



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

13th German-Japanese Environment and Energy Dialogue Forum

Circular Economy for Climate Action

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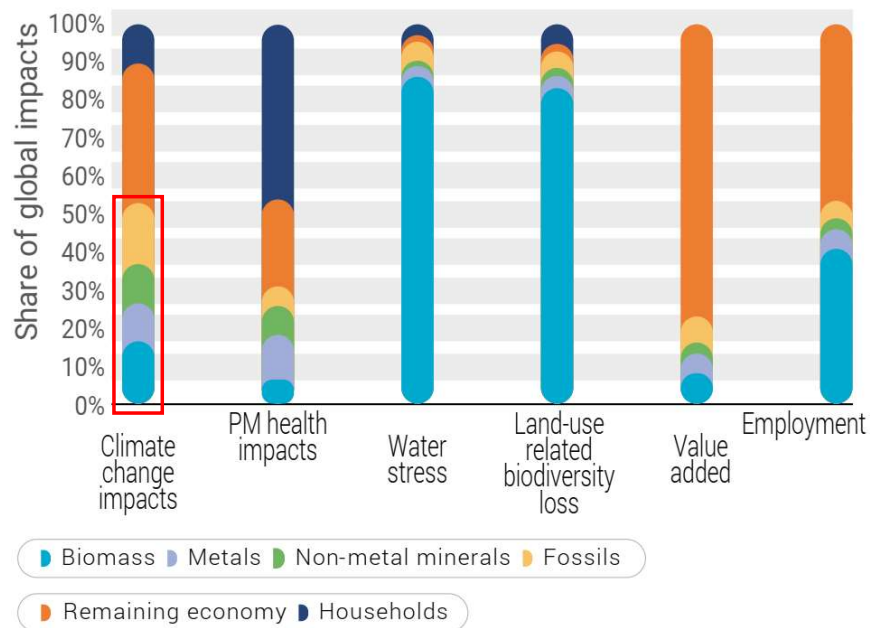
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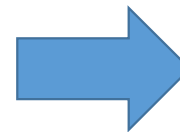
1. The circular economy-climate nexus

1. The circular economy-climate nexus

At least half of global GHG emissions stem from the extraction and processing of material resources



Source: IRP, Global Resources Outlook 2019



If we do not tackle material-related emissions in addition to energy-related emissions, we will not achieve our global climate goals

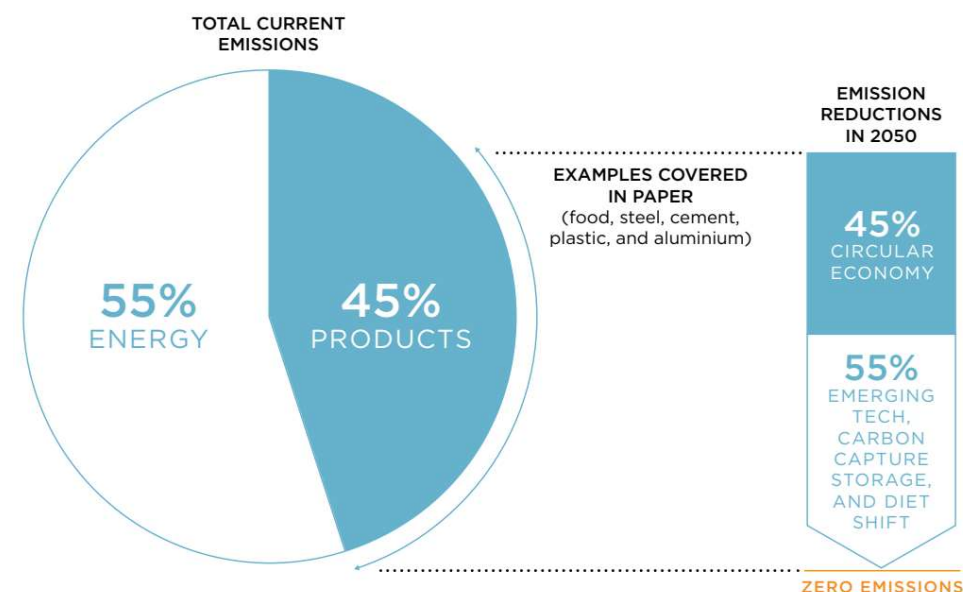


1. The circular economy-climate nexus

Circular economy can play a decisive role in bringing down emissions

Nexus is increasingly well documented:

- Material Economics: “The Circular Economy – A Powerful Force for Climate Mitigation” (2018)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation: “Completing the Picture” (2019)
- IPCC: Contribution of Working Group III to AR6 (2022)
- PACE et al: “Circular economy as a climate strategy”
- Agora Industry: “Resilient Climate Protection through a Circular Economy” (2023)



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2019



2. German policy role on international level



2. Policy on international level

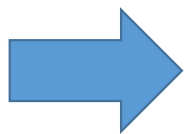
- G7 level
 - Berlin Roadmap adopted under German presidency 2022
 - Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles (CEREP) adopted under Japanese presidency 2023
- G20 level: Nexus in the roadmap of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue
- UN level
 - Close cooperation with the International Resource Panel (IRP)
 - Support for resolutions such as UNEA Resolution 5/11
- Bilateral and minilateral work
 - Bilateral fora
 - Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy under International Climate Initiative (IKI)



2. Policy on international level

COP28: States acknowledge role of circular economy as instrument for climate change mitigation

36. *Notes* the importance of transitioning to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in efforts to address climate change, including through **circular economy approaches**, and *encourages* efforts in this regard;

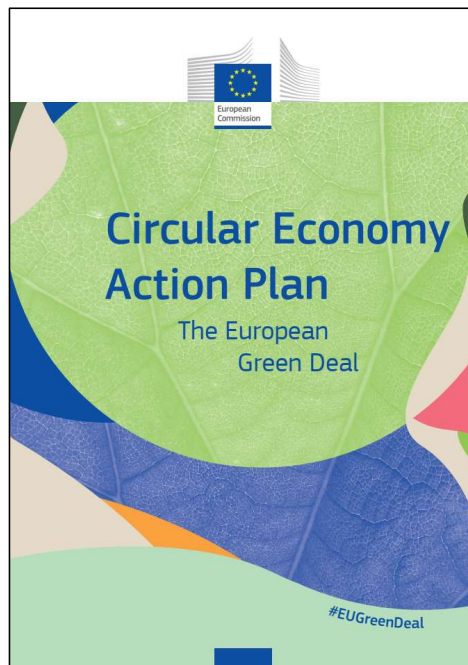


Call on Governments to reflect resource efficiency and circular economy in national contributions to climate action



3. The circular economy-climate nexus in the EU

3. The nexus in the EU



The Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)

“Scaling up the circular economy from front-runners to the mainstream economic players will make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use, while ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the EU and leaving no one behind.”



3. The nexus in the EU

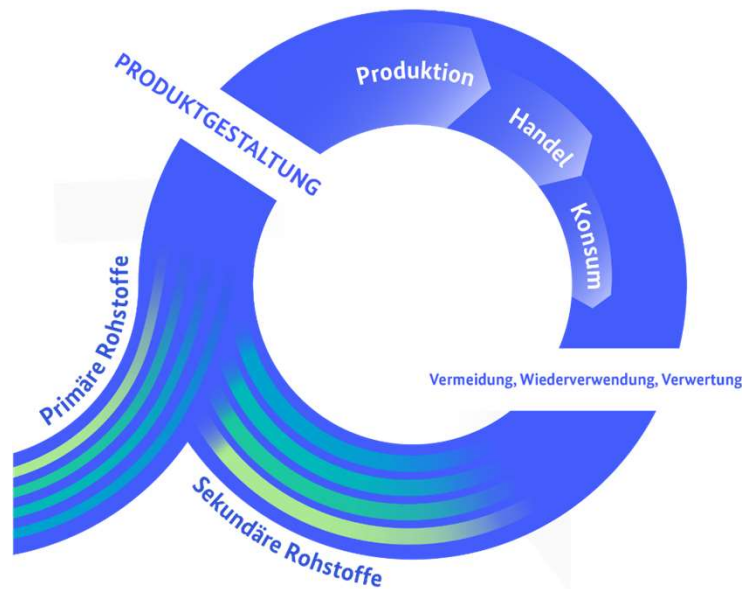
Initiatives on EU level and latest developments

