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ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Circular Economy and Plastics Strategy

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Environment Advisory Unit

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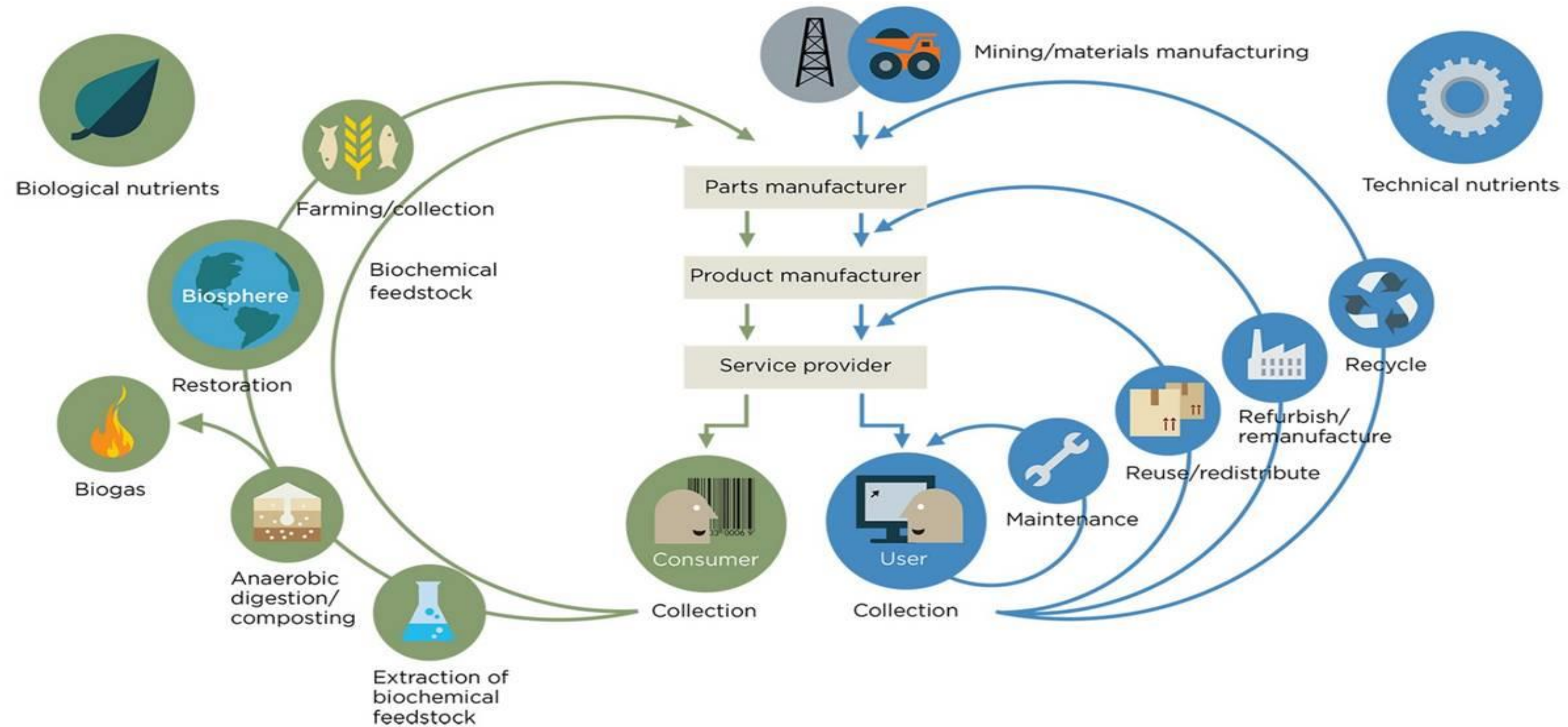
Circular Economy – What it is?



A **Circular Economy** is an alternative to a traditional linear model (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life

Source: WRAP

Circular Economy – What it is?



