

The European Green Deal & Sustainability transitions

Libraries and the future of Europe, 9 November 2022

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European Union



3 major interrelated ecological crises

We are encountering three major interrelated ecological crises...



Climate change



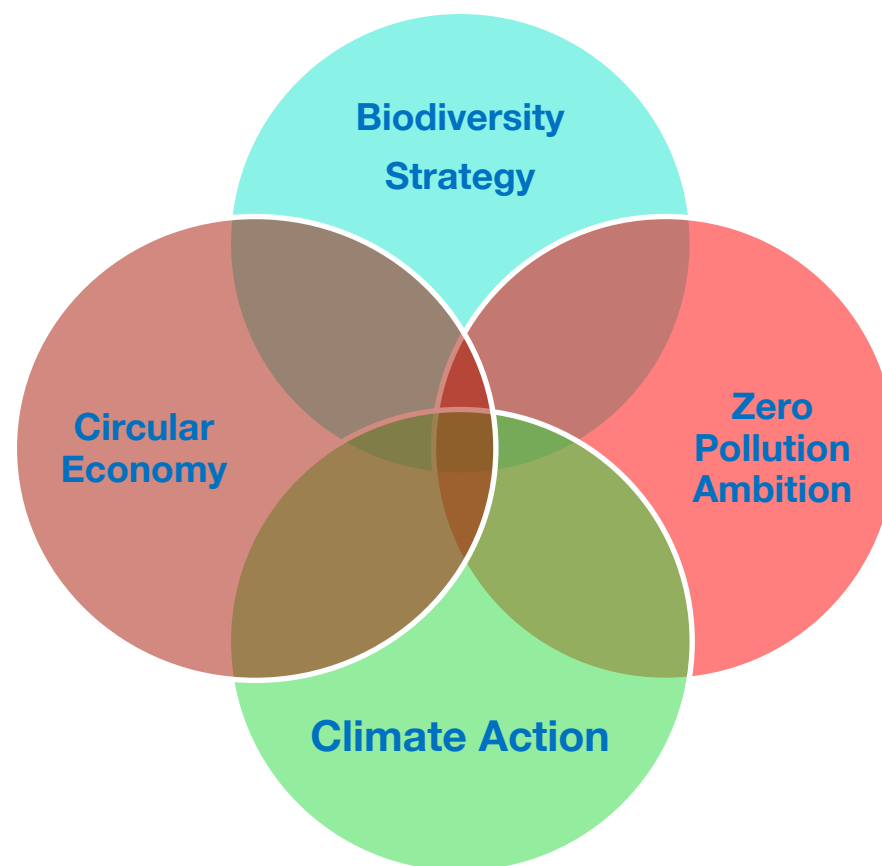
Biodiversity loss

Pollution

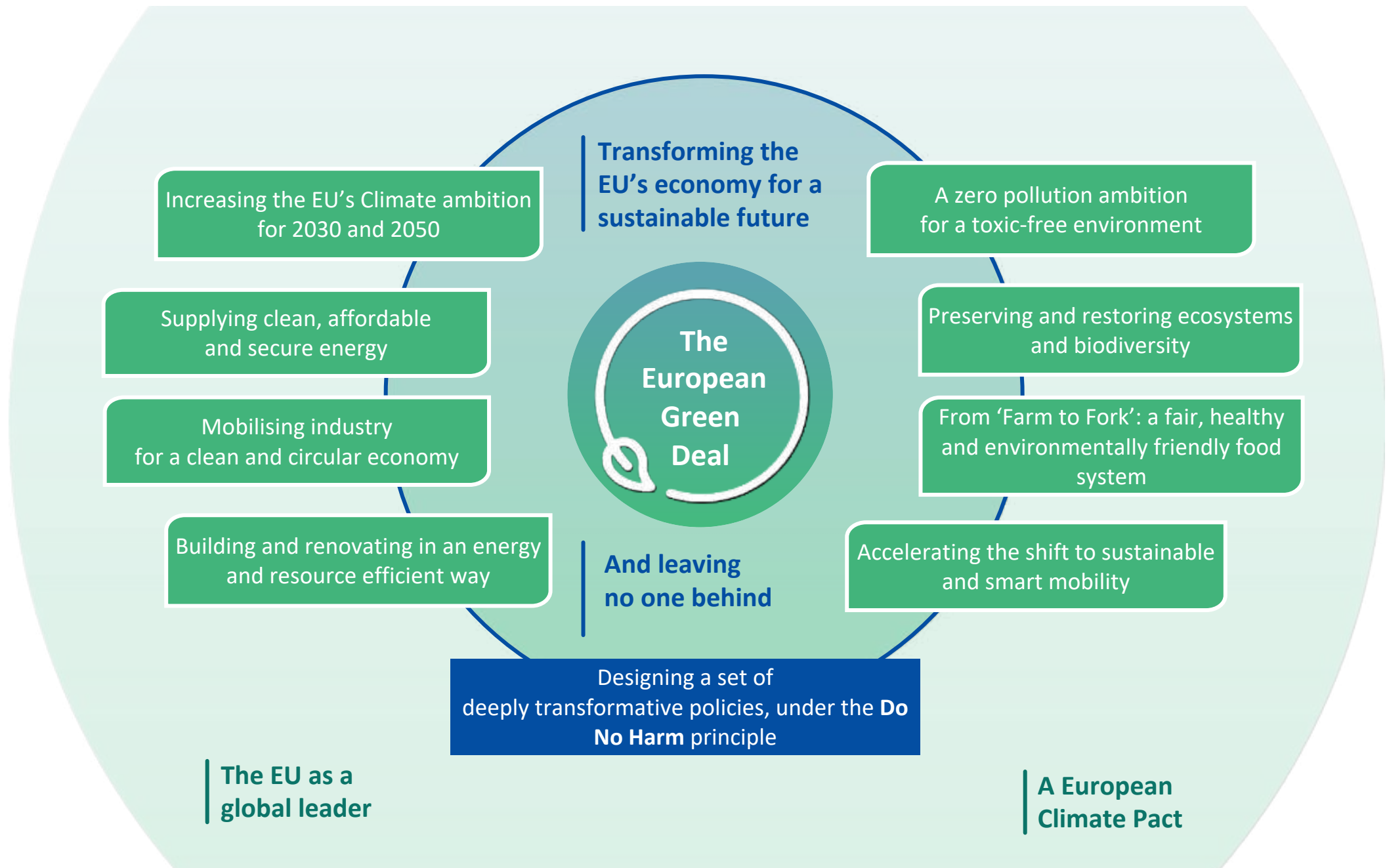


... and our **unsustainable use of resources** is a key driver for all of them.

... and the EU is responding with interrelated solutions!



The European Green Deal



| Climate neutrality by 2050

Increasing the EU's
Climate ambition for
2030 and 2050



The response

- European '**Climate Law**' enshrining the 2050 climate neutrality objective in law
- **2030 Climate Target Plan**: EU agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 sets Europe on a responsible path to becoming climate neutral by 2050.
- '**Fit for 55**' package: legislative proposals to meet 2030 reduction target
- **EU Strategy on Adaption to Climate Change** for a smarter, swifter and more systemic adaption

