Open Hardware & Circularity

How open technologies & circular economy interrelate

Intransparency as part of modern business models

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Intransparency enables the **control of innovation cycles** and thus an unsustainable way of doing business, because there is a strong incentive to keep them short

Open circularity | closed circularity

CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 Böckel et al. "Mythen der Circular Economy"

If circularity is the future, then we need open technologies that allow us to repair, adapt locally and recycle.

For example...

The French consumer law requires that if a **spare part is not available** on the market and can be manufactured using a **three-dimensional printing process**, the manufacturing drawing must be made available.

We are talking about **Open Hardware**...

*"Open source hardware is hardware **whose design is made publicly available** so that anyone can study, modify, distribute, make, and sell the design or hardware based on that design."*

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We need a shift towards business models that allow such open products and are not based on intransparency

But for that, we need to talk about innovation...

Prototype Fund Hardware

(https://hardware.prototypefund.de/en/)

Gallery

In this section, we highlight open hardware projects which already solve societal problems and can be replicated due to their open documentation. With our funding program we aim to support such projects. Do you like a project? Then support it with your skills or donations! You know other good examples? Send us an email!

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