

March 28, 2023

# Transitioning the Chemical Industry: Towards Sustainable Chemicals and Materials

A webinar offered by the Sustainable Chemistry Catalyst  
UMASS Lowell



# Welcome!

- **Webinar goal:** Share insights and learnings from initiatives working to transition the chemical sector towards the production of safer and sustainable chemicals, materials and products.
- **Logistics:**
  - **Please keep your lines muted and your videos off.**
  - Use “**speaker view**” in Zoom – it will offer the best viewing experience.
  - if you wish to ask a question or offer a comment, please use the **chat**.
  - This webinar is being **recorded** and will be **posted** on [www.sustainablechemistrycatalyst.org](http://www.sustainablechemistrycatalyst.org)

# Speakers



Algreit Dume, Economist  
**DG Grow, EU Commission**



Beverly Thorpe, Consulting  
Program Manager  
**Clean Production Action**



Joel Tickner, Professor  
**University of MA Lowell**

# Respondents



John Shaw, CEO  
**Itaconix**



Ken Geiser, Professor Emeritus  
**University of MA Lowell**



# The Transition Pathway for the Chemical Industry

*Webinar “Transitioning the Chemical Industry: Towards Sustainable Chemicals and Materials”  
28 March 2023, online*

# Outline

1. Background
2. The outcome
3. Co-implementation

# 1. Background





# The 2021 updated Industrial Strategy

[COM\(2021\) 350 final](#)

- To co-create, in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, **transition pathways** for ecosystems, where needed.
- Pathways offer a better bottom-up understanding of the **scale, cost, long-term benefits and conditions** of the required action to accompany the **twin transition** for the most relevant ecosystems, leading to an actionable plan in favour of sustainable competitiveness.
- **Priority to** tourism and energy-intensive industries (incl. **chemicals** and steel).



## 2. The outcome





# The transition pathway for the Chemical Industry

- Publication: 27 January 2023;
- It is an actionable plan co-developed by the European Commission with EU countries, industry, NGOs and other stakeholders
- Based on 8 building blocks developed by Industrial Forum



Sustainable  
competitiveness



Investment  
and funding



Research  
and Innovation



Regulation and  
Public Governance



Access to energy  
and feedstock



Infrastructure



Skills



Social dimension

- It identifies about 190 actions, grouped in 26 topics, needed for the twin transition and increased resilience of the chemical industry

# Example: Sustainable Competitiveness

- **Relevance for EU economy:**
  - ✓ EU chemical industry 4<sup>th</sup> largest industry in Europe (€499 bln sales in 2020);
  - ✓ However, its global market share is declining and forecasted to decline;
  - ✓ Therefore, need to ensure industry's continued competitiveness becoming more sustainable.

## What should the industry do? (some examples)

### Topic 1: International competitiveness

#### ➤ Drive international competitiveness

- Analyse medium to long-term impacts of energy crisis on sustainable competitiveness
- KPIs and Sustainable Development indicators

#### ➤ Promote the market for sustainable products

- SSbD framework
- 'market pull' and incentives: sustainable products with higher costs

### Topic 5: New synergies

#### ➤ Facilitate the exchange of information

- [Euroclusters initiative](#)

#### ➤ Increase collaboration to de-risk investments

- cross-border projects on the generation and supply of energy and feedstock

#### ➤ Partnerships for innovation

- Ensure shared access to the research and technology infrastructures as part of the European Research Area
- joint cross-sectoral projects that qualify IPCEIs

### Topic 2: Reduction of unsustainable dependencies and supply-chain vulnerabilities

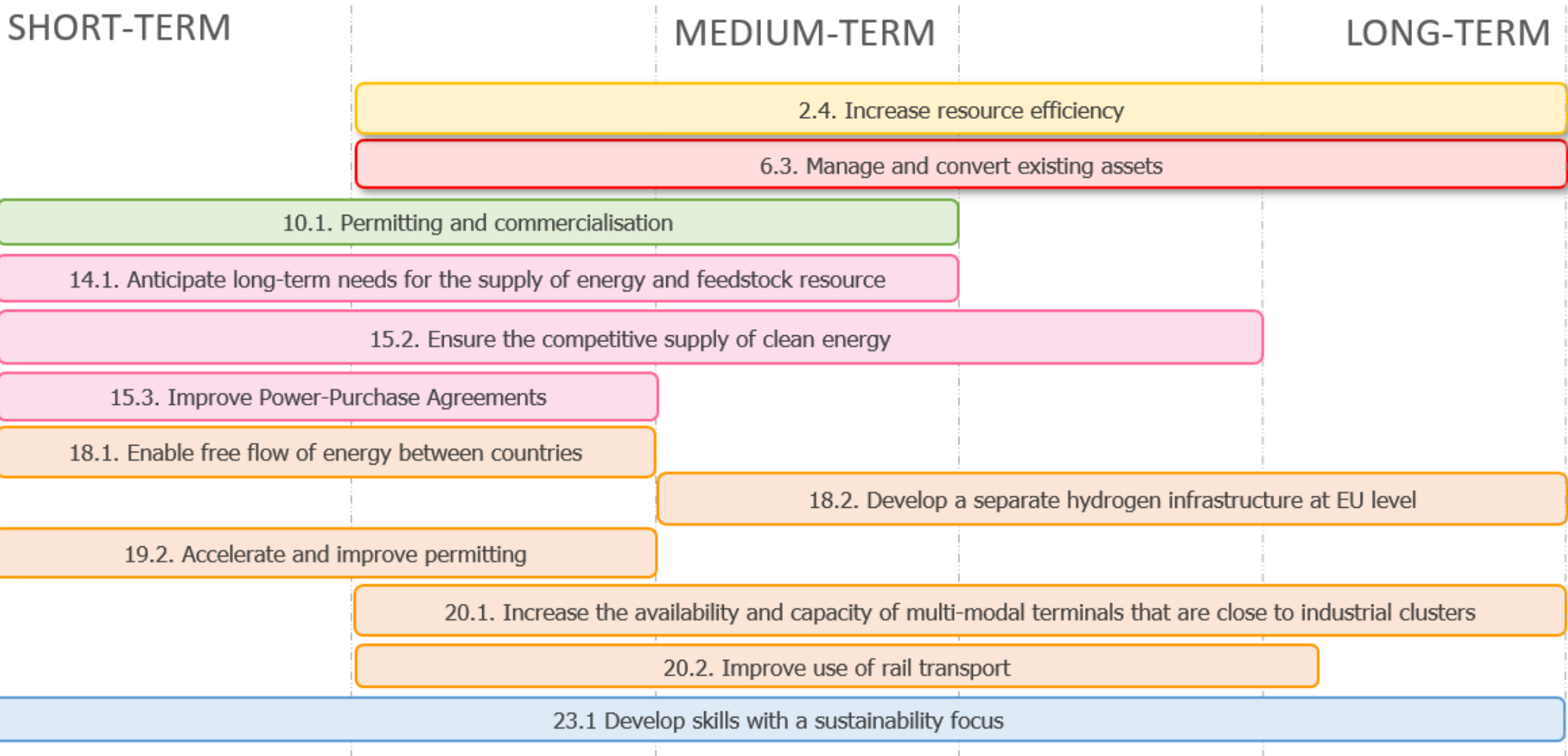
#### ➤ Gather supply-chain information

- Undertake a strategic foresight exercise focusing on the EU open strategic autonomy (link with critical raw materials)
- Assess the need to build up and maintain strategic stocks of critical raw materials within the EU

