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Achieving sustainability together

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Propositions

Belonging to the thesis

By Manon Eikelenboom

1. Enterprises are central in achieving societal sustainability, however they cannot do this alone and need to collaborate with diverse stakeholders. (*This PhD thesis*)
2. In order to add to a sustainable society, incumbent enterprises need to move beyond ‘low-hanging fruit’ approaches and integrate corporate sustainability and circular economy principles at a strategic level. (*Chapter 1 and Chapter 3*)
3. Organizational managers can play an essential role in driving, or obstructing, the development of collaborations with diverse stakeholders. (*Chapter 2 and Chapter 3*)
4. Without the involvement of social elements, circular strategies are likely to induce rebound effects. (*Chapter 4*)
5. Circular economy research focusses too much on technical and economic aspects and should shift its focus to also include social perspectives. (*Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6*)
6. Collaboration with diverse stakeholders, and with local communities in particular, is of key importance in the circular economy, however this is a complex process and should not be seen as an easy ‘quick fix’. (*Chapter 4 and Chapter 5*)
7. In order to involve local communities in multi-stakeholder initiatives new types of management are needed which focus on the active and equal involvement of community members next to other stakeholders. (*Chapter 5*)
8. In order to understand and help solve complex sustainability challenges, researchers have to increasingly interact with practitioners and adopt action research approaches. (*Chapter 1, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6*)
9. “*In the end, the term ‘circularity’ may just be one way to make us aware that we need a more encompassing, integrated and restorative sustainability path that includes people as much as technology and nature.*”
- Michiel Schwarz, A Sustainist Lexicon