

European Green Deal as a response to the climate crisis

Bartłomiej Kozek, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre



UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre

Promoting the work of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Poland since 1991.



United Nations
Environment Programme

- Defines global policies supporting sustainable development.
- Generates knowledge about the state of the global environment.
- Promotes a cohesive implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and responsible resource use.
- Supports the fight against pollution.



Bartłomiej Kozek



- Sustainable development specialist in the UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre.
- Field of expertise: climate, circular economy, cities.
- Author and co-author of articles and reports, such as ‘Green New Deal in Poland’, ‘Green New Deal in Poland: Social Dimension’, materials regarding eco-taxation and inter linkages between climate change and public health in Political Critique’s readers.
- Co-ordination of a cycle of debate regarding green jobs organised by Green Zone Foundation in 2015.
- Commentator, editor and translator – Polish correspondent of the Green European Journal.

FAQ5.1: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The link between sustainable development and limiting global warming to 1.5°C is recognised by the Sustainable Development Goal for climate action (SDG 13)

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



In partnership with



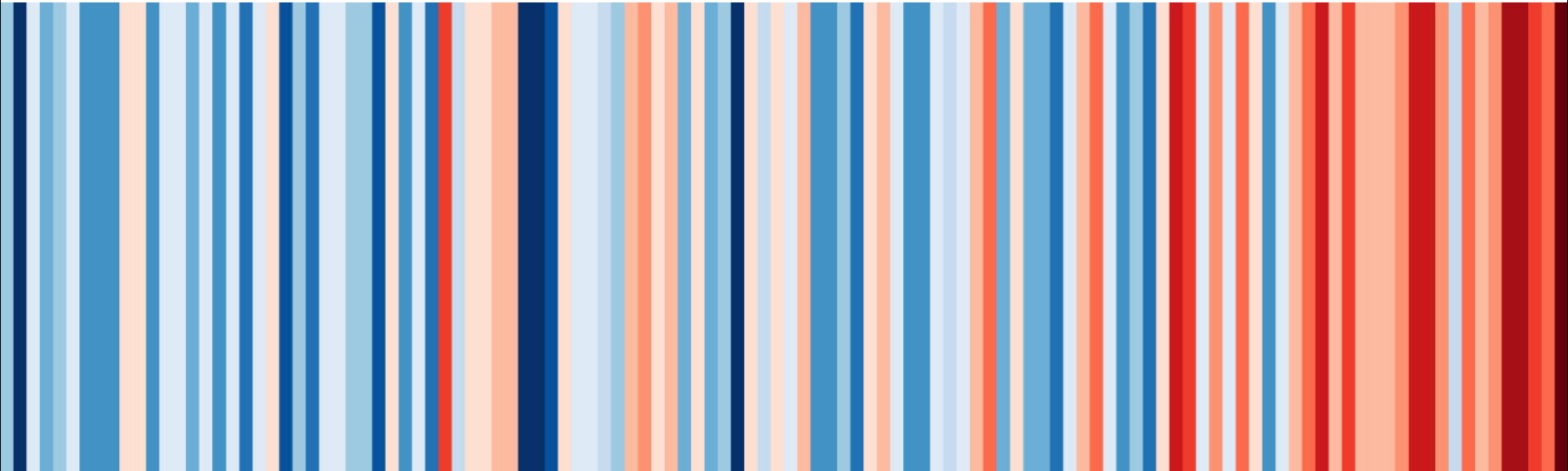
Climate crisis



In partnership with



The scale of the challenge



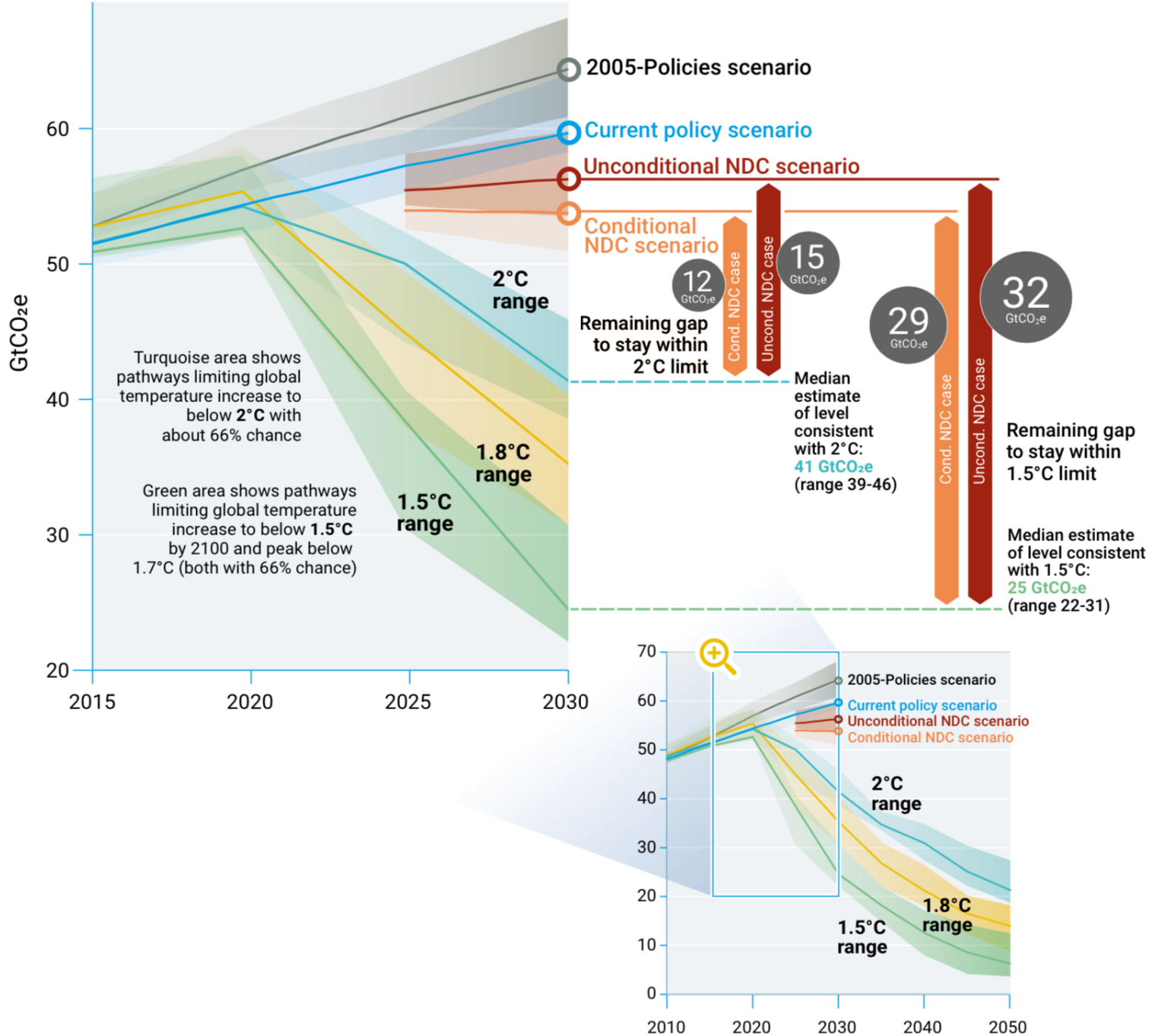
The scale of the challenge



United In Science

High-level synthesis report of latest climate science information convened by the Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019

