



Belgian One
Health Network

Circular Economy

Useful inputs for the discussion
(incl. those from the preparatory workshop)

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6 Priorities of the EU Commission (2019-2024)

1. A Europe fit for the digital age (strategy) : **new technologies**
2. A stronger Europe in the world: serve as an example
3. Promoting our European way of life: rule of law, regulations
4. A new push for European **democracy**: participation
5. An economy that works for **people**: **jobs** for the youth, **SME's**
6. A European '**Green Deal**' : **first CO2-neutral** continent



Ursula Von der Leyen Press Statement 11/12/2019 (Verbatim)

- A very special day: the College of Commissioners agreed on the EU Green Deal
- It is, on one hand, our vision for a climate-neutral continent by 2050 and, on the other hand a very dedicated roadmap to this goal, with 50 actions for 2050.
- Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce and consume with our planet and to make it work for our people.
- It is, on one hand, about cutting emissions but on the other hand about creating jobs and boosting innovation.
- I am convinced that the old growth model (based on fossil fuels and pollution) is out of date and out of touch with our planet.
- The EU Green Deal is our new growth strategy, a strategy for growth that gives more back than it takes away.
- We want really to make things different and to be the front runners in climate-friendly industries, in clean technologies, in green financing.



Ursula Von der Leyen Press Statement 11/12/2019 (2)

- But we also have to be sure that **no one is left behind**. This transition will either be working for all and be just or not work at all. Therefore the crucial part of the '**just transition mechanism**': We have the ambition to mobilize **100 billion euros** precisely targeted to the most vulnerable regions and sectors.
- The EGD is a **broad road map**: we care also about **biodiversity, forests, agriculture, food, green cities, circular economy**.
- We do not have all the answers yet. Today is the **start of a journey** but this is Europe's '**man on the moon**' moment.
- The EGD is **very ambitious BUT** it will also be **very careful** in **assessing the impact** and every single step we are taking.
- The EDG is an **invitation for all to participate**. **European citizens are changing their lifestyle to protect the climate and the planet**. Therefore, our EGD tells them that Europe is at their side.
- We **owe the EGD to our children** because we do not own **this planet**. We just do have for certain time a responsibility and **now is time to act**.

1. TURNING AN URGENT CHALLENGE INTO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

2.1. Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

2. Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future



2.1.1.

Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

2.1.2.

Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

2.1.3.

Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy

2.1.4.

Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

2.2.2.

Greening National Budgets

2.2.1.

Financing the transition

2.2.5.

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

3

The EU as a global leader

2.2. Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies

4

A European Climate Pact

A time to act - together

Mobilising research and fostering innovation

2.2.3.

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

2.1.8.

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

2.1.7.

From 'Farm to Fork': a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system

2.1.6.

Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

2.1.5.

2.2.4.

Activating *education and training*



Preparatory meeting of 9/9/2021

The stakeholders:

- **Present:** Federal administration, Academics,...
- **Missing:** recycling sector, Regions, Unions

Definitions:

*A circular economy is an economic system of closed loops in which raw materials, components and products lose their value as little as possible, **renewable energy sources** are used and systems thinking is at the core.*