- EU Council conclusions on circular economy during German Council presidency 2020 → EU member states confirm nexus
- EU Taxonomy: Classification system for sustainable economic activities → transition to circular economy as one of six climate and environmental objectives
- Series of legislative acts concerning circular economy, such as Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), Batteries Regulation, Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)



4. The new National Circular Economy Strategy (NKWS)

4. National Circular Economy Strategy



„Our goals are to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials and to close material cycles.“

(Coalition agreement 2021 – 2025 between Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD), BÜNDNIS 90 / DIE GRÜNEN und Freie Demokraten (FDP))

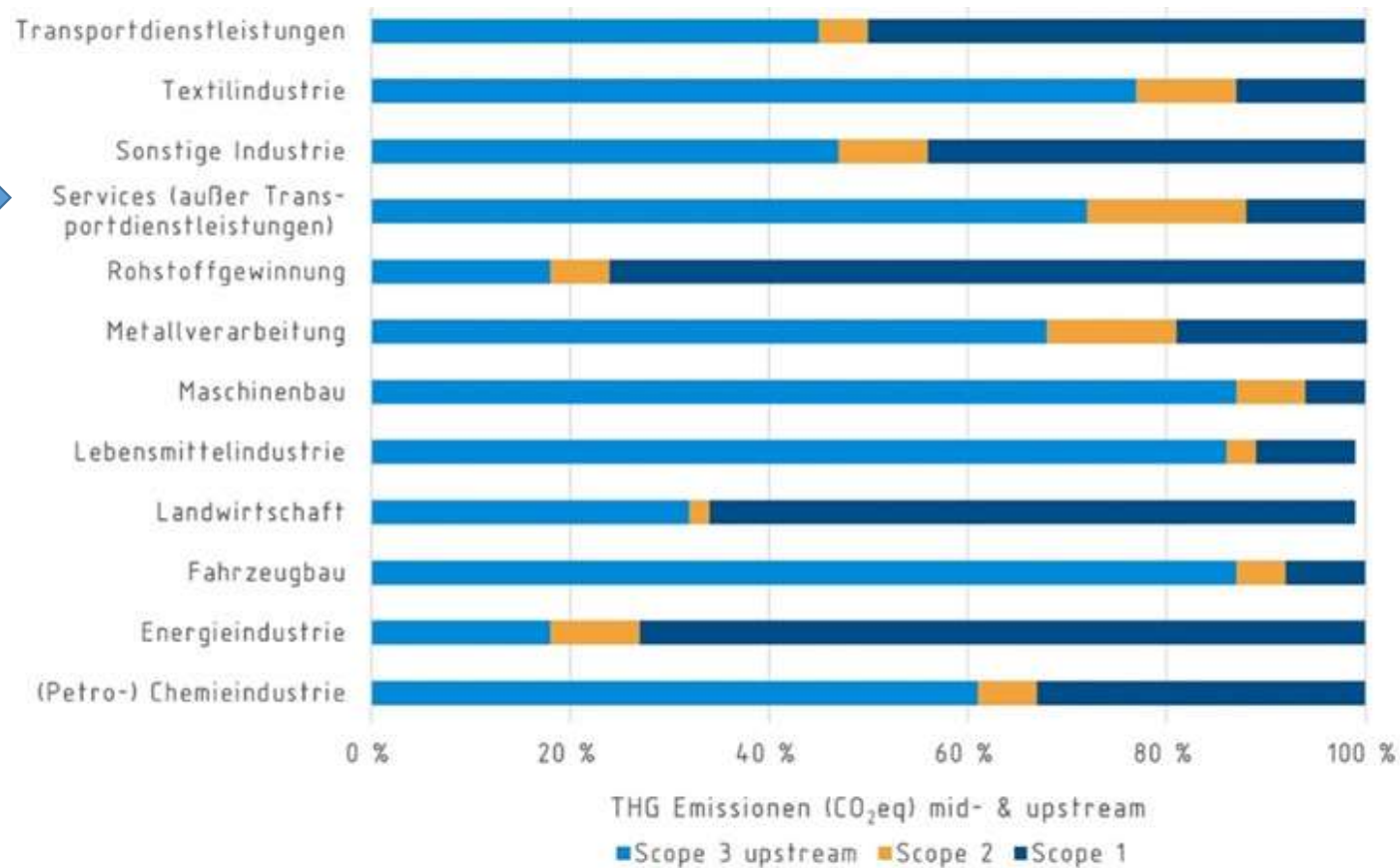
“Circular economy must become a driver for environmental protection and climate action”

