



European
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Agency



Europe's
environment
2025

Europe's environment 2025

Knowledge for resilience, prosperity
and sustainability

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Urgency

Hope





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Biodiversity and ecosystems

Europe's environment: biodiversity and ecosystems

	Past trends (10-15 years)	Outlook (10- 15 years)
State of biodiversity	Red	Red
Pollution of ecosystems	Yellow	Yellow
Protected areas	Teal	Yellow
Water and climate impacts	Yellow	Yellow
Ecosystems and climate impacts	Red	Red
Land use and land take	Red	Yellow
Soil resources	Red	Yellow

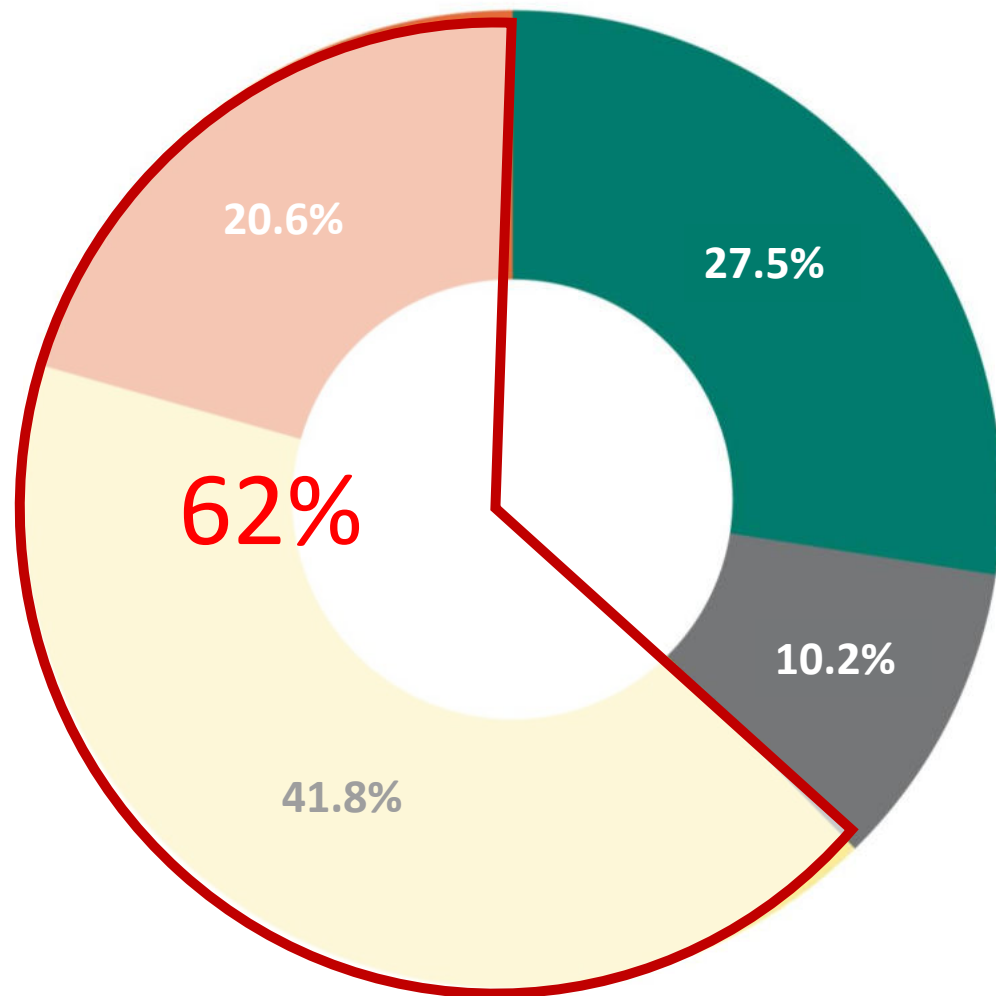


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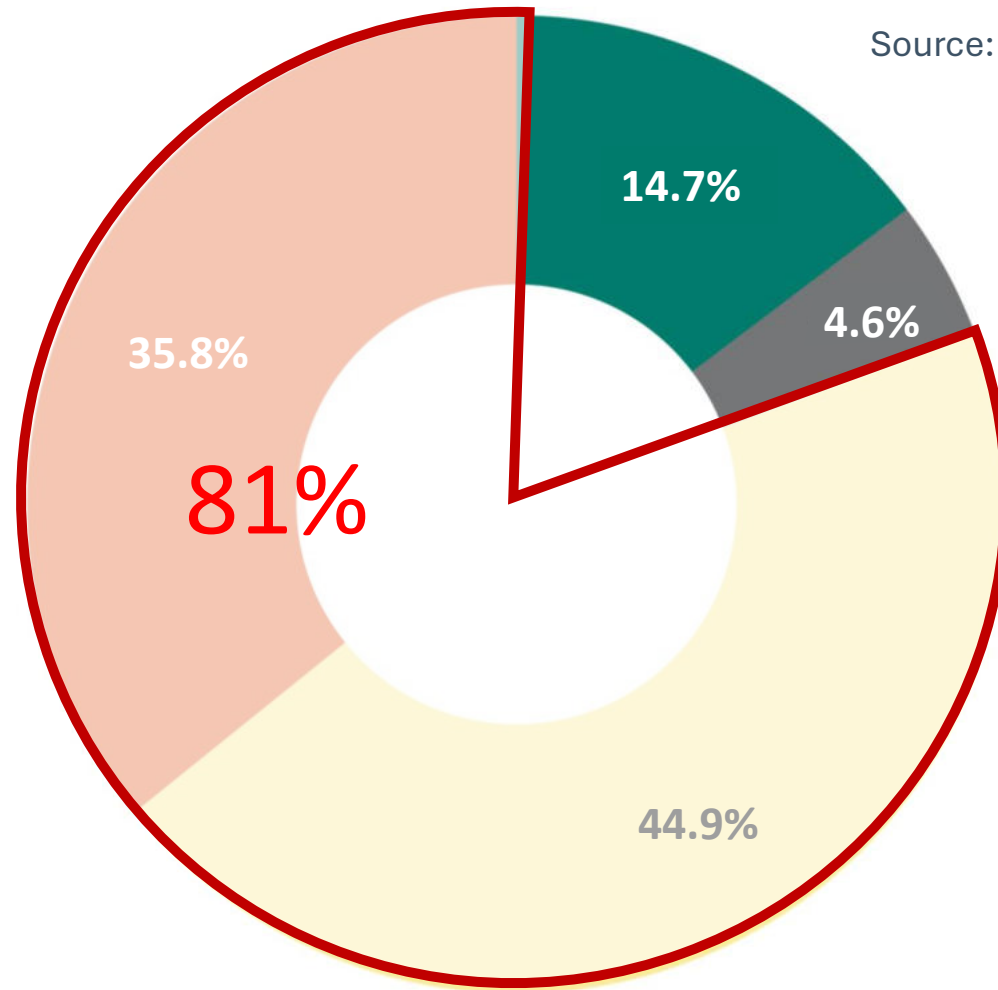


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Biodiversity and habitats in decline



Conservation status of species



Conservation status of habitats

Source: [EEA, 2020](#)



