



# **European Waste Policy for a Resource Efficient Europe**

## **FEAD Annual Conference 2010**

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# Outline

1. Why do we need “resource efficiency”?
2. What are the European answers?
3. How Waste policies can contribute to Resource Efficiency?
4. Conclusion



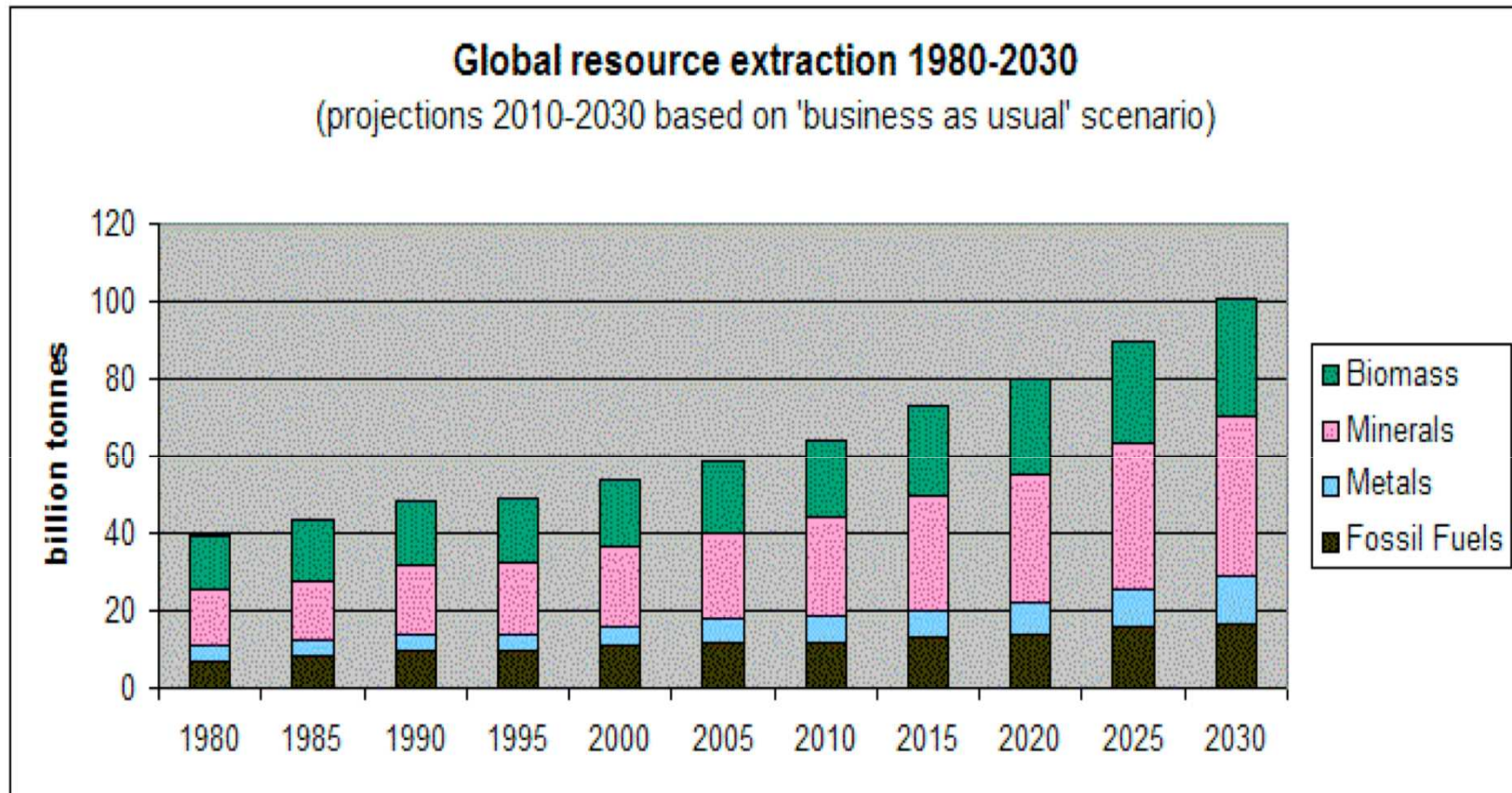
**ONLY ONE EARTH**



**World Footprint = 1.3 earths**



# Growing Resource Use



# World-wide answers

- Japan → 3Rs (Recycle, Re-use, Reduce)
- China → Circular economy
- South East Asia → Active regional recycling market
- Stricter regulatory regimes and standards
  - ambitious collection and recycling targets
- Continues improvement of legal infrastructure