# Action-oriented roadmap – Clean energy supply









**CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY**

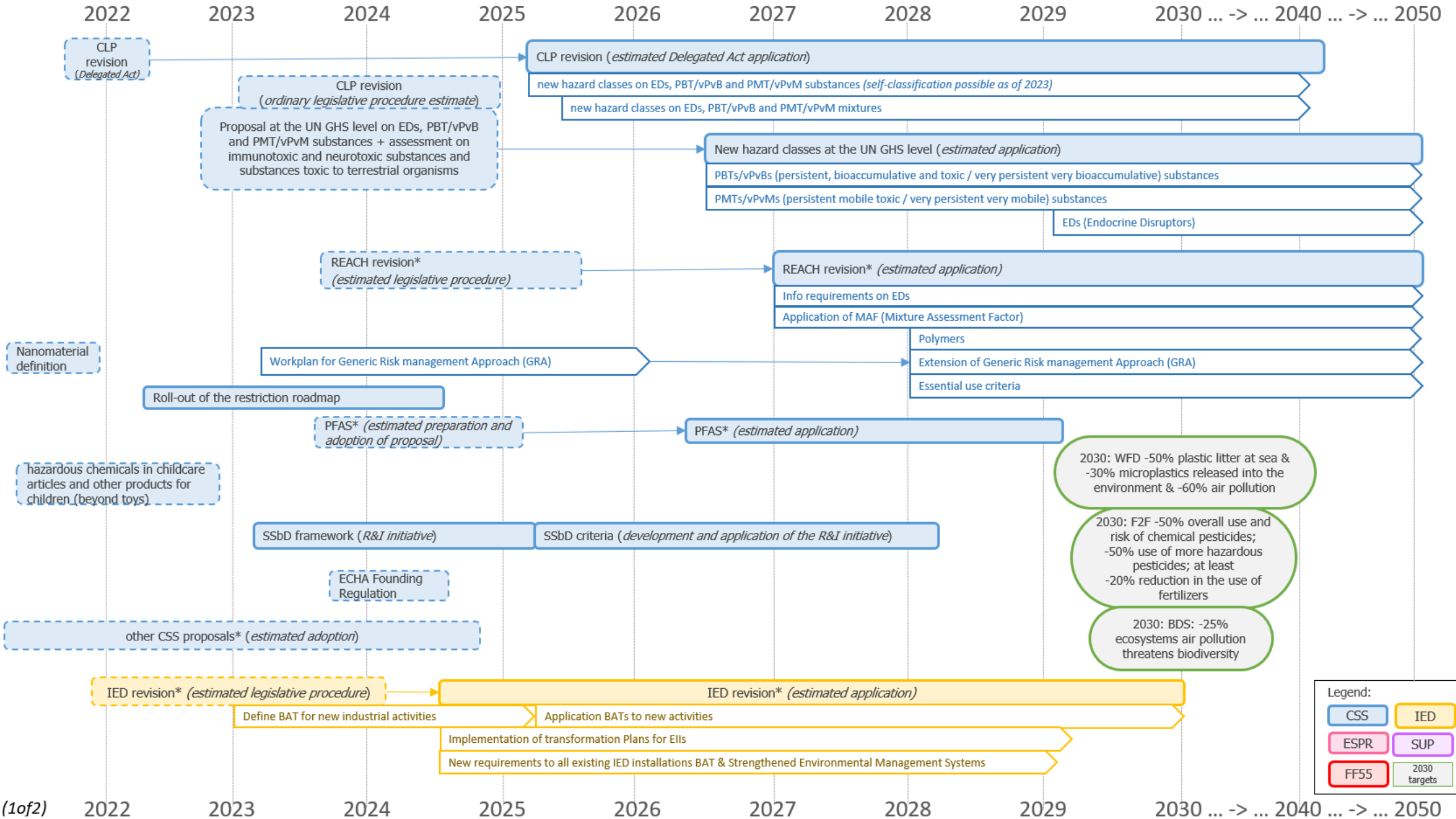


- SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS
- INVESTMENTS AND FUNDINGS
- (SUPPORT TO) R&I, TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS
- REGULATION AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE (LEGISLATION)
- ACCESS TO ENERGY AND FEEDSTOCK
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- SKILLS
- SOCIAL DIMENSION

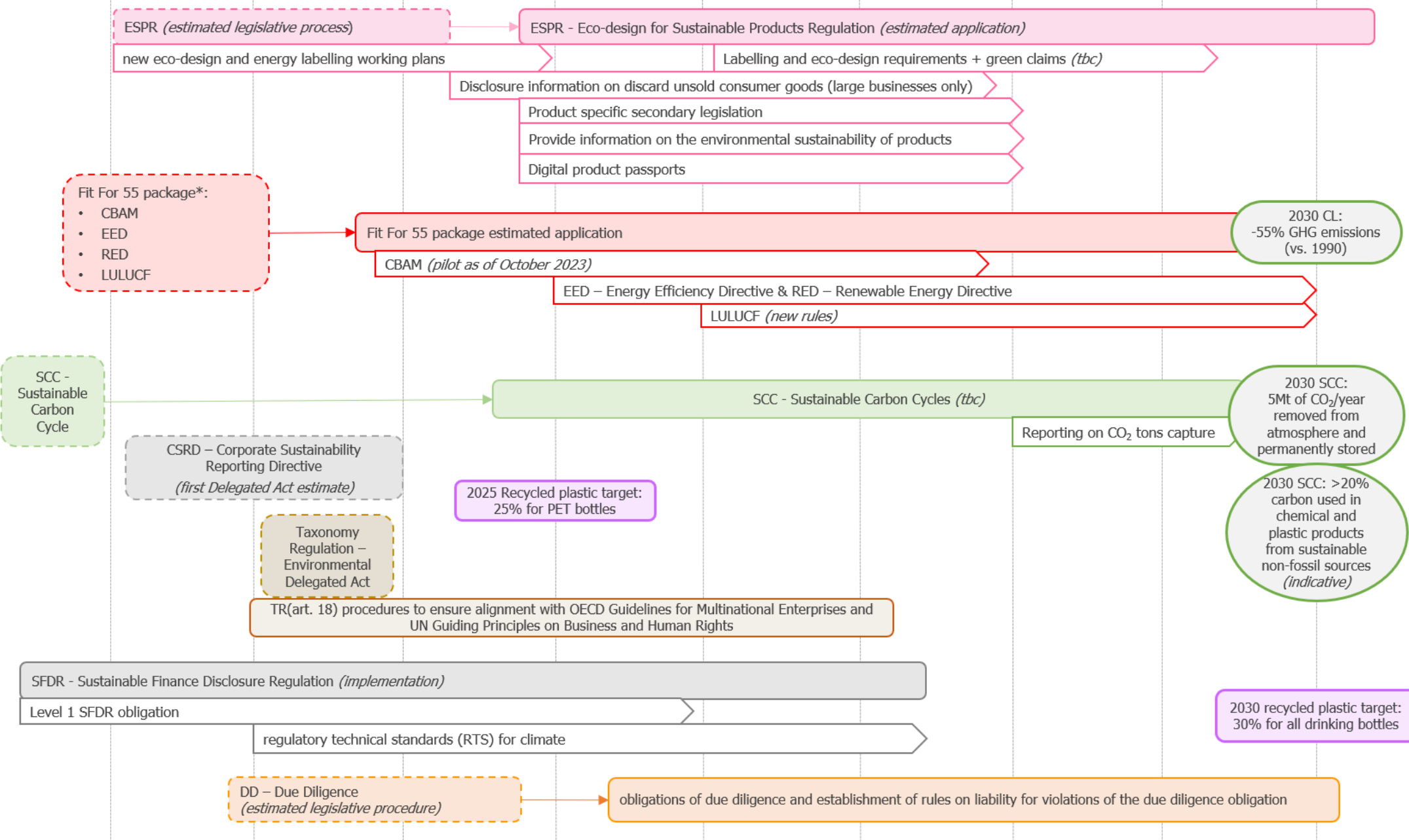
# Technology roadmap

EU Initiatives supporting Technological Transition (SET Action Plan)	Actions (as presented in Building Blocks – Part II)	EU Initiatives
 <p><b>A) ELECTRIFICATION</b></p>	<p>6.2. Develop hub structures 8.3. Development of an industrial technology roadmap 14. Anticipate I-t needs for the supply of energy and feedstock resource 15.1. Channel investments for clean energy 15.2. Ensure competitive supply of clean energy 15.3. Improve Power-Purchase Agreements 18.1 Enable the free flow of energy between countries 20.1. Increase availability and capacity of multi-modal terminals close to industrial clusters 20.2. Improve use of rail transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REPowerEU</li> <li>EU Renewable Directive</li> <li>TEN-E Regulation</li> <li>Proposal for a directive on Energy Efficiency</li> </ul>
 <p><b>B) HYDROGEN</b></p>	<p>6.2. Develop hub structures 6.3. Manage and convert existing assets 15.1. Channel investments for clean energy 15.2. Ensure the competitive supply of clean energy 18.2. Develop a separate hydrogen infrastructure at EU level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Clean Hydrogen Alliance</li> <li>Hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package</li> </ul>
 <p><b>C) BIOMASS</b></p>	<p>4.3. Strengthen initiatives with SMEs under the EIC 8.1. Promote safety and sustainability assessment approaches 9.1. Foster collaboration and partnerships 16.2. Biomass as an alternative feedstock 19.1. Develop recycling facilities and bio-refineries (and exploit synergies with the chemical industry)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive</li> <li>INCITE (Industrial Emissions Directive)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>D) WASTE</b></p>	<p>3.2 Improve collaboration in value chains 3.3 Support product design and re-design 8.1. Promote safety and sustainability assessment approaches 11.1. Definitions and concepts 11.2. Methods 16.3. Waste as an alternative feedstock 22.1. Set a regulatory framework for the transport of waste 22.2. Improve the management of logistics for waste feedstock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hubs4Circularity</li> <li>Waste Framework Directive</li> <li>Landfill Directive</li> </ul>
 <p><b>E) CCU &amp; CCS</b></p>	<p>6.3. Manage and convert existing assets 9.2. Support for development 16.4. CO<sub>2</sub> as an alternative feedstock 22.2. Improve the management of logistics for waste feedstock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hubs4Circularity</li> <li>Sustainable Carbon Cycle</li> </ul>
 <p><b>F) PROCESS EFFICIENCY</b></p>	<p>3.2 Improve collaboration in value chains 3.3 Support product design and re-design 5.1. Facilitate exchange of information (new synergies) 5.3. Support the development of Partnerships for Innovation 6.3. Manage and convert existing assets 17. Process efficiency 19.1. Develop recycling facilities and bio-refineries (and exploit synergies with the chemical industry) 20.1. Increase the availability and capacity of multi-modal terminals that are close to industrial clusters 21.2. Deploy technologies to improve chemical manufacturing processes and data gathering 25.2. Safety and social security of workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REPowerEU</li> <li>Industrial Symbiosis</li> <li>Revision of the Industrial Emission Directive</li> </ul>





2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 ... -> ... 2040 ... -> ... 2050



2030 CL:  
-55% GHG emissions  
(vs. 1990)

2030 SCC:  
5Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>/year  
removed from  
atmosphere and  
permanently stored

2030 SCC: >20%  
carbon used in  
chemical and  
plastic products  
from sustainable  
non-fossil sources  
(indicative)

2030 recycled plastic target:  
30% for all drinking bottles

Legend:

CSS	IED
ESPR	SUP
FF55	2030 targets

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 ... -> ... 2040 ... -> ... 2050

# 3. Co-implementation



# Key elements of the Transition Pathway co-implementation process



## Calls for pledges

### *Main objectives*

- Encouraging stakeholders to take concrete initiatives to implement the actions of the Pathway
- Collect data to inform the monitoring and evaluation process



## Interaction with stakeholders

### *Main objectives*

- Establishing the governance of the process
- Setting priorities



## Monitoring and Evaluation

### *Main objectives*

- Develop KPIs to monitor and assess the actions for the twin transition



## Publications: Annual progress report

### *Main objectives*

- Assessing the status quo of the co-implementation
- Providing evidence on the actions taken and possible synergies among stakeholders



# First co-implementation meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March

## Main discussion points



### Governance of the co-implementation process

- An expert group – “*the Working Group on Chemical Industry*” – has been set up to discuss and facilitate cooperation among stakeholders.
- Stakeholders agreed to set up three task forces dealing with priority topics, specifically:
  - *International Competitiveness;*
  - *Anticipate long-term needs for the supply of energy and feedstock resources;*
  - *Circularity: recycling and re-use of infrastructure.*
- Each task force will focus on the following horizontal topics: the role of SMEs; regulatory predictability; skills for the twin transition and the development of KPIs.