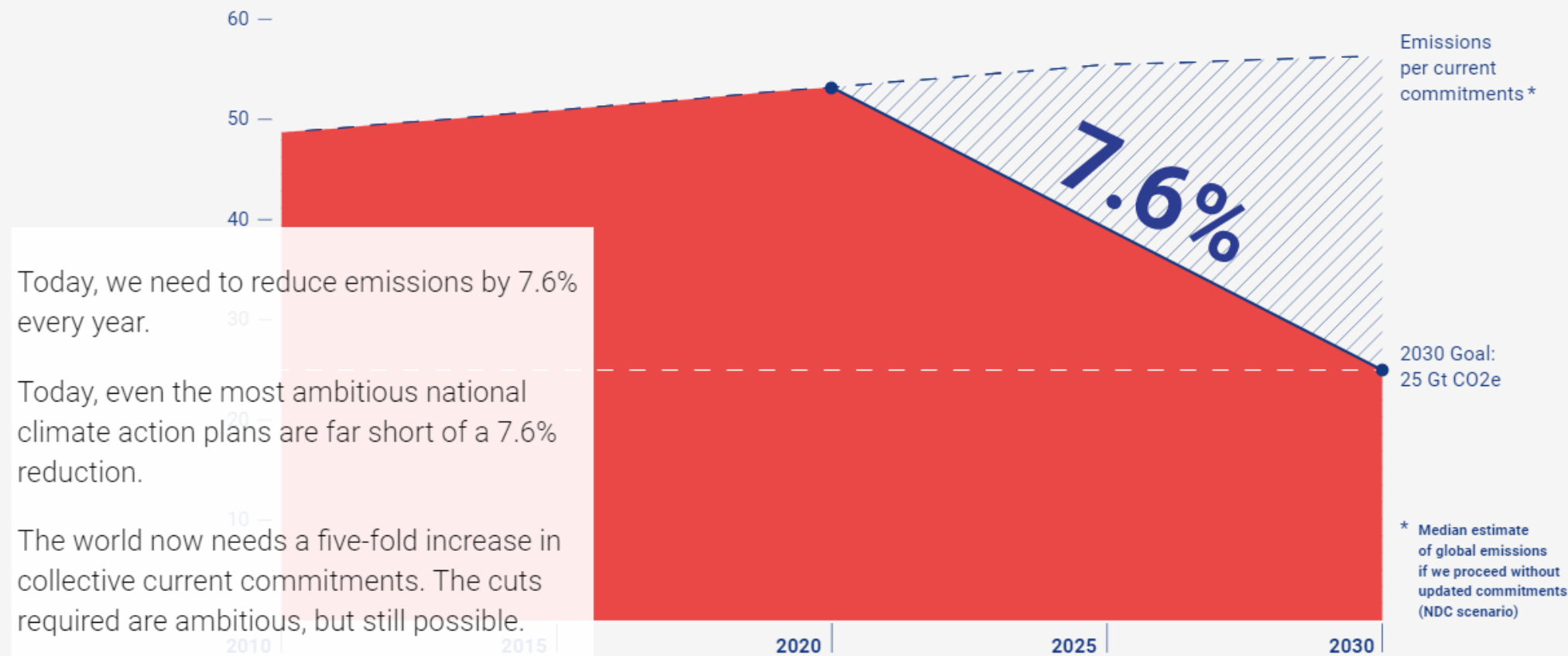




The scale of the challenge

The 1.5°C goal is on the brink of becoming impossible:

We are facing emissions reductions so increasingly steep, it may soon be impossible to achieve 1.5°C.



Today, we need to reduce emissions by 7.6% every year.

Today, even the most ambitious national climate action plans are far short of a 7.6% reduction.

The world now needs a five-fold increase in collective current commitments. The cuts required are ambitious, but still possible.



**PARTNERSTWO
NA RZECZ REALIZACJI
ŚRODOWISKOWYCH CELÓW
ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO ROZWOJU
RAZEM DLA ŚRODOWISKA**