Source: Ellen McArthur Foundation

Circular Economy Package



Two components

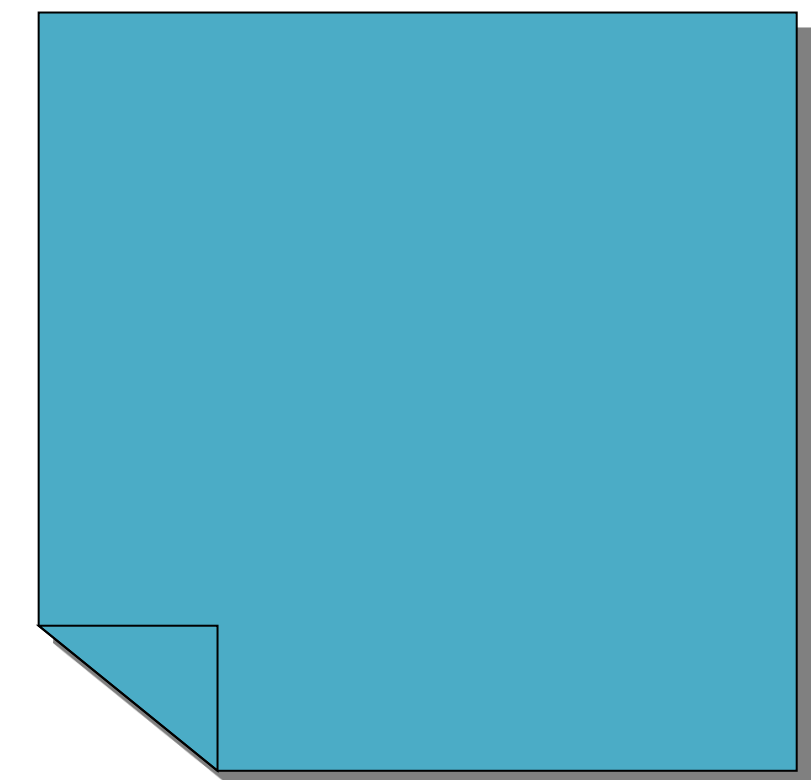
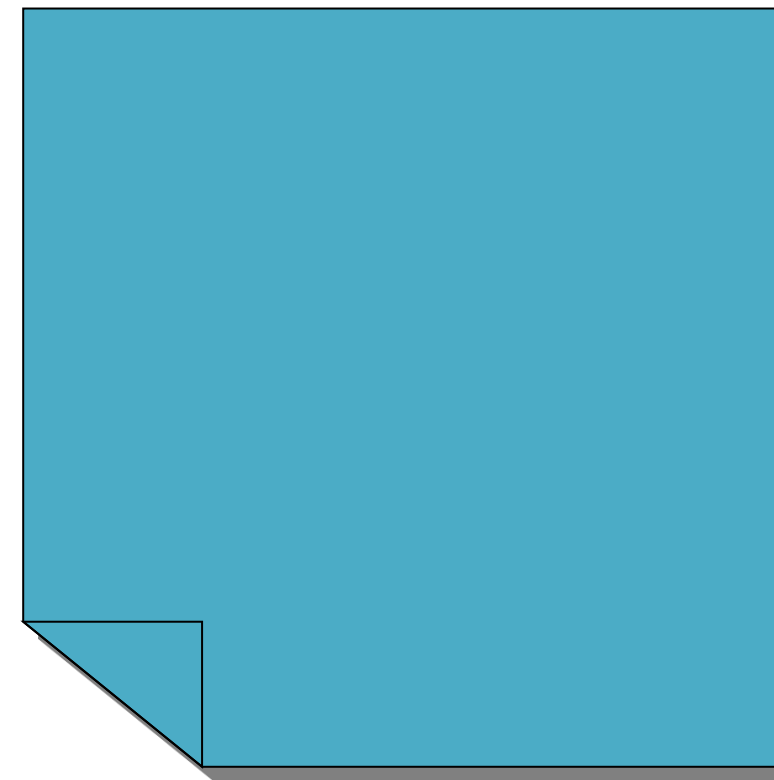
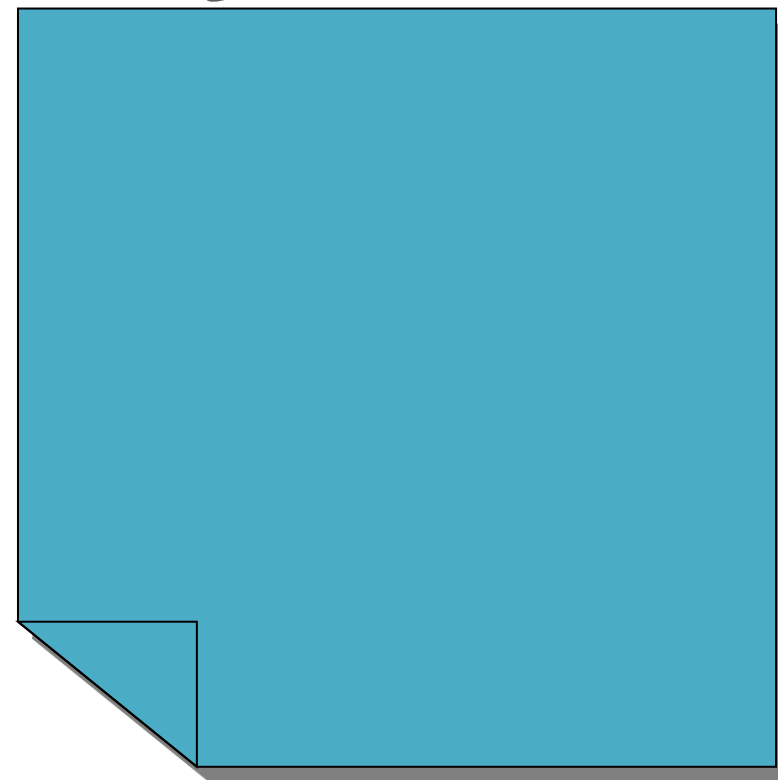
Legislative Proposals on Waste (waste framework directive, packaging directive, landfill directive, WEEE, end-of-life vehicles)