### Next steps



- Call for applications to join the “*Working Group on Chemical Industry*”: launch by mid April
- First task forces’ meetings: end of April 23
- Second co-implementation meeting on 22 June 23
- Third co-implementation meeting on 9 December 23

# Indicative timeline, Co-implementation in 2023

## Publications

Publication of the Transition Pathway

Annual progress report

## Interactions

HLRT CSS  
1 Feb

1<sup>st</sup> Co-implementation group meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Co-implementation group meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Co-implementation group meeting

Industry days

Q1 2023

Q2 2023

Q3 2023

Q4 2023

Q1 2024

## Timeline

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

## Governance

Working Group on Chemical Industry - Preparatory activities

- Group set up in February
- Call for applications to join group – launch by mid April

Set up task forces

## Calls for pledges

Call preparation

- Run call for pledges
- Ongoing assessment of the pledges received

Dissemination activities and promoting pledges (e.g. engaging with the stakeholders via 1:1 or group meetings)

## Monitoring and evaluation

KPIs development and evaluation



Run annual survey

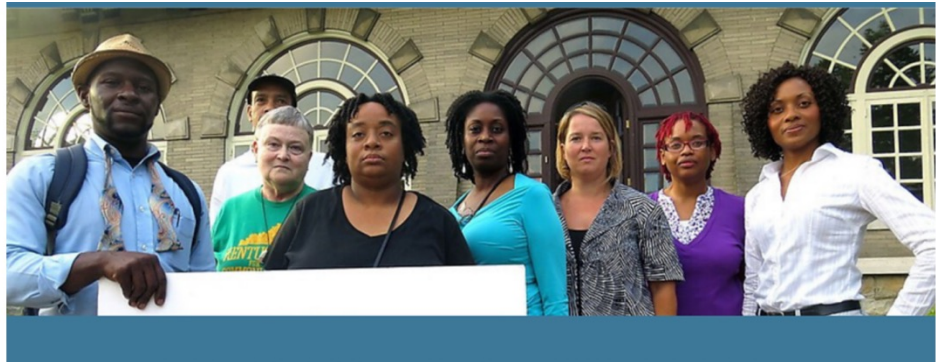
# Thank you!



# ‘Require Safer Substitutes and Solutions for a Non-Toxic Economy’

Bev Thorpe – Consultant Program Manager, Clean Production Action – March 28, 2023

**The Louisville Charter is a roadmap to fundamentally transform the chemical industry**



The Louisville Charter is a roadmap to fundamentally transform the chemical industry.

- Endorsed by 125 organizations
- The charter was updated in 2021 to clarify the chemical industry transition roadmap, highlight this industry’s contribution to the climate crisis; advance environmental justice in impacted communities and prevent false solutions

<https://comingcleaninc.org/louisville-charter/endorse>



# The energy/chemicals/plastics link needs more scrutiny – consumption needs to be cut

Plastics consume 70% of petrochemicals; and 90% of all Chemicals of High Concern.

<https://www.cleanproduction.org/resources/entry/plastics-scorecard-resource>

Communities in the US are opposing proposed plastics expansion and promoting transition planning for workers

By 2050, 50 percent of the growth in oil demand will be related to plastics production, surpassing that for transport.

## International scientists call for cap on production and release of chemicals

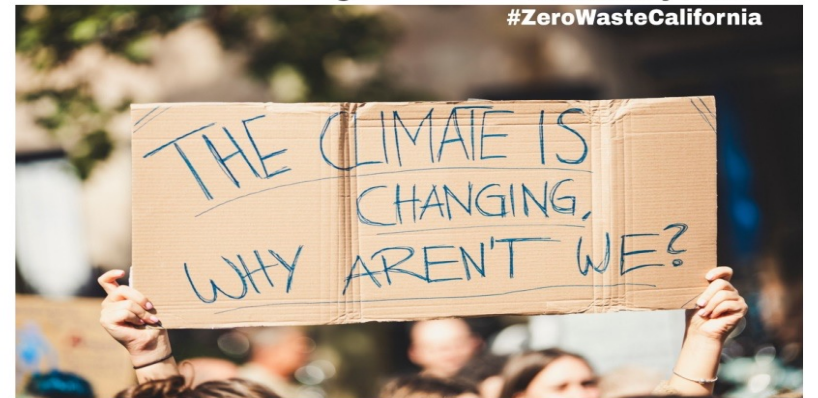
NEWS

19 January 2022

Safe planetary boundary for pollutants has been exceeded, study finds

## Appeal filed against air permit approval for a \$9.4 billion petrochemical complex in "Cancer Alley"

14 February 2020  
#ZeroWasteCalifornia



CHEMICAL SECTOR  
TRANSFORMATION  
WILL REQUIRE A  
HAZARD-FIRST  
APPROACH IN ALL  
DECISION MAKING

- redesigning chemical products and systems to reduce both carbon and chemical footprints
  - Decarbonize **and** Detoxify
- altering production processes and substituting with intentionally safer, low hazard alternatives throughout the lifecycle – beginning with feedstock chemicals

# Safer alternatives needed for majority of current petrochemical building block chemicals

Currently seven building block chemicals are the basis for 90 percent of organic petrochemical production.

GreenScreen hazard assessments reveal five are Benchmark-1 chemicals ‘chemicals of high concern’ -- and two are Benchmark-2 ‘use but search for safer substitutes.’

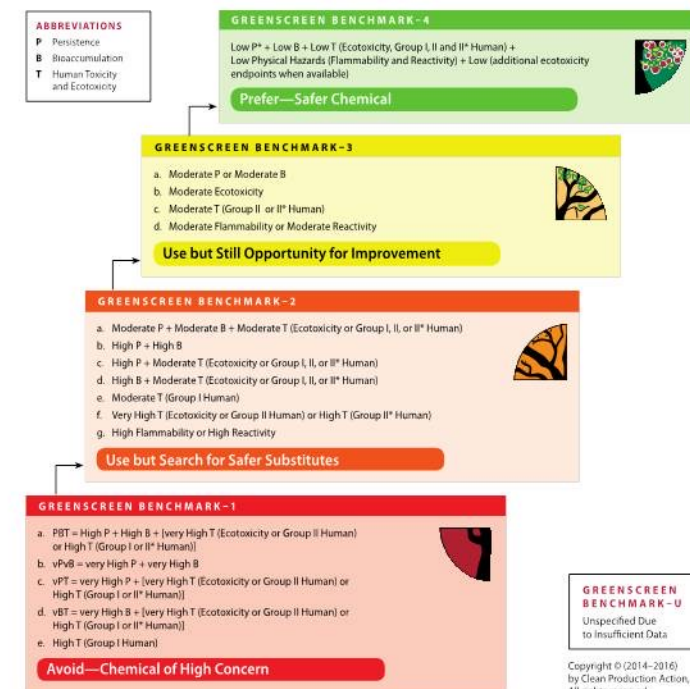
The 7 platform chemicals are:

- **methanol**;
- olefins—**ethylene, propylene**, and **butadiene**;
- aromatics— **benzene, toluene, and xylene**.