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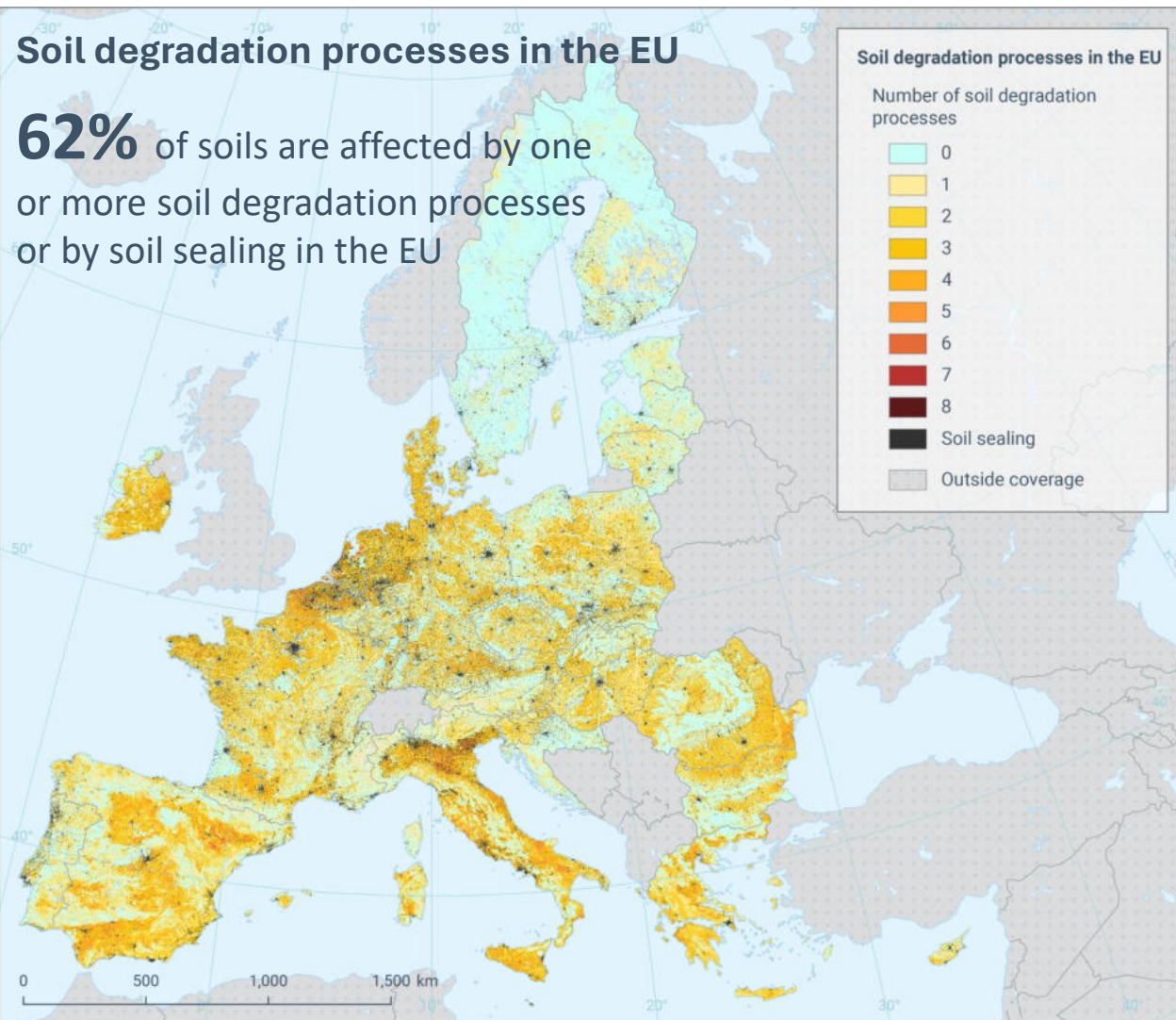


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Key pressures on biodiversity



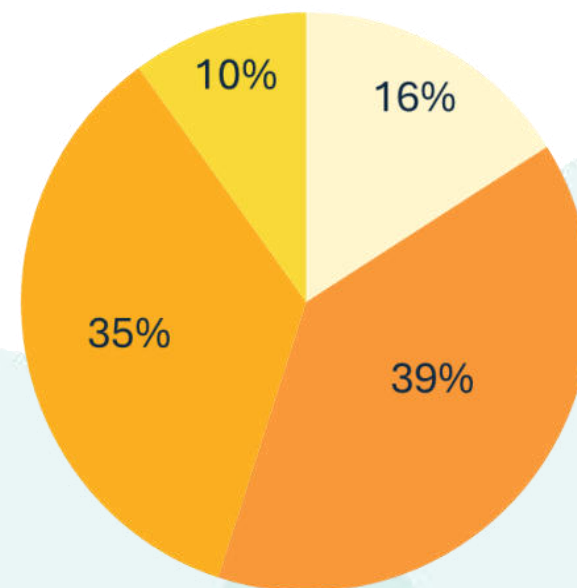
Land under pressure



Source: [EEA, 2025](#)

Land use in EU, 2022

Abandoned Agricultural land Forest Other



Healthy soils and a vast range of other ecosystem services and resources are **crucial for food security**, biodiversity and climate change mitigation



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Climate change



Europe's environment: climate change

	Past trends (10-15 years)	Outlook (10- 15 years)
Greenhouse gas emissions		
Mobility system trends		
Energy system trends		
CO ₂ storage in forests/land		
Climate risks to economy		
Climate risks to society		
Climate change governance		



©David Ramos via Getty Images



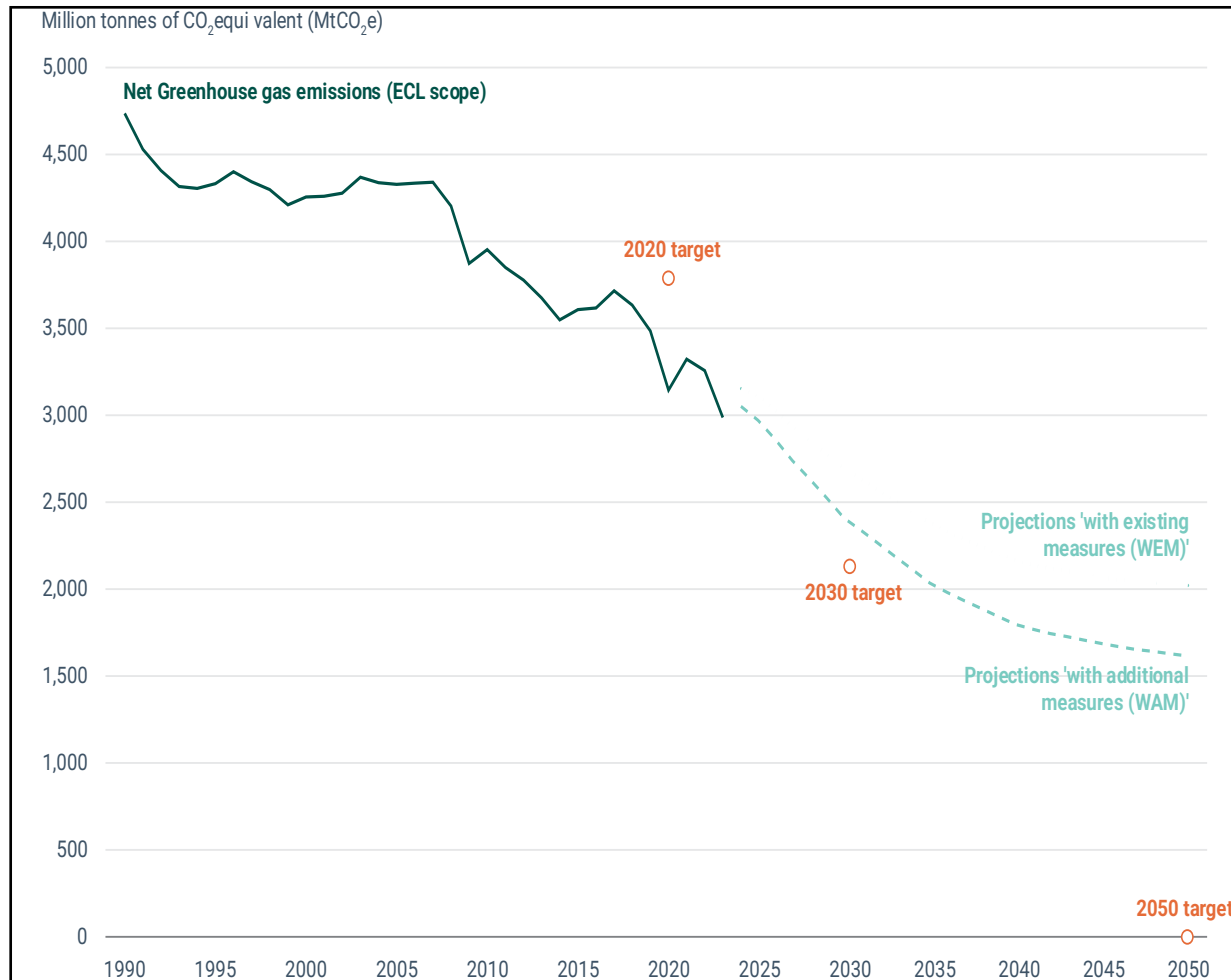
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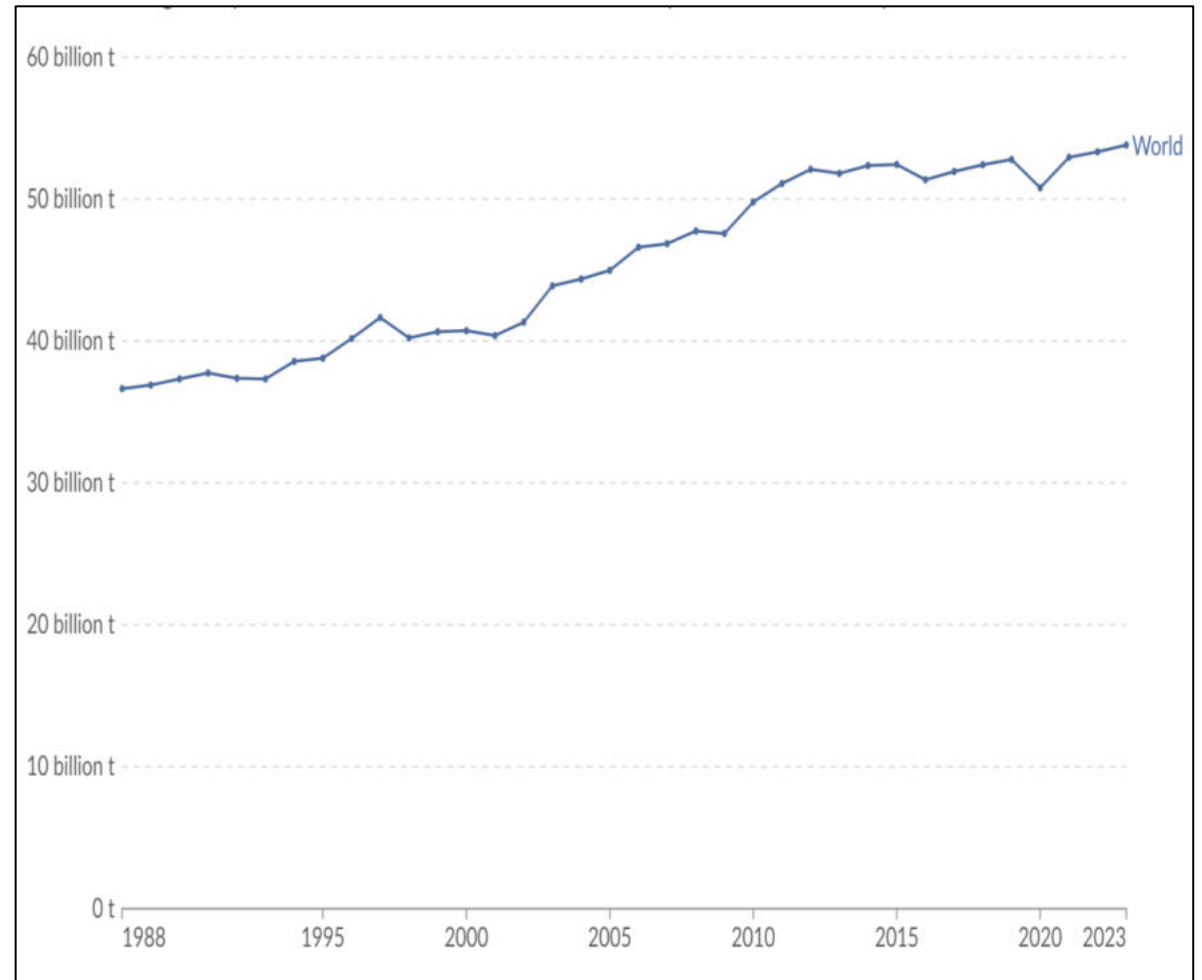
Good progress cutting GHG emissions in Europe, but rising globally

