



# Circular Economy and the European Green Deal

**ECLAC**  
**Progress towards a Circular Economy**  
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# Urgent actions are needed



**We have only one planet**

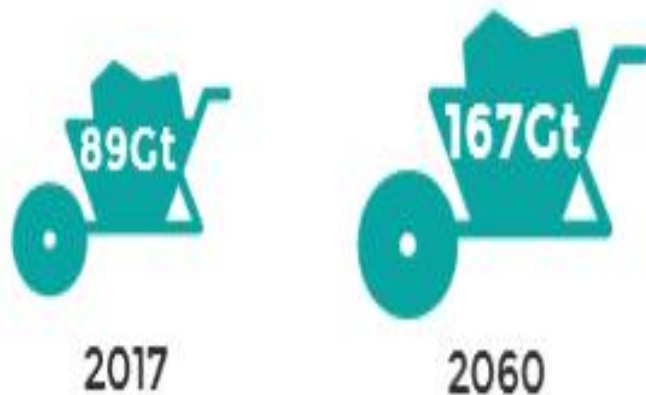



**Yet by 2050, the world  
will be consuming as if  
there were three**

# Unustainable trends in global resource use

- ❖ Global population: from 7.5bn (2017) to 10.2bn (2060)
- ❖ 2010-2025: global middle class increases by 1.8bn
- ❖ Since 2000, extraction rates have accelerated: now 3.2%/year
- ❖ Projected to increase from 89bn tonnes (2017) to 167bn tonnes (2060)

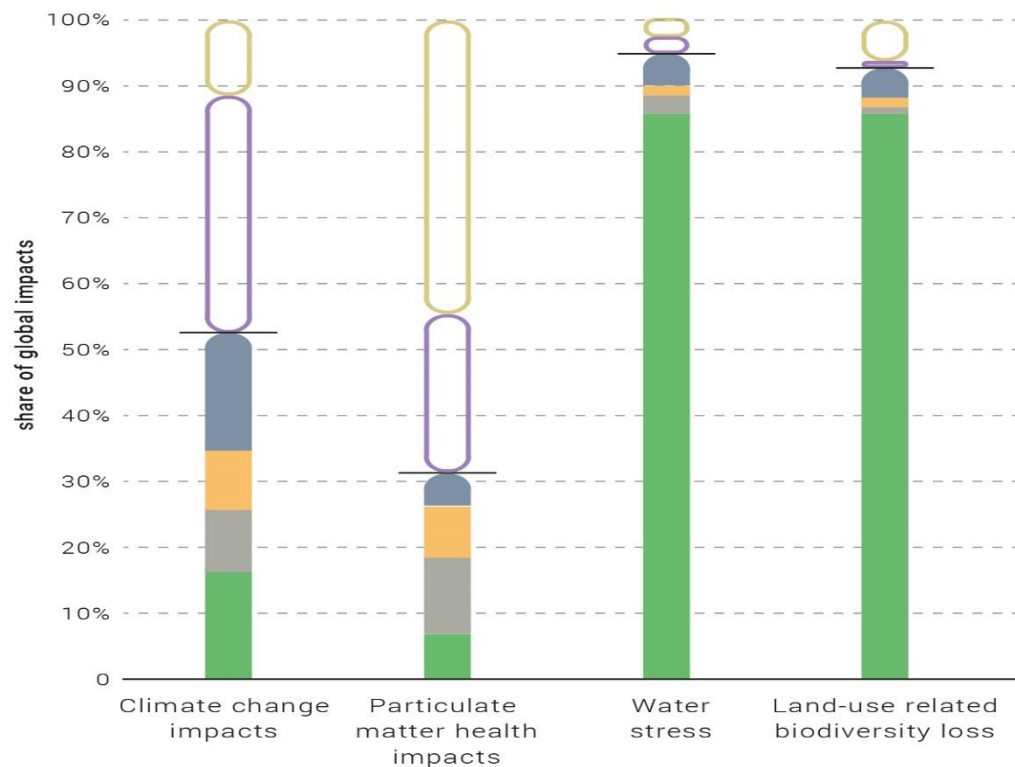
## Materials use increase



	2017	2060
 Metals	9Gt	20Gt
 Fossil fuels	15Gt	24Gt
 Biomass	22Gt	37Gt
 Non-metallic minerals	44Gt	86Gt