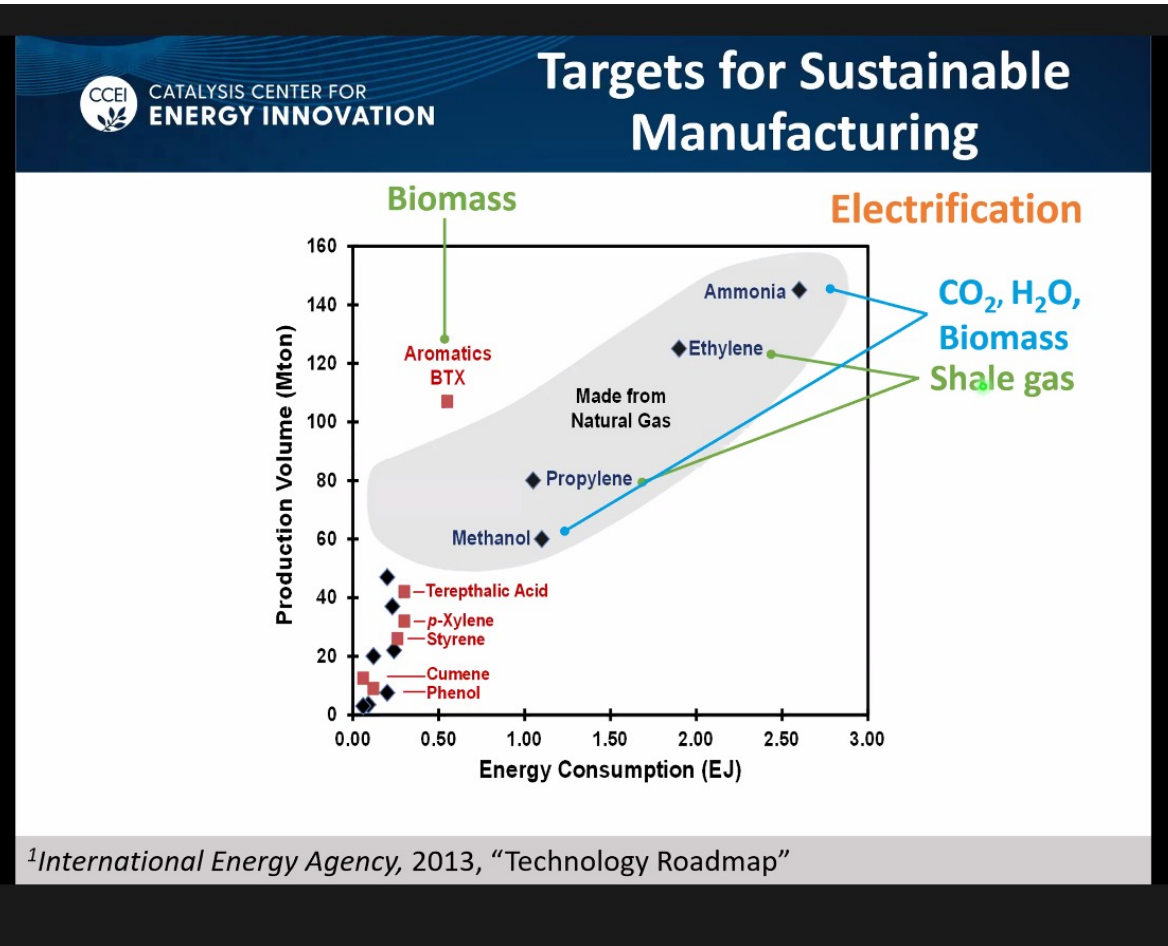
## GreenScreen Benchmark Score simplifies the complexity of chemical hazard information

A chemical's hazard is placed within one of four benchmarks that charts progress to safer:--  
Benchmark 1 *Avoid-Chemical of High Concern* to  
Benchmark 4 *Prefer-Safer Chemical*

This allows users to compare and select safer chemical alternatives.



# Using Biobased carbon to make hazardous feedstock chemicals is not sustainable



R&D being directed into fossil-free carbon for manufacturing chemicals

These include non arable biomass, lignocellulose, algae, chitin, biocrude from sewage and food waste, and carbon from CO<sub>2</sub> capture

But there is no 'joined-up' focus on detoxifying --resulting in same hazardous chemicals production and use





## Funding and R&D needs a Hazard-First focus to avoid false solutions:

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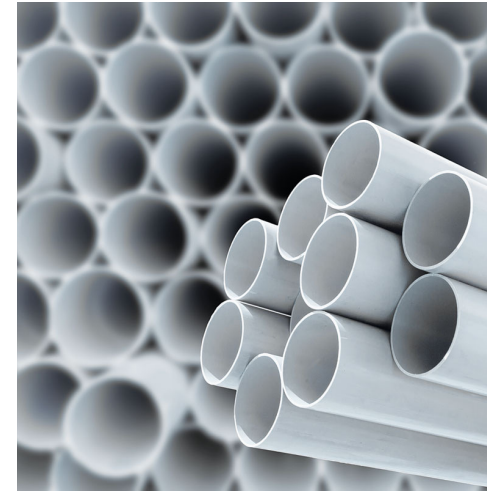
- “We introduce a ... framework that determines the most profitable processes to produce benzene, toluene, and/or xylenes from biomass via methanol.”
- <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.energyfuels.6b00619>
- **benzene, toluene, and xylene are all chemicals of high concern**
- There is no ‘green benzene’

Ensure roadmaps to a circular economy prioritize chemical hazard reduction and full material disclosure to avoid false solutions.

Biobased Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) – is certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials – but lacks consideration of chemical hazard

### Advancing the transition to a bio-based and circular economy

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) provides collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions and trusted certification for a just and sustainable transition to a net positive world.

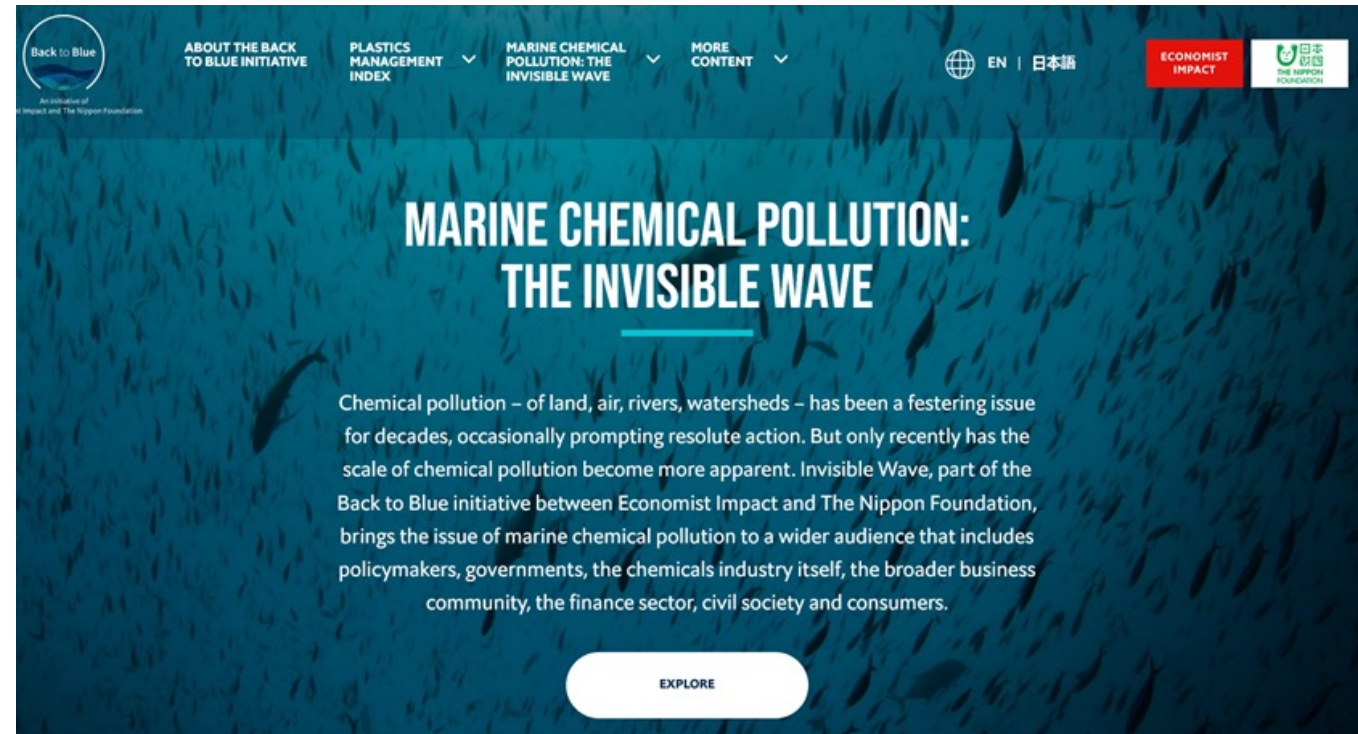


‘Bio-naphtha’ is still a high hazard chemical; vinyl chloride monomer and additives used in PVC lifecycle are chemicals of high concern

# Reward and incentivize innovation in safer chemicals production through financial incentives

Investors, financial bodies and regulators keen to support protection of biodiversity and environmental justice could:

- remove \$20 billion/year subsidies on fossil fuel developments and reallocate to safer chemical design
- tax the use of hazardous chemicals;
- integrate chemical footprint reduction goals and investment in safer chemicals into all ESG reporting
- Outline a just transition plan for impacted workers and communities during the transition



**Ocean Business Action Platform has developed a set of Sustainable Ocean Principles. Major investment funds are working with the UN Global Compact to support companies using the principles as a reporting mechanism.**

# Scale benefits to local communities through smaller-scale, decentralized, and modular chemical and material manufacturing facilities



## Principles of Green Engineering

- “Actively engage communities and stakeholders in development of engineering solutions”

Local communities need to be at the table from the beginning of any proposal for new chemical production facilities.

