

Circular economy country profile 2024 – France



Cover design: EEA
Cover image © Peder Jensen
Layout: ETC CE

Version: [If relevant]

Publication Date

EEA activity Circular economy and resource use

Legal notice

Preparation of this report has been co-funded by the European Environment Agency as part of a grant with the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use (ETC CE) and expresses the views of the authors. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission or other institutions of the European Union. Neither the European Environment Agency nor the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use is liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of the information contained in this publication.

ETC CE coordinator: Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO)

ETC CE partners: Banson Editorial and Communications Ltd, česká informační agentura životního prostředí (CENIA), Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), Istituto Di Ricerca Sulla Crescita Economica Sostenibile (IRCrES), Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, PlanMiljø, Università Degli Studi Di Ferrara (SEEDS), German Environment Agency (UBA), Teknologian Tutkimuskeskus VTT oy, Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH, World Resources Forum Association.

Copyright notice

© European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use, 2024
Reproduction is authorized provided the source is acknowledged. [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (International)]

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

European Topic Centre on
Circular economy and resource use
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce>

Contents

Introduction.....	2
France – facts and figures.....	4
Existing policy framework	8
Dedicated national and/or regional strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy	8
Dedicated local strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy.....	11
Circular economy policy elements included in other policies.....	12
Monitoring and targets	13
Assessment of circular economy performance	13
Circular economy monitoring frameworks and their indicators beyond the ones from Eurostat.....	14
Circular economy targets	15
Innovative approaches and good practices.....	16
Examples of public policy initiatives (national, regional or local)	16
Examples of private policy initiatives (sectoral).....	20
The way forward.....	21
Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges.....	21
Future policy plans	21

Introduction

The European Commission requested the EEA to produce EU country profiles that offer an updated view of the following elements:

- what circular economy policies are being implemented at a national level with a particular focus on elements that go beyond EU mandatory elements, and
- what are best practices with a focus on policy innovation.

With the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2020) "the Commission [...] encourages Member States to adopt or update their national circular economy strategies, plans and measures in the light of its ambition".

These country profiles originate in the work leading to the EEA More from less report (2016)¹, that presented an overview of approaches to material resource efficiency and to circular economy in thirty-two European countries. The More from Less report was followed by the 2019 EEA Report 'Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe 2019 – even more from less: An overview of the policies, approaches and targets of 32 European countries'².

It presented an updated and extended assessment of approaches and identified trends, similarities and new directions taken by countries in the connected policy areas of resource efficiency and the circular economy.

These reports, comprising a compilation of extensive survey responses from countries, were accompanied by 32 country profiles.

In the second quarter of 2022 a new survey with questions and guidelines was launched. Based on information reported by the Eionet network, in particular, the Eionet Group on Circular Economy and Resource Use, and after review and editing by the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use (ETC CE), the 30 2022 CE country profiles³ were published alongside the EEA report 'Circular Economy policy innovation and good practice in Member States'⁴ (2022).

These 2024 CE country profiles are an update of the 2022 ones and based on the responses of 29 countries to the survey questions and guidelines that were launched in March 2024. The information in the countries' responses was again reviewed and edited by the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use. A selection of Eurostat data was made to further complement these country profiles.

The main objectives of these assessments and its updates are to: • stimulate exchange of information and share good practice examples among country experts; • support policymakers in Eionet countries, the European institutions and international organisations by providing an updated catalogue of circular economy actions being undertaken in European countries.

This circular economy country profile is based on information reported by the Eionet network and, in particular, the Eionet Group members on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy in the second quarter of 2024. Proposals for the further development or amendment of policies represent the view of the reporting country. For France, all input was provided by the Ministry of Ecological Transition of France. The information was reviewed and edited by the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use. A selection of Eurostat data was made to further complement this country profile.