**Unsustainable**  
(according to OECD  
and IRP)

# Global impacts by material resource type



## Material resources extraction and processing:

- ❖ About **one third** of the **health impacts** due to particulate matter
- ❖ Approximately **half** of **climate change** impacts
- ❖ More than **90%** of **biodiversity loss** (land-use related)
- ❖ More than **90%** of **water stress** impacts



Biomass



Metals

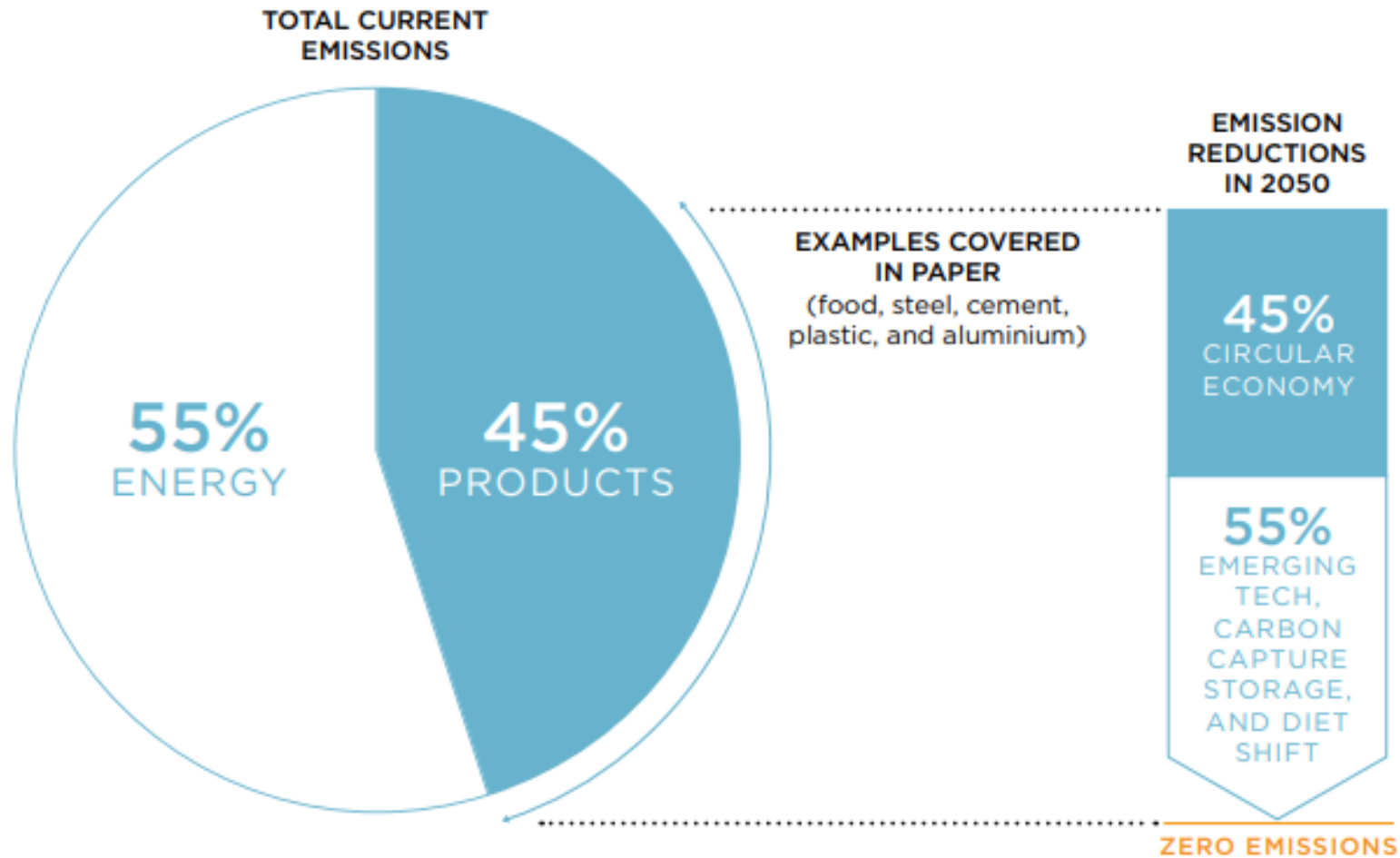


Non-metallic minerals



Fossil fuels

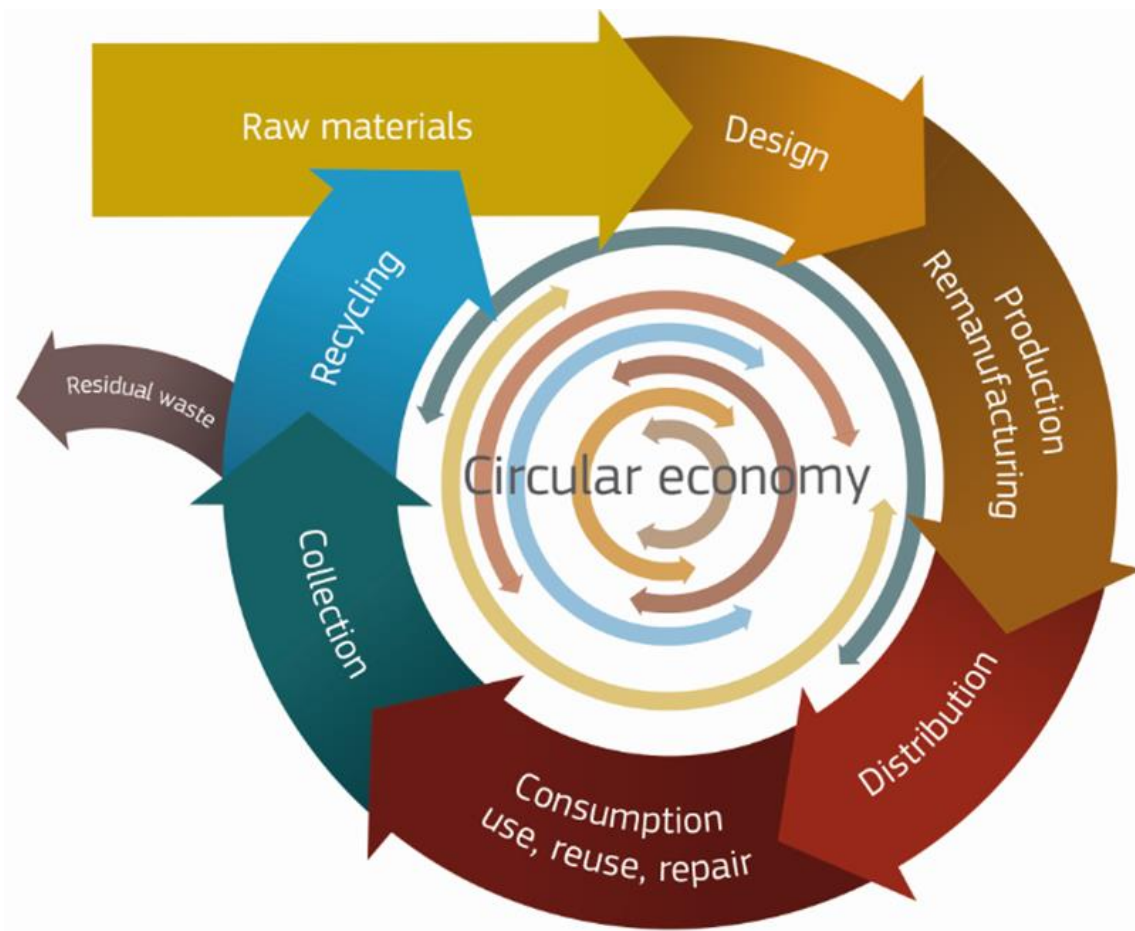
# Greenhouse gas emissions



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Material Economics (2019), Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change, p. 12.