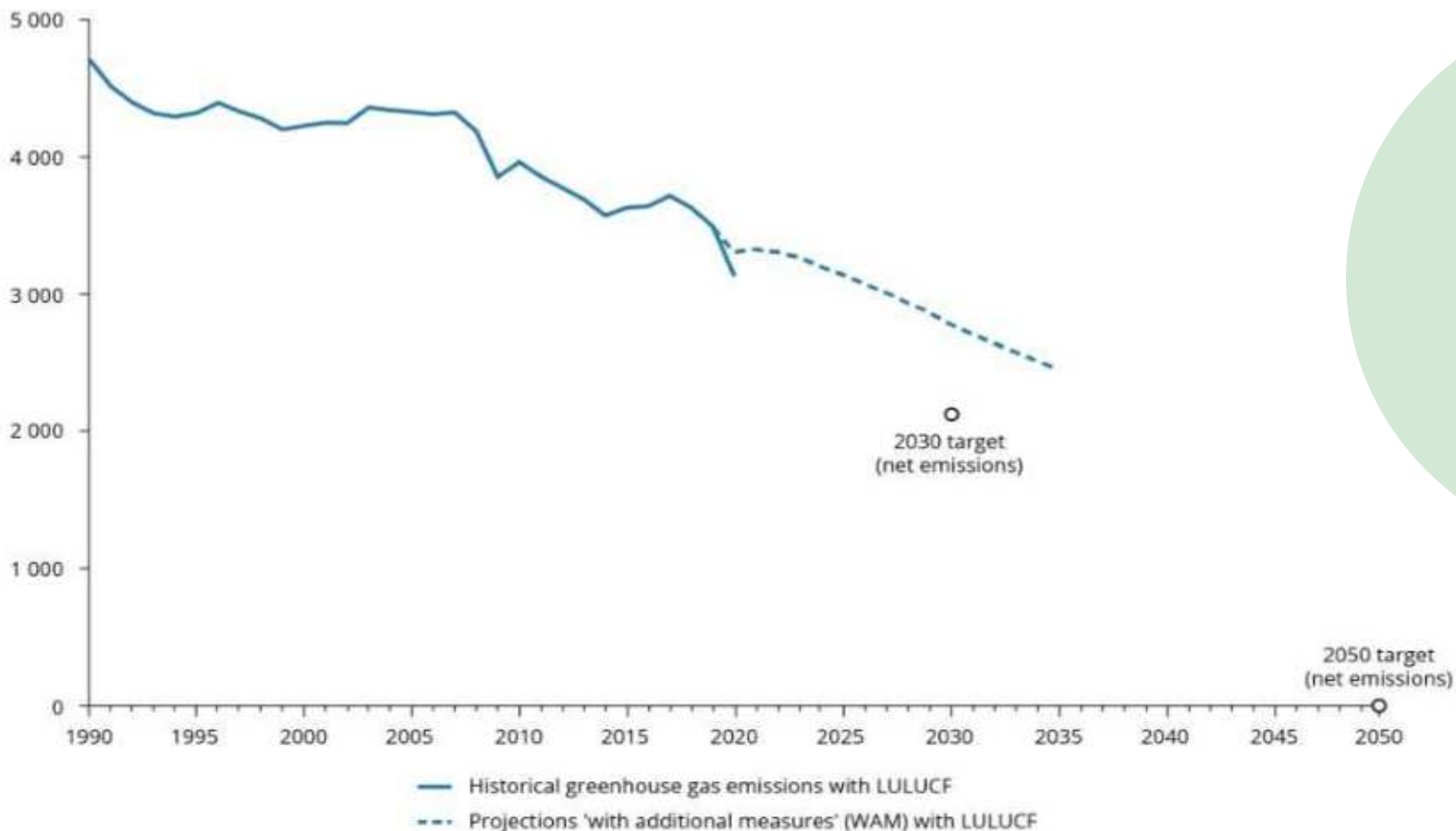
Climate neutrality by 2050

Progress on tackling climate change

The EU is a global leader in the fight against climate change:

Greenhouse gas emissions targets, trends and projections in the EU, 1990-2050

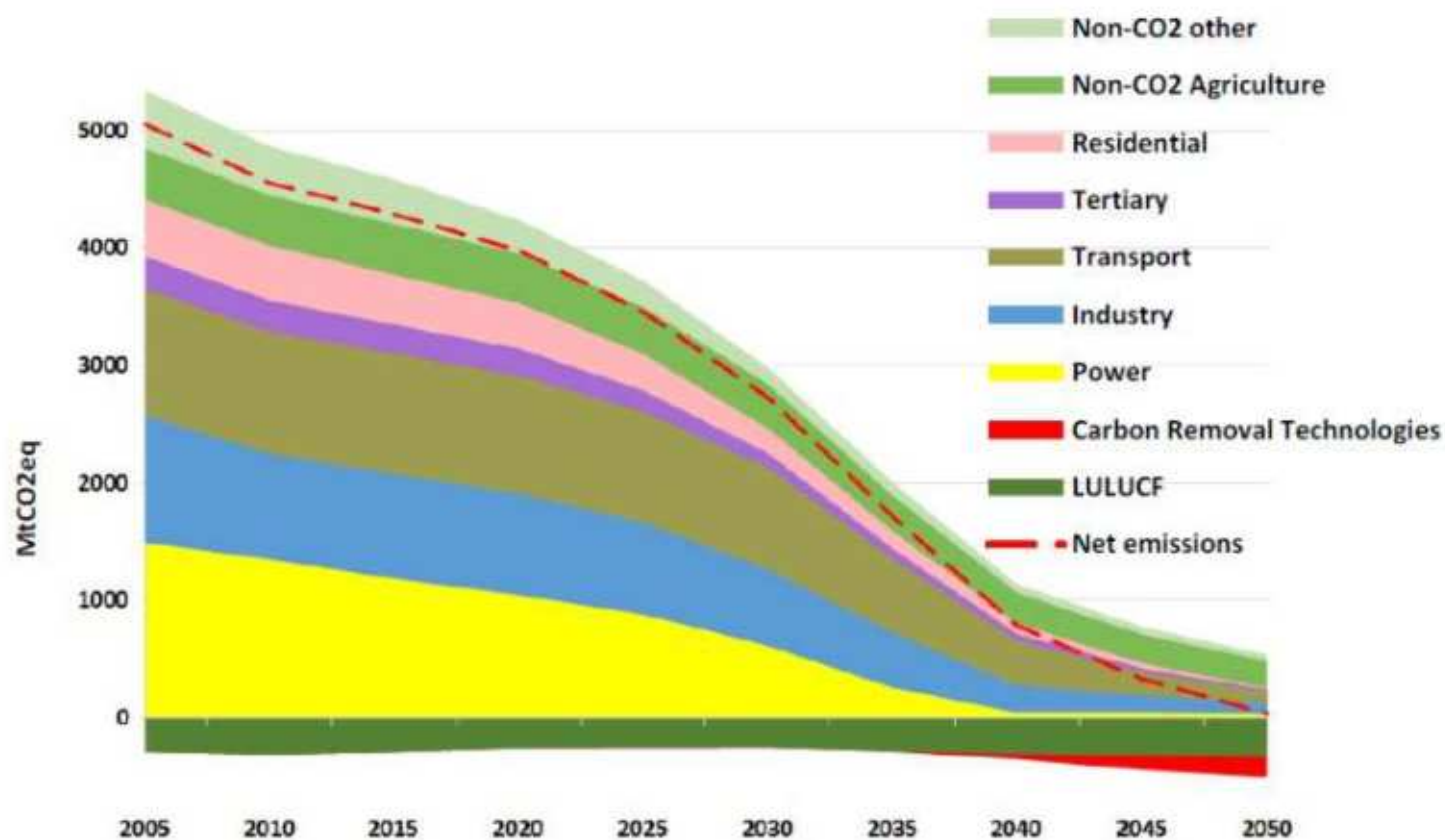
Million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (Mt CO₂e)



Between 1990 and 2018, greenhouse gas emissions **decreased by 23%**, while the economy **grew by 61%**

| Climate neutrality by 2050

What climate neutrality means:



Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

The challenge

WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?



EU nature is in alarming decline, with **more than 80% of habitats in bad or poor conservation status. Peatlands, grasslands and dunes are worst affected.** Wetlands have shrunk by 50% in Western, Central and Eastern Europe since 1970



Up to 70% of EU soils are in an unhealthy condition. Severely eroded croplands are estimated to contribute to a loss in agricultural productivity of **EUR 1.25 billion** per year in the EU



In the past decade, **71% of fish and 60% of amphibian populations have suffered a decline**



One in three bee and butterfly species in the EU are in decline, and one in ten such species on the verge of extinction

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

The response – Protect Nature



Establishing protected
areas for at least:



30%
of land in Europe



30%
of sea in Europe

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

The response – Restore Nature



Restoring degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by:

Proposal for
illegally
binding
nature
restoration
targets



Increasing organic farming and biodiversity-rich landscape features on agricultural land



Halting and reversing the decline of pollinators



Restoring at least 25 000 km of EU rivers to a free flowing state



Reducing the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% by 2030



Planting 3 billion trees by 2030

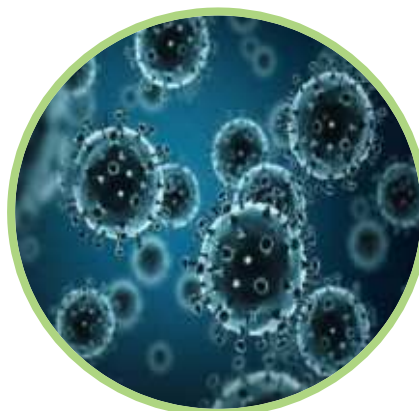
2030 targets for sustainable food production



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides**



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50 % while ensuring that no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20%



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under **high-diversity** landscape features

A **Zero Pollution** ambition for a toxic-free environment

The challenge

- **Air pollution** is the **biggest environmental health risk in Europe**. 400.000 deaths per year result of air pollution (EEA, 2019).
- **Only 40% of the surface water bodies** in Europe have a **good ecological status**.

