



Ministry of Infrastructure and the  
Environment

# From **Eco-Innovation** to **Systemic Innovation**

Robbert Droop

- Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
- Eco-Innova



Eco-Innovation is .....

Ref. EcoAP – COM(2011)899

... **any form** of innovation ....

.... resulting in or aiming at **significant and demonstrable** progress ...

.... towards the goal of sustainable development, ....

.... through **reducing impacts** on the environment, ....

.... **enhancing resilience** to environmental pressures, ....

.... or achieving a more **efficient and responsible** use of **natural resources**.

➤ .....over and above legislative requirements

➤ .... includes eco-industry and **other sectors**

➤ .... includes products/processes, **value-chains, and systems**



## Some experiences in Netherlands

Business-cases:

- Jeans for Jeans (J4J)
- Closing the gypsum chain
- Food, Paper



**Chain action works ....**

- New business
- New markets
- New revenue streams

**....with frontrunners.**





## New entrepreneuring....

### ➤ **Sector response - Building trust**

- **Awareness** - marketing approaches
- Reporting and **sharing of best practices**
- Training and capacity-building
- Joint R&D - LCA
- Unify **certification schemes** and standards
  - Including social values
  - Develop widely accepted label
  - Avoid "green washing"

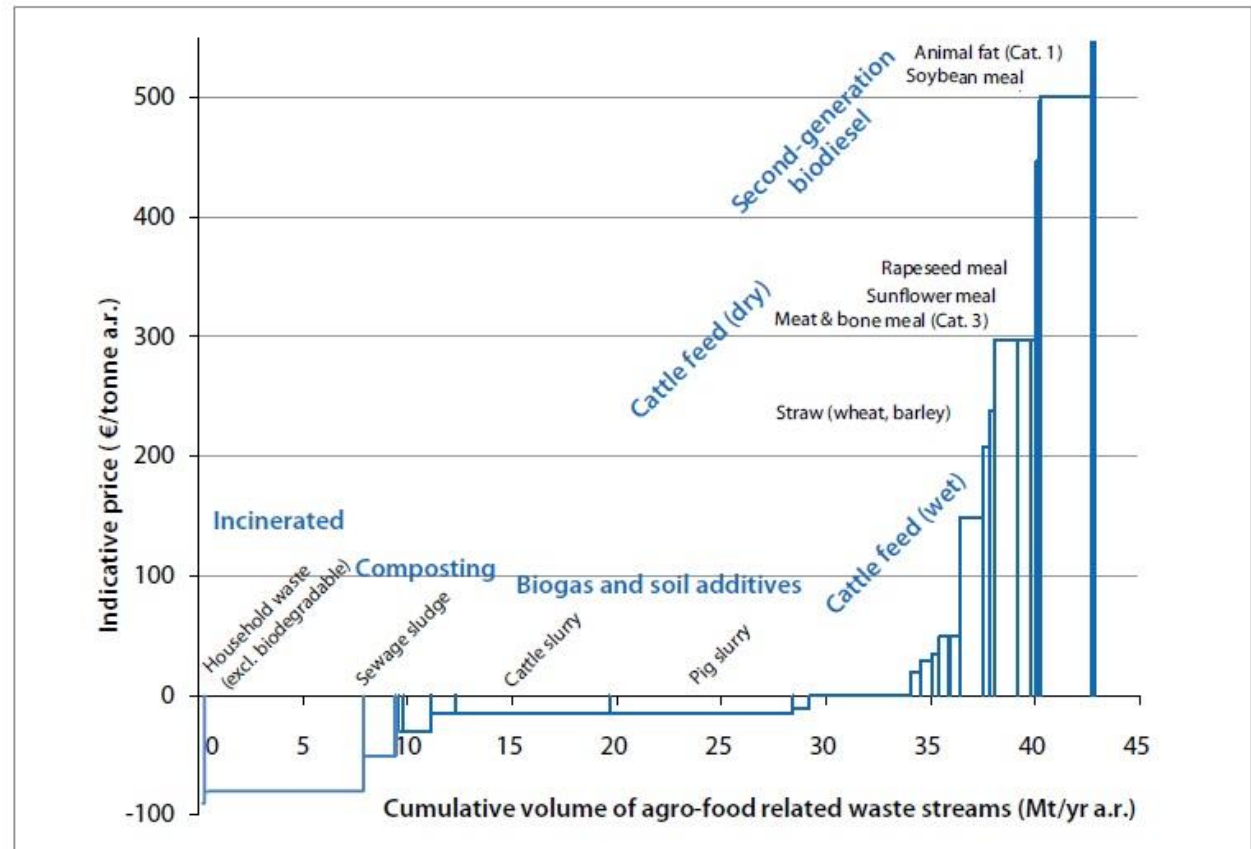
### ➤ **Chain action - Leverage partnerships**

- **Clear benefits** - **shared objectives** - LCA
- Involve different affiliations - mutual trust
- **Joint / Coordinated R&D**