THE B TEAM

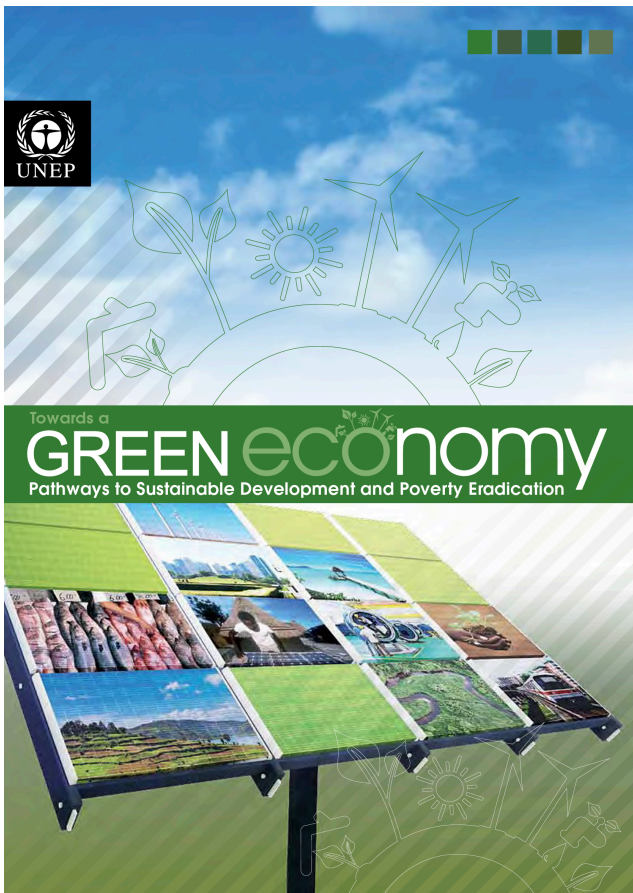
**WE MEAN
BUSINESS**

THE CLIMATE GROUP



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

powered by
UN ENVIRONMENT



A Green New Deal

Joined-up policies to solve the triple crunch of the credit crisis, climate change and high oil prices

The first report of the Green New Deal Group

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EU action



In partnership with



European Green Deal

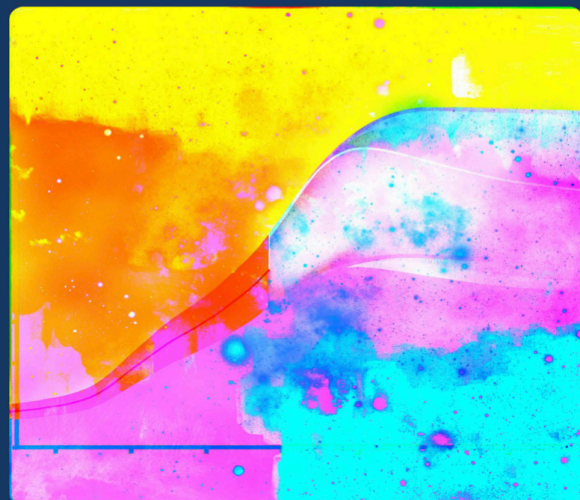


ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Global Warming of 1.5°C

An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty



WG I WG II WG III



Buildings responsible for
40% of EU energy use

Decreasing energy import
reliance from 55 to 20%

Transport Responsible for ca. 1/4 of
GHG emissions of the EU

CE can reduce emissions from steel,
aluminium, cement and plastics by 56%

Phasing out high-emissions materials
in the building sector

7 pillars presented at COP24 in Katowice (2018):

- Maximising positive outcomes from energy efficiency, including from zero-emissions buildings.
- Upscaling renewable energy sources for a total decarbonisation of energy supply in Europe.
- A clean, safe and networked mobility.
- Competitive European industry and circular economy as a crucial enabler of greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
- Development of an adequate network infrastructure and interconnections.
- Reaching the full potential of the bioeconomy and creating necessary carbon storage options.
- Eliminating the rest of CO₂ emissions through carbon capture and storage (CCS).



Aims:

- Climate neutrality of the EU by 2050.
- Raising the emissions reduction goal for 2030 from 40 to 50/55%.
- Taxing products from countries with weaker environmental standards.



Selected elements of the plan:

- Integrating Sustainable Development Goals to the European Semester.
- European Climate Law.
- Circular Economy Action Plan.
- EU Industrial Strategy.
- Decision regarding raising emissions reductions to 2030.
- Strategy regarding the chemicals sector.
- Strategy on sustainable finance.
- Actions targeting a zero-emission steel sector by 2030.
- Strategy regarding offshore wind power.
- Strategy on climate change adaptation.
- Border adjustment tax proposal.