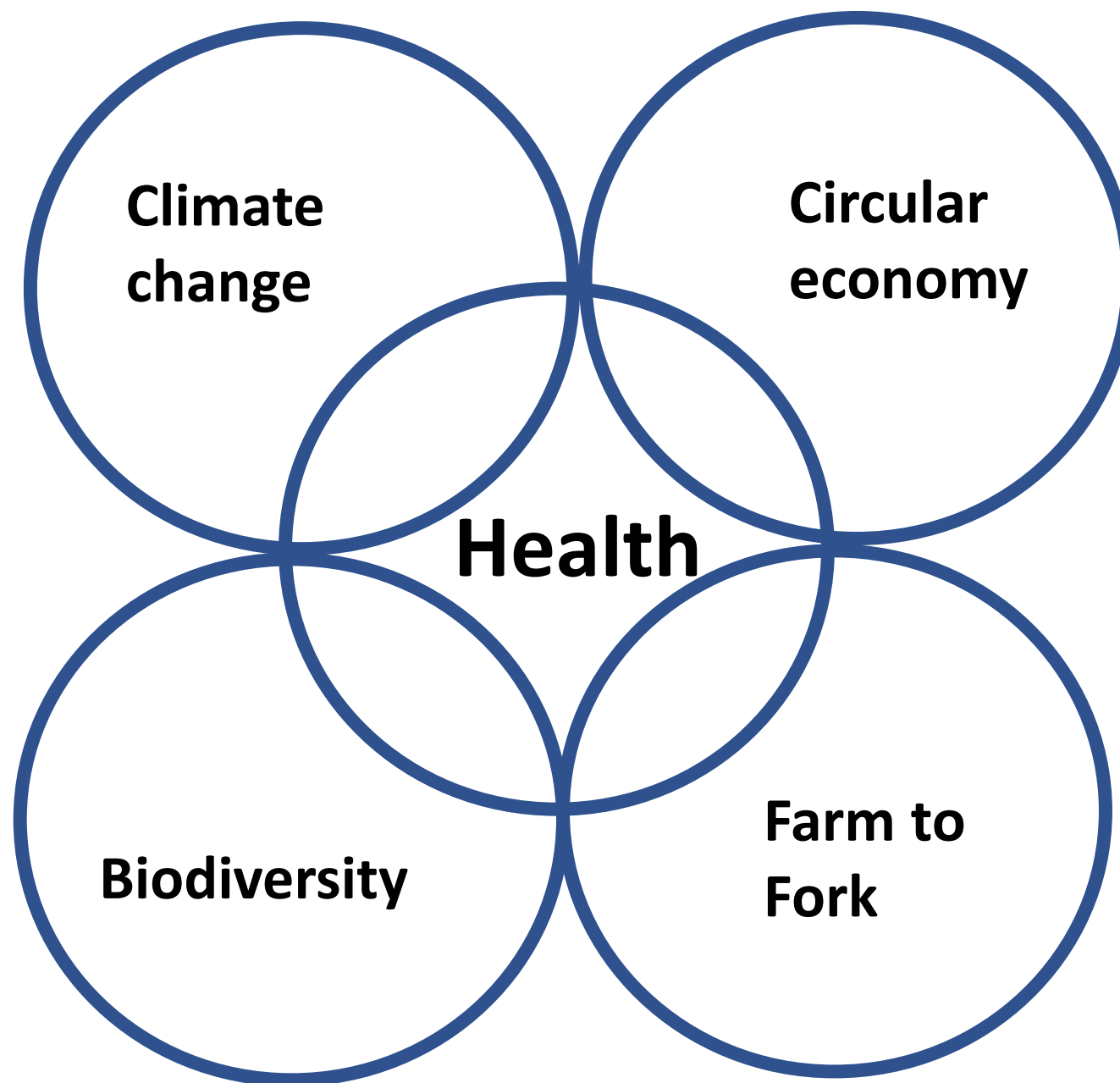
*Circular economy is about taking care of the **natural capital**, maintaining **products and materials at their highest application level** while minimizing their **environmental** and **health** impact*

Obvious links between the 4 domains identified by the BEOH-network



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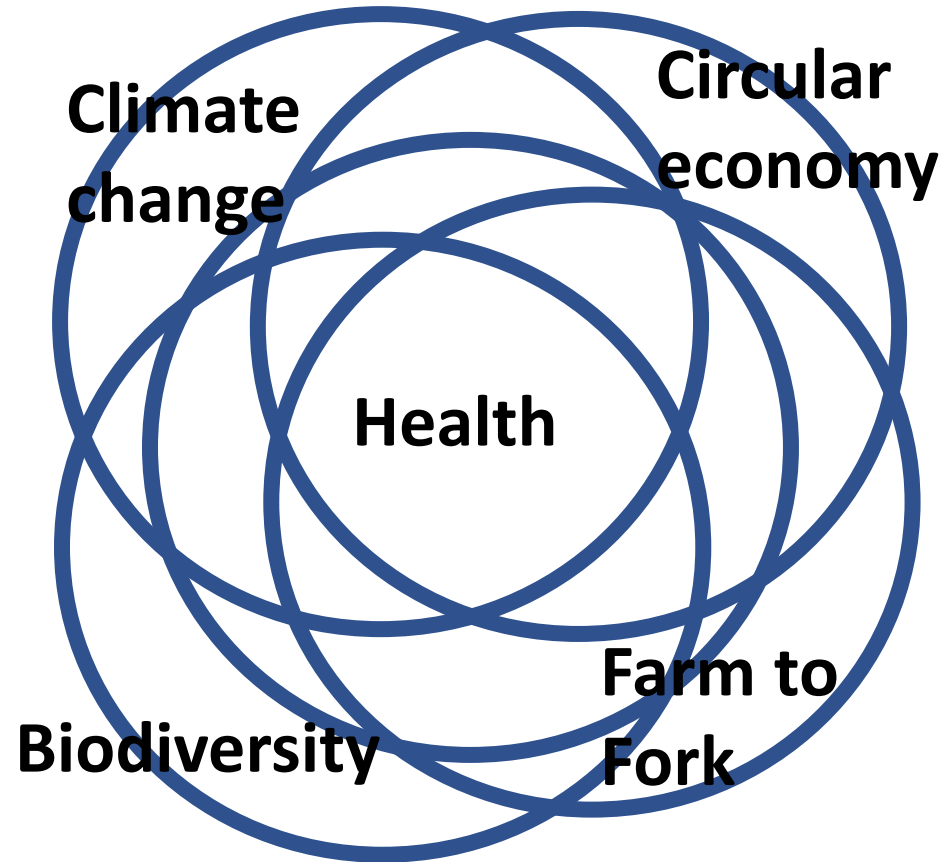
BEOH : Health + 4 topics (1)