NL: Current recycling of bio-waste  $\approx 3.5$  Bn€/y





... possible additional cumulative value  $\approx 1$  Bn€/y

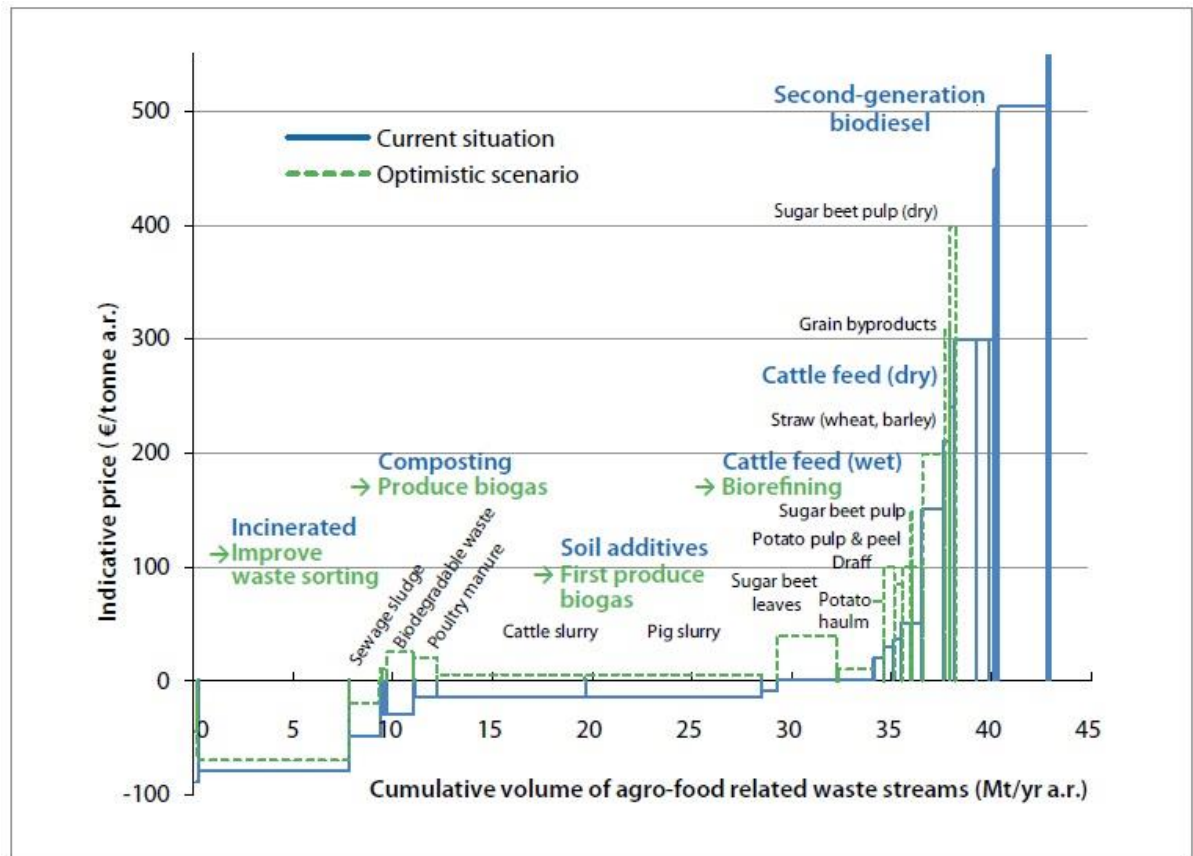
in NL

from:

- cattle slurry
- sugar beet waste
- sewage sludge

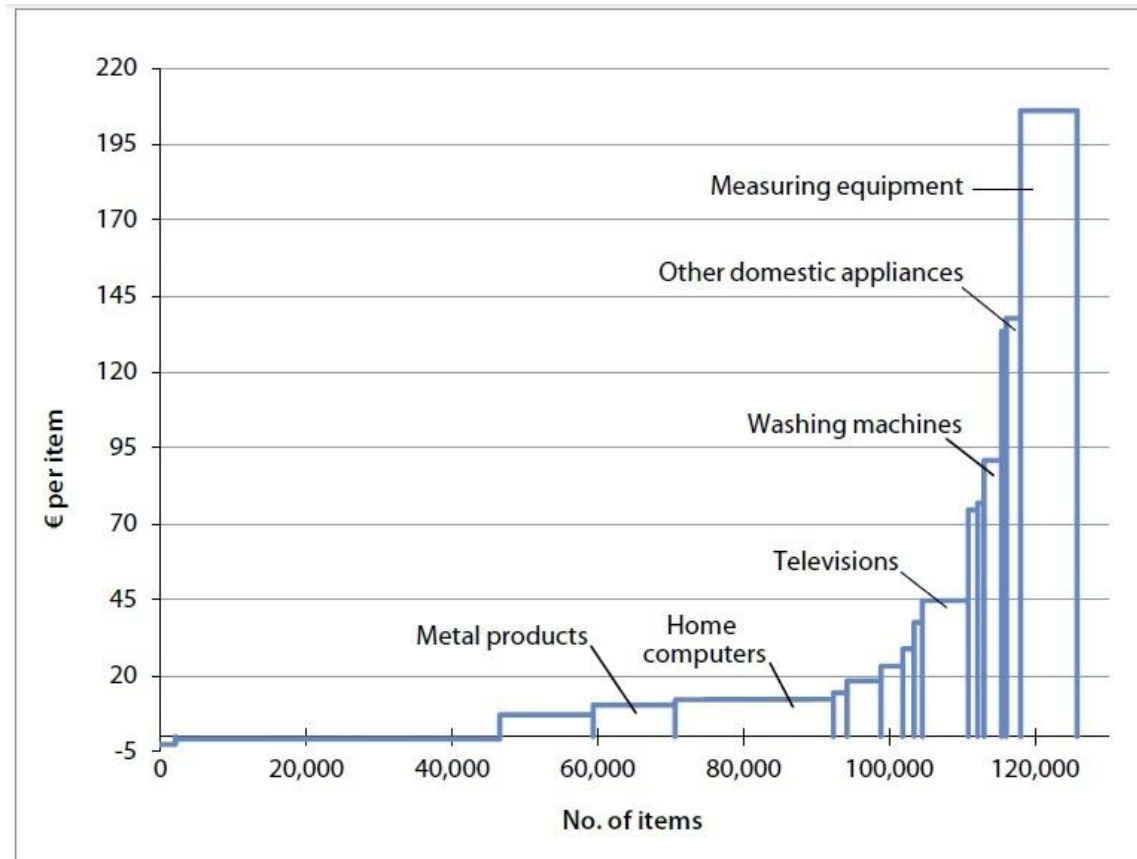
Investments:

4 – 8 Bn€





NL: Present value recycling metal-electro  $\approx 3.3$  Bn€/y



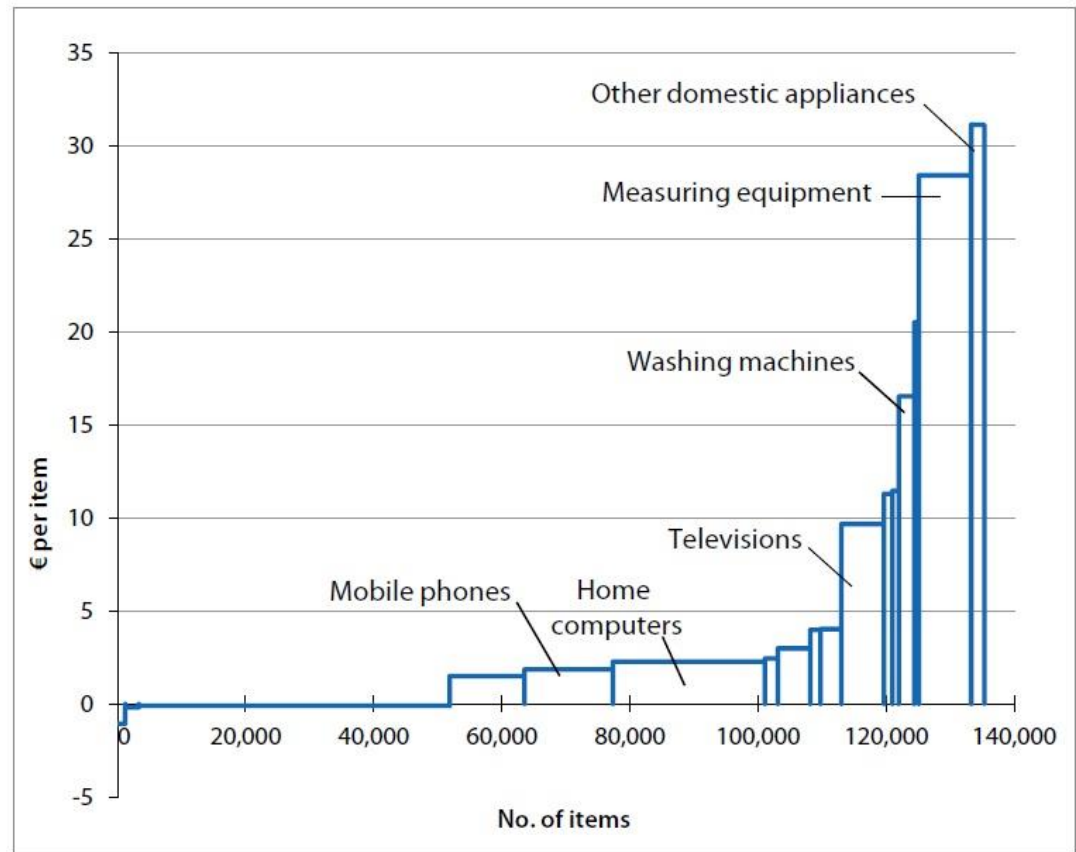


.... Additional cumulative value of recycling –  
metal-electro  $\approx 960$  Mn€/y

