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**Professor Walter R. Stahel, Founder-Director,  
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Walter R. Stahel is Founder-Director of the Product-Life Institute, a not-for-profit consulting organization devoted to developing sustainable strategies and policies. Stahel is an accomplished circular economy pioneer and has been an active proponent of circular thinking since the 1970s. His point of view is that in a circular economy, waste managers become resource managers and must move up the value preservation chain.

Stahel organised the International Design Forum 1992 at the *Hochschule für Gestaltung* in Ulm, Germany, on the topic of “common utilisation instead of singular consumption”. He has written numerous papers, spoken at conferences all over the world, been nominated for multiple awards, taught at universities in the U.K., the US, EU and Japan, and worked as a consultant developing and designing sustainable solutions.

Stahel founded The Geneva-based Product-Life Institute in 1983. In 2010, he published a second edition of his book *The Performance Economy*, in which he argues that producing performance, selling performance and maintaining performance over time are the real levers to move the circular economy forward. In 2013, he published a paper on Policy for material efficiency—sustainable taxation as a departure from the throwaway society, which stipulates that human labour is a renewable resource and should not be taxed.