

Prevention, reuse & recycling in PPWR

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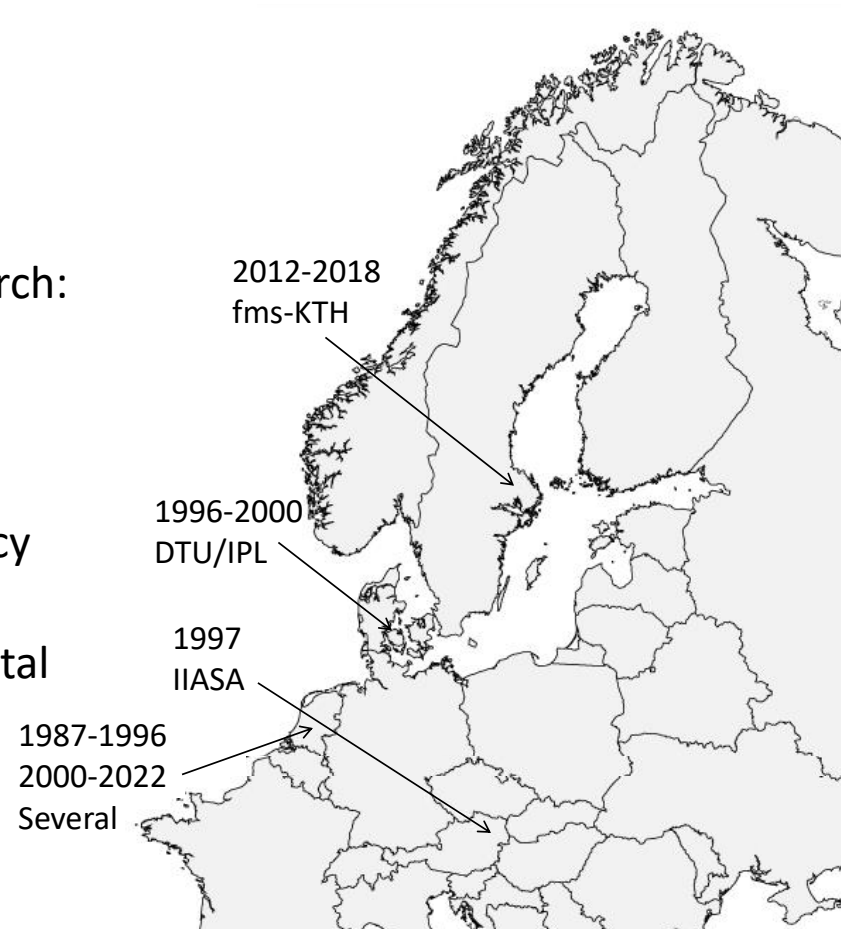
Short biography

Some 35 year environmental research:

1988 - 2018 Academic world

2015 - 2018 PBL Netherlands
Environmental Agency

2020 – 20... Recycling Network
Benelux (environmental
NGO)



Reducing resource as priority in Europe's policy

Objective new circular action plan & a main aim European green deal:

“A **resource-efficient Europe**, where economic development is decoupled from the use of natural resources”

Frans Timmermans about circular economy:

“**Circular economy** is the model of the future, for Europe and the world. It brings balance back in our relationship with nature and **reduces our vulnerability to disruptions in global, complex supply chains**”