in NL

.... But less new sales  
 $\approx 390$  Mn€/y

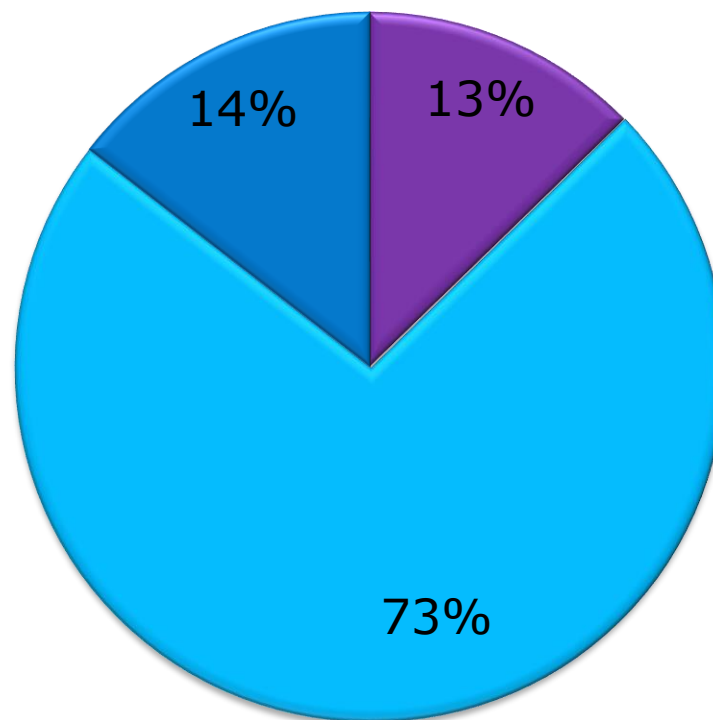
= 570 Mn€/y  
additional value







## Extrapolation to entire NL economy



**+ 7.3 Bn EUR**

**+ 54,000 jobs**

- agriculture
- industry
- services



## External effects due to CE in NL

### Direct

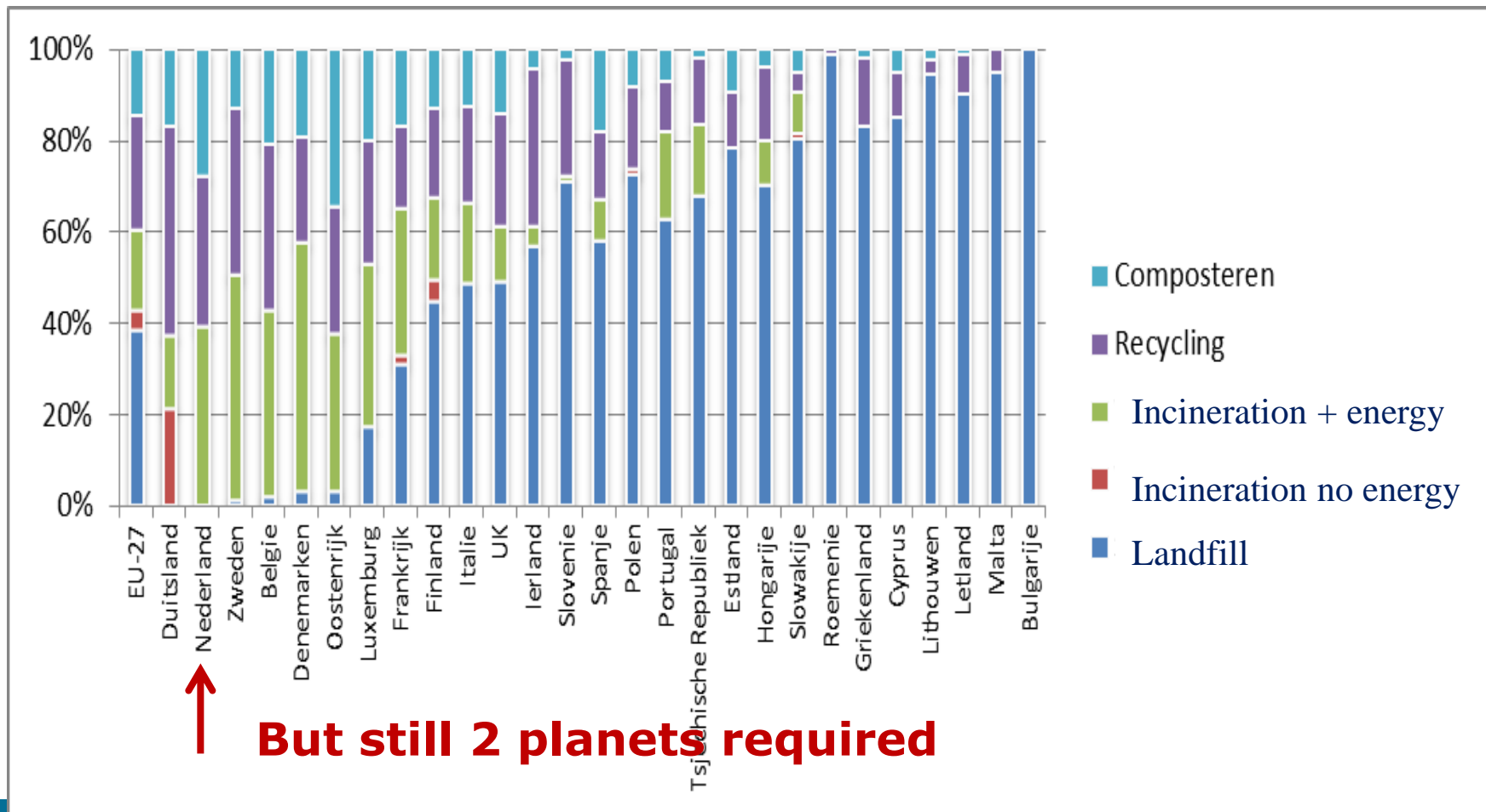
- - 10 % CO2 emissions from economic activities
- - 2 % land-use
- - 20 % industrial use of fresh-water
- - 25 % of total NL goods imports

### Indirect

- Economic resilience to raw materials scarcity
- New product design and markets
- Export of new technologies
- Innovation in recycling sector
- Innovation in logistics sector
- New economic activity



