

# Circular Economy Strategy

## Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy

The European Commission adopted an ambitious **Circular Economy Package, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste** to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy which will boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs.

The Circular Economy Package consists of an [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) that establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The [annex to the action plan](#) sets out the timeline when the actions will be completed.

The proposed actions will contribute to **"closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.**

The **revised legislative proposals on waste** set clear targets for reduction of waste and establish an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. Key elements of the revised waste proposal include:

- A common EU target for recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2030;
- A common EU target for recycling 75% of packaging waste by 2030;
- A binding landfill target to reduce landfill to maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2030;
- A ban on landfilling of separately collected waste;
- Promotion of economic instruments to discourage landfilling ;
- Simplified and improved definitions and harmonised calculation methods for recycling rates throughout the EU;
- Concrete measures to promote re-use and stimulate industrial symbiosis - turning one industry's by-product into another industry's raw material;
- Economic incentives for producers to put greener products on the market and support recovery and recycling schemes (eg for packaging, batteries, electric and electronic equipments, vehicles).

The following **legislative proposals on waste** have been adopted:

- [Proposed Directive on Waste](#)
- [Annex to proposed Directive on Waste](#)
- [Proposed Directive on Packaging Waste](#)
- [Annex to proposed Directive on Packaging Waste](#)
- [Proposed Directive on Landfill](#)
- [Proposed Directive on electrical and electronic waste, on end-of-life vehicles, and batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators](#)
- [Analytical note on waste management targets](#)

- [Staff Working Document - Implementation Plan](#)

## Benefits of the Circular Economy

The Circular economy offers an opportunity to reinvent our economy, making it more sustainable and competitive. This will bring benefits for European businesses, industries, and citizens alike. With this new plan to make Europe's economy cleaner and more competitive, the Commission is delivering ambitious measures to cut resource use, reduce waste and boost recycling.

### For more information:

- Circular Economy Package: [Press release](#) and [questions & answers](#)
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: Helping consumers choose sustainable products and services
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: The Production Phase of the Circular Economy
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: Clear Targets and Tools for Better Waste Management
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: From Waste to Resources

## Events

- The [Circular Economy Missions](#) are a series of high-level political and business meetings in third countries to communicate and promote sustainable and resource-efficient policies.
- [Making it happen: European Commission seminar on circular economy financing](#) on 21 March 2016, in Brussels. Presentations:
  - [Circular Economy package - what's in it?](#) - presentation by Pierre Henry - DG Environment
  - [Innovation for the circular economy](#) - presentation by Tomáš Turecki - DG Research and Innovation
  - [Money makes the world go around - and the economy circular?](#) - presentation by Frido Kraanen - PGGM
  - [Delivering on the European Fund for Strategic Investments \(EFSI\)](#) - presentation by the European Investment Bank
  - [Caisses d'Épargne and Circular Economy](#) - presentation by Perrine Lantoiné - Fédération nationale des Caisses d'Épargne
  - [INNEON, the meeting point of eco-innovative investors and entrepreneurs](#) - presentation by Aitor Garro - Zabala Innovation Consulting
  - [Circular economy financing: Support through Horizon 2020](#) - presentation by Tomáš Turecki - DG Research and Innovation
  - [COSME / Green Action Plan for SMEs](#) - presentation by Nicola-Elizabeth Morris - DG Grow
  - [Efficient and effective use of Cohesion Policy funds in achieving a circular economy](#) - presentation by Sander Happaerts - DG Regio

- [The new LIFE Programme 2014-2020](#) - presentation by Christian Strasser - DG Environment
- [Closing the loop - Circular Economy conference: boosting business, reducing waste:](#)  
As part of the process to develop the new circular economy package, the Commission organised a conference on 25 June 2015 in Brussels, attended by around 700 stakeholders. Participation in this conference was open to all stakeholders wishing to contribute to shaping European economic policy making.
  - [Split-up sessions key messages](#) and speeches [F.Timmermans](#), [K. Vella](#), [J. Katainen](#)
  - Recordings from the conference: [Plenary and sessions 2 and 6](#), [sessions 1 and 4](#), [sessions 3 and 5](#)

The conference followed a twelve-week [public consultation](#) from 28 May to 20 August 2015 which received around 1500 contributions. [Contributions to the public consultation](#) are now available.

## Background

In December 2014, the Commission decided to withdraw its legislative proposal on waste, but the Commission committed at the same time to use its new horizontal working methods to present a new package by the end of 2015 which would cover the full economic cycle, not just waste reduction targets, drawing on the expertise of all the Commission's services.

### Previous proposal on circular economy:

- [Communication "Towards a circular economy: a zero waste programme for Europe"](#) and [annex](#)
  - [Progress report on the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#)
  - [Analysis of an EU target for Resource Productivity](#)
- [Legislative proposal to review recycling and other waste-related targets in the EU](#) and [annex](#)
  - [Impact assessment](#) and [executive summary of the impact assessment](#)
- [Ex-post evaluation of Five Waste Streams Directives - Commission staff working document](#)