EU domestic GHG emissions -37% in the period 1990-2020



Source: [EEA, 2025](#)

Global GHG emissions continue to rise



Source: Jones et al., 2024



© Getty Images

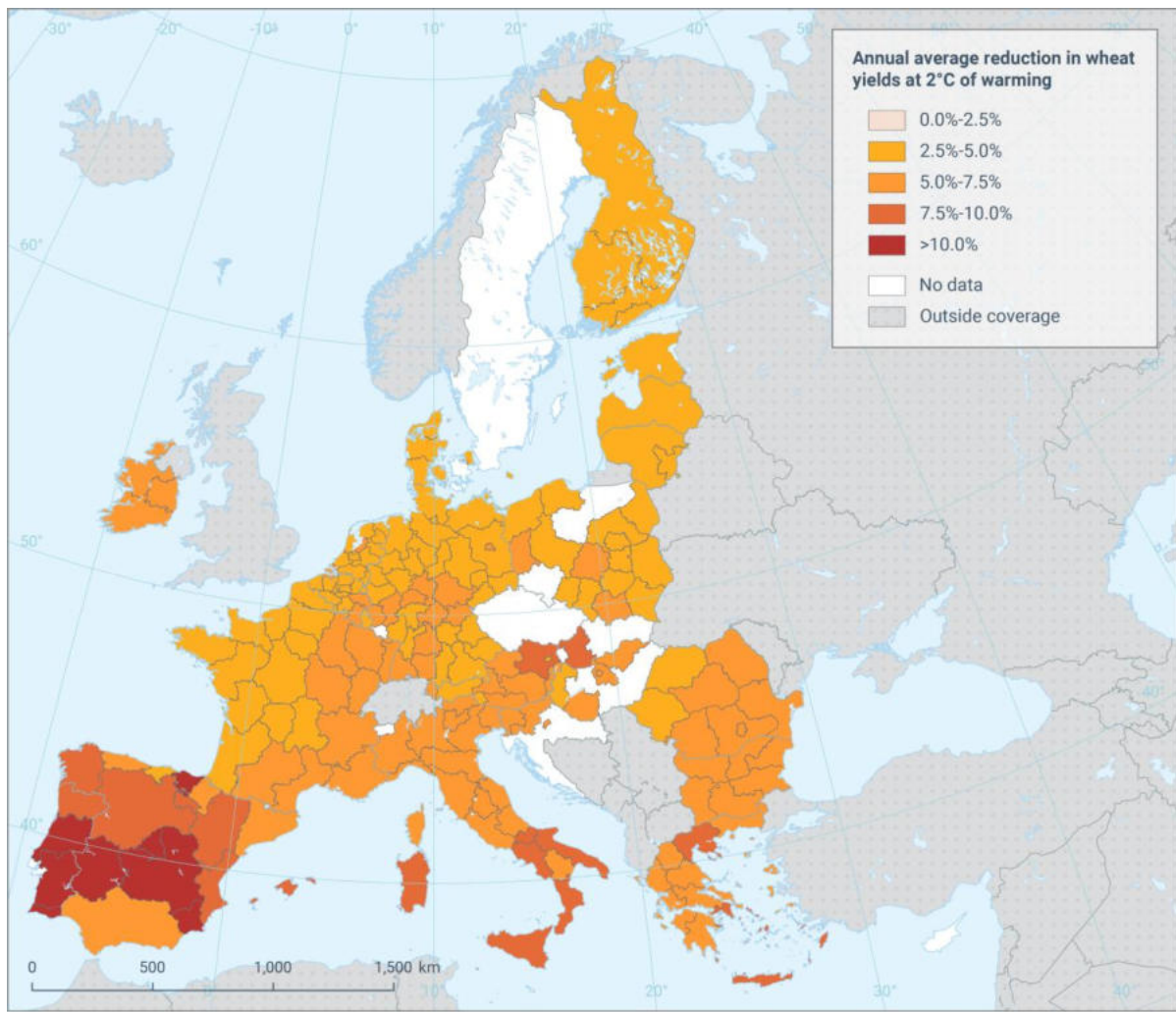
Europe is the fastest warming continent

Floods, droughts, extreme heat & wildfires **increasing in frequency and cost causing deaths**

- Over **240,000 fatalities** from extreme climate events from 1980 to 2023 (source: EEA, 2025)
- 2025 June-July heatwave caused **2,300 deaths** across Europe (source: Imperial Grantham Institute, 2025)