## Landfill, recycling and incineration of municipal solid waste – NL among top recyclers





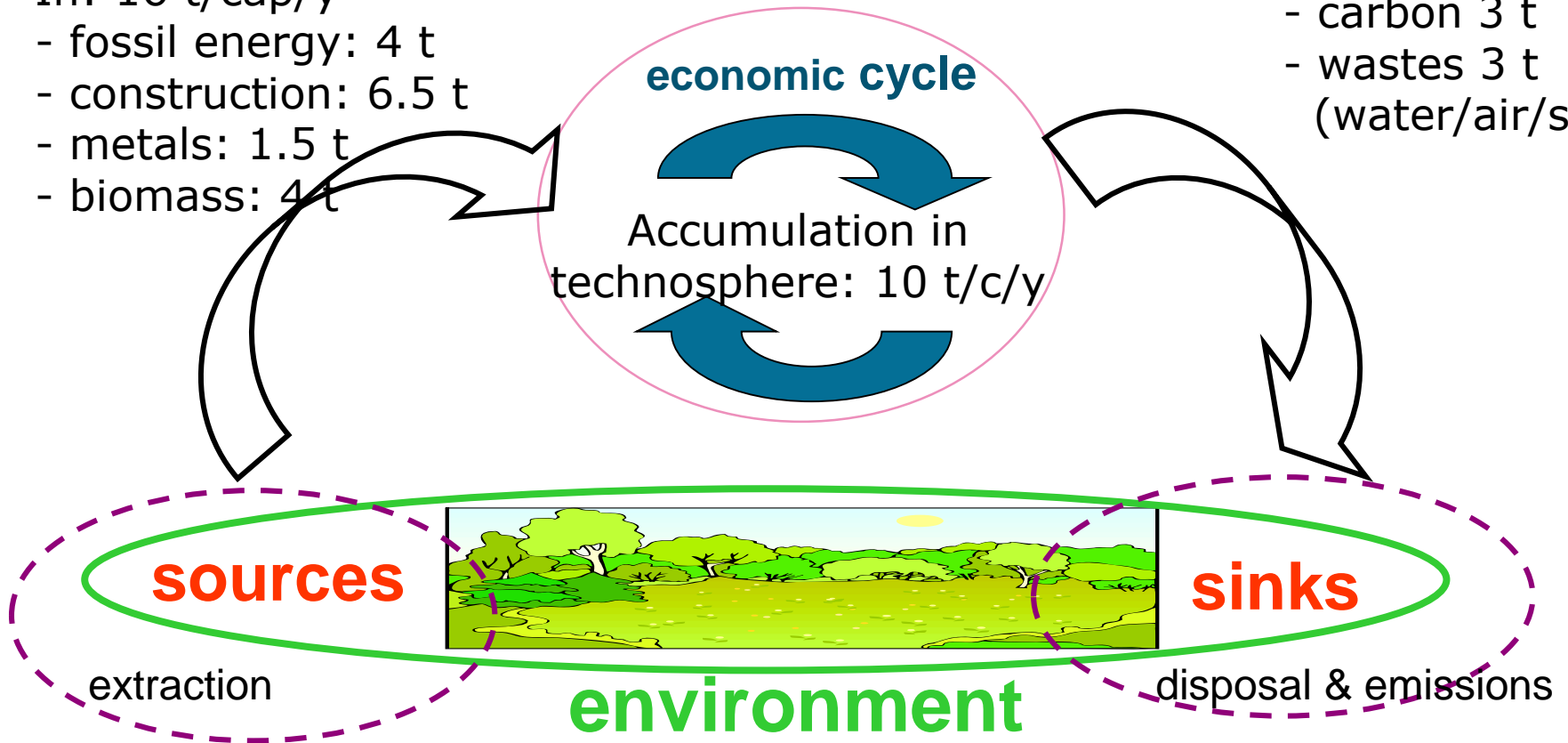
## Materials flows - EU

In: 16 t/cap/y

- fossil energy: 4 t
- construction: 6.5 t
- metals: 1.5 t
- biomass: 4 t

Out: 6 t/cap/y

- carbon 3 t
- wastes 3 t  
(water/air/soil)