Wider Action Plan complementing these - primarily non legislative

The Circular Economy Package



Adopted by the Commission on 2nd December 2015



Action Plan
Communication

List of Follow Up
Initiatives Annex

Legislative
Proposals

Source: EU Commission

5 Main Areas of Action



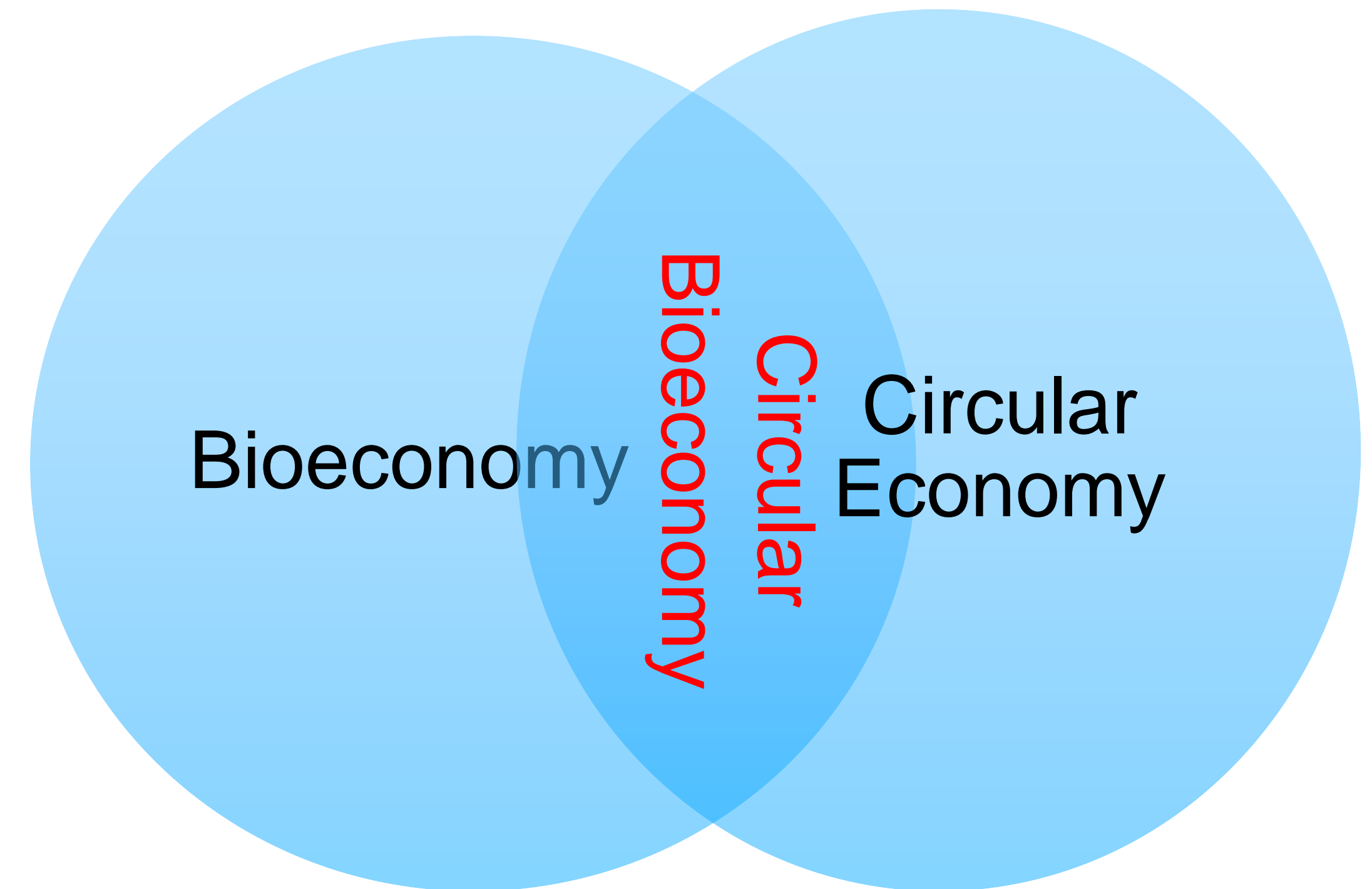
Source: EU Commission

Circular Economy & Bioeconomy



Sustainable growth through a circular bioeconomy

1. The Circular Economy (CE) policy in terms of bioeconomy has a focus on biomass, food waste and ecosystem resilience
 1. Sustainable sourcing
 2. Environmental Impacts
 3. Lifecycle analysis
2. The EU CE policy will:
 1. promote an efficient use of bio-based resources through guidance and dissemination of best practices of the cascading use of biomass and
 2. support to innovation in the bio-economy for new materials, chemicals and processes
3. The Irish National Bioeconomy Policy Statement foresees coordination of EU CE policy & bioeconomy strategy:
 1. Contains sustainability & cascading use – principles
 2. Promote circular use of biomass through reuse/recycling, resource efficiency & use of unavoidable wastes



Bio-based products

- Resource-efficient value chains
 - Cascading use
- Organic recycling, nutrient cycling
- Share, reuse, remanufacture, recycling
- Utilization of organic waste streams

Waste Legislative Proposals - Agreement



Ambitious long-term targets - recycling of municipal/packaging waste with specific targets for plastic packaging

Forward-looking **calculation rules**

Landfilling restrictions for separately collected and recyclable waste

Measures on **prevention** & encouraging the **reuse** of packaging

Minimum requirements for new **producer responsibility schemes**: producers to bear the bulk of cost of waste management

Continuously improving **separate collection**

Waste Legislative Proposals - Agreement



Municipal Waste - Recycling

2025	2030	2035
55%	60%	65%

