

Abstract

## **Where Are the People? Including Social Sustainability in the Circular Economy**

How do social concerns fit into the circular economy, and how can we educate the next generation of engineers to integrate social concerns into their professional practice? Most conceptions of the circular economy highlight the environmental dimensions of sustainability, such as reduction of materials use or the carbon emissions, perhaps because these are more easily controllable and measurable in a quantifiable way. This paper shares our efforts at the Colorado School of Mines to teach engineering students to approach engineering problem definition, solution and design from a sociotechnical, rather than just technical perspective.