“Producing the same cancer-causing chemical with wood pulp instead of fossil fuels won’t help fence-line communities. Those facilities are still going to be in our backyard. The real solution is to stop producing chemicals that cause cancer, and move all production away from where human beings live.” – Louisville resident



# Needs and Opportunities: Transitioning the Chemical Sector

Joel Tickner

Sustainable Chemistry Catalyst

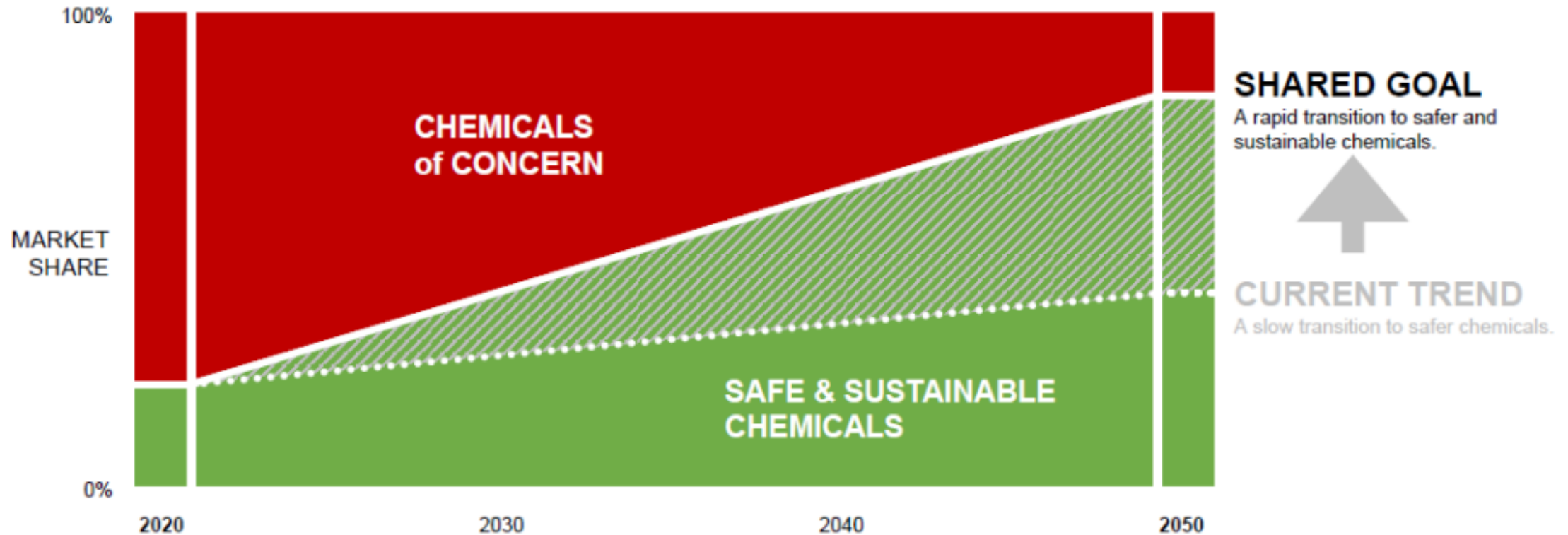
Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts Lowell

March 28, 2023



# The Big Goal

To accelerate the transition to safe and sustainable chemicals.



# Rethinking chemistry requires engaging the entire value chain

## Five Conversion Strategies to Transition the Chemical Industry Towards Sustainability



### Energy Conversion

The industry should minimize its process energy requirements and transition from fossil fuels to renewables.

### Feedstock Substitution

The industry should sharply reduce fossil fuel use for feedstocks in the production of chemicals, while building supplies of alternative sustainable, renewable feedstocks.



### Molecular Redesign

The industry should develop innovative, new platform and tunable chemistries based on the principles of green chemistry and engineering.

### Production Process Redesign

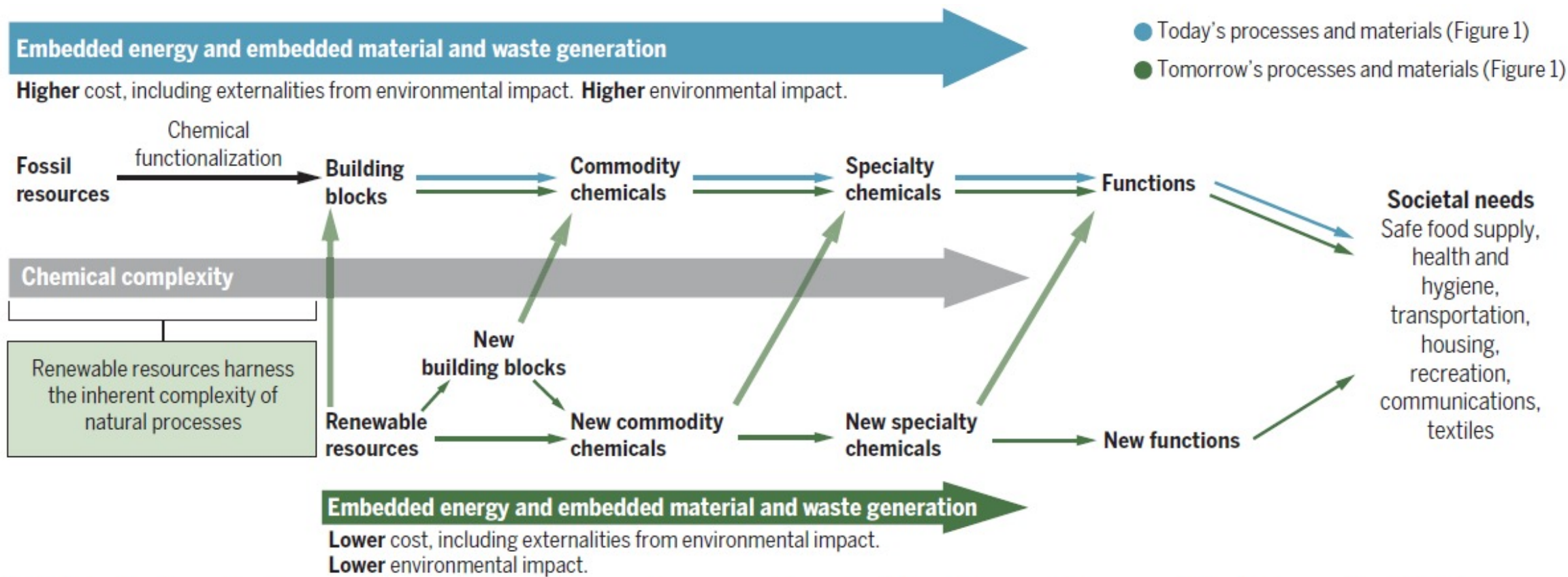
Chemical manufacturing processes should be redesigned to use renewable feedstocks, minimize adverse impacts, and work within more flexible, distributed, and resilient manufacturing operations.



### Downstream Product Redesign

Product design and delivery should be reimagined so that products are more circular, use safer chemistries, and have lower adverse impacts through their lifecycle.

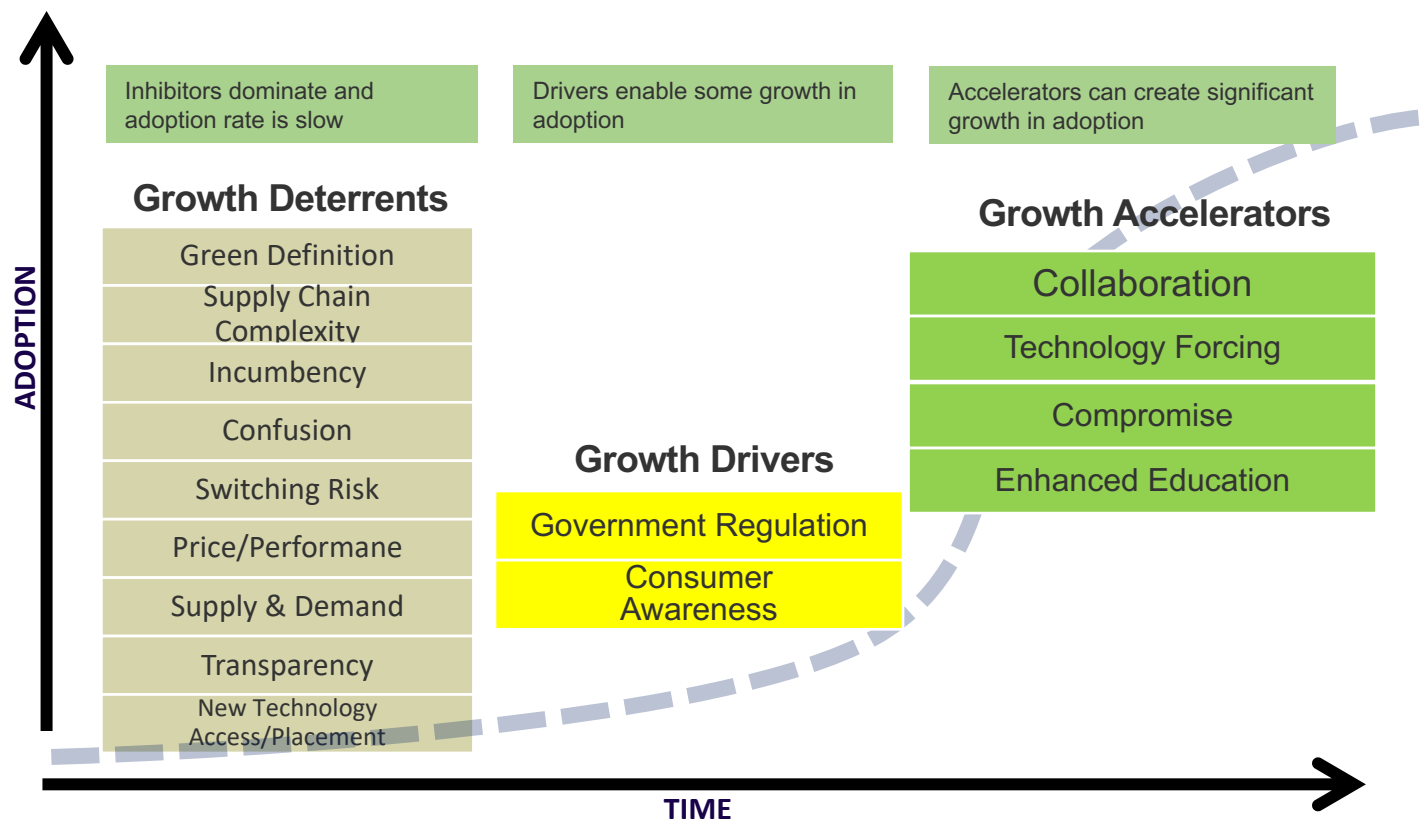
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00139157.2022.2021793?scroll=top&needAccess=true>