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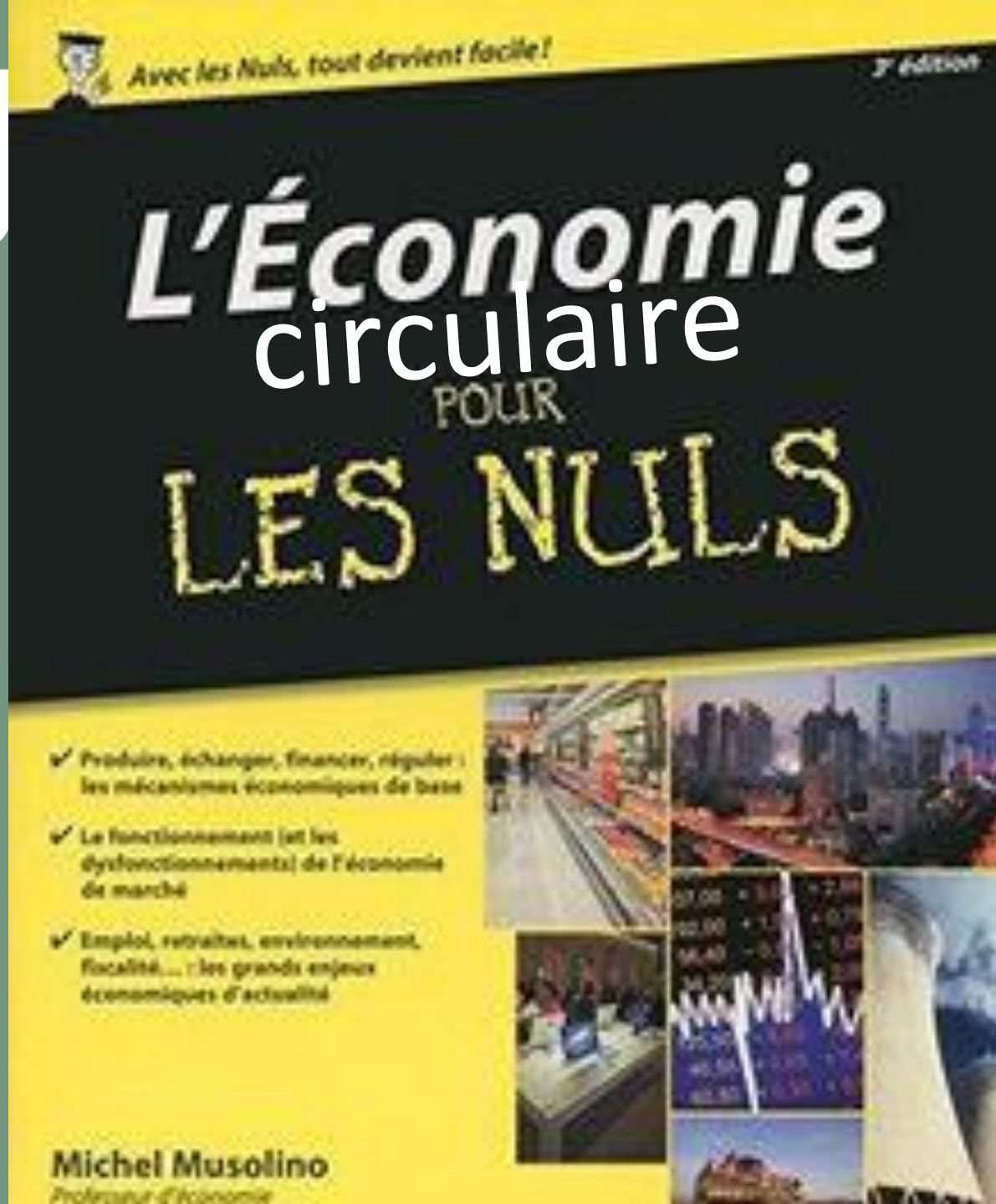
BEOH : Health + 4 topics (2)