# What are the European answers?

- Thematic Strategies on Waste Prevention and Recycling and on Natural Resources – adopted in 2005, currently under evaluation
- Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan – adopted in 2008
- **The EU 2020 Strategy – new horizontal flagship on resource efficiency**
  - ➔ Goals:
    - achieve prosperous and sustainable economy
    - treat environment and economy together
    - better use of all available resources

# What is Resource efficiency?

Resource efficiency means:

- producing more value with less material
- and consuming differently

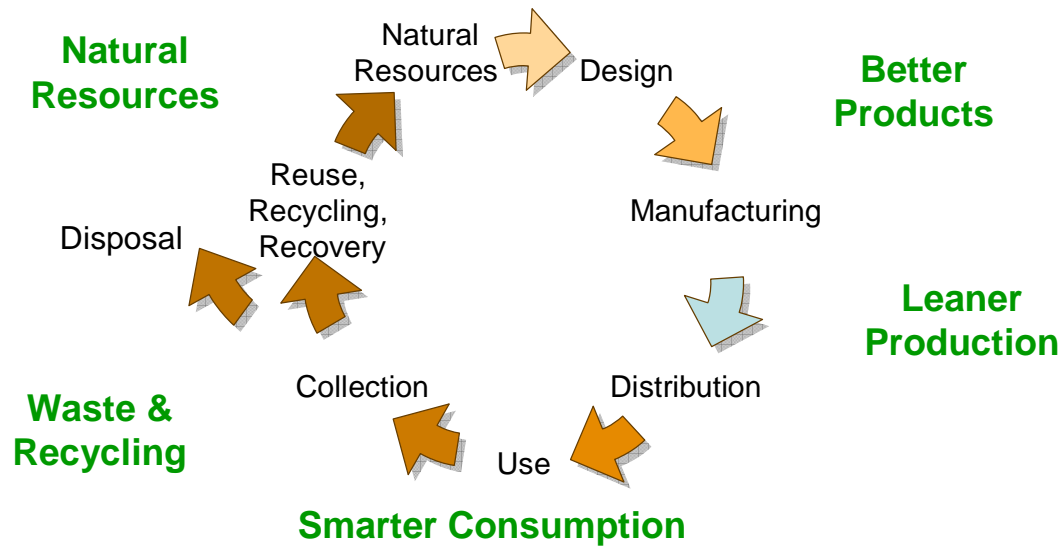
With the aim of:

- decoupling environmental impacts with economic growth
- reducing environmental impacts

Resources include all material and natural resources, from food, timber, and biodiversity in the widest sense, to energy, metals, soil, water, minerals, our atmosphere and land.