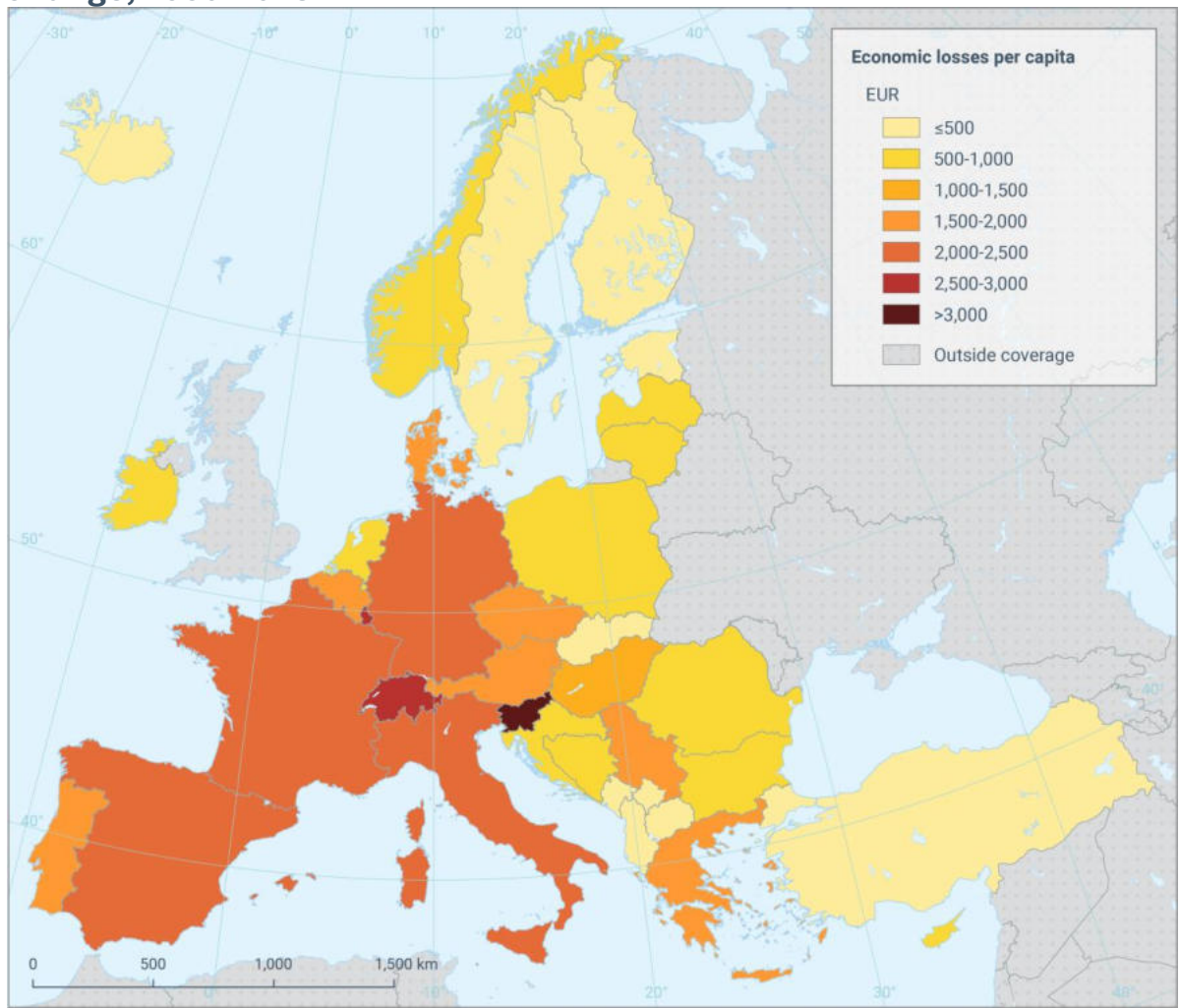
Climate risks impact on society and economy

Average annual reduction in wheat yields at 2°C of warming



Source: [Copernicus, 2025](#)

Per capita economic losses from climate change, 1980-2023



Source: [EEA, 2025](#)

Threats to food and water security and our social fabric



Built environment

Summer energy poverty

19%

of the EU population is unable to keep their house comfortably cool in the summer.



Unequal access to green



Agriculture and food

Food insecurity

7%

of EU population is currently moderately-to-severely food insecure.



Outdoor agricultural workers



Water

Water shortage

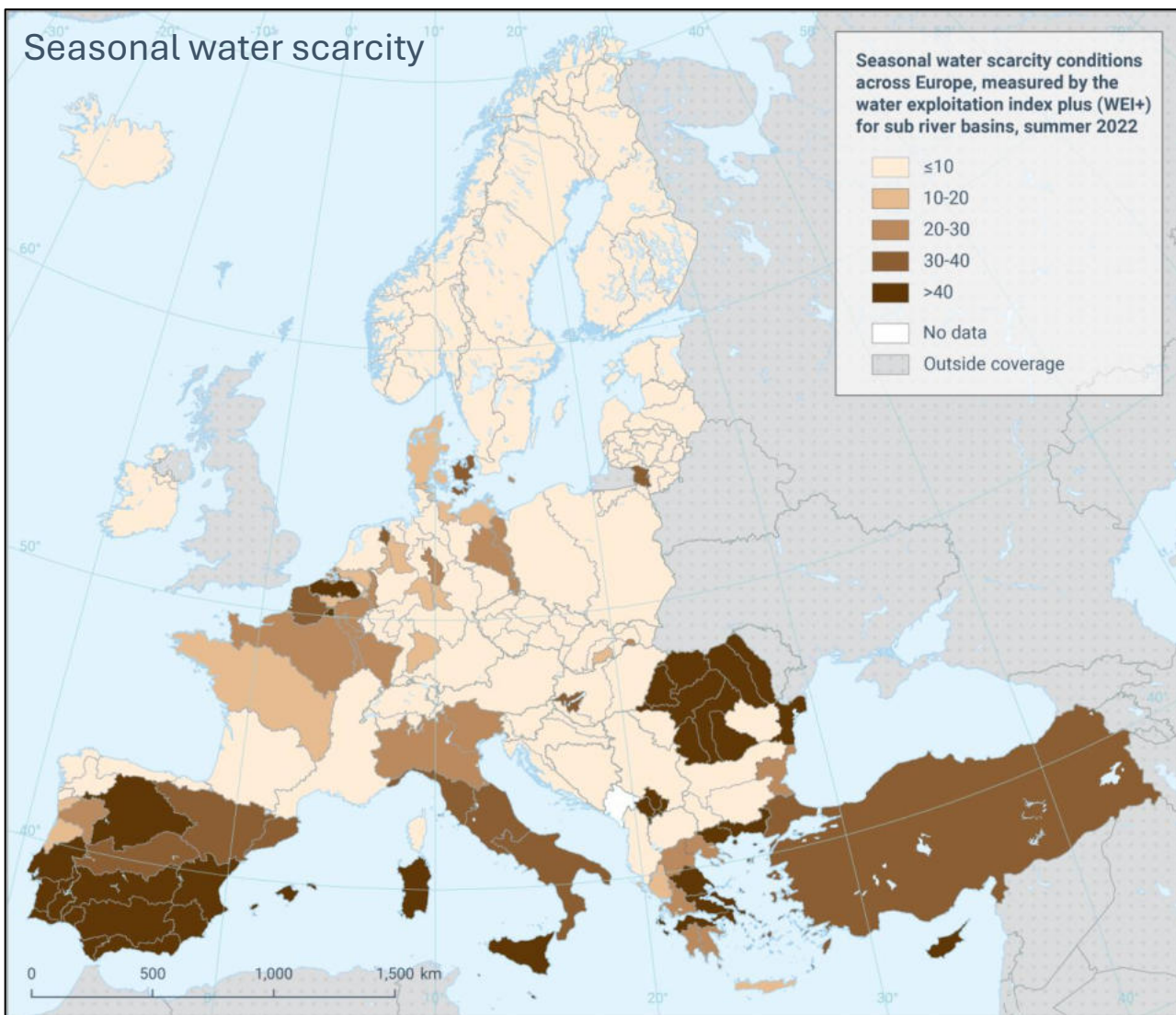
34%

of EU population is affected by water scarcity on average every year.

