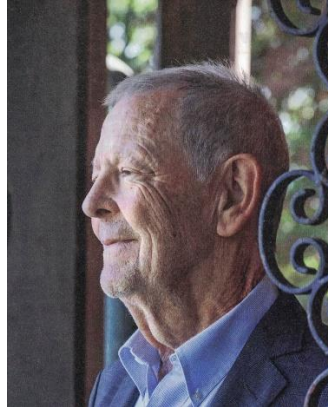


Sustainable Innovation 2025
Sustainable Innovation in Products, Services and Business Models
Past, Present and
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Dr Walter R Stahel, Founder-Director, Product-Life Institute, Switzerland

Dr h.c. mult. Walter R. Stahel has been founder-director of the [Product-Life Institute](#) (Switzerland), the oldest established consultancy in Europe devoted to developing sustainable strategies and policies, since 1983. From 1986 to 2014, he was also director of risk management research of the [Geneva Association](#).

In 1971, he graduated from ETH Zurich with an MA in architecture; Stahel has been Visiting Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Surrey, since 2005; a full member of the Club of Rome since 2013. He was awarded degrees of Doctor of the University, honoris causa, by the University of Surrey (2013) and l'Université de Montréal (2016).

In 1982, with 'The Product-Life Factor', he won a Mitchell Prize in Houston, TX; In 1978, together with Peter Perutz, he won a first prize in the competition of the German Future's Society, Berlin, with a paper on unemployment, occupation and profession. His corner books are: 'Jobs for Tomorrow, the Potential for substituting manpower for energy' (1981), Vantage Press N.Y., 'The Performance Economy' (2010), Palgrave MacMillan; and 'Circular Economy – a user's guide' (2019), Routledge, with translations into a dozen other languages.

Spotlight on current activity:

Promoting the understanding of the structure, drivers and obstacles of an economy in loops – a circular industrial economy; spreading the knowledge about the innovation potential and competitiveness of a performance economy selling goods and molecules as a service; and identifying the levers to speed up the shift from a linear industrial economy managing flows to a circular economy managing stocks; through workshops, lectures and contributions to policy groups. Former member of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform of EESC and the European Commission.

Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Institute CRETUS, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, CRESTING and International Society for Circular Economy (IS4CE).