular Practices in Our Operations

Lifecycle thinking underpins the circular economy approach to business planning and delivery that we have set out in this Plan.

We have defined lifecycle thinking as:

The process of considering the impacts of products and services throughout their life, from planning, to use, before final consumption or disposal.



## Rethink

New technology is to be utilised to automatically survey our train fleets to direct where maintenance work is needed. This will support our current maintenance plan where maintenance takes place at fixed intervals. Our new approach means we will help to undertake repairs when needed and will help to evolve the maintenance plan, backed up with data from numerous measurements taken by the AVI. This is helping us to avoid replacing spare parts before the end of their useful life.



## Repair

Sometimes specialist parts of our trains, such as seat frames need to be repaired. We have sourced a local SME who undertakes specialist repairs so that some of these seats can be returned for use, rather than being discarded.



## Remanufacture

We avoid waste by returning key parts of our trains, such as wheel sets, to industry suppliers so that they can be remanufactured before being used again within the rail industry.



## Recycle

Many of our trains are fitted with technology that converts braking energy into electricity that is used to power other trains.

In 2024/25 our mainline and metro trains used this technology to reduce energy use by 46 million kWh around 10% of the energy used by these trains.

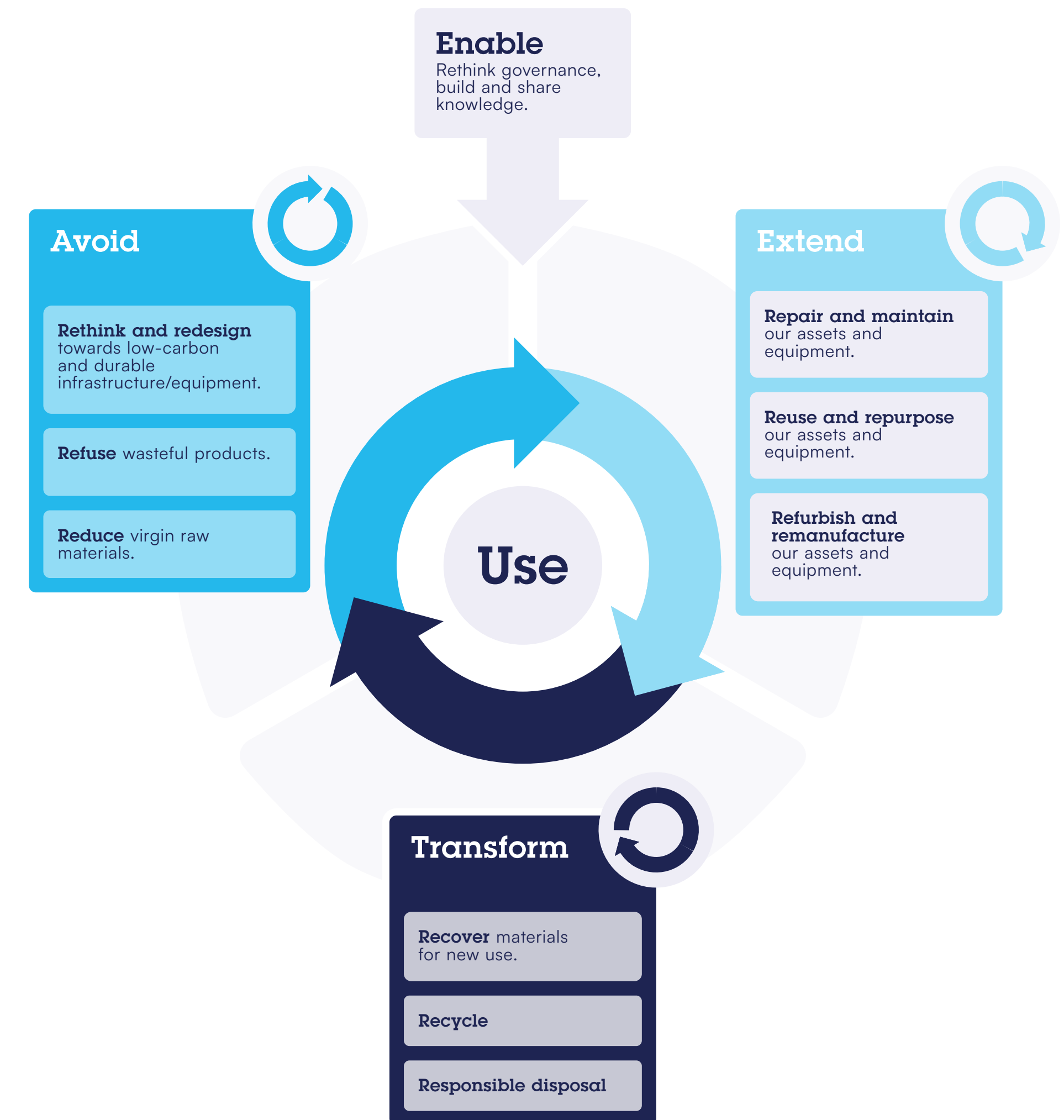
# Our Next Steps: Advancing Circular Economy

To embed circular economy principles into our business, we will seek to prioritise responsible decision-making across the lifecycle of our assets and operations. Our approach will be guided by the following key considerations:

- Whole life thinking
- Encourage renewable resources
- Durable & repairable design
- Social responsibility and inclusion
- Smart & efficient energy use
- Maximise asset life
- End of life circularity

People are at the heart of our circular economy approach. By working collaboratively with colleagues, suppliers, and industry partners, we can embed circular principles, reduce waste, extend resource lifespans, and create new opportunities.

Through Southeastern's Procurement Social Value Charter (PSVC) and business change framework, we are laying the foundation for a circular approach. The PSVC sets clear ambitions, including waste reduction, circular procurement, and eliminating landfill waste.



# High level plan for the next 3 years

Actions to  
**enable our business  
to adopt our circular  
economy model.**

Engage colleagues  
and refresh business  
systems to support  
circular economy  
action.

Actions to  
**avoid consumption.**

Work with colleagues  
to build on the work we  
already do to explore  
new opportunities to  
avoid consumption.

Actions to  
**extend lifecycles.**

With colleagues and  
suppliers explore the  
benefits and opportunities  
of extending lifecycles.  
Work with one team to  
calculate avoided waste.

Actions to  
**transform waste  
that is created.**

Roll out improvements  
to enhance the recovery  
and recycling of waste  
that we create.