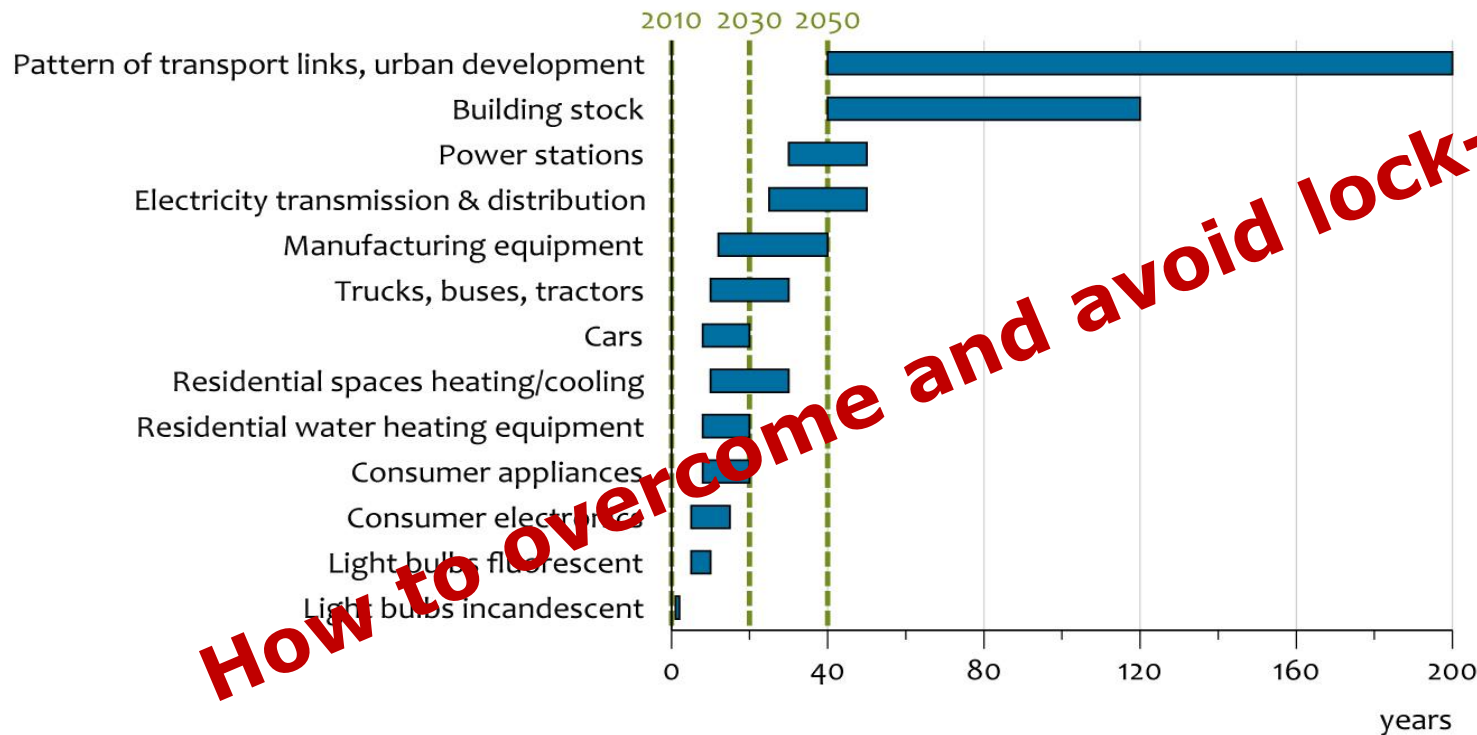


Ref. Wuppertal Institute



# System inertia is one of the links between long-term vision and near-term investments

## Energy capital lifetimes



**How to overcome and avoid lock-ins ?**

Source: Philibert and Pershing, 2002



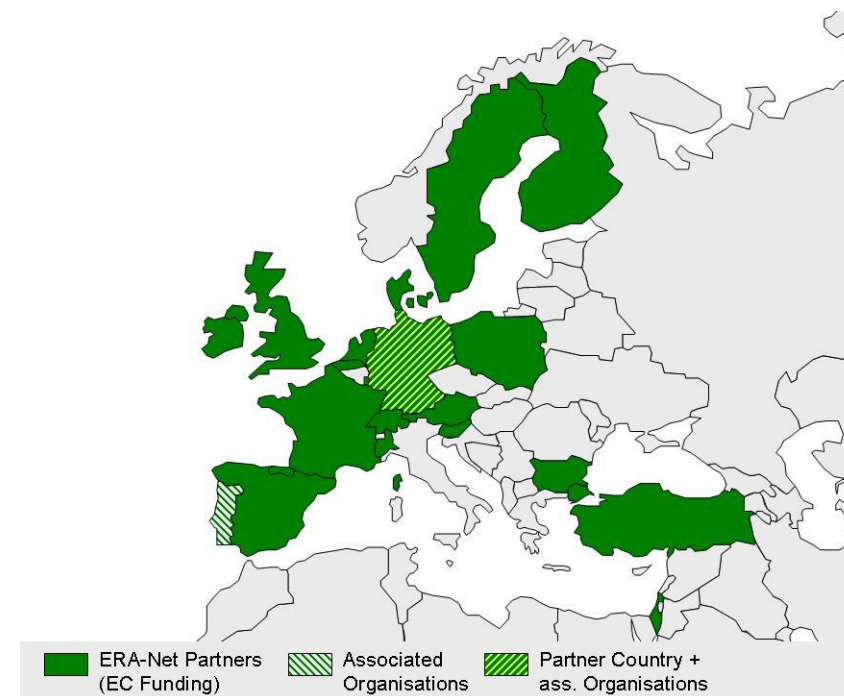
# ECO-INNOVERA

25 partners

15 countries + 3 regions

Organizations from research,  
environment, and economy

## Boosting eco-innovation through cooperation in research



## Eco-Innovera suggests Systemic Eco-Innovation

- Cross-cutting activity, distinctive from any other ERA-Net
- Topical subject for policy, business and research
- Distinctive from eco-innovation business-as usual
- Potentially achieves deeper levels of innovation faster
- Speed up innovation and have more impact on society
- Interest to research funding

## Why Systemic ?

- **Accumulation of business critical issues**, e.g. resource shortages, sustainable sourcing, climate change impacts, waste water, air quality, chemicals management
- **Too big and too complex** to tackle alone
- Companies need to **engage beyond their borders**, up their supply chains and down the value chain
- Often **societal/cultural and knowledge barriers**
- Governments need collaboration with and support from business



## Systemic Eco-Innovation

A set of **innovations** (new approaches or new applications that scale) that lead to a **shift in a whole system** (a sector, a city, an economy) on to a more sustainable or better ecological path.