Member States will have to set up, by 1 January 2025, separate collection for textiles and for hazardous waste from households. In addition, they have to ensure that by 31 December 2023, bio-waste is either collected separately or recycled at source (e. g. home composting).

Waste Legislative Proposals - Agreement



Specific targets for packaging recycling

	2025	2030
All Packaging	65%	70%
Plastic	50%	55%
Wood	25%	30%
Ferrous metals	70%	80%
Aluminium	50%	60%
Glass	70%	75%
Paper / cardboard	75%	85%

Waste Legislative Proposals - EPR



More onerous requirements on EPR as outlined in Articles 8 and new Article 8a

Come into force end of 2022

The Commission will adopt guidelines in 2019 on fee modulation

Waste Legislative Proposals – EPR 8a4b



Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the financial contributions paid by the producer of the product to comply with its extended producer responsibility obligations are modulated, where possible, for individual products or groups of similar products, notably by taking into account their **durability**, **reparability**, **re-usability** and **recyclability** and **the presence of hazardous substances**, thereby taking a life-cycle approach and aligned with the requirements set by relevant Union law, and where available, based on harmonised criteria in order to ensure a smooth functioning of the internal market

Waste Legislative Proposals – EPR



- The Commission shall organise an exchange of information on the implementation of the general minimum requirements laid down in Article 8a and publish the results of that exchange.
- The Commission may provide guidelines on the general minimum requirements laid down in Article 8a.
- The Commission shall publish guidelines on cross-border cooperation concerning extended producer responsibility schemes and on the modulation of financial contributions referred to in Article 8a(4)(b).
- The Commission may adopt an implementing act on uniform criteria on fee modulation to avoid distortion to internal market.