¹ [More from less — material resource efficiency in Europe — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2016/06/16-06-2016)

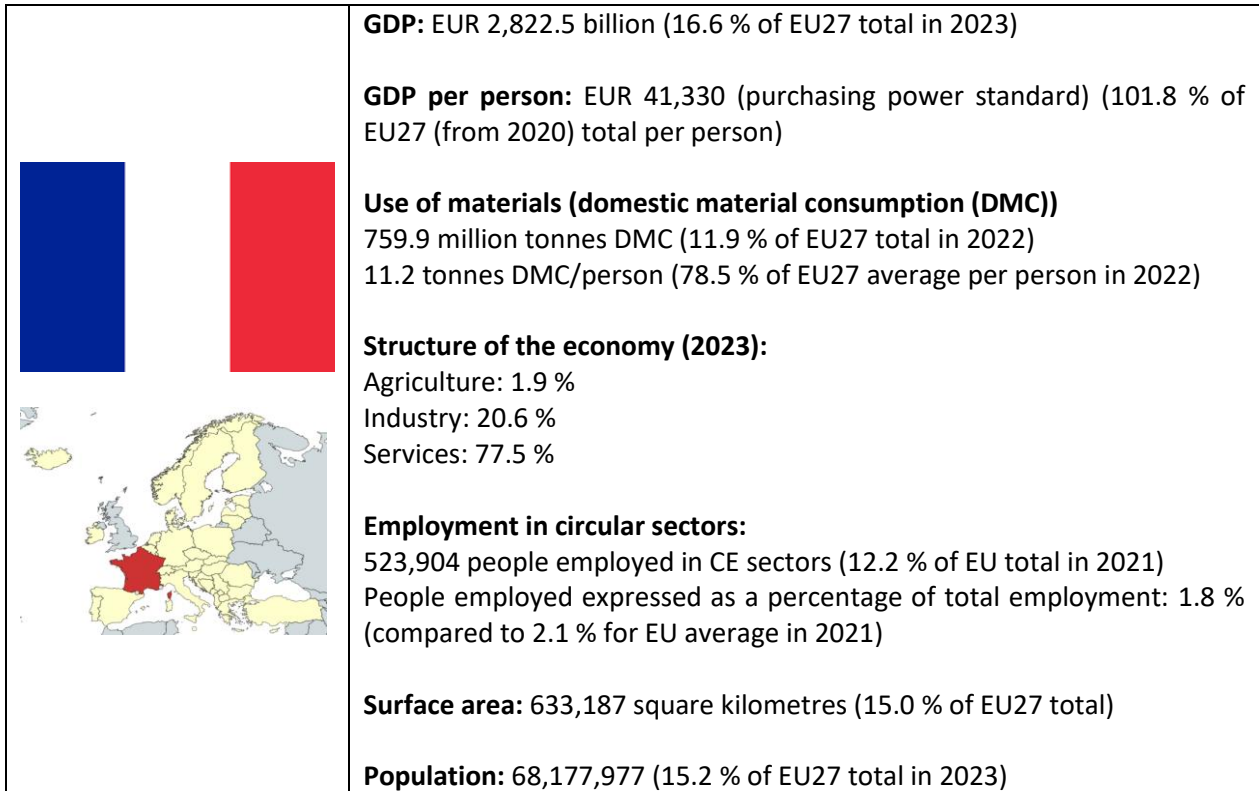
² [Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe 2019 — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2019/06/19-06-2019)

³ [Country profiles on Circular Economy in Europe — Eionet Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2022/06/22-06-2022)

⁴ [draft-report-for-dg-env_final.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2022/06/22-06-2022)

The information is current as of September 2024, when members of Eionet verified the content of this profile.

