



#EUCircularTalks

EU circular economy policies' role in
reducing carbon emissions

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#EUCircularTalks - Carbon emission accounting:
A direct tool to close the loops in a circular economy



An overview of EU circular economy policies and legislation affecting carbon emission accounting

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The role of the circular economy to decarbonise is well acknowledged by science and policy...



→ But this is relatively new:



Brussels, 2.12.2015
COM(2015) 614 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy

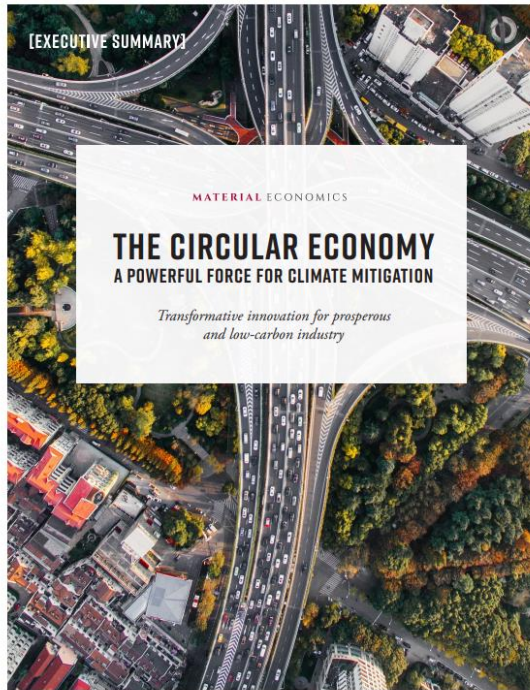
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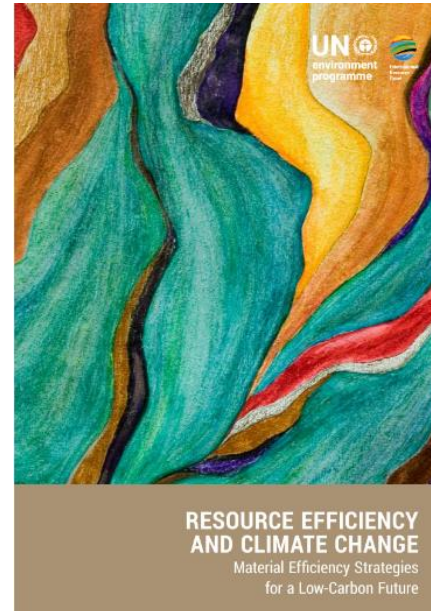
The role of the circular economy to decarbonise is well acknowledged by science and policy...



→ Seminal reports:



*“The key conclusion is that a **more circular economy can make deep cuts to emissions from heavy industry**: in an ambitious scenario, as much as 296 million tons CO2 per year in the EU by 2050, out of 530 Mt in total – and some 3.6 billion tonnes per year globally”.*



*“GHG emissions from the material cycle of **residential buildings** in the G7 and China could be reduced by at least 80% in 2050 through more intensive use of homes, design with less materials, improved recycling of construction materials, and other strategies.*

*Significant reductions of GHG emissions could also be achieved in the **production, use and disposal of cars** (...) GHG emissions from the material cycle of passenger cars in 2050 could be reduced by up to 70% in G7 countries and 60% in China and India through ride-sharing, car-sharing, and a shift towards trip-appropriate smaller cars, among others”.*

The role of the circular economy to decarbonise is well acknowledged by science and policy...



→ **National Energy and Climate Plans:**

- All Member States refer to the Circular Economy, with different degrees of integration
- Two MS fully integrate the CE in their models and plans (PT, NL)...
- ... despite a legal base/template (Governance Regulation) that does not refer to circularity or resource efficiency

→ **Good trends, but still difficult to fully integrate the circular economy into climate policies, at national and EU level:**

- Administrative inertia, climate policies driven by models, different science communities, legal mandate, etc.

