Sustainable Innovation 2015

20th International Conference 'State of the Art' Sustainable Innovation & Design 9th – 10th November 2015 University for the Creative Arts Epsom, Surrey, UK www.cfsd.org.uk



An Assessment of Differing Environmental and Economic Factors and Their Impact on the Development of a Circular Economy for Refrigerated Display Cabinets in the UK

Debrorah Andrews, Zaneta Muranko and Issa Chaer London South Bank University, UK

A number of environmental, social and economic factors clearly show that the Linear Economy (in which products are manufactured, used and treated as waste at end-of-life) is unsustainable and as a consequence an alternative model – the Circular Economy – is being advocated. By definition the development of a Circular Economy must include economic as well as environmental factors; however the optimum environmental choice is not always the optimum economic choice, which further complicates the development of this new business model. This paper presents a specific case study in the commercial refrigeration industry and considers the environmental and economic implications that affect the potential substitution of insulation materials for Refrigerated Display Cabinets (RDCs). The case study also illustrates the complexity of decision making towards the development of a Circular Economy.