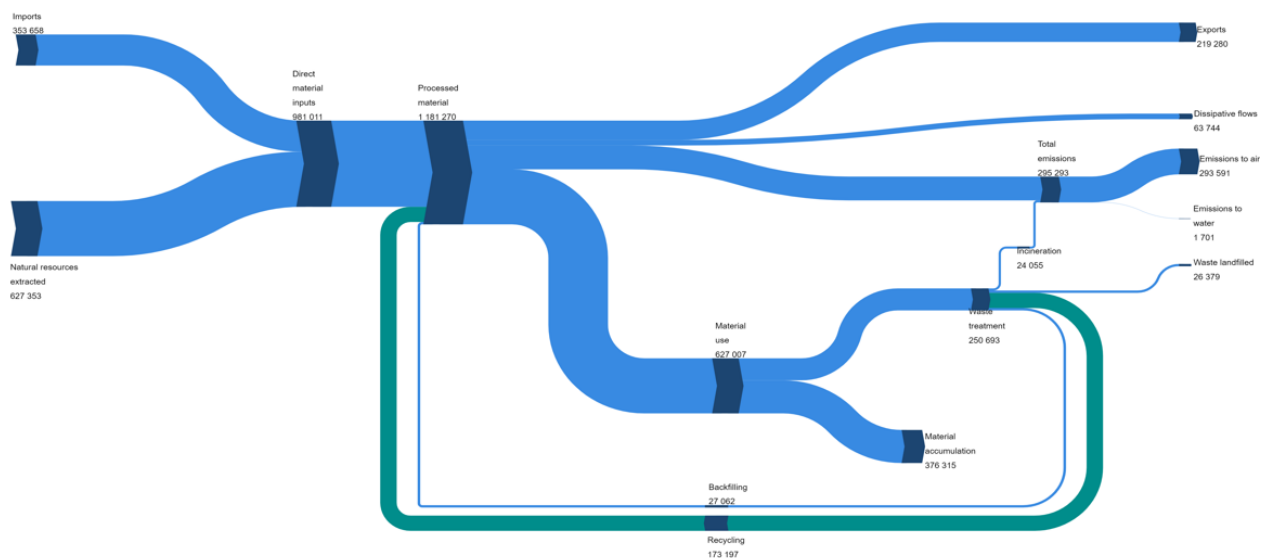
France – facts and figures



Note: all definitions and metadata used in this profile are taken, as shown, from Eurostat

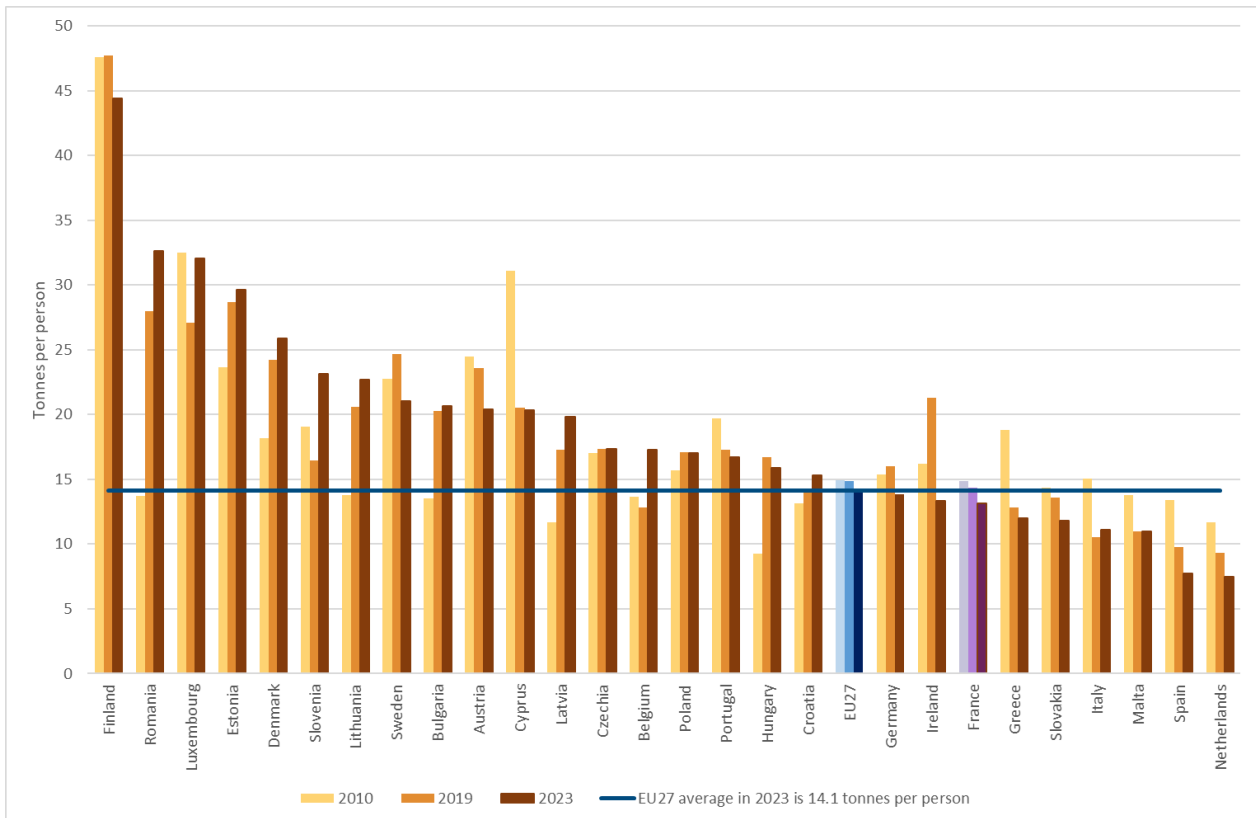
Source: Eurostat datasets, EU27 2021 EU27 2022 and EU27 2023 (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 1 Material flow diagram for France in 2022, thousand tonnes