**Fig. 3. Benefits of moving from fossil to renewable resources using greener transformation schemes and process chains in terms of embedded energy; embedded materials, including water; waste generation; and environmental and economic costs.**

Zimmerman et al. Designing for a green chemistry future, Science Jan 2020

# Inhibitors and accelerators of green and sustainable chemistry



<https://greenchemistryandcommerce.org/resources/gc3-publications>



Defining the direction – sustainable chemistry

## Sustainable Chemistry



Source: Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and Beyond Benign

Criteria categories to meet the definition of sustainable chemistry

### EQUITY AND JUSTICE

- **Authentic** engagement of potentially impacted communities
- **Protection** of workers, marginalized communities, and vulnerable groups
- **Prioritization** of innovations that remediate past harms
- **Strengthening** of local economies and product access and affordability

### TRANSPARENCY

- **Disclosure** and accessibility of health, safety, and environmental data
- **Open** access and verification of sustainability claims
- **Availability** of chain-of-custody information for chemicals and materials

### CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS

- **Utilization** of renewable, non-toxic chemical building blocks
- **Avoidance** of negative impacts on natural resources, the climate, and biodiversity
- **Minimization** of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions

### HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

- **Absence** of hazards to people or ecosystems
- **Prevention** of environmental releases that persist or bioaccumulate

### CIRCULARITY

- **Design** of products with an appropriate lifetime
- **Enablement** of safe reuse and recycling
- **Emphasis** on resource efficiency and waste prevention

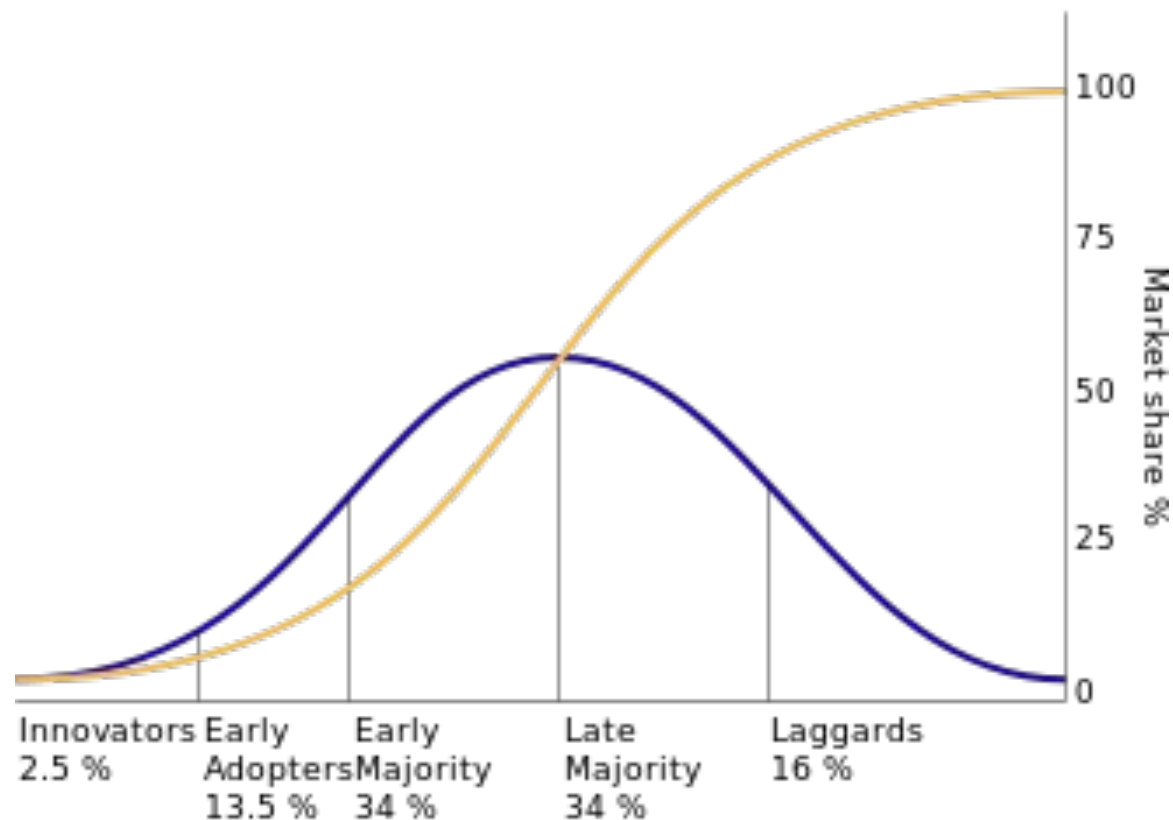
<https://www.sustainablechemistrycatalyst.org/s/Defining-Sustainable-Chemistry-Report-Feb-2023.pdf>



# What will it take...

- A clear transition roadmap with roles, responsibilities and accountability and short and longer term benchmarks
- The same government intervention and public-private investments that rapidly grew markets for the current generation of chemicals, including:
  - Public-private, long-term, sustained investment and support for research and innovation, infrastructure, and technology transfer for safer, fossil carbon-free production and products
  - Regulatory and financial incentives and disincentives to reduce production of and demand for fossil carbon-based, toxic, and non-circular chemicals and materials
  - Public-private sector partnerships and supply chain collaborations that align demand signals and grow markets for more sustainable chemicals and materials.

# The goal is to “tip the scales” towards a transition to safe and sustainable chemistries

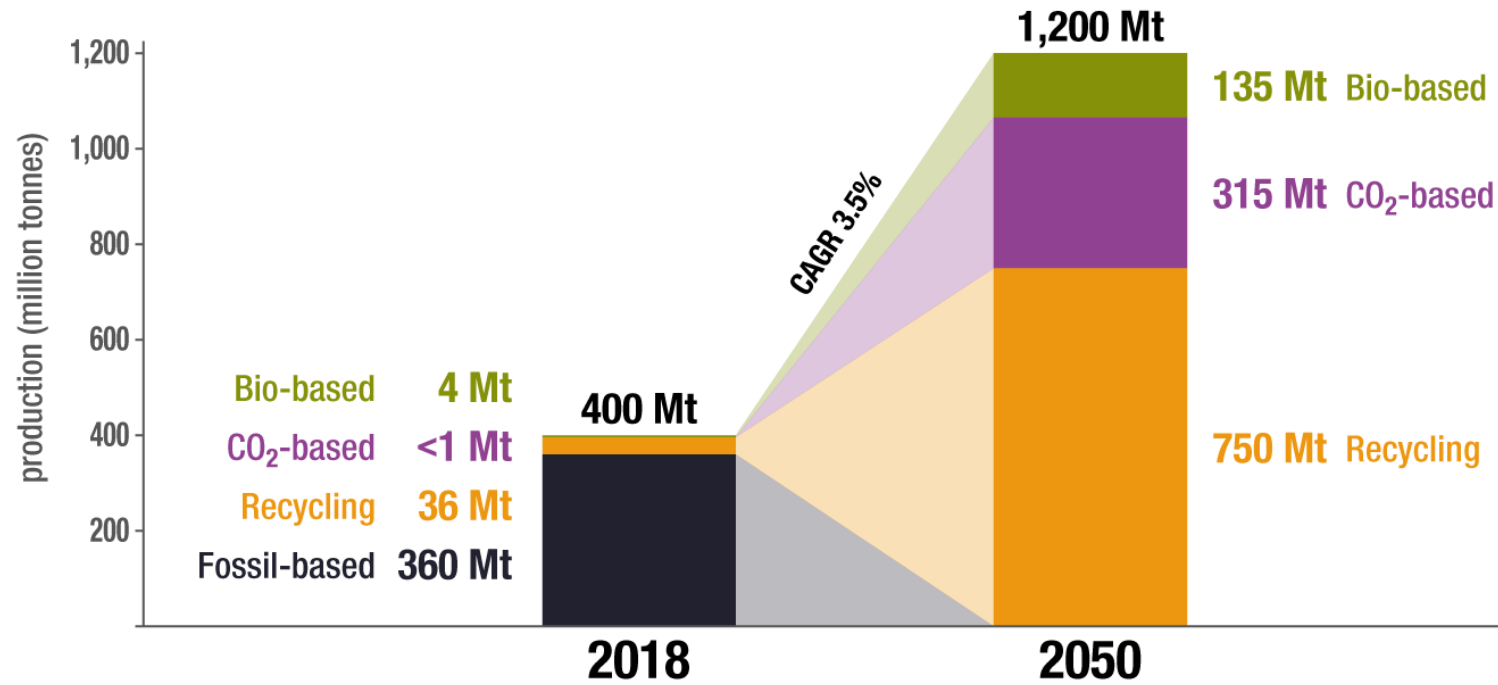


From Rogers: Diffusion of Innovations (1962)

# A 30 year transition where timing matters

- Not too fast or too slow...
- Pacing
  - What can be accomplished - 10, 20, 30 years out
  - In line with capital and R&D cycles
  - What are acceptable transitional technologies and strategies without getting “locked-in”
- Where do we start?
  - Key priorities. What chemistries? What foundational technologies?
- How do we accelerate the timeframes?
  - Examples? Rubber Reserve Program? Montreal Protocol? ...