(The Federal Minister for the Environment and Consumer Protection Steffi Lemke)

4. National Circular Economy Strategy

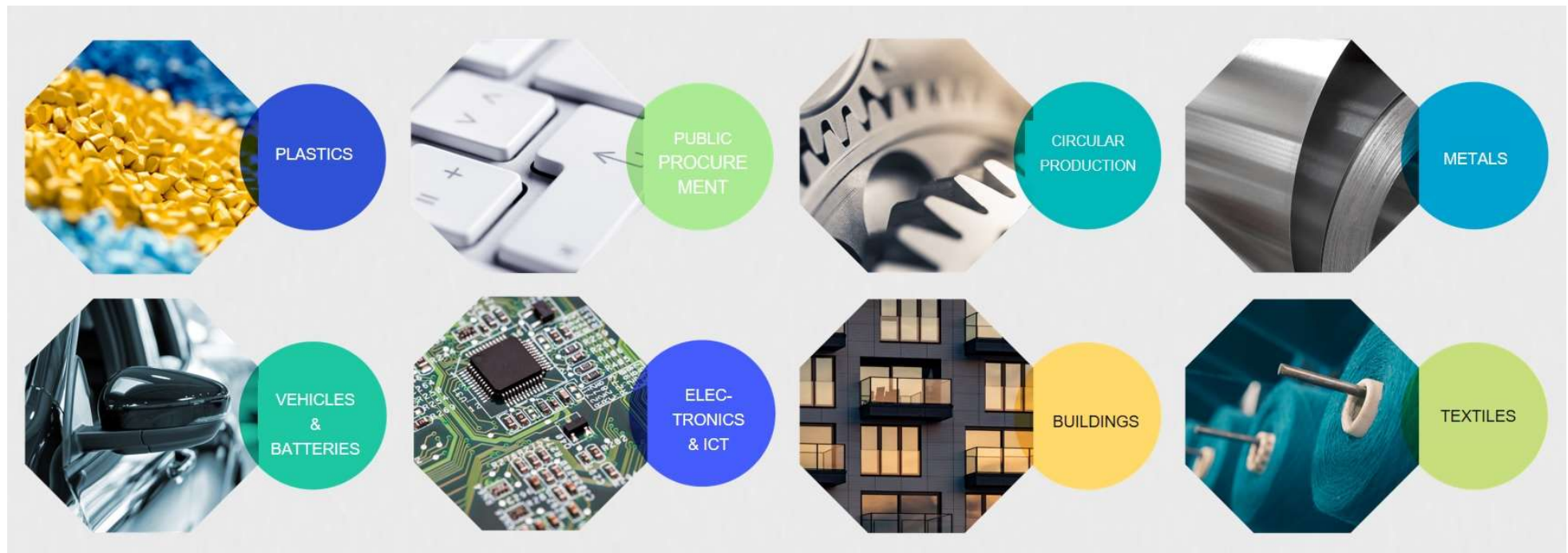
Goals of the strategy

- effectively reduce carbon emissions
- stop biodiversity loss
- curb pollution
- secure raw materials supply for German companies
- boost the competitiveness of German companies



4. National Circular Economy Strategy

Key areas of the strategy





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Thank you!

25 January 2024

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