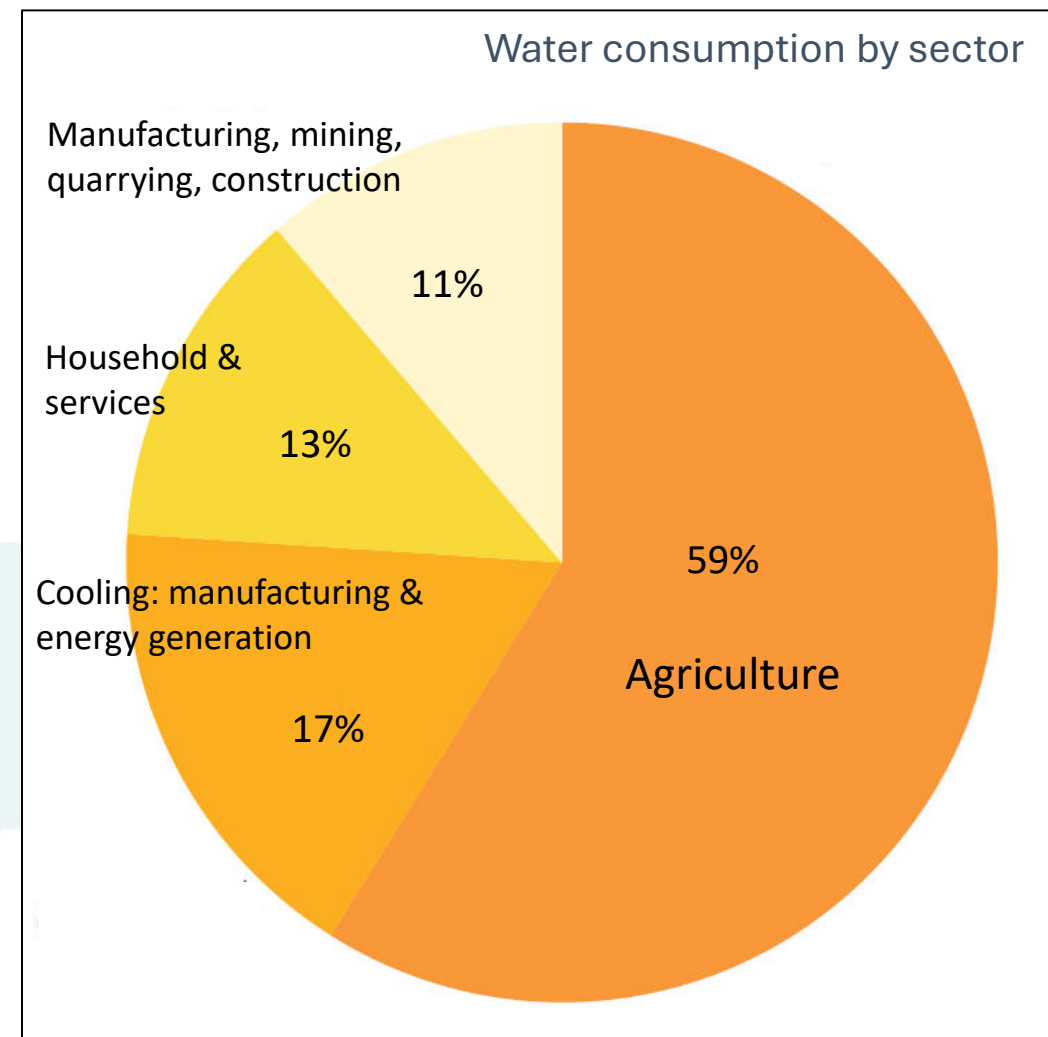


Unequal access to water

Water resources under pressure



Source: [EEA, 2025](#)



Source: [EEA, 2024](#)



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Human health



Europe's environment: environment and health

	Past trends (10-15 years)	Outlook (10- 15 years)
Emissions of pollutants to air		
Air pollution & health		
Environmental noise & health		
Water pollution & health		
Chemical pollution & health		
Air pollution & health inequalities		



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Pollution reduces quality of life in Europe

Top six chronic diseases causing deaths
from pollution in the EU, 2021

1st
**Cardiovascular
disease**

204,575

2nd
Cancers
116,442

3rd
**Chronic
respiratory
disease**
51,576

Diabetes mellitus
12,960

4th

5th **Chronic kidney disease**
4,187

6th **Other chronic diseases**
1,506

Exposure to pollution is responsible for 10% of premature deaths in the EU-27

- >30% of deaths related to chronic respiratory disease
- 18% of deaths related to cardiovascular disease
- 10% of deaths related to cancer



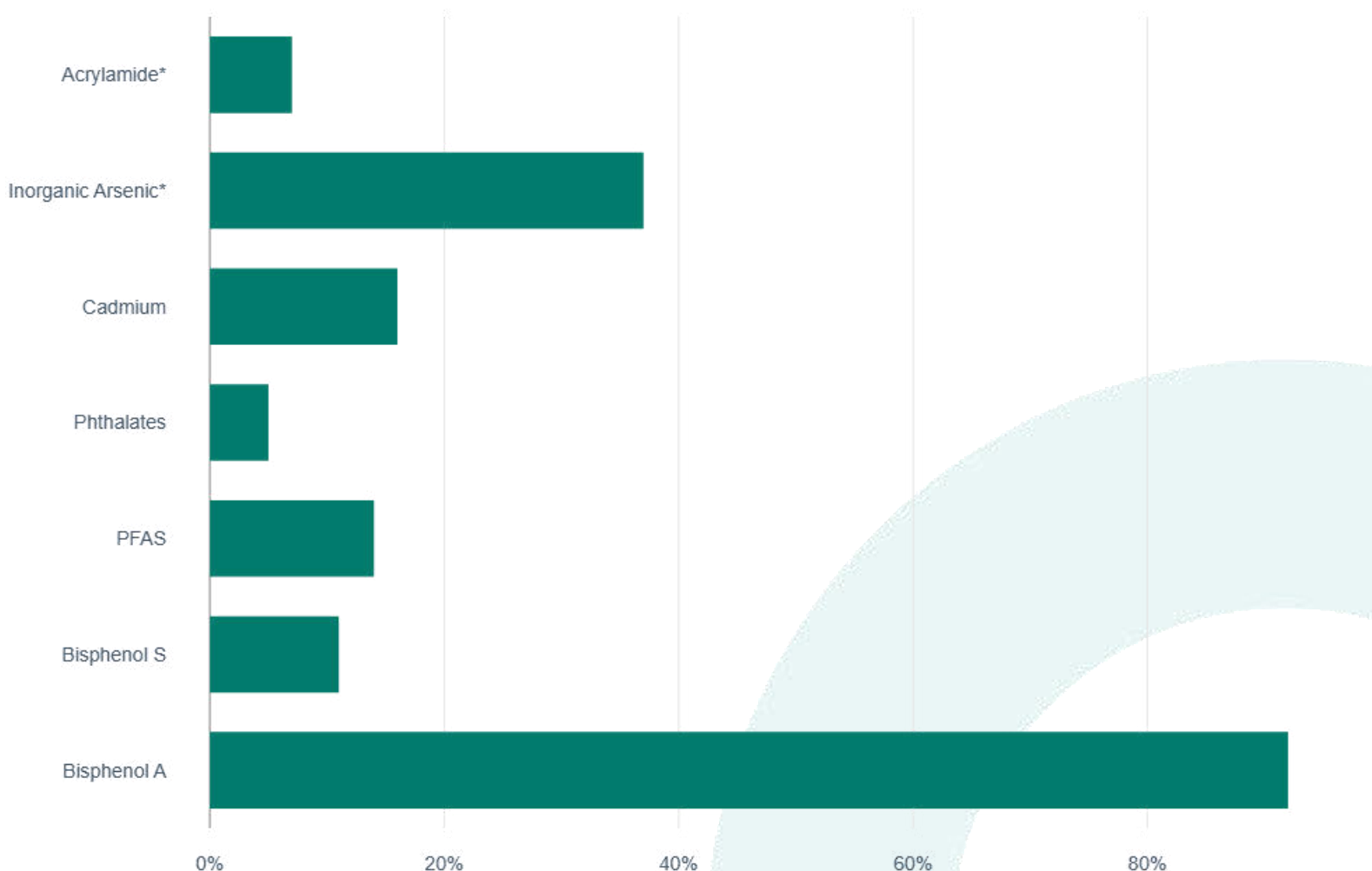
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Chemicals found in the bodies of Europeans at harmful levels

Population with levels of harmful chemicals above health-based guidance values (%)



Source: [EEA, 2025](#)

Progress in tackling legacy chemicals

However, number and volume of chemicals in use continue to grow



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Circular economy



Europe's environment: circular economy

	Past trends (10-15 years)	Outlook (10-15 years)
Circular design		
Waste generation		
Waste recycling		
Circular use of materials		
Impacts from consumption		



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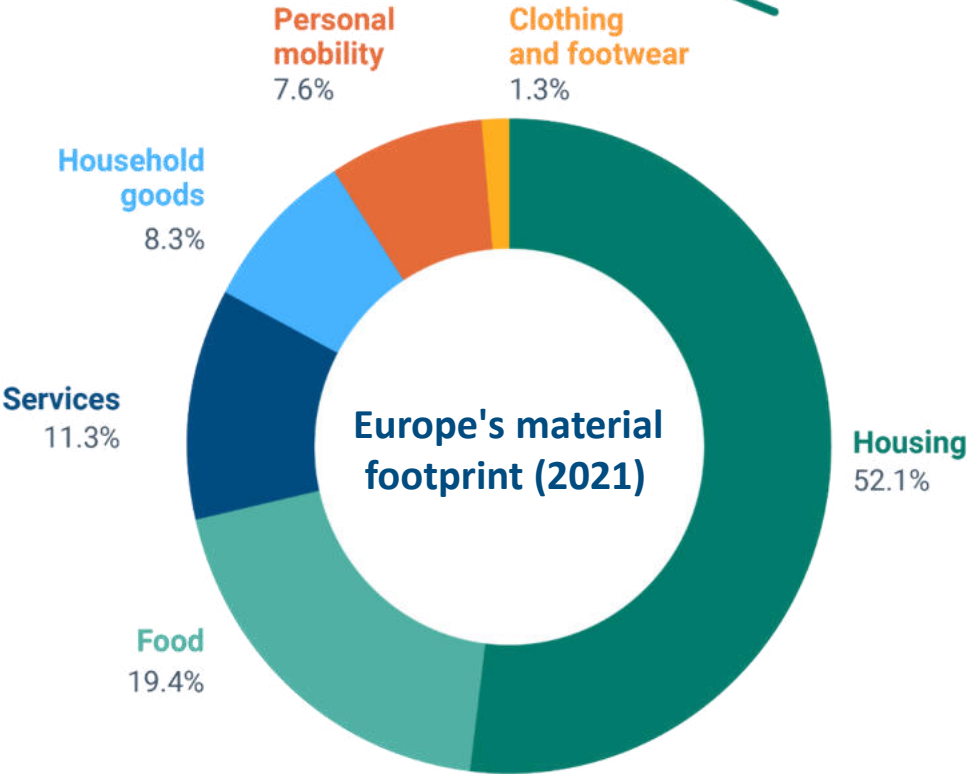
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Europe's material footprint