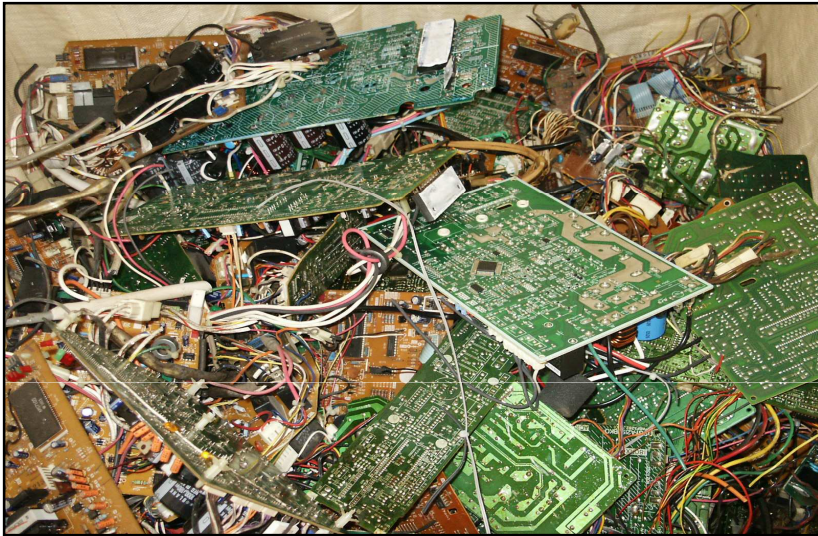
# Integrated Approach

## Policies across the life-cycle





# Recycling and resource efficiency



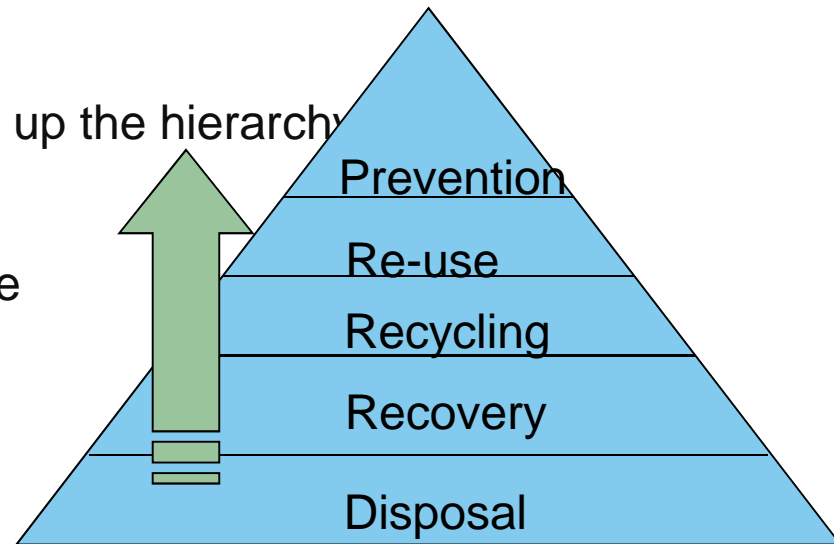
**25 kg** Electrical and Electronic  
Waste per EU citizen per year



Recycling provides metals and has  
much lower impacts than mining

# Towards recycling society

- **EU resource efficient recycling society**
- **New Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) based on the principle of the 2005 Thematic Strategy**
- **Waste hierarchy**
  - ➔ Moving waste management up the hierarchy
  - ➔ Order of priorities
  - ➔ Best environmental outcome
  - ➔ Life cycle thinking