WFD Reporting deadline 31 March 2019



Implementing acts on rules to:

calculate recycling of municipal waste

calculate landfilling of municipal waste

count biowaste separated and recycled at source

count recovered metals from incinerated municipal waste

reporting format

reporting format for the quality check report

Delegated Act - average loss rates

Guidance: municipal waste and backfilling definitions

Exchange of good practice: calculation rules & traceability

Packaging Waste Reporting – 31 March 2019



Implementing acts on rules to:

- calculate recycling of packaging waste
- count reuse of sales packaging placed on the market for the first time
- count repair of wooden packaging
- count recovered metals from packaging waste
- establish the reporting format for the data and the quality check report on packaging waste

Delegated Act – average loss rate

Other Implementing Acts on Reporting



- Implementing act: methodology and format to report on reuse
- Implementing act: reporting format waste oils
- Delegated act: food waste

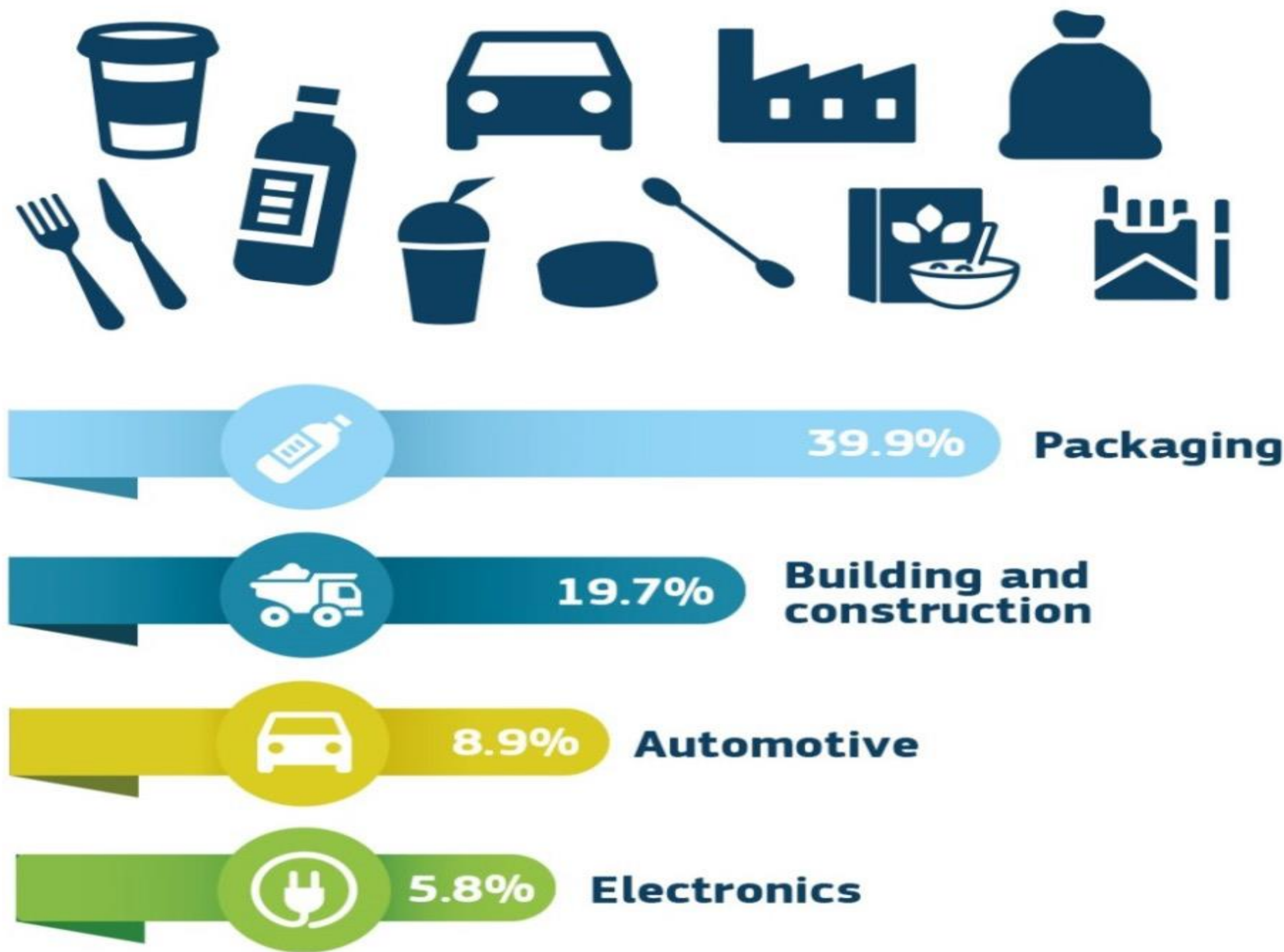


Plastics Strategy

EUROPEAN PLASTICS DEMAND IN 2015



49 million tonnes



Source: European Commission

Plastics Strategy



Introduced on 16th January, 2018

Consists of:-

Communication & Staff Working Document

List of EU actions (39) most by 2018/2019

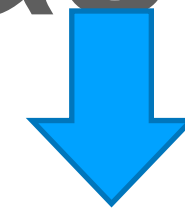
Measures recommended to Member States

Part of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan

Plastics Strategy Objectives



Future Plastics Industry



Smart
Innovative
Sustainable

Economic
Opportunities

Social
Innovation

Protecting the