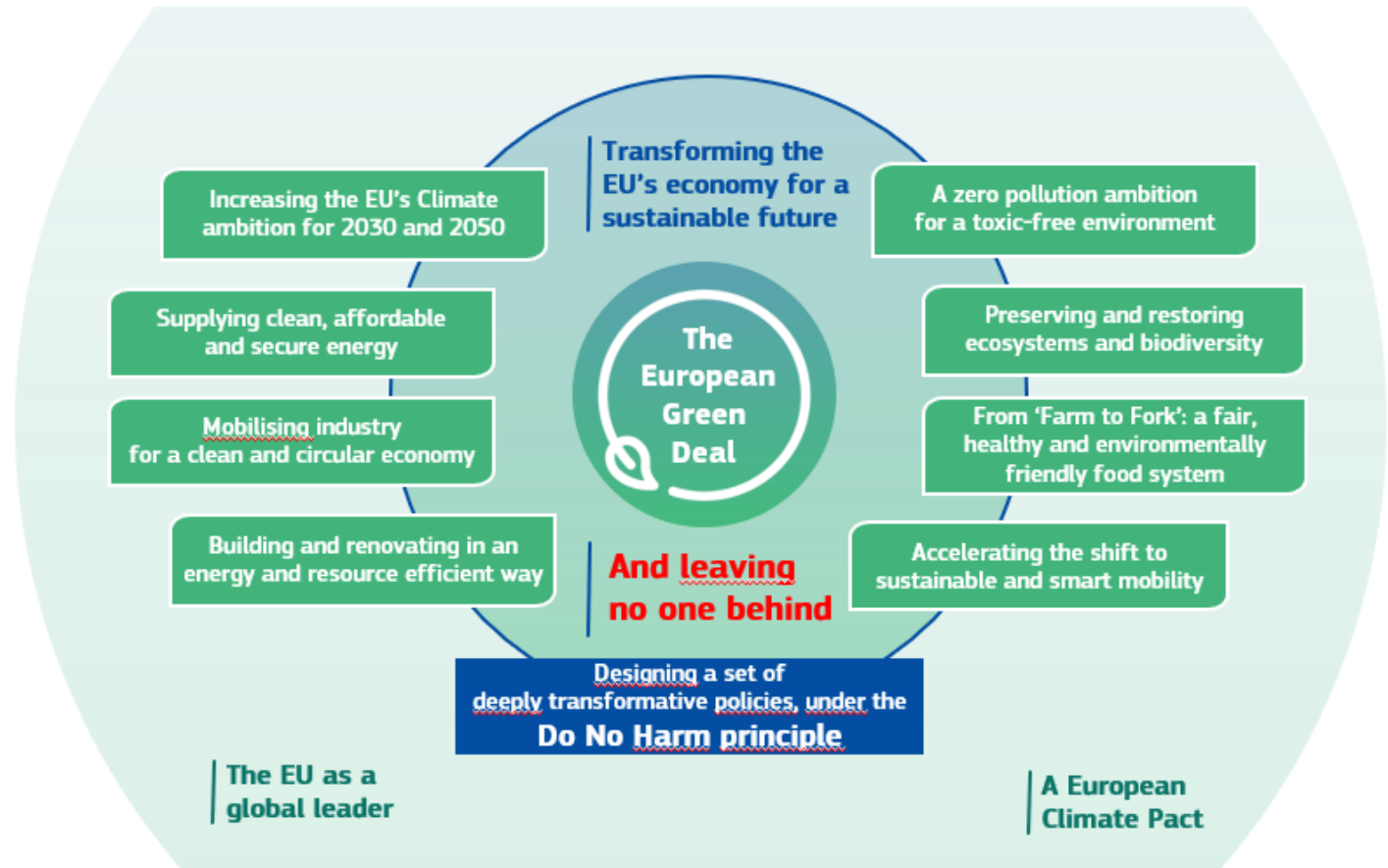
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Towards a stronger integration of circularity in climate policies

→ Another milestone: **The European Green Deal**

→ Aims to address our interrelated environmental crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, all driven by resources depletion) **in a coherent and systemic manner**



Towards a stronger integration of circularity in climate policies



→ The second Circular Economy Action Plan



6. CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS

6.1. Circularity as a prerequisite for climate neutrality

In order to achieve climate neutrality, the synergies between circularity and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions need to be stepped up. The Commission will:

- analyse how the **impact of circularity on climate change mitigation and adaptation** can be measured in a systematic way;
- improve **modelling tools to capture the benefits of the circular economy on greenhouse gas emission reduction** at EU and national levels;
- promote strengthening **the role of circularity in future revisions of the National Energy and Climate Plans** and, where appropriate, in other climate policies.

Brussels, 11.3.2020
COM(2020) 98 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**A new Circular Economy Action Plan
For a cleaner and more competitive Europe**

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→ Current actions:

- Modelling activities: Commission's studies to estimate the role and impact of circularity on decarbonisation → Purpose: Integration into 2040 projections
- Opportunity: Next NECPs round... but issue → Legal mandate (Governance Regulation)
- Impact current energy supply crisis? → **REPower EU** as a new priority:
 - Security of supply of raw materials (e.g. solar, wind).
 - Biomethane Action Plan (use of organic waste and residues)
 - Focus on saving energy (energy efficiency → Resource efficiency?)
 - ... But risk that more policy/financing focus on energy than on CE/RE...

Continue the talk

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