Index per capita (2010=100)

2010

Present



Source: Eurostat

Europe's material footprint

Index per capita (2010=100)

2010

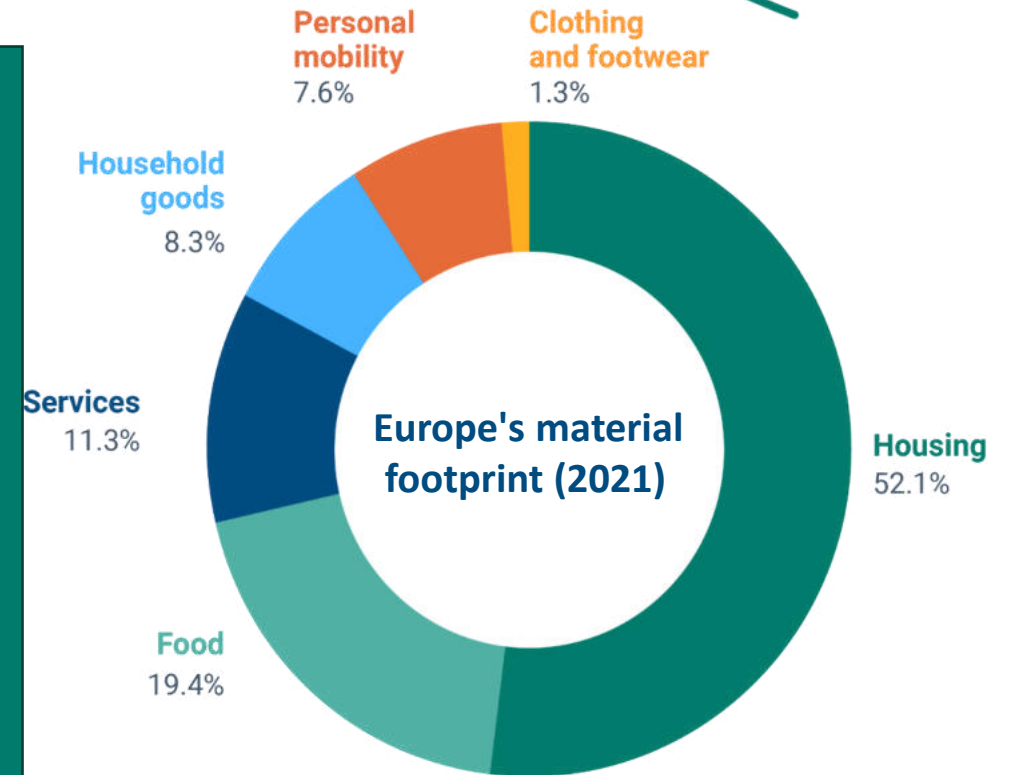
Present

At global level

- Resource extraction and processing drives >55% of GHG emissions
- Biomass harvesting drives 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress on land

IRP, 2024

Source: Eurostat



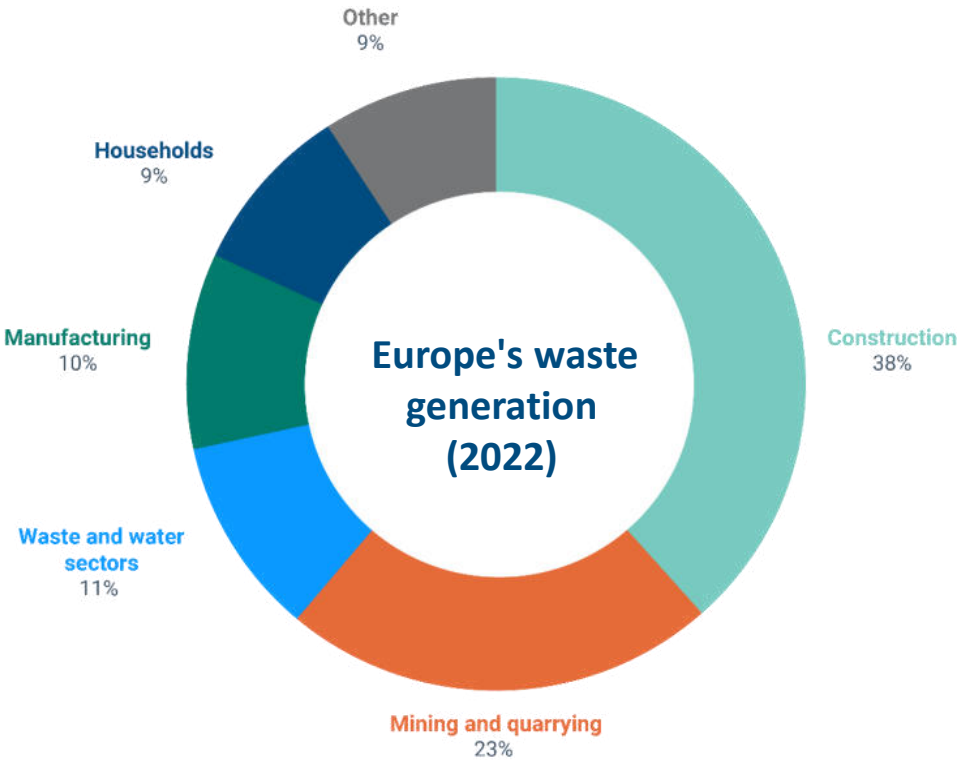
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Europe's waste generation

Index per capita (2010=100)



Europe's circular material use rate

Index per capita (2010=100)



Material footprint
14 t/cap

Waste generation
5 t/cap

Circular Material Use Rate
11.8%

Modest decoupling with economic growth



Material footprint
14 t/cap

Waste generation
5 t/cap

Circular
Material Use
Rate
11.8%

GDP

Europe's environment: Red flags

Biodiversity and ecosystems

- Ongoing biodiversity loss
- Impacts of climate change on ecosystems
- Soil degradation and water scarcity

Climate

- Severe impacts of climate change
- Falling rates of carbon sequestration
- GHG emissions from agriculture and transport