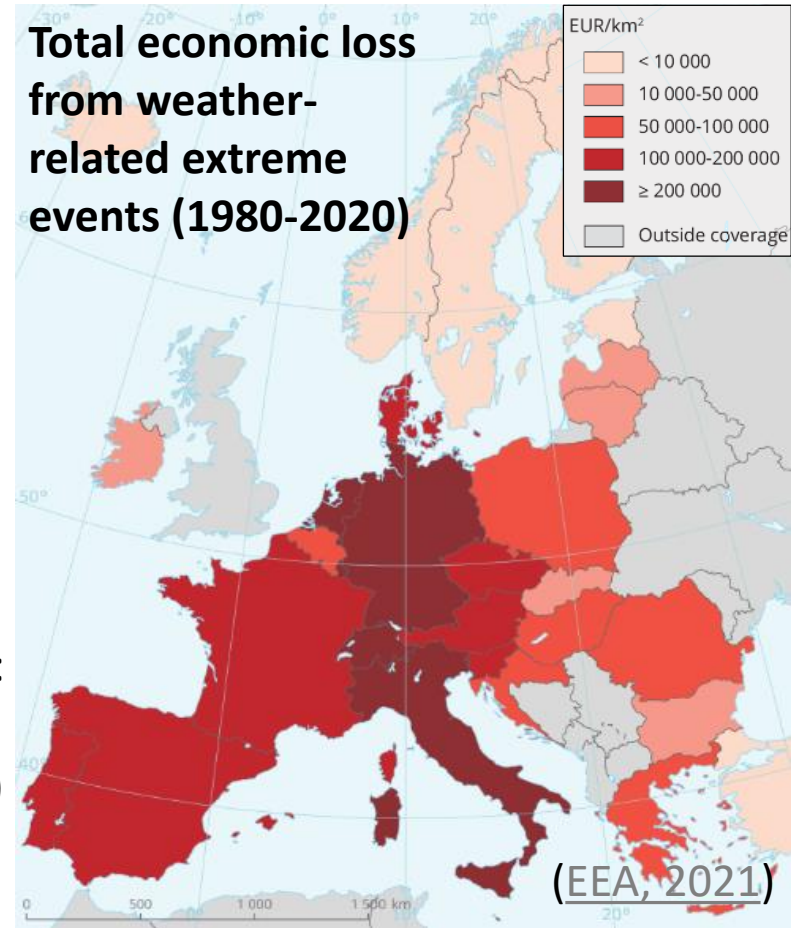
Resource use problems

Environmental impact, e.g. climate change & biodiversity loss, from:

- Resource extraction
- Processing resources into products
- Waste processing

Resource dependency revealed by e.g.:

- Russia's war in Ukraine (2022 -)
- Bulk-carrier barring Suez canal (2021)
- Covid-pandemic (2020 - 2022)



Strategies to reduce resource use by products

Prevention (placing less products on the market or using less):

- Refraining from packaging around cabbages, water melons, etc.
- Minimising packaging still needed

Reuse:

- Replace disposable by reusable packaging
- Increase number of reuses (e.g. by reuse pool-systems)

Recycling:

- More discarded products entering recycling process (higher recycling rates)
- Better quality recycle from recycling process (higher recycled content rates)

(Source: [Letter 5 EU ministers to EC & Potting et al., 2022](#))

Minimum targets in draft PPWR

Prevention target: % Reduction *per capita* of packaging waste,
compared to 2018

Reuse & refill target: % Packaging made available as reusables

Recycling:

- **Recycling target:** % Packaging waste entering recycling process
- **Recycled content target:** % Recycled content in *plastic* packaging

(Source: Draft PPWR)

Exemplifying achievable resource reduction

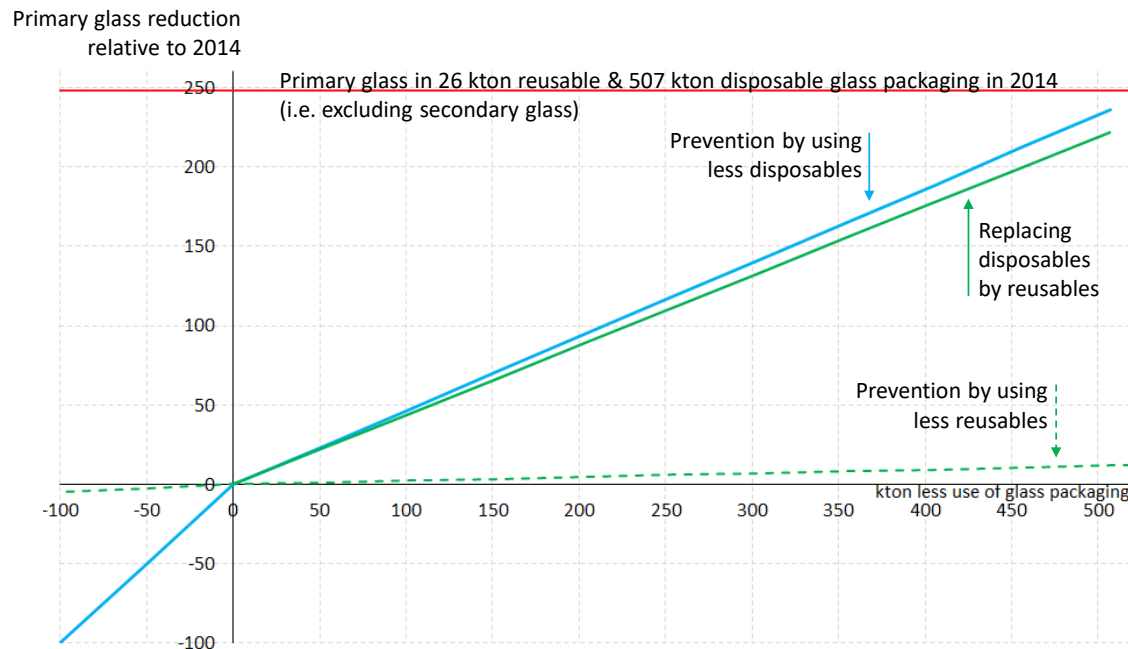
Glass packaging in the Netherlands as example because:

- Only packaging with large share of reusables (mainly beer bottles)
- To illustrate strategies' contributions to resource reduction

Reductions compared to 2014 (base year compared to which abiotic resources should be halved in 2030 in Dutch circular economy policy)

(Source: [Potting et al., 2022](#))