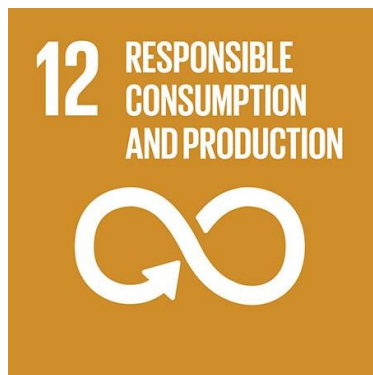
# What is the circular economy?



An economy where the value of products, materials and resources is **maintained** in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste **minimised**

# UNEA Resolutions 4/1

*Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production*



Acknowledging that **a more circular economy**, one of the current sustainable economic models, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced, **can contribute significantly to sustainable consumption and production**

# European Green Deal





# Circular Economy Action Plan (March 2020)



*35 actions along the entire life cycle of products, to:*

- ❖ Make **sustainable products** the norm in the EU
- ❖ **Empower** consumers and public buyers
- ❖ **Focus also on key product value chains:** electronics and ICT; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients
- ❖ Ensure **less waste**
- ❖ Make circularity work for **people, regions** and **cities**
- ❖ **Lead global efforts** on circular economy

[COM\(2020\) 98 'A new Circular Economy Action Plan. For a cleaner and more competitive Europe'](#)

[SWD\(2020\) 100 'Leading the way to a global circular economy: state of play and outlook'](#)

# Sustainable Products Initiative

Sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception

Up to

**80%**



of products' environmental impacts are determined at the design phase

- ❖ Improve **durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability**
- ❖ Address presence of **hazardous chemicals** and increasing **recycled content**
- ❖ Restrict **single-use** and counter premature **obsolescence**
- ❖ Incentivise **product-as-a-service**
- ❖ **Digitalisation**, including digital product passport

# Waste



## Separate collection:



- ❖ Mandatory separate collection of at least **paper, metal, plastic, glass + bio-waste** (by end 2023) & **hazardous household waste** and **textiles** (by end 2024)
- ❖ **Selective demolition and sorting** systems for construction and demolition (C&D) waste (material specific)
- ❖ **No incineration or landfilling** of separately collected waste for recycling

## Extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes:

- ❖ Producers **cover the costs** of separate collection and treatment and the costs necessary to meet EU targets
- ❖ EU Member States to introduce mandatory EPR schemes for **all packaging by end 2024**

# Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)



- ❖ An alliance of governments, supported by stakeholders, willing to **work together**, share knowledge and **advocate for** the global circular economy transition **at the political level** and **in multilateral fora**

- ❖ Building on **existing** alliances / initiatives

- ❖ Expression of a **political endeavour**, thus no formal structure

- ❖ **Support** by  and 

- ❖ **Launched** at UNEA-5 in February 2021

Latin-American & Caribbean  
Circular Economy Coalition



AFRICAN  
CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY  
ALLIANCE

# GACERE (cont'd)

## ❖ Countries and the EU:



Canada



Morocco



Chile



New Zealand



Colombia



Nigeria



European Union



Norway



India



Peru



Japan



Rwanda



Kenya



South Africa

## ❖ International organisations:



## ❖ Strategic partners:





# Thank you

Learn more here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/circular\\_economy\\_global\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/circular_economy_global_en.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)



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