



13th ISCC Global Sustainability Conference

EU policies on plastics



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The European Green Deal

A climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy



Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, & minimising the generation of waste



A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Improving the economics and quality of recycling & curbing plastic waste & littering

Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation

Preventing waste

Target: MS to reduce packaging waste by 5% by 2030 compared to 2018

- Minimisation of and **bans on excessive packaging**
 - Avoiding **unnecessary packaging**
 - **Void space** in e-commerce
 - Supporting **reuse & refill systems**
 - Sector **specific reuse targets**
- Waste prevention
- Reuse

Boost high quality recycling

All packaging to be recyclable by 2030

- **Design for Recycling criteria:** “grading A-E” (Delegated act)
- Modulated **Extended Producer Responsibility** fees ~ recyclability & recycled content (plastics)
- **“recycling at scale”** methodology (delegated act by 2035)

2030 & 2040 minimum recycled content targets in plastic packaging at product level

- Beverage bottles // contact sensitive // non-contact sensitive
- Exemptions: packaging for medicinal products & medical devices, & for compostables
- **EU harmonised recycled content measurement methodology**

Clarifying confusion around packaging

How?

- **EU harmonised labelling** for packaging & waste receptacles, reusable packaging
- EU harmonised **criteria** for (voluntary) labelling of recycled content
- **Mandatory Deposit Return Schemes** for plastic bottles & cans

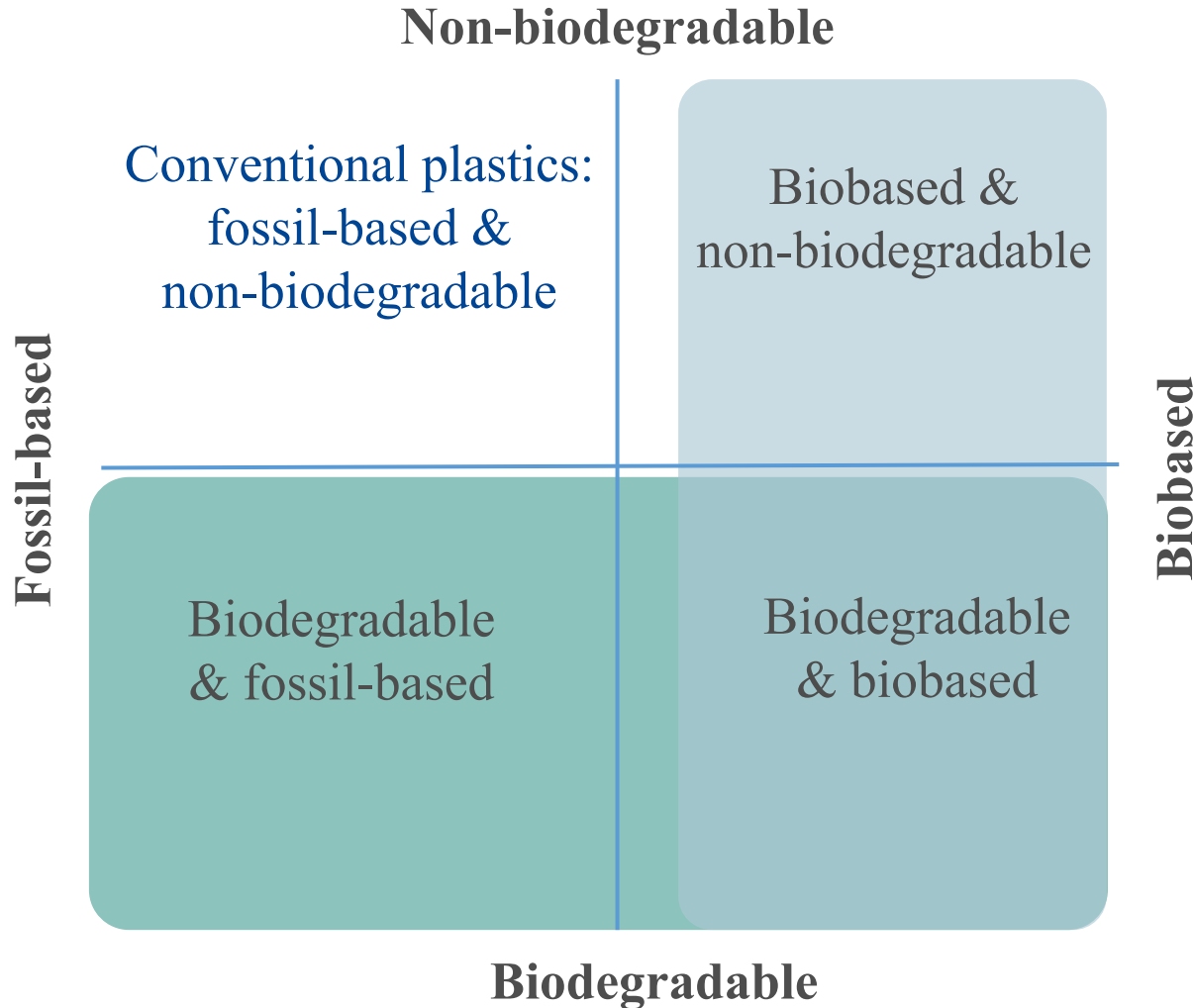


Requirements for compostable plastic packaging

- Tea & coffee bags, tea & coffee single-serve units, fruit stickers & very lightweight plastic carrier bags: **compostable in industrial setting**
→ **Biowaste stream**
- Other biodegradable plastic-containing packaging → **Material recycling**

Policy Framework for Biobased, Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics

A clarifying policy framework (November 2023)



- Priority to **reduce, reuse & recycle**
- No perpetuating single use models
- No **generic** claims, e.g. *bioplastics*
See COM Proposal for directive on ‘*Empowering consumers for the green transition*’
- ✓ Genuinely sustainable alternatives & transparency

Key recommendations of the framework

Biobased Plastics

- Biomass content to be specified: C¹⁴ method (MBA)
- Priority to secondary biomass, long-lived products, cascading use of biomass
- Sustainability criteria compatible with REDII & GHG

Biodegradable Plastics

- Timeframe & receiving environment must be specified
- Only suitable to specific applications where full removal is impossible (eg. mulch films)

System perspective

Compostable Plastics

- Only for industrially compostable plastics that are collected
- Only for specific applications eg. biowaste bags & few packaging

Single-Use Plastics Directive

10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



Many of these items are packaging for food and drink and most were designed to be used only once ("single-use plastics"). That's a waste of valuable resources.

Recycled content in the SUP Directive



- Two **targets** for recycled plastic content
 1. 2025-target for “PET bottles”
 2. 2030-target for all SUP beverage bottles
- Implementing act on **measuring** recycled content of SUP beverage bottles:
 1. without a mass balance approach the coming months
 2. possibly amending to include mass balance accounting by the end of this year



refuse



share



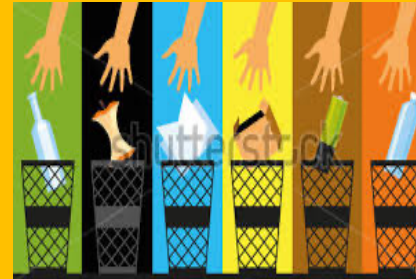
reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



Learn more about plastics and the circular economy:

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/Pages/20200301-01.aspx) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/observatory/plastics)



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