Healthy Workers, Strong Circular Economy

Circular Economy Goals
- Minimize environmental impact
- Reduce worker injury, illness, and death

Key Considerations
- Workers need to be at the center of each of the stages of the CE
- Workers need to be visible to consumers, regulators, investors, and all sectors of the CE
- Workers in the CE need:
  - Respect
  - Safe work places
  - A living wage
  - Paid sick leave
  - Access to health care

Workers Central to a Robust Circular Economy

Extraction
Reduce it by using recycled material.

Design
Include safe manufacturing, use, recycling, easy disassembly, and repair.

Manufacture
Use less resources, make products safer, easier to repair/reuse and to last longer.

Use
Safe use of products by workers and consumers.

Distribution
Safe working conditions for warehousing and transportation workers, minimize packaging and energy use.

End of Useful Life
Reduce it by reusing, recycling and repairing.

Workers at Risk Every Year
In the US*
- 5,000 fatalities
- 3,000,000 injuries and illnesses at work
Globally**
- >1,000,200 fatalities
- 73,000,000 DALYs***

** World Health Organization, 2018
*** Disability Adjusted Life Years not the same as number of injuries and illnesses

The AIHA Stewardship and Sustainability Committee is planning to develop more in-depth information associated with the infographics in the future. For more information or to join the committee, please contact Mary O’Reilly at moreilly@albany.edu.