Pollution and health

- Chemicals
- Water scarcity and pollution
- Degradation of marine ecosystems

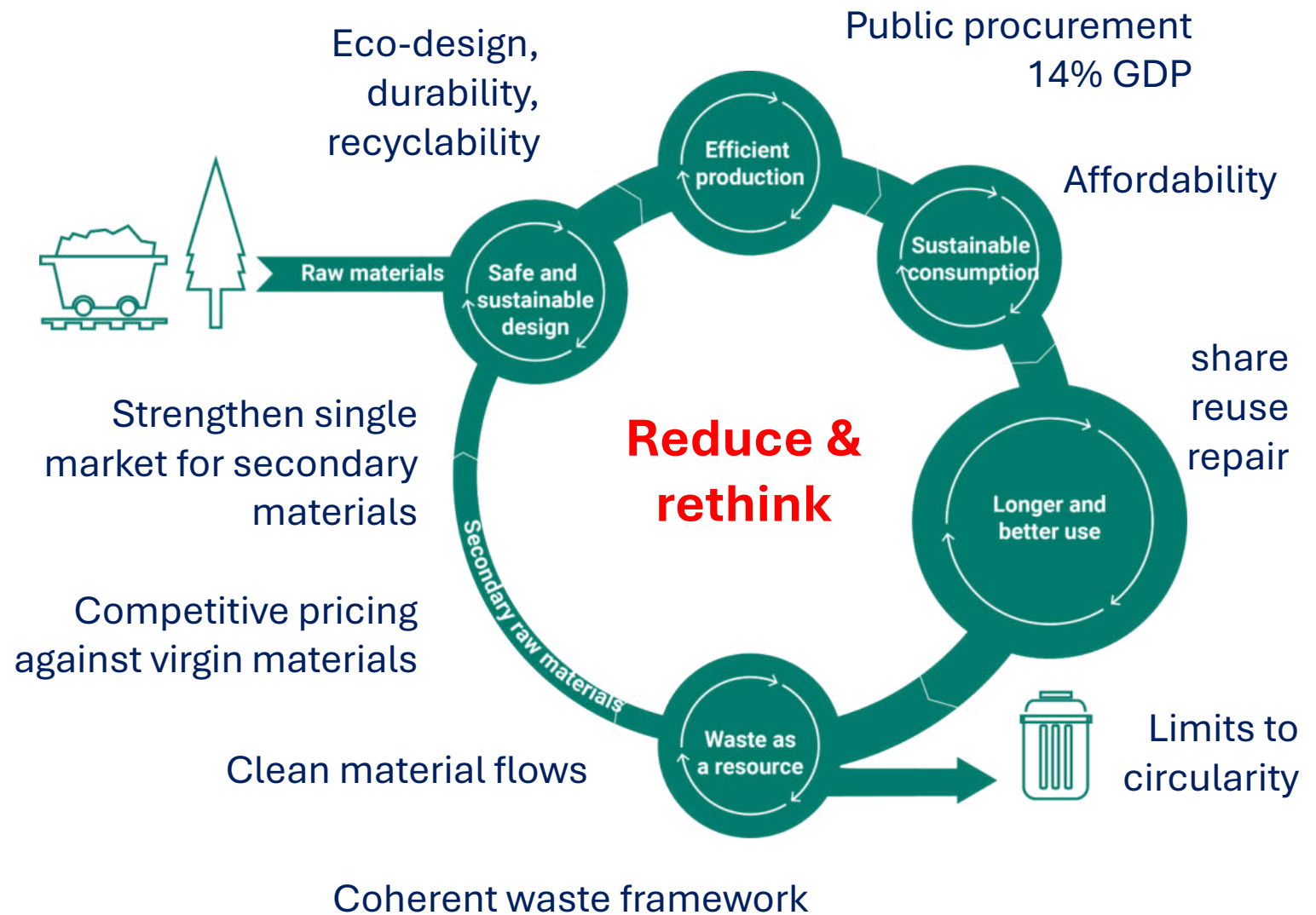
Circular economy

- Slow progress towards circularity
- Unsustainable consumption

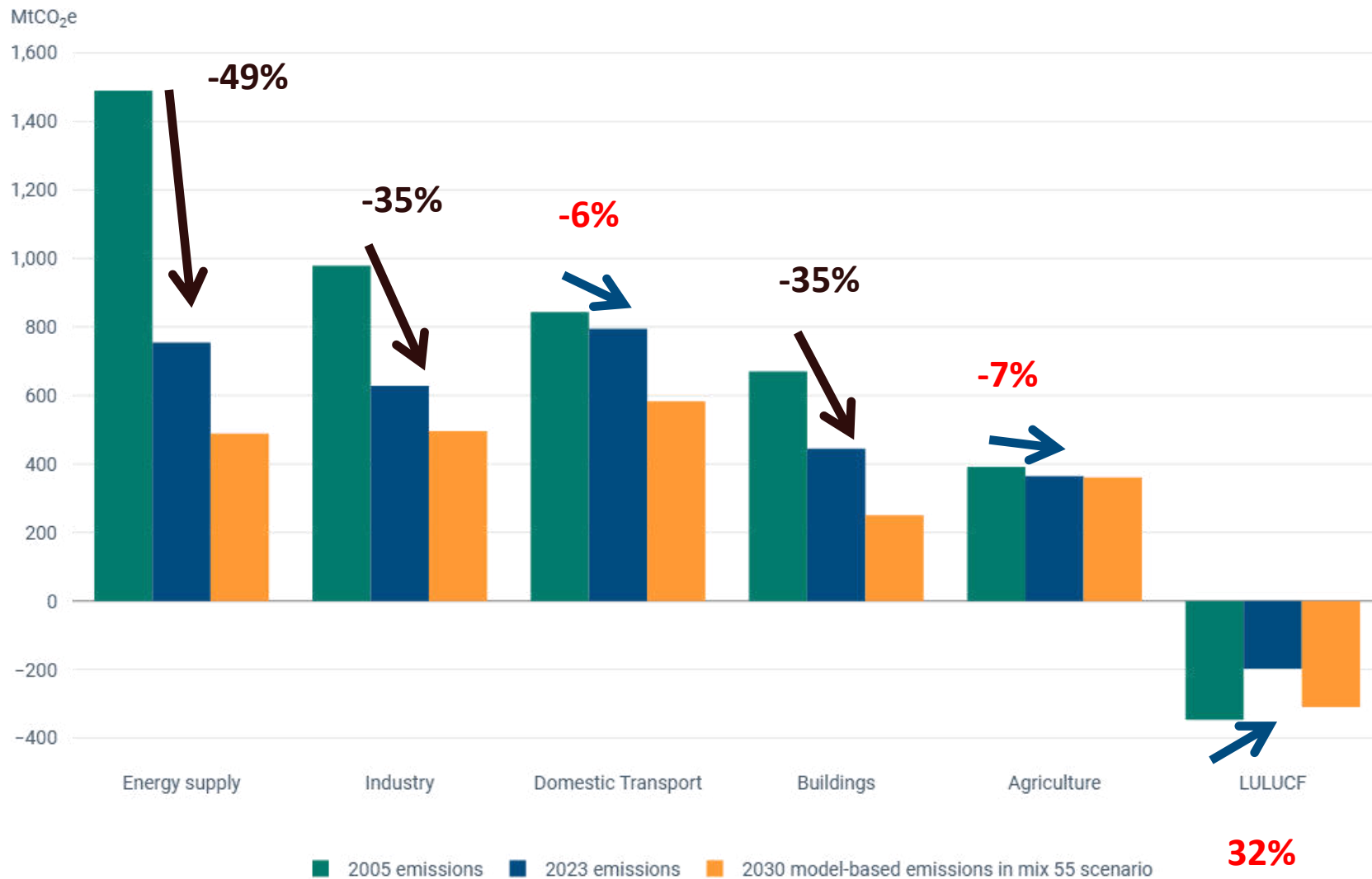


What change do we need?

Sustainable business models



Ongoing emission reductions



Trends in greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2005-2030

ETS drove a 47% cut in GHG emissions from power and energy since 2005

Transformation of production and consumption systems

Energy



Industry



Mobility



Food



Built environment



- Expand renewables to 77%
- Flexibility through grid upgrades and storage
- Affordable energy & energy sovereignty
- Scrap fossil fuel subsidies
- CCS & hydrogen

- Electrification
- Hard to abate
- Carbon capture and storage
- Sustainable products
- Boost market for secondary materials

- Electrification and infrastructure for EVs
- Public transport
- Connect rail across EU
- Alternative fuels for aviation and maritime transport

- Reduce land use for livestock
- Expand plant-based protein
- Restore land to create carbon sinks
- Cut water losses
- Shift to drought resistant species

- Renovation and energy efficiency
- Clean energy for heating and cooling
- Climate resilient homes and infrastructure
- Cut water losses