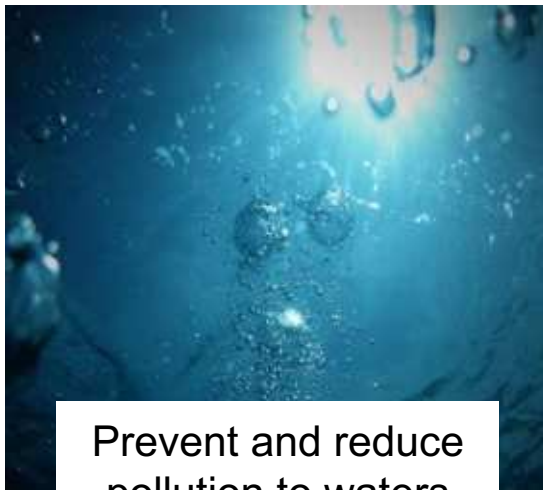


A Zero Pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

The response

The Zero Pollution Action Plan

The zero pollution vision for 2050: Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to levels no longer harmful to health and natural ecosystems thus creating a toxic free environment.



Prevent and reduce pollution to waters and oceans and facilitate remediation



Prevent and reduce air and noise pollution



Prevent and reduce soil pollution and facilitate remediation

A new industrial policy based on Circular Economy

The challenge



- From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



- More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



- EU's industry accounts for **20%** of the EU's emissions.

Source: European Commission, [EU Climate Action Progress Report 2019](#)



- Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

Source: [Eurostat](#), 2016 figures

Making sustainable products the norm in Europe

Our current 'take-make-replace' economic model depletes our resources, pollutes our environment, damages biodiversity and drives climate change. It also makes Europe dependent on resources from elsewhere. This is why the EU is moving to a circular economy model, based on more sustainable products.

30 March 2022
#EUGreenDeal

Key actions for circular and sustainable products:



Make products greener, circular and energy efficient through **ecodesign requirements**



Improve products **environmental sustainability information** for consumers and supply chain actors by introducing **Digital Product Passports**



Prevent destruction of unsold consumer products



Promote **sustainable business models**



Set mandatory requirements for **green public procurement**

For the European Union to meet its 2050 Climate targets and get rid of the dependency from Russian oil, gas and coal, we have to:

- **diversify the supply** away from Russia and towards reliable suppliers
- **boost energy efficiency and energy savings:** renovation of buildings, smart industrial processes, artificial intelligence, behavioural changes
- **massively invest in renewables** (solar, wind and hydrogen)

How to get there?

- Energy System Integration Strategy
- Hydrogen Strategy
- Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy
- Renovation Wave
- Methane Strategy
- Trans-European Networks for Energy
- New: REPower Europe



Mobilising private investments

- Renewed **Sustainable Finance Strategy** in July 2021
- **EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy**
- Proposal for a **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive**:
- Support **natural capital accounting**
- Labels for retail financial investment products
- **Developing EU green bond standard**; integration of environmental risks in EU prudential framework