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ONE WORLD ONE HEALTH

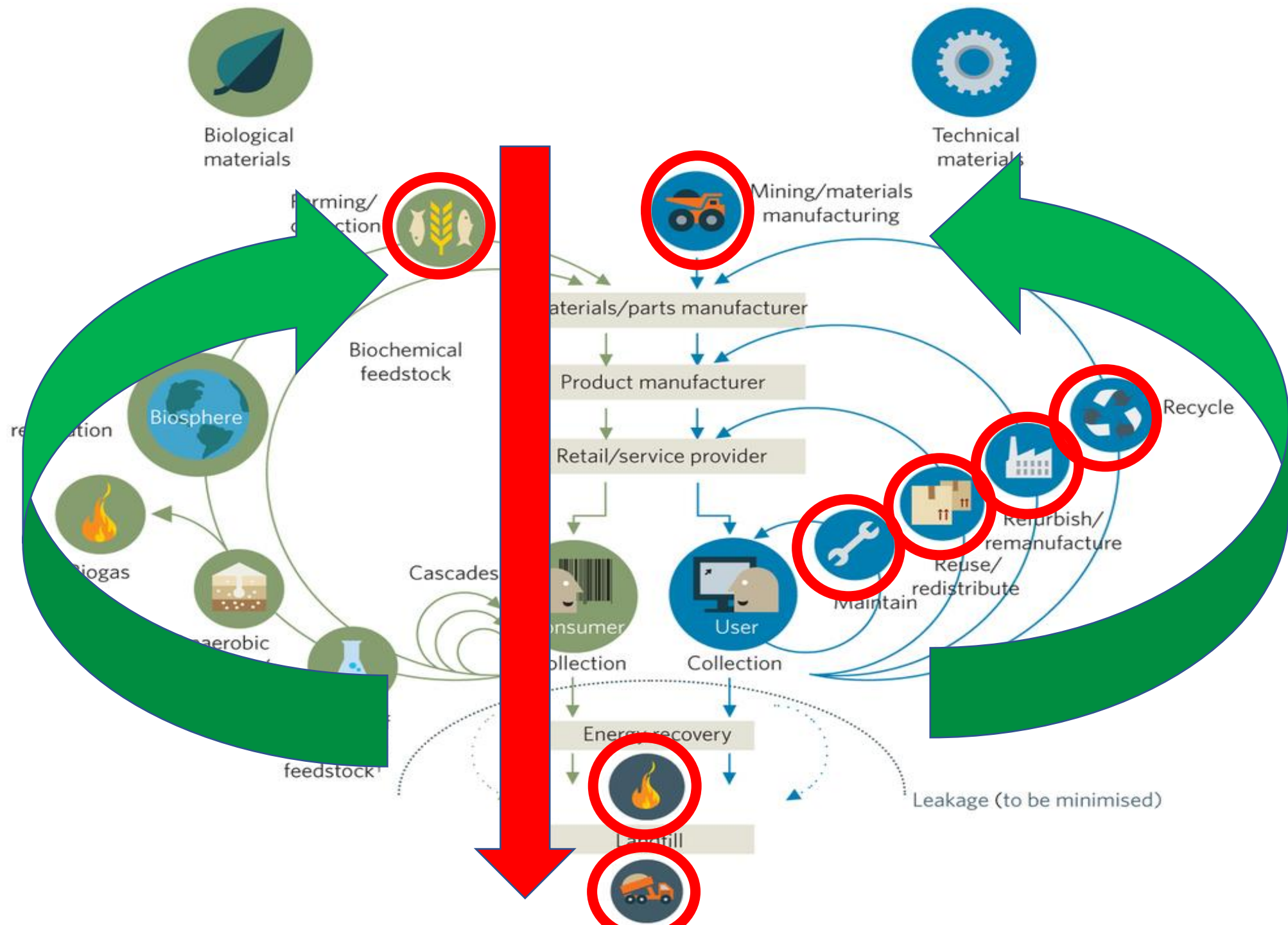


A few 'basics'
about
Circular
Economy!