# World Plastic Production and Carbon Feedstock in 2018 and Scenario for 2050 (in million tonnes)



The virgin plastic production of 364 Million t in 2018 will increase to 450 Million t in 2050, completely based on renewable carbon. The total demand for plastics of 1,200 Million t in 2050 will be mainly covered by recycling.

available at [www.renewable-carbon.eu/graphics](http://www.renewable-carbon.eu/graphics)

©  nova-Institute.eu | 2021

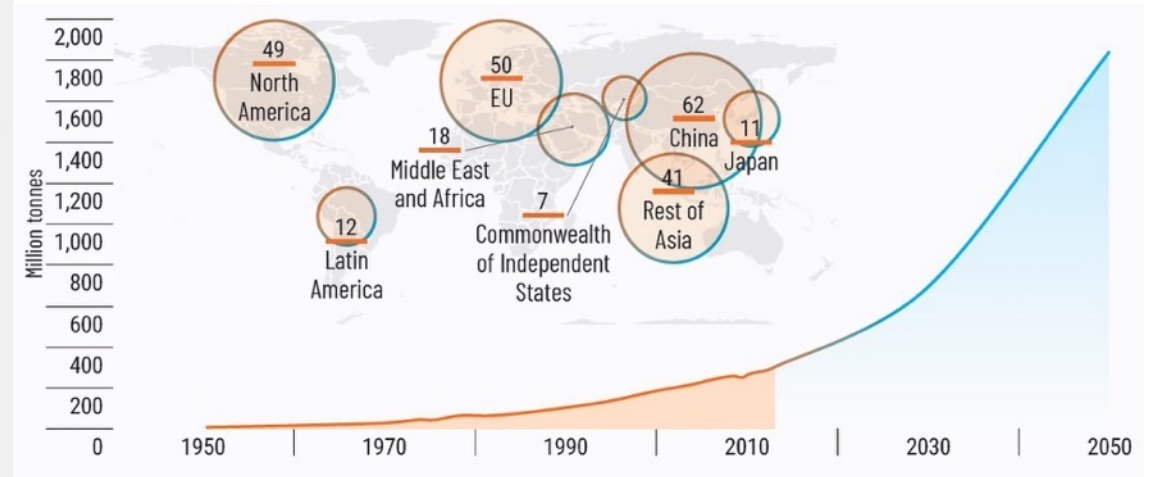
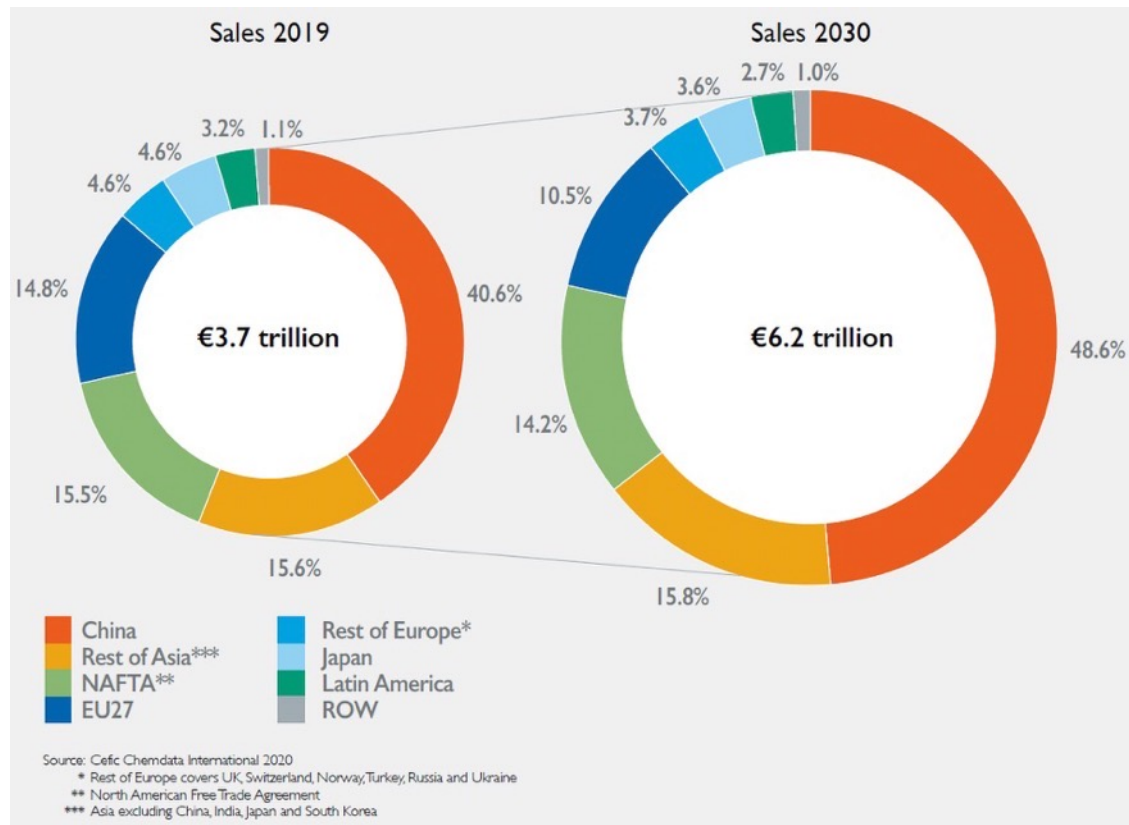
Renewable Carbon: Key to a Sustainable and Future-Oriented Chemical and Plastic Industry,” Sept 2020

# Additional investments needed

- An interdisciplinary, diverse, and highly-trained workforce
- Transition support for workers and communities, including clean –up and restoration
- Support for a similar transition in industrializing countries.



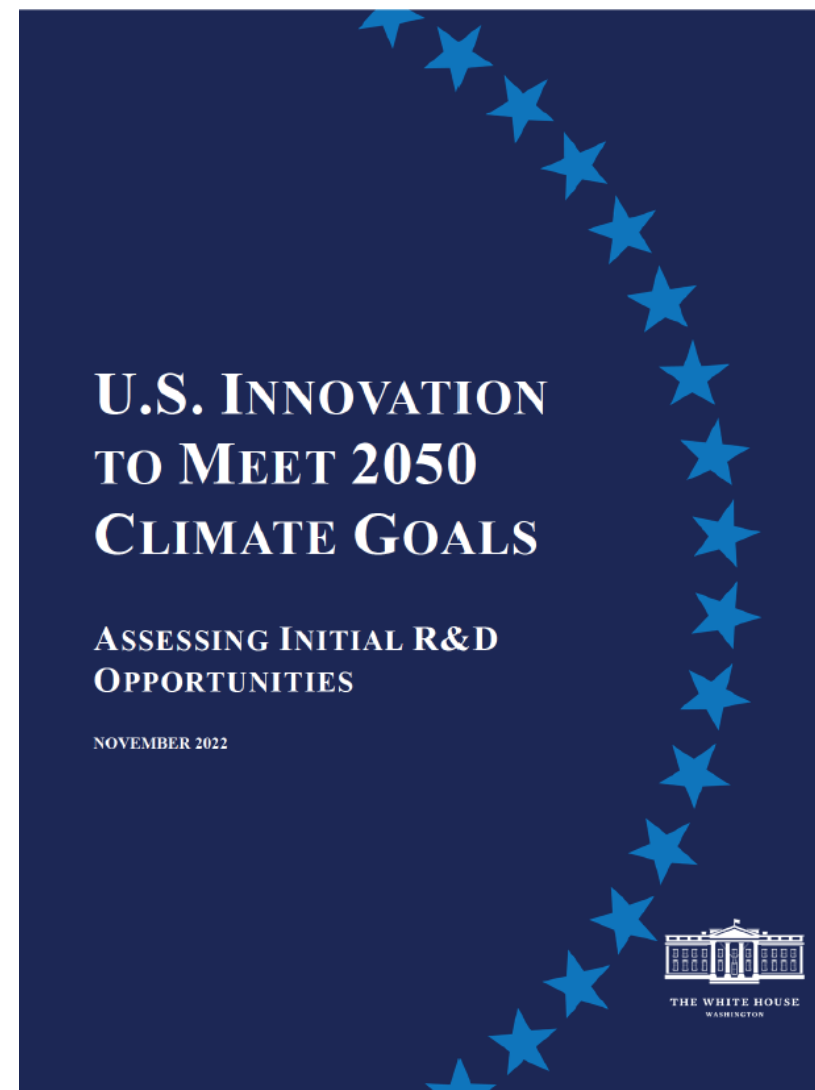
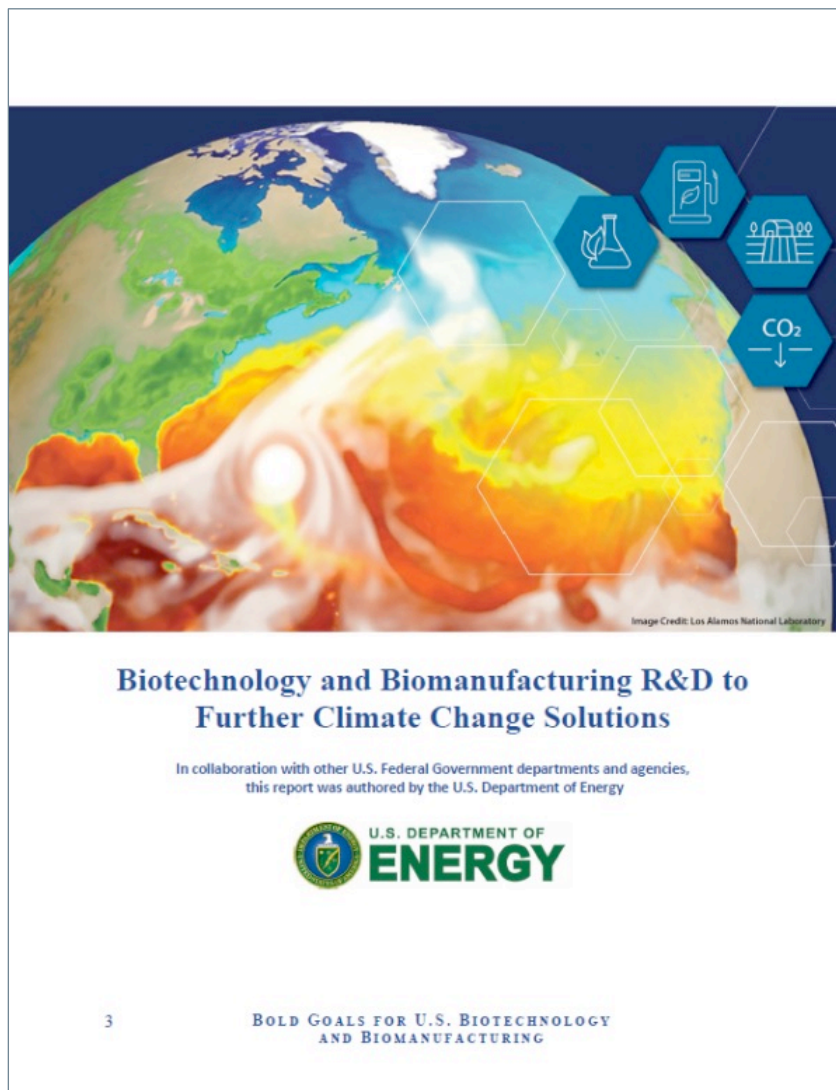
# Petrochemical growth – a challenge for the future in industrializing countries