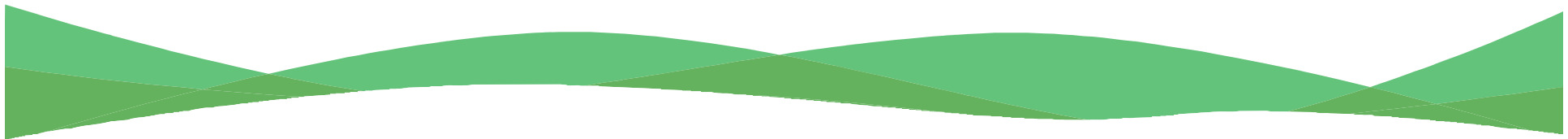


# Are we moving in the right direction?

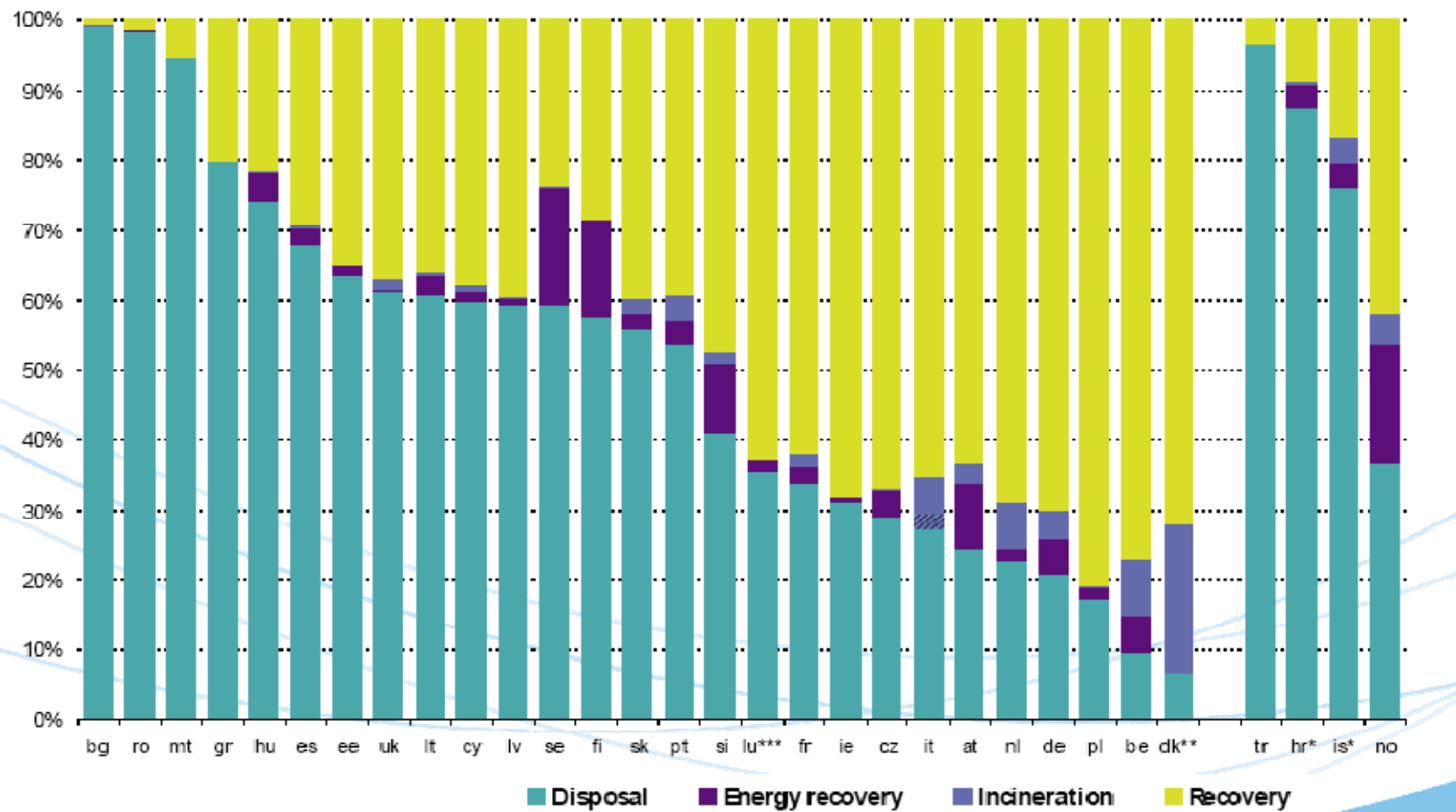
Progress report on the Thematic Strategy on waste to be delivered by the end of the year

First signals are showing:

- Limited progress in terms of Waste prevention: waste generation increase at a lower rate than GDP but this is not enough
- Encouraging progress for recycling: in 10 years recycling of municipal waste has doubled (19 to 38% between 1998 and 2007)
- Less landfilling: in 10 years landfilling of municipal waste has decreased from 60 to around 40%
- Remarkable differences between Member States: most performing Member States are using an optimal combination of economic and legal instruments (taxes, producer responsibility schemes, incentives)



# Differences between Member States (source Eurostat 2006)





# Review of the Thematic Strategy

First lessons learnt:

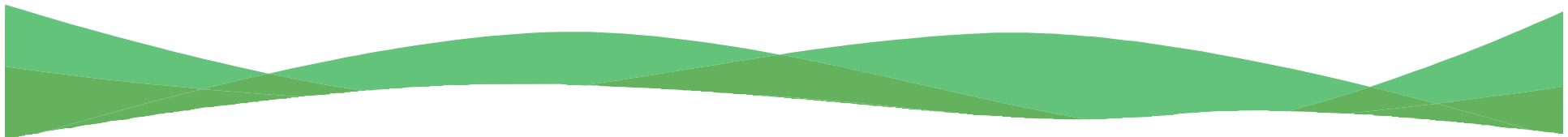
- Ensure full implementation of existing acquis: some key EU targets might not be met on time – need to set in place prevention National Strategies
- Full use of Economic instruments: optimal combination of legal/economic instruments leads to large passing of EU minimum targets
- Better link between waste and:
  - Resource policies: future recycling targets to be defined according to resource needs
  - Product policies: new product design to increase integration of recycled material, limited use of critical/impacting resource, increased recyclability
  - Climate policies: new focus on avoided indirect emissions
- Improve EU recycling markets: better standardization, improved market conditions
- Improve knowledge: development of new tools/scenarios linking resource needs, waste management, environmental impacts, effect of legal/economic instruments

# Conclusion – New opportunities

Resource Efficiency is a necessity and is directly related to competitiveness:

- The more resource efficient countries are the more competitive
- Demand (and prices) for secondary raw materials will increase – development of new opportunities for the waste sector

Don't waste these new opportunities!



# ONLY ONE EARTH

Thank you for your attention

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