A cause of hope

Action on the ground and seeds of transformative change

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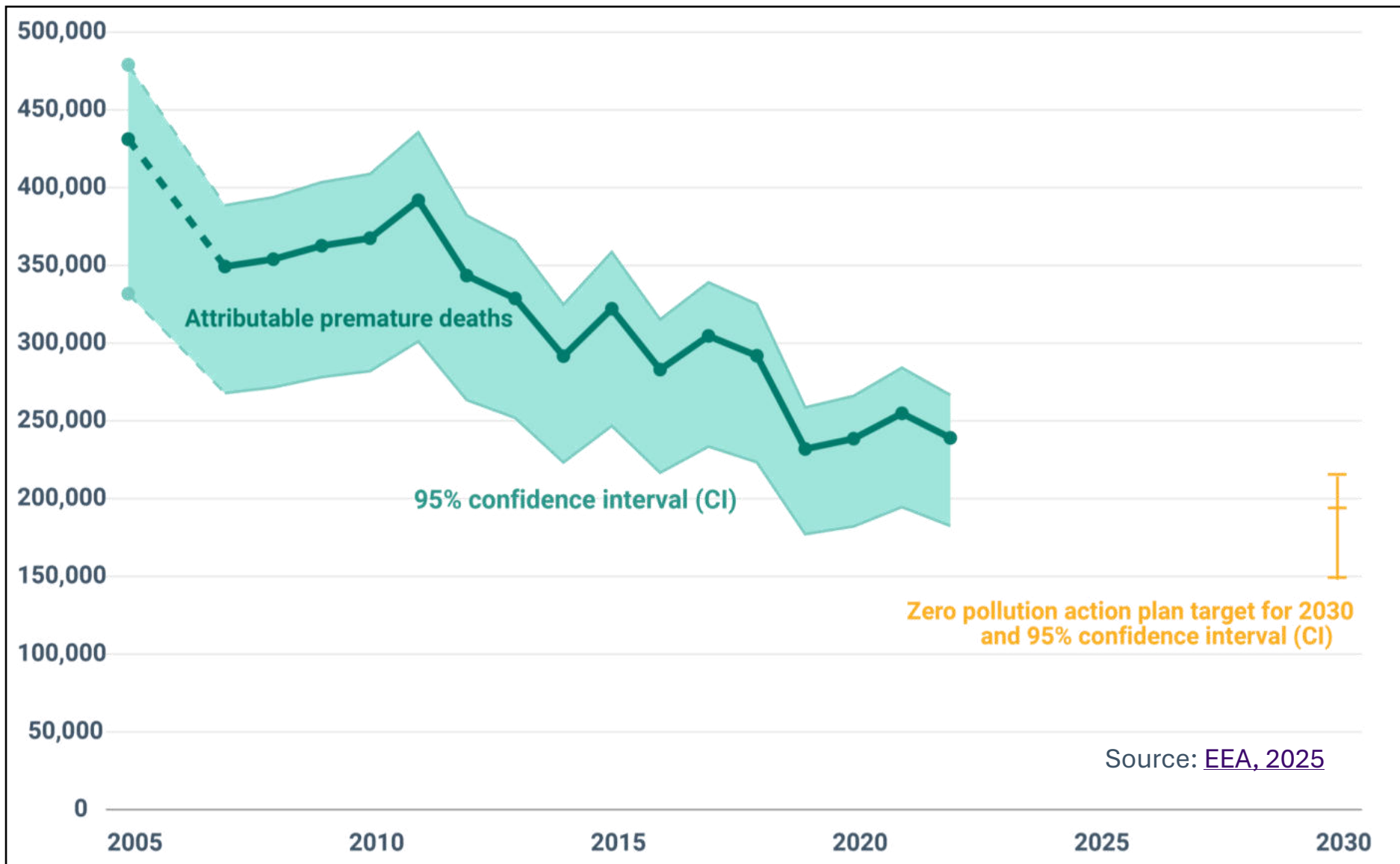


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EU air quality policies are saving lives



Premature deaths attributable to exposure to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), EU-27, 2005-2022

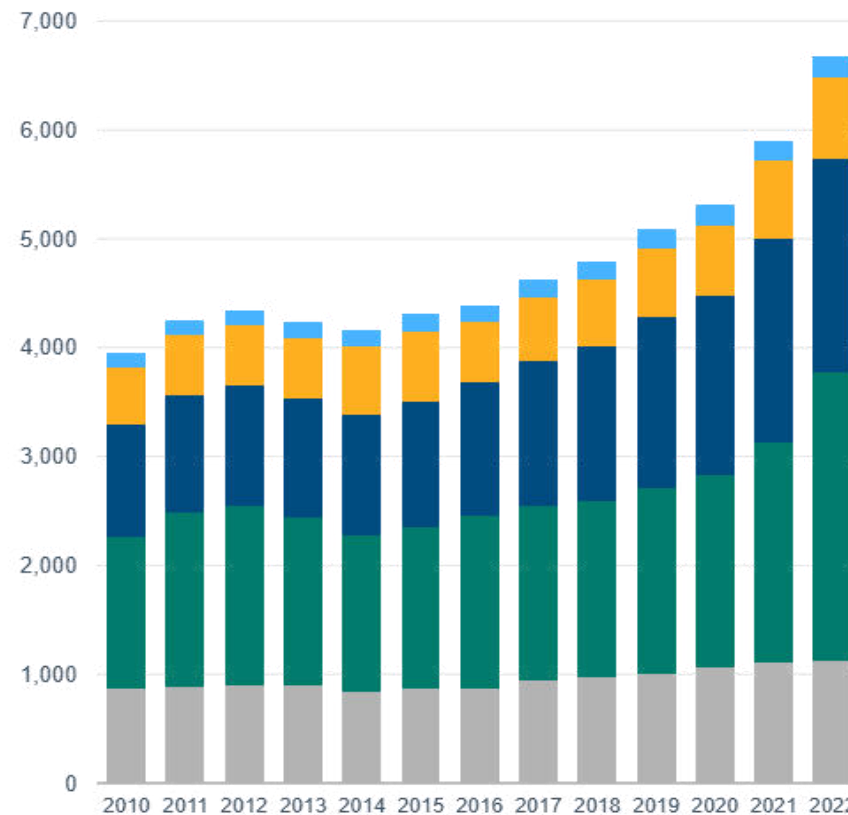
Pollutant levels are a third higher in the poorest regions than in the richest



Growth in green jobs

Employment in the environmental economy, by domain, EU, 2010-2022

Thousands of Full Time Equivalents (FTE)



6.7 million FTE in 2022

3.1% of employment

Jobs in renewables 1.2 million – doubled from 2021

Green skills development & retraining needed



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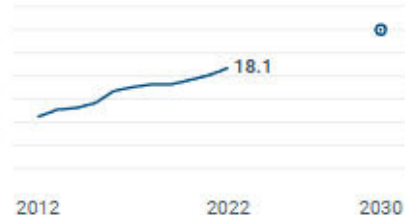
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Italy Country Profile

Area under organic farming

On track

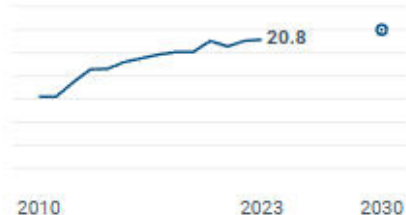
Share (%)



Circular material use rate

On track

Share (%)



Climate-related economic losses

Wrong direction

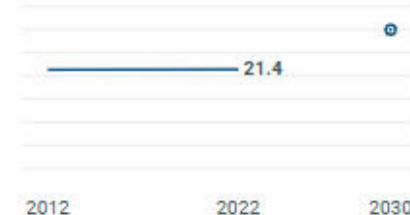
Cost (EUR per capita)



Designated terrestrial protected areas

Acceleration needed

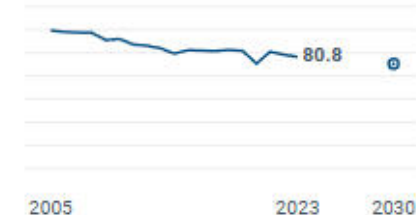
Share (%)



Final energy consumption

On track

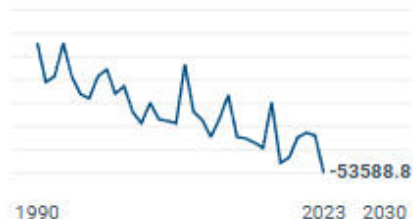
Index 2005=100%



Greenhouse gas emissions and removals in land and forests

Not assessed

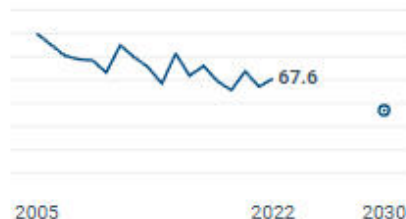
kt CO₂e



Health impacts of air pollution

Not assessed

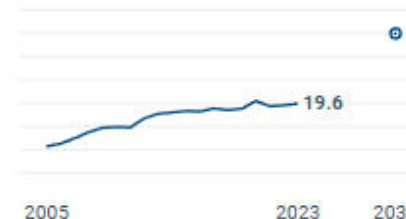
Index 2005=100%



Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption

Acceleration needed

Share (%)



Total greenhouse gas emissions (without LULUCF)

Not assessed

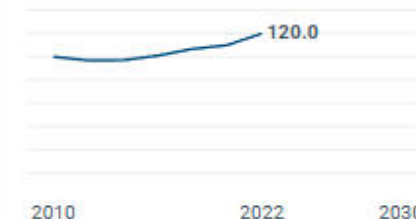
Index 1990=100%



Total waste generation

Wrong direction

Index 2010=100%



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Nature underpins Europe's long-term competitiveness, security and resilience



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The image is a conceptual photograph. On the left, a man in a dark suit and white shirt stands on a rocky, polluted ground. He is holding a large, rectangular cloth that has been hung over a clothesline. The cloth is divided into two parts: the left side shows a lush, green mountain landscape with a river and a waterfall, while the right side shows a dark, smoky, and industrial landscape with smokestacks and a polluted river. The man is holding the cloth up, revealing the clean landscape behind the polluted one. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The overall message is about environmental protection and the transition to a clean, sustainable future.

Thank you