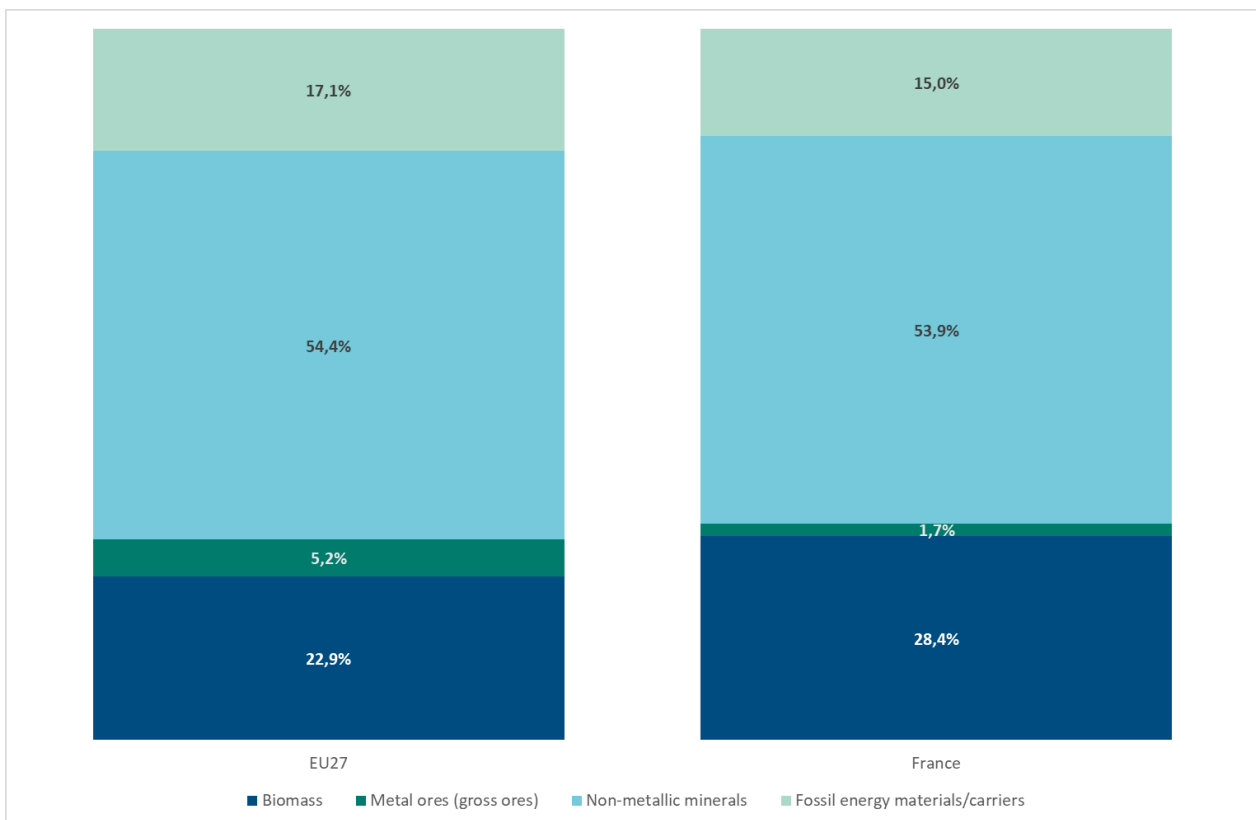
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa], [en_ac_sd], [env_wassd] (accessed 10 June 2024)