environment

Plastics Strategy - Vision



Economic incentives for Economic/social gains

Strategy for **jobs**

Investment in **infrastructure and innovation**

More **integrated value chain**

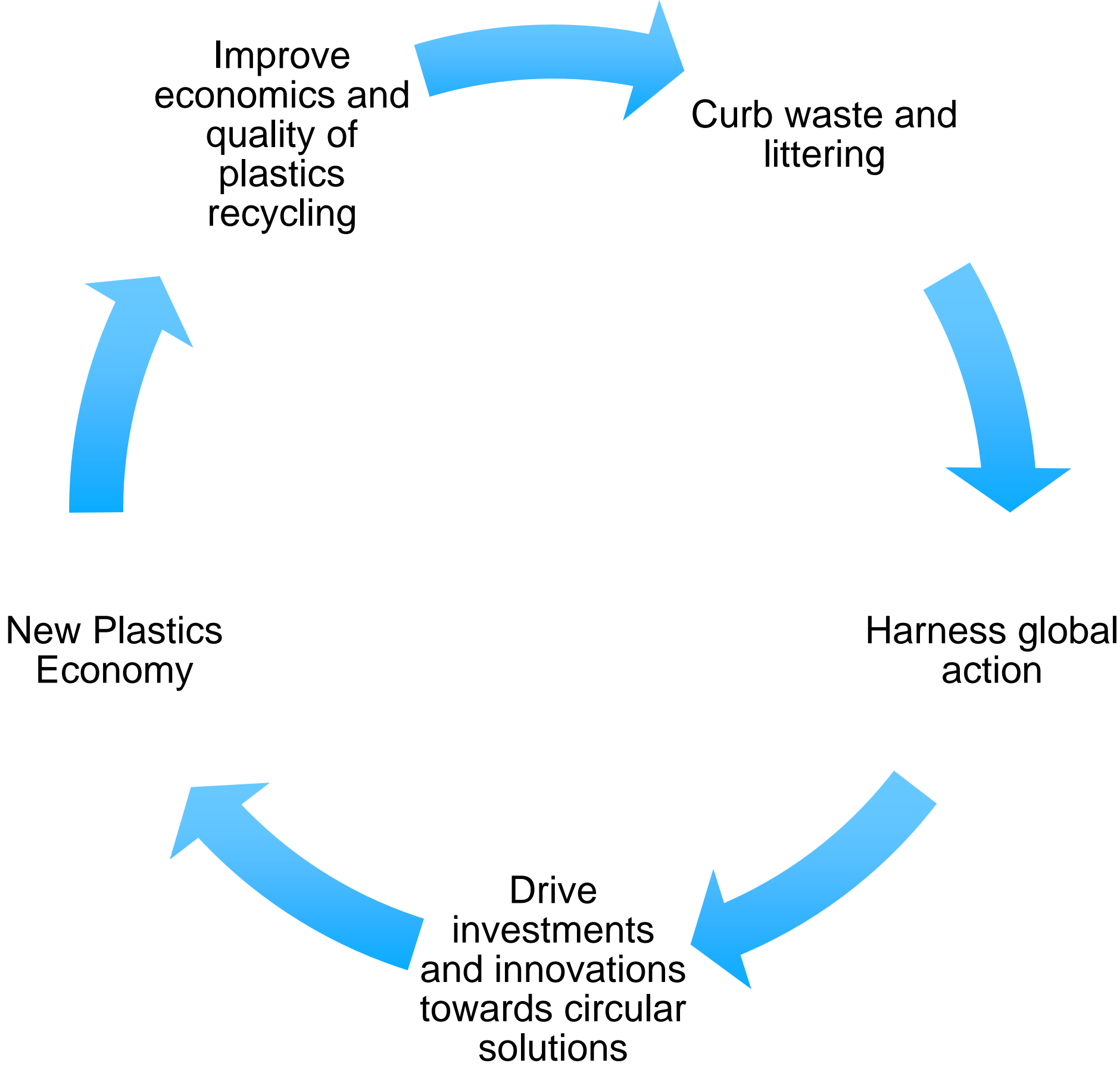
Growing market for recycled content

Alternative feedstock + innovative & sustainable materials

Growth decoupled from **plastic waste generation**

More **sustainable consumption** patterns

Vision



Plastics Strategy – 4 main threads



- 1. Improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling**
- 2. Curb Plastic Waste and Littering**
- 3. Drive and Investments and Innovation towards Circular Solutions**
- 4. Harness Global Actions**

Plastics Strategy - Policy



Aim : Improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling

Stimulate design for circularity

Better separate waste collection

Boosting recycled content

By 2030

All plastics packaging reusable or recyclable

>50% of plastic waste recycled

Sorting & recycling capacity X 4 (vs. 2015)

Measures



Eco-design: requirements to support recyclability of plastics

Evaluation: Construction Products & End-of-life Vehicles

Revision of the **essential requirements** in the PPWD

Working on **Food-contact materials**

Development of **quality standards** (sorted and recycled plastics)

Ecolabel and GPP: incentives for recycled plastics

EPR / deposit: Member States

Industry **pledges / voluntary commitments**



Regulatory framework for biodegradable plastics

Report on Oxo-degradable plastics

Revision of Directive on Port reception facilities

Curb microplastics pollution:

- intentional added to products REACH