**Interdisciplinary, multi-faceted:** *combining behaviour, technology, policy and economy*

**Radical, transformative:** *creating significant change, using new approaches and applications*

**Collaborative:** *cross-sector, involving different players, new types of partnerships, shared vision*

**Changing whole value chains and business models**

**Taking place in a wider societal context**



## Examples of Systemic Change

- From horse-and-carriage to individual car-mobility  
to mobility services
- From extensive to intensive agriculture  
to urban farming
- From polluting industry to eco-parks  
to combined working & living
- From individual washing machine  
to centralized washing facilities  
to self cleaning clothing
- From manufacturing and owning  
to access and use

Technology  
Enterprises  
Governance  
Policy  
Science  
Education  
Culture



## Barriers to Systemic Innovation

- Value of recyclables too low - Predictable quality/quantity
  - Competing waste treatment
  - Legislation on (imports of) waste materials
  - Culture change in companies
  - Cooperation with stakeholders in the chain
  - Sustainable sourcing unknown/uncertain
- 
- **Re-invention and design-for-repair/re-use/upgrade unwanted**
  - **New business models unknown/uncertain**
  - **Lack in education & training & research**
  - **Risky investments**
  - **Social acceptance is doubtful**
  - **Who takes the initiative?**

## Towards systemic eco-innovation

Supporting Green Economy / Industrial Symbiosis

- Knowledge on material-flow-analysis
- Knowledge on supply-use-storage
- Raw materials passport and database
- New business models for CE
- Networks for IS

New tools in support of Systemic Eco-Innovation

- Function-based R&D
- Integrating technology, ecosystem, and society
- Transition management (process, partnership, diversity, experiments, competition)
- Mobilize the “motors-of-innovation”
- **New LT strategic vision open for change**

Tools in  
legislation

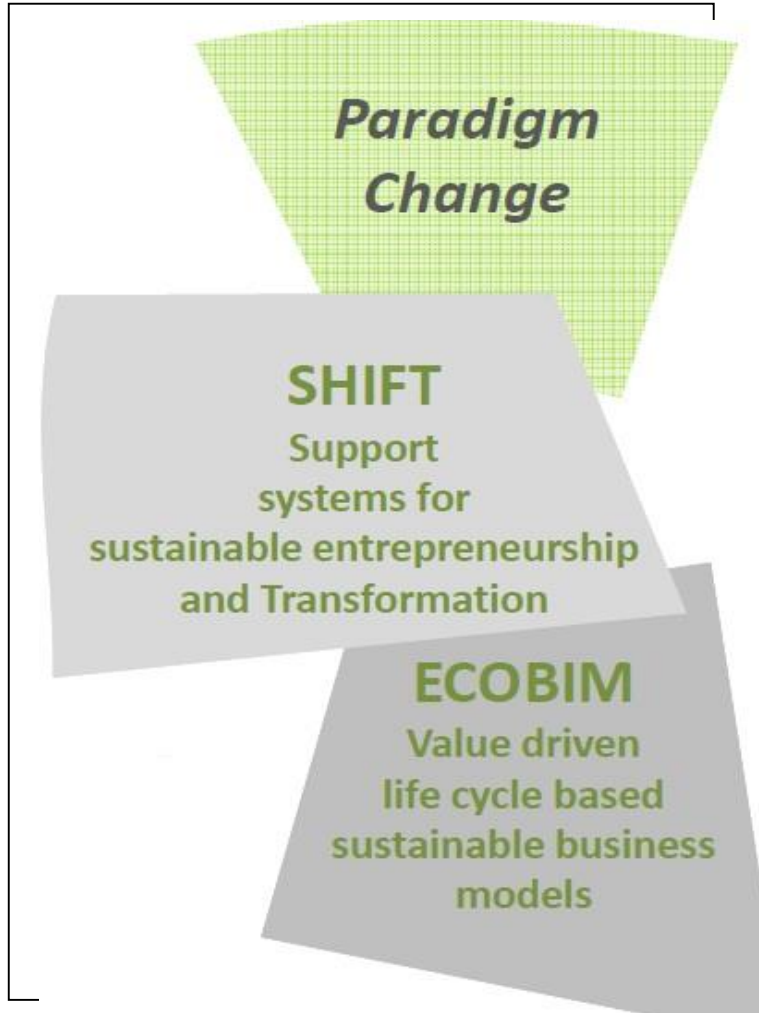
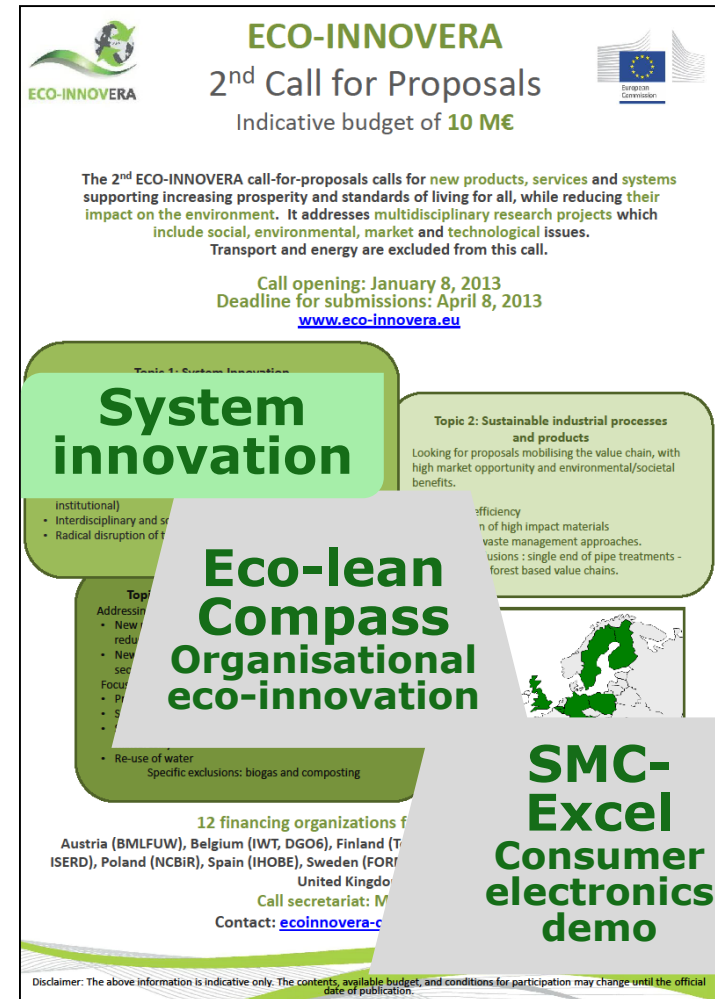
& new tools  
and  
partnerships