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ONE WORLD ONE HEALTH



CE: a new way of looking at things!

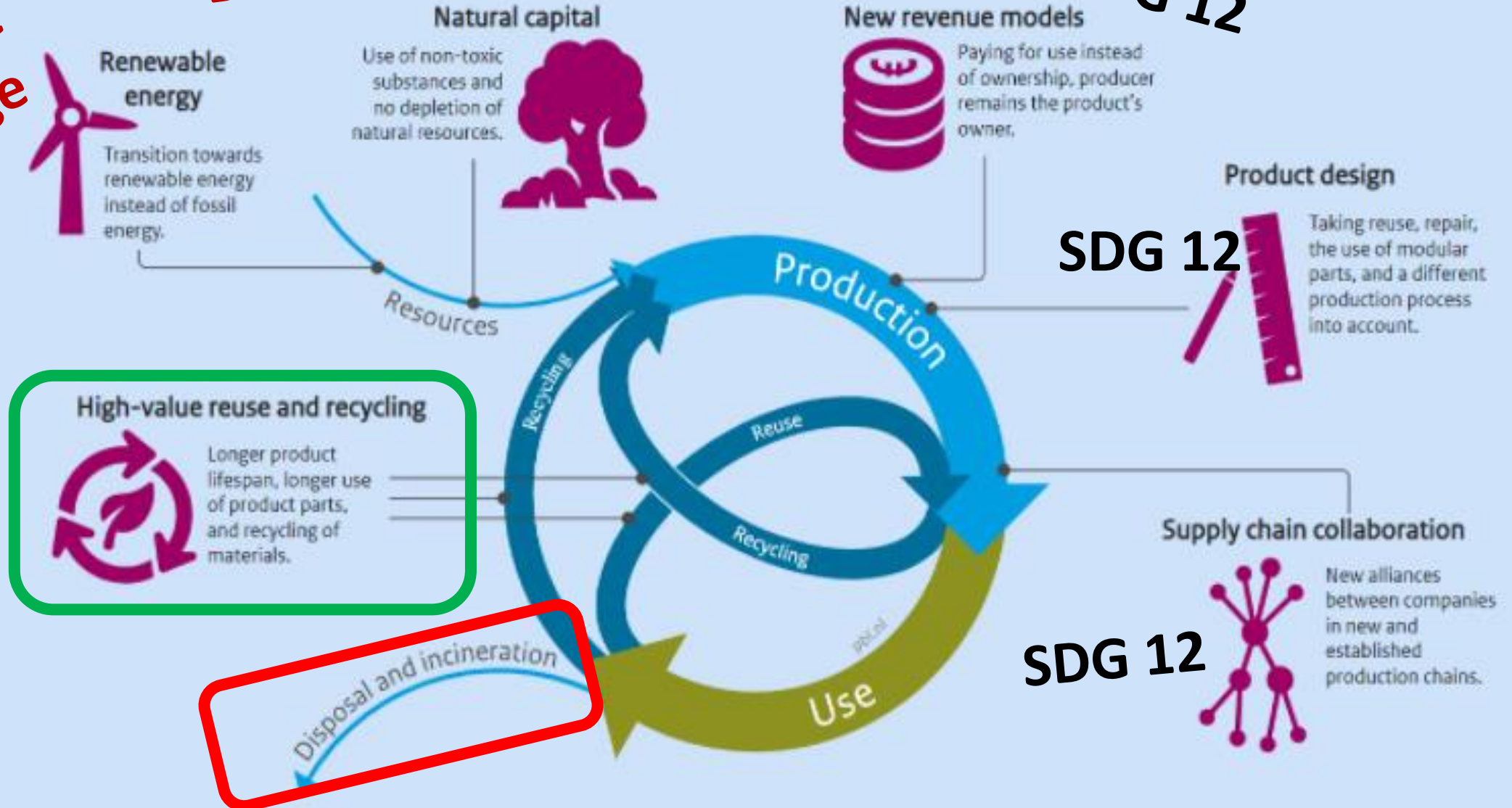


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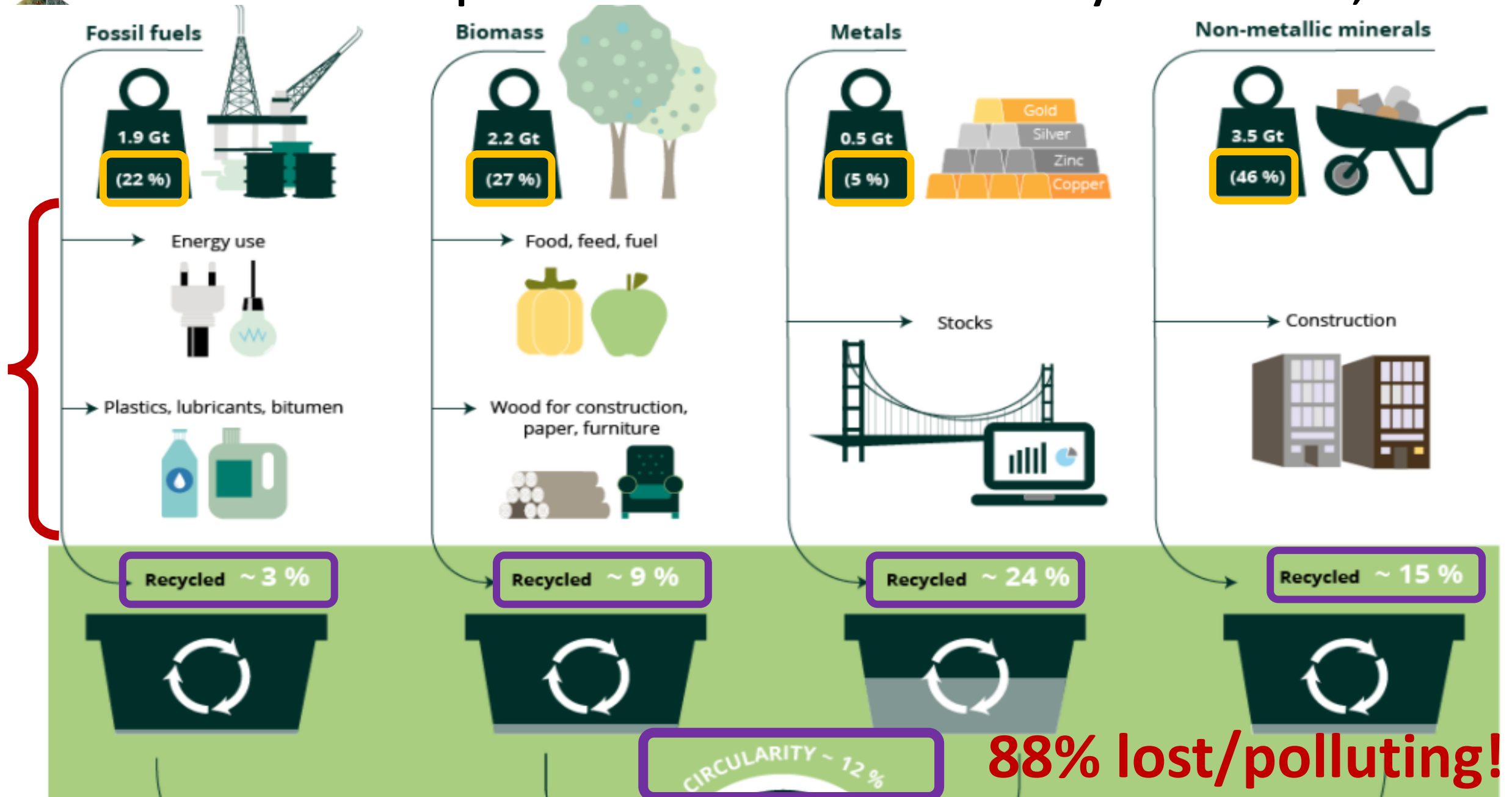
Climate
Change