Europe's bioeconomy weaving it all together

MAIN PRIORITIES

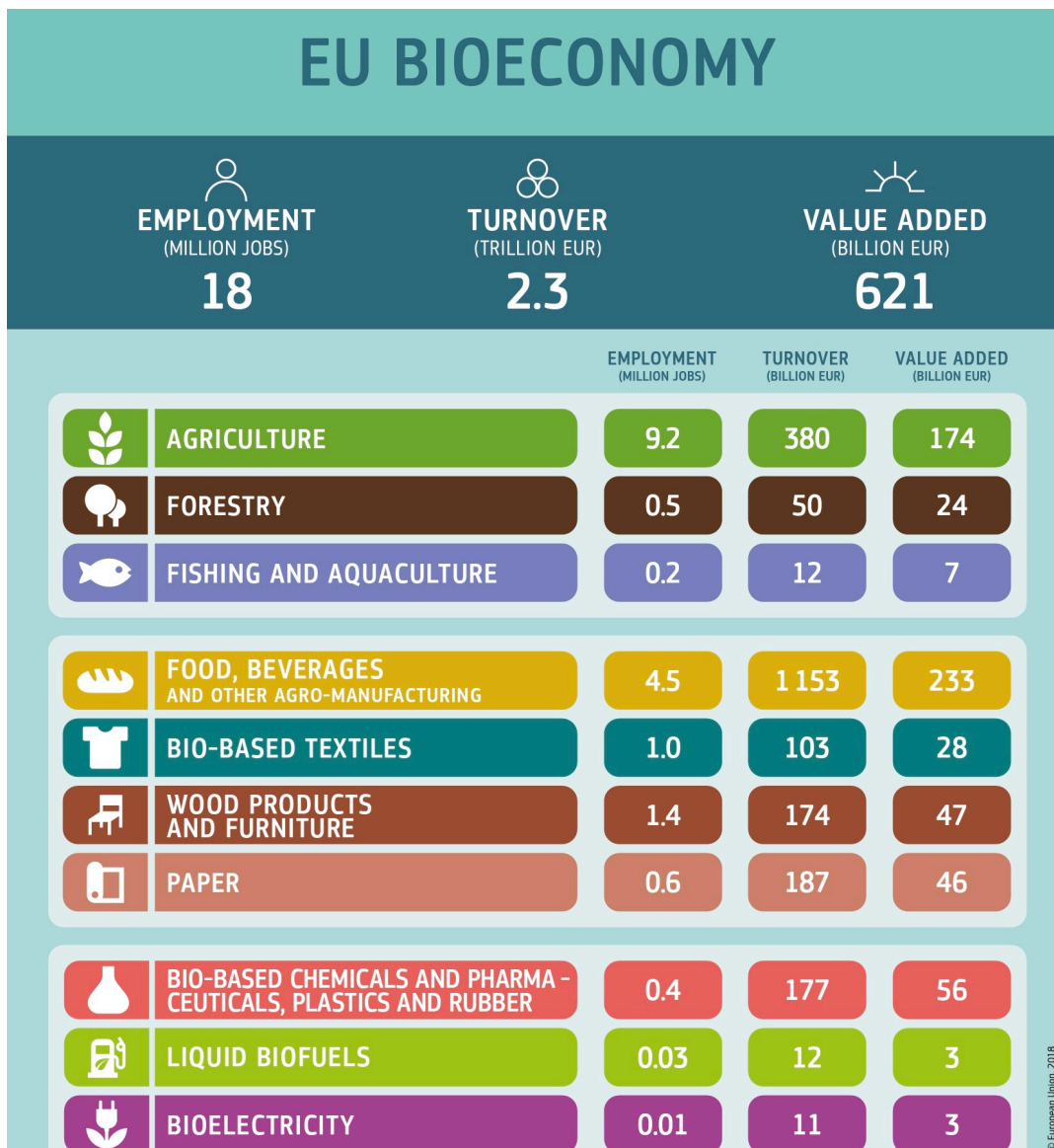
1. STRENGTHEN AND SCALE-UP THE BIO-BASED SECTORS; this will be done for example by:

- unlocking investments and markets
- deploying innovative bio-based solutions, and
- developing substitutes to plastics that are bio-based, recyclable and marine biodegradable

SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR, THE EU BIOECONOMY CAN:

- **Preserve nature**, and restore **healthy ecosystems**
- Create **1 million new green jobs** by 2030, in particular in rural and coastal areas
- **Turn waste** from farming, cities, food & forests **into new added values products**
- Provide **additional income for farmers, foresters and fishermen**
- **Replace fossil** material with **renewable alternatives**
- **Increase the carbon sink capacity** of soil, forest and ocean
- Develop substitutes to fossil based materials that are **bio-based, recyclable and marine biodegradable**





RES URBIS

The project is designing facilities to turn bio-waste generated in our cities – by homes restaurants and shops – into bio-plastic and a number of related products. Types of bio-waste being considered include not only food and kitchen waste but also sludge from the treatment of waste water, residue from gardens and parks, as well as nappies.

WEB: <http://www.resurbis.eu>

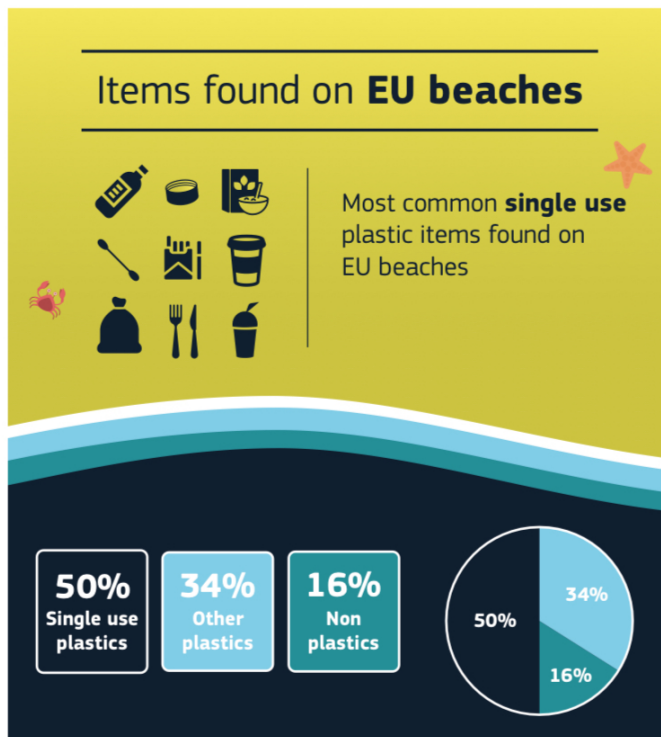
COORDINATOR: Universita Degli Studi Roma La Sapienza, Italy

TOTAL COST: EUR 3 377 915

EC CONTRIBUTION: EUR 2 996 688

START/END: January 2017 to December 2019

OTHER COUNTRIES: Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, France



Source: Joint Research Centre, European Commission (2017)

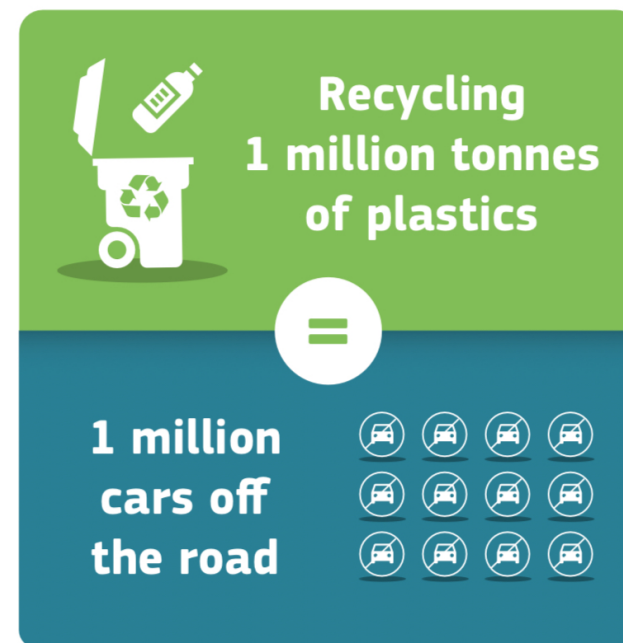
Why was it important for the EU:

- A complex environmental problem (microplastics, climate).
- Common market creating global standards.
- Harnessing opportunities from circular economy opportunities.
- Changing consumer attitudes.

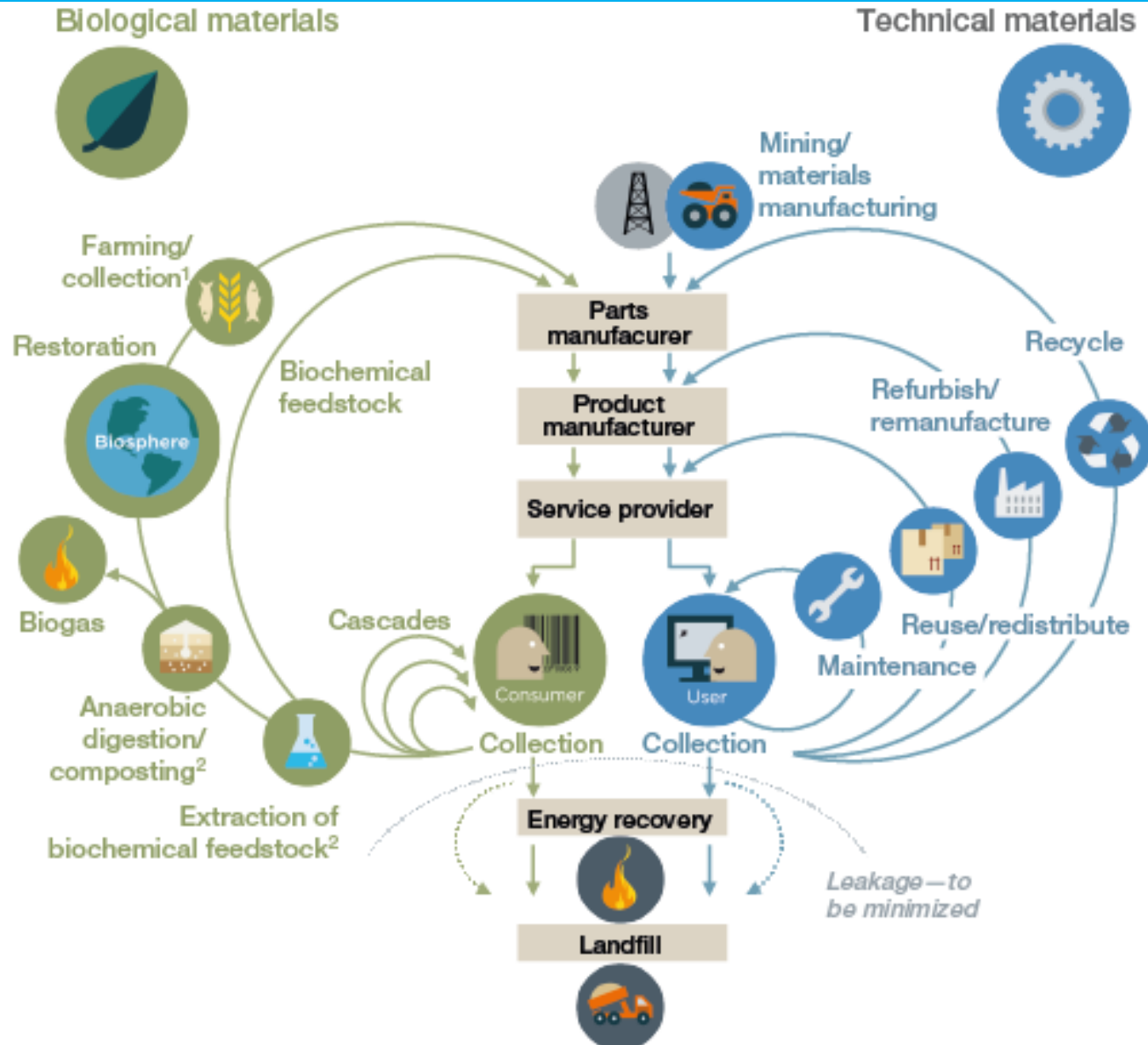
Key assumptions:

- Raising the levels of recycled resource used in products.
- A rise in recycling levels.
- Ban on single-use plastic products for which alternatives exist.
- Stimulating eco-design.

CO₂ BENEFITS OF PLASTICS RECYCLING



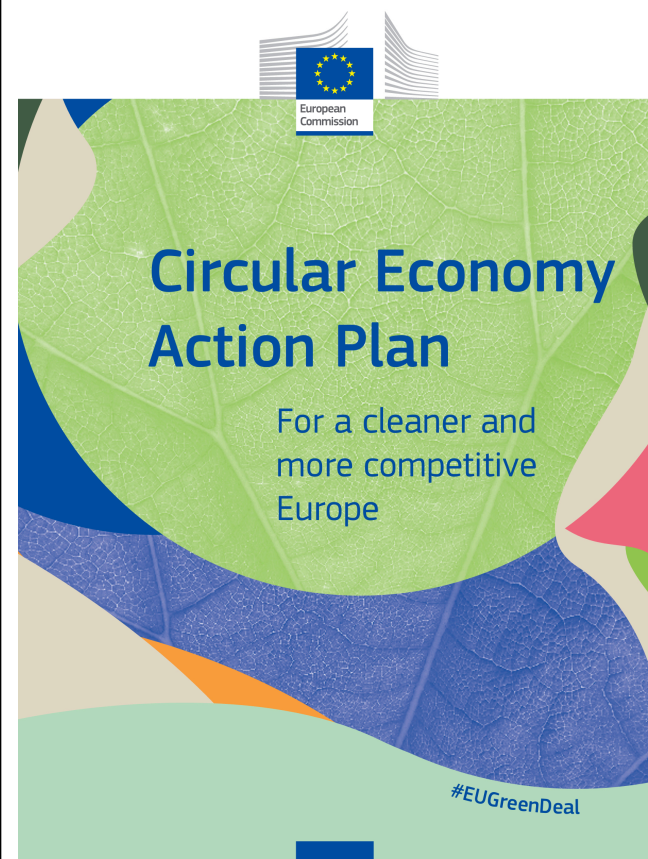
Implementing the Circular Economy



- > **reducing (over)packaging and packaging waste**, including by setting targets and other waste prevention measures;
- > driving **design for re-use and recyclability of packaging**, including considering restrictions on the use of some packaging materials for certain applications, in particular where alternative reusable products or systems are possible or consumer goods can be handled safely without packaging;
- > considering **reducing the complexity of packaging materials**, including the number of materials and polymers used.

- > **restricting intentionally added microplastics** and tackling pellets taking into account the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency;
- > developing **labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures** on unintentional release of microplastics, including measures to increase the **capture of microplastics** at all relevant stages of products' lifecycle;
- > further developing and harmonising methods for **measuring unintentionally released microplastics**, especially from tyres and textiles, and delivering harmonised data on microplastics concentrations in seawater;
- > closing the gaps on **scientific knowledge related to the risk and occurrence** of microplastics in the environment, drinking water and foods.

- > **sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics**, based on assessing where the use of bio-based feedstock results in genuine environmental benefits, going beyond reduction in using fossil resources;
- > **use of biodegradable or compostable plastics**, based on an assessment of the applications where such use can be beneficial to the environment, and of the criteria for such applications. It will aim to ensure that labelling a product as 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' does not mislead consumers to dispose of it in a way that causes plastic littering or pollution due to unsuitable environmental conditions or insufficient time for degradation.



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