## Eco-Innovera calls-for-tender 2012-2013

### Systemic Innovation:

- Function-based rethinking/reinventing/redesign
- Different models of production and consumption
- Major business opportunities for novel, transformative approaches to supplying goods and services
- With focus on:
  - New supply chains/substantial reconfiguration of existing supply chains - Radical disruption of the economic model
  - Multiple innovations with large diversity  
(mixtures of technological/societal/institutional)  
(mixtures of diverse approaches and resolution-strategies)
  - Interdisciplinary and socio-economic contributions

# Eco-Innovera calls-for-tender 2012-2013

**ECO-INNOVERA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals  
Indicative budget of **10 M€**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO-INNOVERA call-for-proposals calls for new products, services and systems supporting increasing prosperity and standards of living for all, while reducing their impact on the environment. It addresses multidisciplinary research projects which include social, environmental, market and technological issues. Transport and energy are excluded from this call.

Call opening: January 8, 2013  
Deadline for submissions: April 8, 2013  
[www.eco-innovera.eu](http://www.eco-innovera.eu)

**System innovation**

**Eco-lean Compass**  
Organisational eco-innovation

**SMC-Excel**  
Consumer electronics demo

12 financing organizations for  
Austria (BMLFUW), Belgium (IWT, DGO6), Finland (T  
ISERD), Poland (NCBiR), Spain (IHOBE), Sweden (FOR  
United Kingdom  
Call secretariat: M  
Contact: [ecoinnovera-c](mailto:ecoinnovera-c)

Disclaimer: The above information is indicative only. The contents, available budget, and conditions for participation may change until the official date of publication.

# HORIZON 2020

Research and  
Innovation

Research → Application → Pilot → Market-Replication → .....

In FP7:

- Impacts in economy, science, behaviour
- Growth and jobs
- Life-cycle approaches; resilience
- Behavioural change, user engagement
- Multidisciplinary consortia:
  - industry, SMEs, human sciences
- Dissemination
- Society driven (EIPs, JPIs, JTIs, ETPs, ...)
- **Paradigm change**

In H2020:

- Increase RE
- **Circular economy**
- Energy efficient economy
- **Transition** through eco-innovation
- **Business models, industrial symbiosis**
- **Product service systems, redesign C2C**
- **Behavioural science**
- Networking, demo, user driven
- **Systemic approaches**





## Key notions

### System ambitions and inertia

- Challenges require new approaches and massive **acceleration** by 2020-2030 to reach sustainability targets
- Interim solutions 2020-2030 may easily create lock-in
- **Diversity** as a strategic aim
- **Function-based redesign** has potential
- and potentially threatens vested interests.
- Focus and flexibility by 2050 needs **vision**, strategy, planning and resources
- Operating space for **research**, policy and entrepreneurs



# Final Conference ECO-INNOVERA

## **Boosting Eco-Innovation through Co-operation in Research and Development**

17th and 18th of September 2014

Eigtveds Pakhus Conference Centre  
Copenhagen, Denmark



Ministry of Infrastructure and the  
Environment of the Netherlands

**Robbert Droop**

[robbert.droop@minienm.nl](mailto:robbert.droop@minienm.nl)

<http://www.government.nl/issues/environment/documents-and-publications/reports/2013/10/04/opportunities-for-a-circular-economy-in-the-netherlands.html>



**ECO-INNOVERA**

**Boosting eco-innovation  
through cooperation in research**

**Coordinator:** [e.echeverria@fz-julich.de](mailto:e.echeverria@fz-julich.de)  
[www.eco-innovaera.eu](http://www.eco-innovaera.eu)