Figure 2 Material footprint (raw material consumption), 2010, 2019 and 2023, tonnes per person



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_rme] (accessed 21 August 2024)

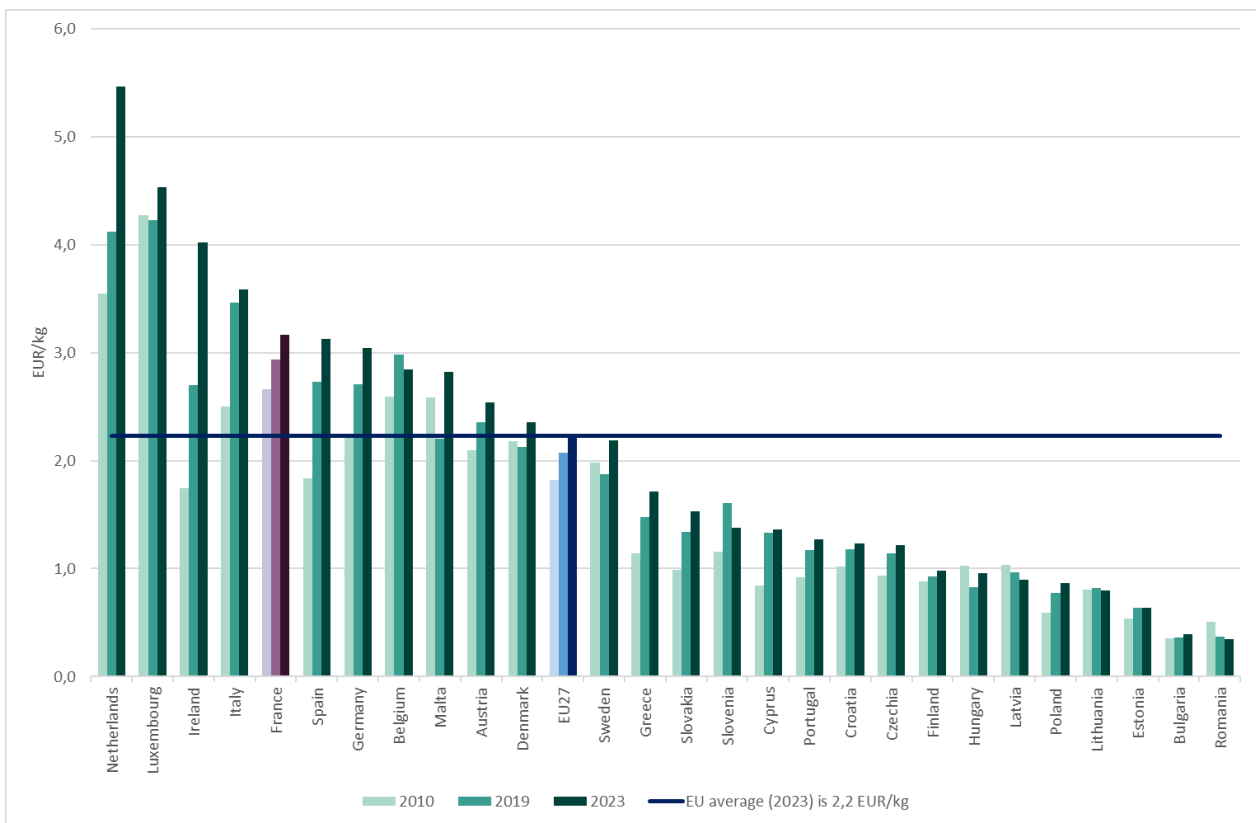
Figure 3 Domestic material consumption by selected material category, EU and France, 2023, per cent



