

# BRING WASTE FULL CIRCLE: HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**OVER 415 MT**  
**REDUCTION IN GHG EMISSIONS**  
through food waste reduction,  
improving recycling and re-use

Europe sends over 50% of its waste straight to landfill and incinerators, generating toxic and climate damaging emissions, destroying valuable resources and resulting in a huge missed opportunity for job creation. Waste finds its way into every corner of the natural environment, from the deepest ocean trenches to the Arctic, and even in the food we eat.



**HIGHER RECYCLING AND REUSE**  
**860,000**  
**ADDITIONAL JOBS**  
(1/6 unemployed youth back  
into work)

Keeping waste in the material cycle would create 860,000 jobs and save 415 Mt of carbon emissions by 2030<sup>1</sup>. It would also make the European economy more resilient to resource shortages and price increases. Ambitious EU waste policies would improve Europe's resource efficiency and quality of life by moving towards a circular economy.

<sup>1</sup> J. Beasley, R. Georgeson; Advancing Resource Efficiency in Europe; European Environmental Bureau, March 2014

## As part of the review of the Waste Framework, Landfill and Packaging Directives, we call upon the EU to:

- 1 Set a binding EU material reduction target** based on the Total Material Consumption indicator.
- 2 Set a zero residual waste target** (the waste that is not re-used or recycled) by 2025.
- 3 Introduce binding waste prevention targets** for municipal, commercial and industrial waste at the European and national levels.
- 4 Set preparation for reuse targets** for municipal solid waste and packaging, with targets for - at a minimum - textiles and furniture, based on the weight of material per capita put back on the market by approved re-use centres. The targets must not be combined with recycling.
- 5 Increase recycling targets to at least 70%** of municipal solid waste, using only one harmonised methodology for all Member States to report on, based on the recycling output. Set an overall packaging recycling target at 80% and boost plastic packaging recycling to at least 75%.
- 6 Set a binding quantitative marine litter reduction target of 50%** with an explicit definition of litter included in waste legislation, in recognition of the serious negative impacts on the marine environment.
- 7 Introduce obligatory separate collection of waste by 2020**, in particular for biowaste from homes and the hospitality sector as well as separate collection for materials including paper, cardboard, metals and textiles.
- 8 Promote economic instruments that support the full implementation of the waste hierarchy**, such as extended producer responsibility, pay-as-you-throw schemes and the taxation of resources where appropriate.
- 9 Design out single-use, non-recyclable products and toxic materials** such as microplastics and oxo-fragmentable plastics.
- 10 Ban landfill and incineration by 2020** for all recyclable and compostable waste. Ban the financing of incinerators and landfills via structural and cohesion funds.