Biodiversity

Elements of a circular economy



Schematic representation of limits of circularity in the EU-27, 2019

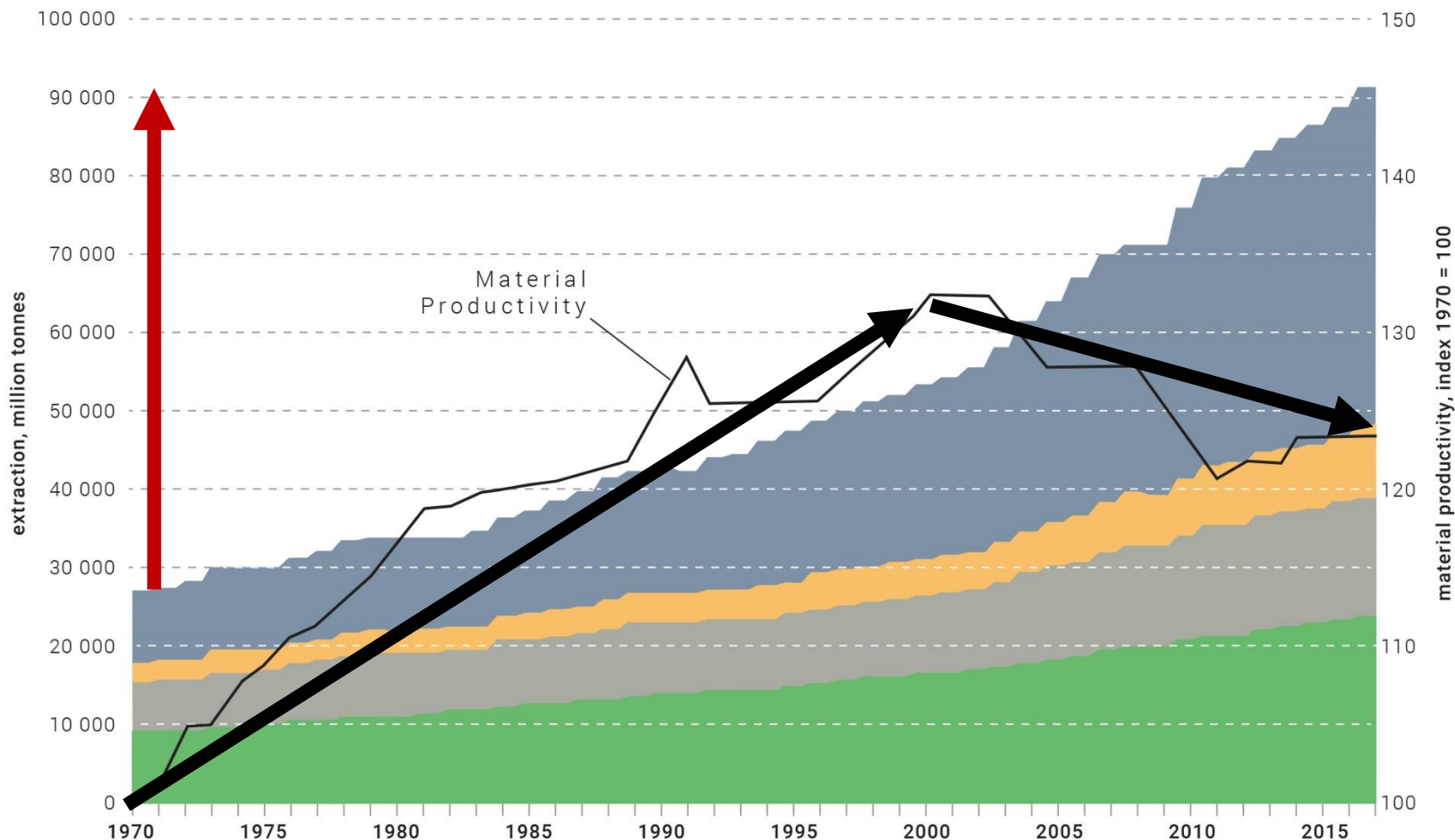




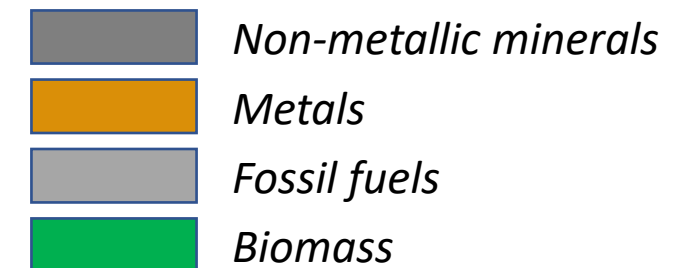
Global material use

Material demand per capita, Material productivity

Global material extraction and material productivity, 1970 - 2017



- *Global material use* has more than tripled since 1970
- *Global material demand per capita* grew from 7.4 tons in 1970 to 12.2 tons per capita in 2017
- *Material productivity* started to decline around 2000 and has stagnated in the recent years