Note: totals may not sum to 100 % due to rounding

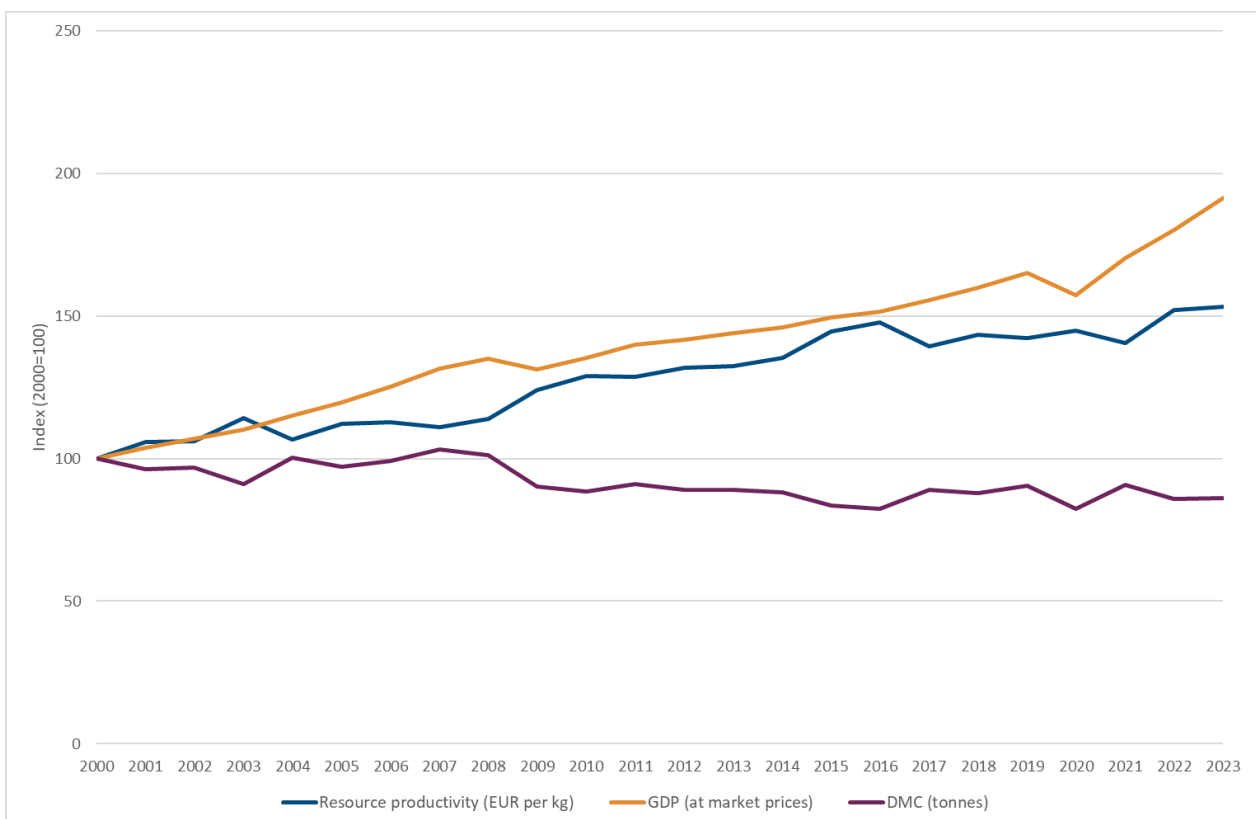
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 4 Resource productivity (gross domestic product/domestic material consumption), EU27, 2010, 2019 and 2023, EUR per kilogramme



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_rp] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 5 Gross domestic product, domestic material consumption and resource productivity trends, France, 2000–2023, index (2000=100)



