



Energy, Climate change, Environment

Environment

Circular economy action plan

The EU's new circular action plan paves the way for a cleaner and more competitive Europe.

The European Commission adopted the [new circular economy action plan \(CEAP\)](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) in March 2020. It is one of the main building blocks of the [European Green Deal](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) (https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth. The EU's transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth and jobs. It is also a prerequisite to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss.

The new action plan announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

Objectives

Measures that will be introduced under the new action plan aim to

- make sustainable products the norm in the EU
- empower consumers and public buyers
- focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, [textiles](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/reset-trend_en) (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/reset-trend_en), construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients
- ensure less waste

- make circularity work for people, regions and cities
- lead global efforts on circular economy

Actions

The Commission will implement all 35 actions listed in the [action plan](#).

Monitoring framework

It is essential to monitor progress towards a circular economy, and its direct and indirect benefits. This allows the EU and national authorities to assess whether policies are effective and to identify best practices.

In 2023, the Commission revised the [circular economy monitoring framework](#) (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy/monitoring-framework>), previously adopted in 2018. The revision adds new indicators on

- material footprint and resource productivity - to monitor material efficiency
- consumption footprint – to monitor if EU consumption fits within planetary boundaries

The new framework supports the EU's circular economy and climate neutrality ambitions under the European Green Deal.

Timeline

Previous and upcoming actions and initiatives

• September- October 2023

Adoption of several initiatives on microplastics

- [REACH restriction](#) addressing intentionally added microplastics
- [Proposal for a Regulation](#) on preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastics pollution
- [Brochure](#) on EU action against microplastic pollution

• May 2023

European Commission revises the circular economy monitoring framework

- [Circular economy monitoring framework](#) (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy/monitoring-framework>)
- Find out more in the [news announcement](#) (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/circular-economy-faster-progress-needed-meet-eu-resource-efficiency-targets-ensure-sustainable-use-2023-05-15_en)t and [factsheet](#) (<https://op.europa.eu/s/yFKt>).

• 22 March 2023

European Commission adopted proposals on green claims and right to repair

- proposal for a Directive on green claims - [find out more](#) (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/green-claims_en).
- proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods - [find out more](#) (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1794).

• 30 November 2022

European Commission adopted measures proposed in the circular economy action plan

- revision of EU rules on Packaging and Packaging Waste – [find out more](#)
- Communication on a policy framework for biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics – [find out more](#)

• 5 April 2022**European Commission adopted proposals for revised EU measures to address pollution from large industrial installations**

- revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive – [find out more](#) (<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/ied/evaluation.htm>)
- revision of the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) – [find out more](#) (<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/e-prtr/evaluation.htm>)

• 30 March 2022**European Commission adopted package of measures proposed in the circular economy action plan**

- Sustainable Products Initiative, including the proposal for the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation – [find out more](#) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/standards-tools-and-labels/products-labelling-rules-and-requirements/sustainable-products_en)
- EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles – [find out more](#)
- proposal for a revised Construction products Regulation – [find out more](#) (https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/construction-products-regulation-cpr/review_en)
- proposal for empowering consumers in the green transition – [find out more](#)

Find out more about the package in the [press release](#).

• 17 November 2021**European Commission adopted proposal for new rules on waste shipments**

Find out more in the [press release](#) and [questions and answers](#)

• 28 October 2021**European Commission adopted proposal to update rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste**

[Find out more](#)

• 22 February 2021**Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) launched**

[Find out more](#)

• 10 December 2020**European Commission adopted a proposal for a new regulation on sustainable batteries**

This was the first initiative to be delivered under the new action plan – [find out more](#)

• 11 March 2020**European Commission adopted new circular economy action plan****• 11 December 2019****European Commission adopted European Green Deal****• December 2015**

European Commission adopted the first circular economy action plan

All 54 actions under [this plan](#) have been delivered or are being implemented.

Policy areas

- [Chemicals](#)
- [Circular economy](#)
- [Circular economy at the global level](#)
- [Industry](#)
- [Plastics](#)
- [Sustainable development](#)
- [Waste and recycling](#)

Related strategies

- [European Green Deal](#)
- [First circular economy action plan \(\[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/first-circular-economy-action-plan_en\]\(https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/first-circular-economy-action-plan_en\)\)](#)
- [Chemicals strategy](#)
- [Industrial Strategy](#)
- [Textiles strategy \(\[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/textiles-strategy_en\]\(https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/textiles-strategy_en\)\)](#)
- [Plastics strategy](#)
- [Zero pollution action plan](#)

News

- **16 October 2023:** [European Green Deal: Commission adopts new proposal for a Regulation on preventing pellet losses \(\[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/reducing-microplastic-pollution-plastic-pellets-2023-10-16_en\]\(https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/reducing-microplastic-pollution-plastic-pellets-2023-10-16_en\)\)](#)
- **22 March 2023:** [Consumer protection: enabling sustainable choices and ending greenwashing \(\[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1692\]\(https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1692\)\)](#)
- **30 March 2022:** [Green Deal: New proposals to make sustainable products the norm and boost Europe's resource independence](#)
- **17 November 2021:** [European Green Deal: Commission adopts new proposal on waste shipments](#)
- **28 October 2021:** [European Green Deal: Commission adopts new limits for some of the most harmful chemicals in waste](#)
- **22 February 2021:** [EU launches Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency](#)
- **10 December 2020:** [Green Deal: Sustainable batteries for a circular and climate neutral economy](#)
- **11 March 2020:** [Changing how we produce and consume: New Circular Economy Action Plan shows the way to a climate-neutral, competitive economy of empowered consumers](#)
- **11 March 2020:** [Questions and Answers: A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe](#)

[See news published on the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

Events

[See events published on the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

Documents

- [Communication: new circular economy action plan](#) and [annex](#)
- [Publication: new circular economy action plan](#)
- [Factsheet: new circular economy action plan](#)
- [Communication on a revised monitoring framework for the circular economy \(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A306%3AFIN&qid=1684143860344>\)](#)
- [Staff working document: Measuring progress towards circular economy in the EU – revised monitoring framework \(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD%3A2023%3A306%3AFIN&qid=1684144015777>\)](#)
- [Staff working document: Leading the way to a global circular economy: state of play and outlook](#)
- [Publication: Leading the way to a global circular economy, state of play and outlook](#)
- [Summary of the responses to the roadmap for a new circular economy action plan](#)
- [Staff working document: voluntary EU green public procurement criteria for data centres, server rooms and cloud services](#)
- [Factsheet: Investing in the circular economy: a blueprint for a green recovery](#)
- [Factsheet: Circular economy action plan as part of the European Green Deal](#)
- [Factsheet: International aspects of the circular economy action plan](#)
- [Factsheet: How research and innovation enables the transition to a circular economy \(\[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/786a2cf3-57a3-4e10-a921-aae7e5ee6708_en\]\(https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/786a2cf3-57a3-4e10-a921-aae7e5ee6708_en\)\)](#)