- unintentional release (tyres, textiles and paint)



Guidance on eco-modulation of EPR fees
Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics (2018)
H2020 additional €100 million investments (up until 2020)
Support the development of alternative feedstocks
Lifecycle assessments including biomass

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Innovation for a Circular and Sustainable Plastics

In **BETTER PRODUCT DESIGN**
MAKES PLASTICS RECYCLING EASIER



Saving 77-120 EUR
for each tonne
of plastic waste
collected

Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016)

CO₂ BENEFITS OF PLASTICS RECYCLING



Recycling
1 million tonnes
of plastics



1 million
cars off
the road





Call for global action

Support for multilateral initiatives on plastics

Promote international industry standards development

Development in cooperation funding

Reducing Marine Litter – action on single use plastics and fishing gear



- Public consultation
(Dec – 12 Feb)
- Impact assessment
- Legal instrument



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New Commission Proposal on Single Use Plastics



Proposes to introduce

- **Placing on the market restrictions** on plastic items where alternatives are readily available. The ban will apply to plastic cotton bud sticks, disposable cutlery and plates , straws, drinks stirrers and balloon sticks;
- **Consumption reduction targets** focused on food containers and drinks cups where measures such as national reduction targets, making alternatives products available or ensuring that single use plastic products cannot be provided free of charges can be used