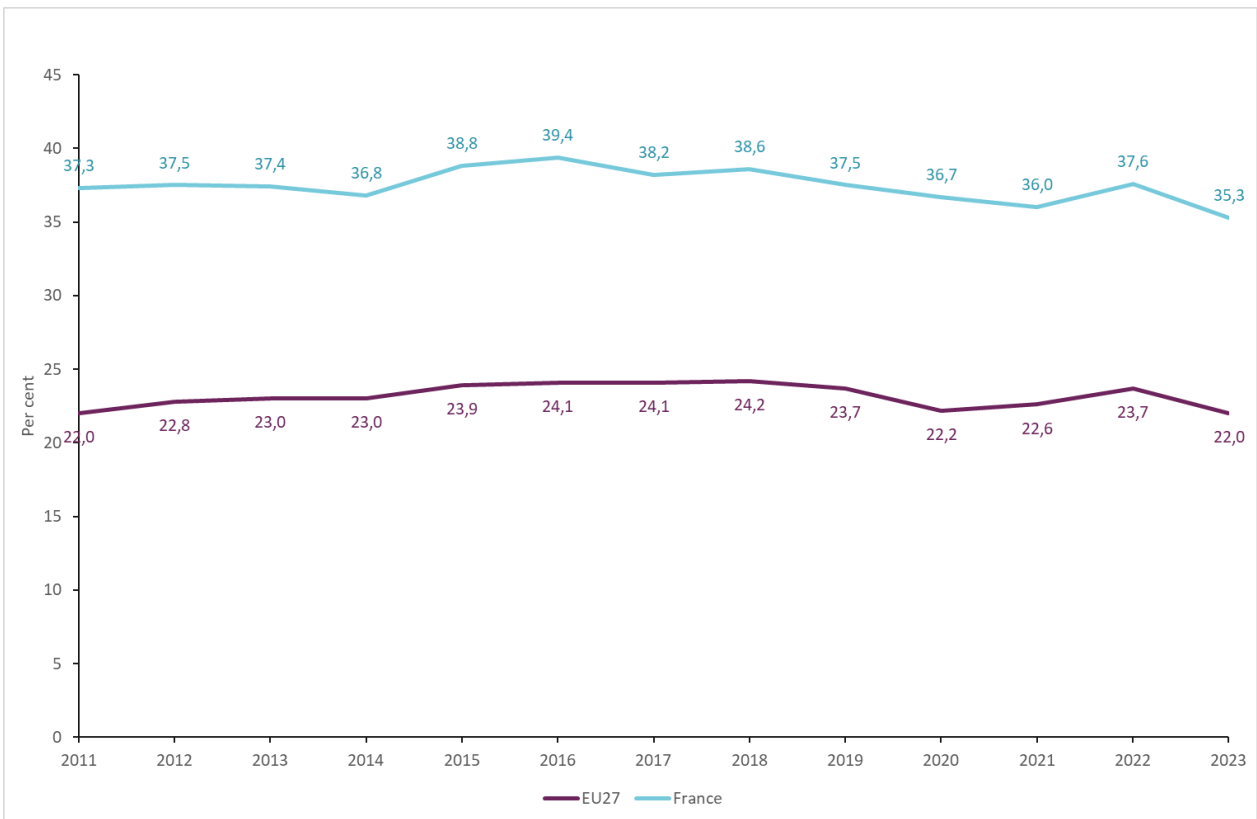
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa], [env_ac_rp] & [nama_10_gdp] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 6 Circular material use rate in France, 2011–2022, per cent



Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_cur] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 7 Material import dependency in France, 2011-2023, per cent



Source: Eurostat (2024) [cei_gsr030] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Existing policy framework

Dedicated national and/or regional strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy

National level

Following on from the **Circular Economy Roadmap adopted in 2018**, the **Anti Waste Law (2020)** ⁽⁵⁾ and the Climate and Resilience law (2021), numerous measures are being rolled out to speed up the transition to the circular economy. One of the emblematic quantified targets of the anti-waste law is to end the marketing of single-use plastic packaging by 2040.