Resource reduction by prevention & reuse



Glass packaging

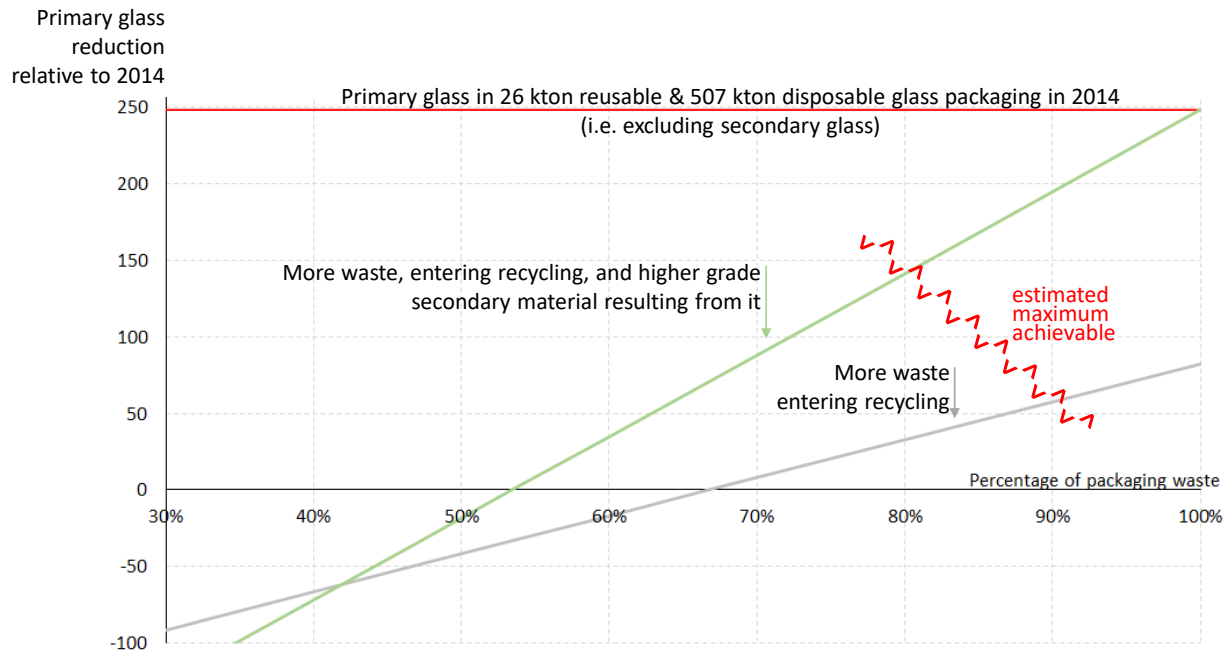
Replacing disposables by reusables almost as effective as prevention (due to high rotation rate)

Other packaging

Does not (yet) apply to e.g. plastic packaging (low rotation rate), prevention by using less plastic preferable)

(Source: [Potting et al., 2022](#))

Resource reduction by recycling



Glass packaging

Theoretically 100 % reduction possible, in practice about 60% (optimal conditions)

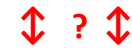
Other packaging

Unlikely for e.g. plastic packaging or beverage cartons, similar for e.g. metal packaging

(Source: [Potting et al., 2022](#))

Bias in draft PPWR & WFD

New circular action plan & European green deal aim at **resource-efficiency**



Draft PPWR implements prevention with targets for **waste reduction**



Now in WFD



Would be better

(Source: Letter 5 EU ministers to EC & Potting et al., 2022)

Differences between both hierarchies

Red crosses left and red letters right indicate differences between current waste hierarchy and a revised, more consistent resource & waste hierarchy



Now in WFD



Would be better

(Source: Letter 5 EU ministers to EC & Potting et al., 2022)

Closing remarks

- Prevention (using less packaging) & reuse more effective than recycling
- Multiple combi's of prevention, reuse, recycled content and recycling rates possible to achieve the same resource reduction
- EU-policies should stop phrasing resource reduction as waste reduction, and simply stick to using resource reduction
- Redefinition of prevention in the meaning of using less products (= placed on the market; i.e., excluding reuse & refill) would be better:
 - Consistent with letter of five countries to Commission
 - More clear & brings consistency in (resource &) waste hierarchy
 - No change in targets, just slight terminology change in draft PPWR

(Source: [Potting et al., 2022](#))

Links:

- Slide 4:
EU Green Deal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf;
Quote Frans Timmermans: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/news/circular-economy-model-future-timmermans>
- Slide 5:
EEA, 2021: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/economic-losses-and-fatalities-from/economic-losses-and-fatalities-from>
- Slide 6:
Letter 5 EU ministers: <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/permanent-representations/pr-eu-brussels/documents/publications/2022/01/31/upcoming-revision-of-the-packaging-and-packaging-waste-directive>;
Potting et al., 2022: <https://recyclingnetwerk.org/2022/10/10/circular-targets-to-reduce-europes-resource-use/>
- Slide 7:
Draft PPWR: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-11/Proposal_for_a_Regulation_on_packaging_and_packaging_waste.pdf
- Slide 8, 9 & 10:
Potting et al., 2022: <https://recyclingnetwerk.org/2022/10/10/circular-targets-to-reduce-europes-resource-use/>
- Slide 11&12:
EU Green Deal, Draft PPWR, Letter 5 EU ministers, Potting et al., 2022, see links above;
WFD: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-framework-directive_en
- Slide 13:
see above

Thank you!



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