Environmental fairness and Just transition

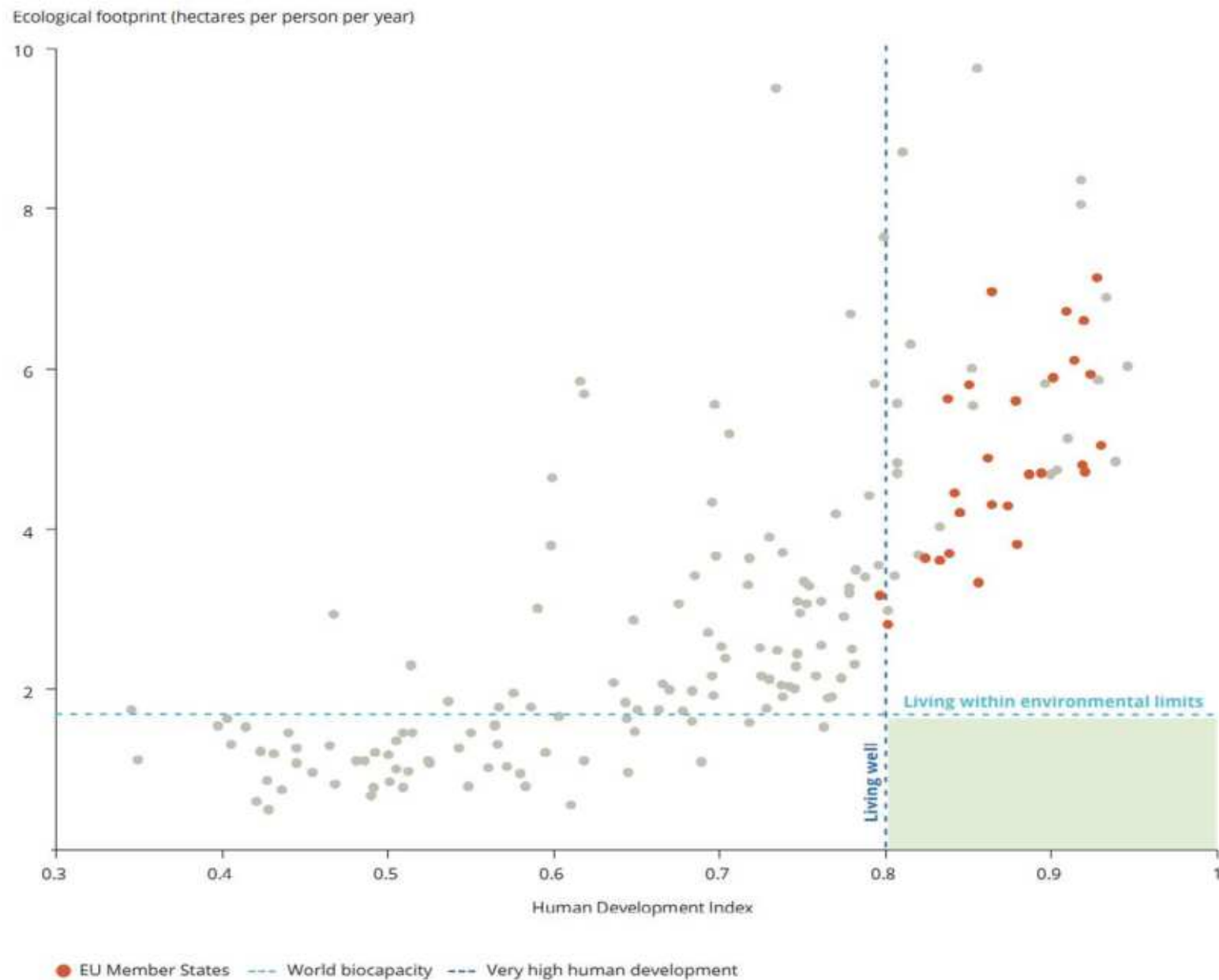


Inequalities



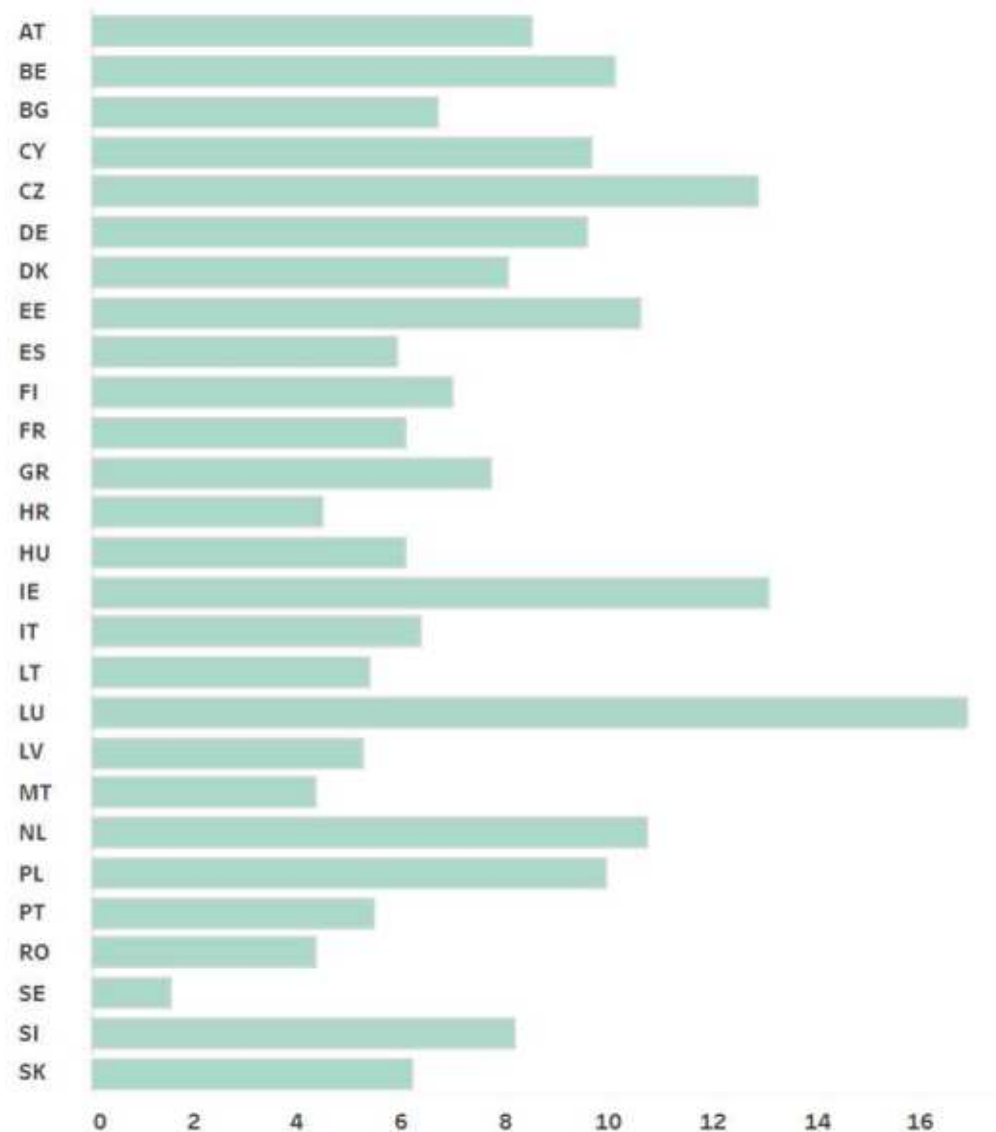
Intergenerational justice

Correlation human development – environmental footprint



Climate neutrality by 2050

Total greenhouse gas emissions per capita in 2019
(kt CO2 equivalent)



Total net GHG emissions per capita in 2018 ('Kyoto basket')
(kt CO2 equivalent):

EU-27 average: **6.55**

World: **4.72**

United States: **16.06**

China: **7.10**

India: **1.91**

African continent: **1.11**

Just transition in the Green Deal

- **EU Just Transition Mechanism** including the **Just Transition Fund**

A key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind, **mobilising up to €150 billion** over the period 2021-2027

- Council Recommendation on ensuring a **fair transition** towards climate neutrality
- **Skills Agenda**
- **Social Climate Fund**



Global Action

- The EU is actively working with other countries and regions to **achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement**.
- It promotes ambitious climate action in **multilateral fora** and in its **bilateral cooperation** with countries outside the EU. E.g. negotiations on a legally binding Global Agreement on Plastics
- The EU is also a top provider of **international climate finance** to support developing countries in their efforts to tackle climate change.



Two important international events in 2022:

- **COP Biodiversity** Montreal
- **COP 26 Climate** Sharm El-Sheikh

The European Climate Pact



Discover the Pact



Make a pledge



Get together



Become an Ambassador

The Pact in numbers

3,093,937

pledges made by EU citizens

All across Europe, individuals have pledged to take action and help shape a climate-friendly society.

10,029,858 kg

delivered in CO₂e reduction

These practical actions in everyday life, both big and small, add up to make a real difference.

874

committed Ambassadors

As passionate climate activists, Pact Ambassadors are driving change in their communities.

The Conference on the Future of Europe

- Multilingual digital platform
- Citizens' Panels
- Final Report on citizens' proposals for future
- COM report on follow up
- COM Work Programme
- Better Regulation
- Event 2/12/2022



[Conference on the Future of Europe \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)