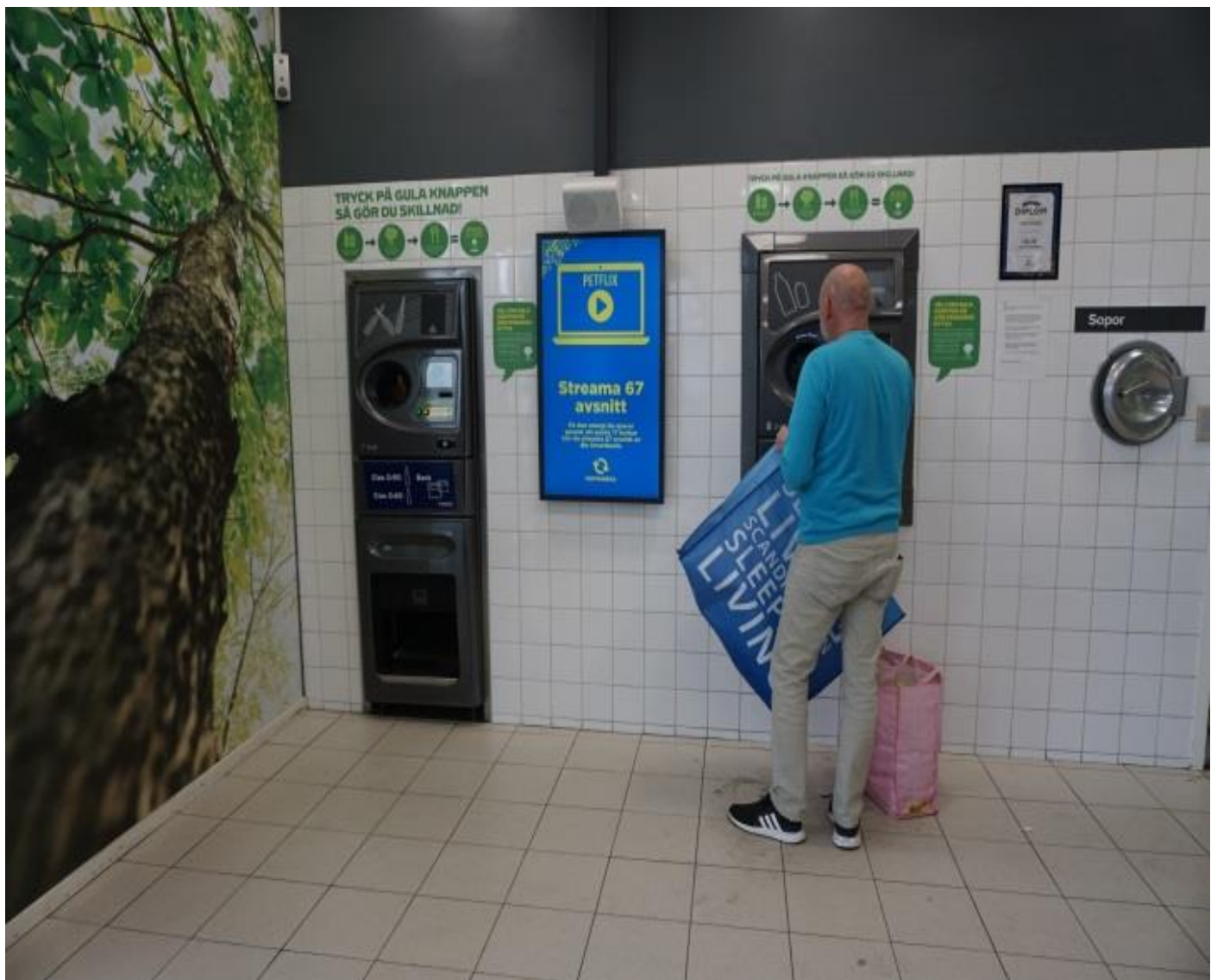
New Commission Proposal on Single Use Plastics



Proposes to introduce

- **extended producer responsibility** schemes to be established for a further range of single-use items which include take-away food containers, crisp and sweet packets and wrappers, drinks containers and cups, tobacco products with filters , wet wipes, balloons, and lightweight plastic bags. Such schemes will require producers to fund the collection and treatment of waste, marine litter clean-ups as well as education campaigns;
- **labelling** sanitary towels, wet wipes and balloons with information about plastic content and the impact of littering;
- obliging member states to **collect 90% of single-use plastic bottles** by 2025; and
- **extended producer responsibility schemes** to be established for **fishing gear**.

Deposit and Return ?



Deposit and Return Scheme in Ireland



- SUP proposal: Member States should achieve separate collection targets for SUP beverage bottles by:
 - EPR schemes, or DRS, or by any other measure that they find appropriate
 - proposed 90% collection target
- Private Member's Waste Reduction Bill
 - ban plastic products and implement a DRS
 - Oireachtas Committee: more information needed about implementation costs, effectiveness and impacts on kerbside collection system
- Department study to consider how 90% can be reached and whether DRS can play a role.

Inter Department/ Agency Focus



- Implement Plastics Strategy including participation in negotiations on the Single Use Proposals
- Possible national initiatives include Circular Economy Roadmap
- Revise national legislation
- Promote indigenous recycling
- Encourage innovation and research – EPA , H2020 and Life programme

Commission public consultation addressing the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation



- Consultation builds upon the Commission's analysis of the Interface in their Communication published on 16th January 2018
- Consultation's objective is to assess the reaction of stakeholders to the different options and questions posed in regard to the four main issues:
 - Insufficient information about substances of concern in products and waste
 - Substances of concern in recycled materials
 - Uncertainties about how materials can cease to be waste
 - Difficulties in the application of EU waste classification methodologies and impacts on the recyclability of materials (secondary raw materials)
- Consultation period: 23 July 2018 - 29 October 2018

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CPWInterface2018>