<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>

# The opportunities...are now.

- Increased attention to the climate/toxics/plastics crises with increased and successful advocacy – risk and opportunity are becoming clearer as a business case
- New government policies
- Massive government investment
- Clear commitments from the investment community
  - Cop26 Investor commitments to address the “Code Red for Humanity”









# Prioritizing sustainable chemistry investment in decarbonization actions

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Inflation Reduction Act
  - 48C Tax Credit
  - EERE/IEDO Funding
  - Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) - Advanced Industrial Facilities Deployment Program
  - DOE Loan Office
  - Greenhouse gas reduction fund/Green Bank
  - Climate Pollution Prevention grants
- CHIPS and Science
- Bioeconomy Executive Order
- Leveraging Community Benefits Plan requirement to address toxicity

# An opportunity – U.S. Sustainable Chemistry R&D Act

The bill creates a national coordinating entity housed in the National Science and Technology Council to better align federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry. **The entity will:**

-  **Develop** descriptive attributes of sustainable chemistry.
-  **Establish** a baseline of current sustainable chemistry activities across the US economy to provide a tool for comparing the progress and effectiveness of the entity's coordinating activities.
-  **Coordinate** and support Federal R&D, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training efforts in sustainable chemistry, including budget coordination and support for public-private partnerships.
-  **Identify** methods by which Federal agencies can facilitate the development of incentives for the use of sustainable chemistry processes and products.
-  **Consult** with the private sector, academia, state and tribal governments, and NGOs in carrying out its duties.
-  **Report** to Congress on existing activities and recommendations for future activities no later than 3 years after enactment.



H. R. 6395

## One Hundred Sixteenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Friday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty*

### An Act

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for each fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### Subtitle E—Sustainable Chemistry

#### SEC. 261. NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene an interagency entity (referred to in this subtitle as the "Entity") under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry, including those described in sections 263 and 264.

(b) **COORDINATION WITH EXISTING GROUPS.**—In convening the Entity, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider overlap and possible coordination with existing committees, subcommittees, or other groups of the National Science and Technology Council, such as—

- (1) the Committee on Environment;
- (2) the Committee on Technology;
- (3) the Committee on Science; or
- (4) related groups or subcommittees.

(c) **CO-CHAIRS.**—The Entity shall be co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, or the Department of Energy, as selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.



It is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.

It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive.

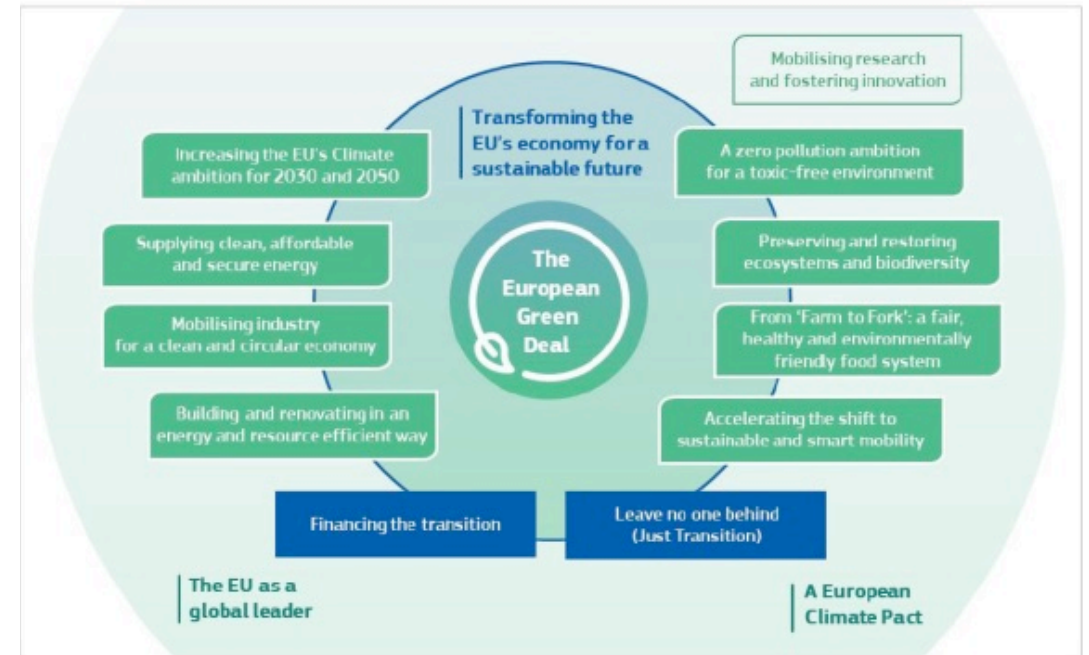


Figure 1: The European Green Deal

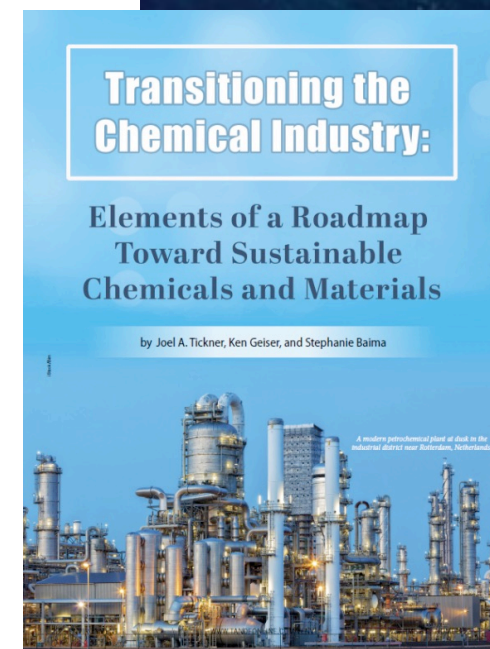
# A chemical industry transition is NOT out of reach

It is necessary to address the “last chance decade” for climate action and action to address irreversible chemical pollution

But: It will take unprecedented political will, business leadership, continued public pressure, and an ambitious vision focusing not only on changing the industry but also on changing the production and consumption systems that have supported it.

Tickner, Geiser, and Baima -

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00139157.2022.2021793?scroll=top&needAccess=true>



# For more information

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[www.saferalternatives.org](http://www.saferalternatives.org)

# Reflections – A business perspective





Questions? Comments?





# Closing Remarks



# Upcoming Events

*Registration opening April 12!*

## **2023 GC3 European Forum: A Journey to Change Chemistry**

June 13-15, 2023 | Hosted by Covestro in Leverkusen, Germany

*Save the dates!*

## **2023 A4 International Symposium on Alternatives Assessment: Enhancing Safety, Health and Equity**

October 25-26, 2023 | Hosted by WA Dept. of Ecology in Tacoma, WA US

## **2023 GC3 US Roundtable**

November 14-16, 2023 | Hosted by MilliporeSigma in St. Louis, MO US