Un problème de ressources, pas juste d'énergie



**Minerais de
moins en moins
concentrés**



**Extraction des matières
premières requérant
toujours plus d'énergie**

**Production d'énergie
requérant toujours plus
de matières premières**



**Energie
toujours moins
accessible**





what do the others need to be aware of? (1)

- More generally, we need to accept and **anticipate that materials and products should be 100% circular**, that **CE is not always energy efficient nor possible indefinitely**, that CE is not an end but a means/tool to attain a sustainable and fair society.
→ leads to discuss 'prevent', 'dematerialize' and 'sufficiency'
- CE definition needs to be broadened to include not only extracted/produced materials but also all goods that can be managed into a circular economy process. For instance, land use fits the CE process, where used lands/grounds/soils need to be reused before using new lands.
- CE requires to improve all steps of value chain and especially by shifting to **intelligent/smart design** so that all products are designed to optimize their **capacity to be repaired, reused, collected, and recycled**.



what do the others need to be aware of? (2)

- Intensify **CE public procurement** and sensibilization to boost CE consumption (consumer awareness)
- Expand the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
- **Ban certain “linear” products** and materials (the worst ones, like fossil material) to stimulate new markets
- **Tax virgin materials** and products and invest that CE innovation and subsidies to close gaps
- Create **new business models** (e.g., renting high quality products instead of owning)
- Promote **R&D for substitution** of hazardous chemicals; **traceability and detection** of risky substances; ‘cleaning ‘old’ contaminated waste.



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (1)

A. 'Belgium builds back circular' (EU recovery plan)

- Funding of private/public/research projects concerning **Ecodesign** and **replacing dangerous chemical** substances
- Creating **awareness** and give information to SMEs about circular economy to support and speed-up transition



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (2)

B. BE pilot for future EU legislative proposals

1. Sustainable Product Initiative (SPI)

- Coverage of a wide range of products.
- Integration of essential requirements (via **norms/standards**) related to product circularity: durability, repairability, upgrading, reuse of components, recycling of materials, ...
- In or next to the SPI : increasing the recycled content, reducing single-use products, product passport, prohibiting the destruction of unsold products, ...

2. Legislative initiative on the substantiation of environmental claims (PEF/OEF)

3. Revision of existing legislations

Batteries, ELV, RoHS, packaging, ...



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (3)

C. Federal plan of Circular Economy

1. Stimulate circular products and services

- Improvement of design of certain products to improve re-use or recycling.
- Introduction of an Repairability index
- Availability of information about software compatibility
- System of certificates concerning recycled content

2. Promote circularity in production methods

- Support and stimulate the development of circular economy models by facilitating the access to intellectual property of inventions
- Support the development of a digital system to trace material streams in the EU



Federal measures to support Circular Economy (4)

3. Support the role of consumers and procurement services

- Introducing product norms to support claims about repairability and reuseability
- Awareness raising campaign: SCP and CE
- Improve knowledge about Green Deal circular procurements

4. Ensure the necessary incentives and instruments

- Identifying, financing and execution of projects related to circular economy

5. Support the roles of employees in transition

- Education, restructuring of companies in a socially responsible way

6. Evaluate the proceedings

- Long term strategy to monitor the transition to circular economy

Regions: have been consulted; have their own circular economy plans



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

A. Flemish region – Vlaanderen Circulair

- Building circular → closed water, energy and material streams, investments in design and renovation of buildings
- Circularity in chemistry and synthetics
- Circularity in textile
- Circularity in electronics
- Bio-economy
- Ecological and sustainable foodchain (Farm2Fork)

More info: <https://www.vlaanderen-circulair.be/>



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

B. Walloon region

10 ambitions translated into + 60 measures in the following sectors:

- Waste prevention and management
- Novalia → financing of Innovation and Energy Transition
- Next → Reverse metallurgy
- Circular economy cheques
- Green Deal circular purchases for organisations and enterprises

More info: <https://economiecirculaire.wallonie.be/>



Regional measures to support Circular Economy

C. Brussels Region – Be Circular (2016-2020)

- Transform environmental goals into economic opportunities
- Economy in Brussels: produce locally, reduce traffic, optimize usage of territory and create added value for residents
- More jobs

111 transversal, sectorial and territorial measures, as well as measures concerning governance.

More info: <https://www.circulareconomy.brussels/>