Some of the **key measures** currently being rolled out include:

1. The gradual roll-out of the new extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes provided for in the anti-waste law. The anti-waste law provides for the creation of 11 new EPR schemes between 2021 and 2025 ⁽⁶⁾. Since 2022, EPR schemes have been set up for construction products and materials ⁽⁷⁾, toys ⁽⁸⁾, sports and leisure articles ⁽⁹⁾, DIY and garden articles ⁽¹⁰⁾, mineral or synthetic oils ⁽¹¹⁾, and packaging used by catering professionals, which will be extended to all professional packaging in 2025.
2. Gradual deployment of the reform of existing EPR schemes as the specifications governing their implementation are renewed:
 - a. Introduction of modulation of contributions paid to producer responsibility organisations (PROs) with bonuses and/or penalties, according to environmental criteria linked to the eco-design of products,
 - b. Deployment of repair funds and re-use funds in 6 EPR sectors (toys, electrical and electronic equipment, textiles, do-it-yourself and garden products, furniture),
 - c. Integration of re-use, repair and recycling targets alongside collection and recovery targets,
 - d. Development of five-year eco-design plans, etc.

The targets for the various EPR schemes for each sector ⁽¹²⁾ are available.

3. The establishment on **national observatory for reuse** as an extension of the Climate and Resilience Act: this is a forum for sharing and capitalising on knowledge, as well as providing expertise and decision support in the area of reuse and recycling of products and packaging subject to the EPR principle. The EPR schemes covered by the Observatory's work are listed ⁽¹³⁾. In particular, the Observatory publishes **the reuse dashboard** ⁽¹⁴⁾.

A report on the work carried out by the observatory in 2023 is available ⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁵ https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/documents/en_DP%20PJL.pdf

⁶ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/cadre-general-des-filieres-responsabilite-elargie-des-producteurs#scroll-nav> 10 (in French)

⁷ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques/produits-materiaux-construction-du-secteur-du-batiment-pmcb> (in French)

⁸ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/jouets> (in French)

⁹ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/articles-sport-et-loisir-asl> (in French)

¹⁰ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques/articles-bricolage-jardin-abj> (in French)

¹¹ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques/huiles-minerales-synthetiques> (in French)

¹² <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP> (in French)

¹³ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/observatoire-reemploi-reutilisation/presentation> (in French)

¹⁴ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/observatoire-reemploi-reutilisation/tableau-bord> (in French)

¹⁵ <https://librairie.ademe.fr/ged/8454/Rencontres-Observatoire-Reemploi-Reutilisation-23-01-2024-Presentation.pdf> (in French)

This observatory includes a national reparation committee, which provides a forum for discussion with stakeholders in order to make progress on the subject of reparation (reparation funds, economic models, monitoring of reparation activity as a whole).

4. The establishment of new consumer information measures, including the creation of **repairability scores** ⁽¹⁶⁾ (relating to a product's ability to be repaired) and **durability scores** ⁽¹⁷⁾ (relating to a product's ability to last over time), as well as new requirements **to combat greenwashing** ⁽¹⁸⁾.
5. The creation of measures to promote circular economy through public procurement, with **mandatory targets** ⁽¹⁹⁾ **for 2024, 2027 and 2027** for public buyers to purchase products from reuse or that contain recycled materials.

In addition to the implementation of the anti-waste law and climate and resilience law, in 2022 France introduced an **ecological planning process** ⁽²⁰⁾, the aim of which is to adopt a global approach aimed at integrating the ecological transition into all sectors of public action and taking coordinated action to meet the 5 major challenges of the ecological transition, namely:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to limit the effects of climate change and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050,
- Adapting to the effects of climate change,
- Restoring biodiversity,
- Reducing the exploitation of natural resources at a rate that is sustainable for the environment,
- Reducing pollution and its effects on health.

This approach is being rolled out in 22 operational areas, overseen by the **GSEP (general secretariat for ecological planning)** ⁽²¹⁾ and is the subject of action plans, one of which focuses on circular economy. The guidelines adopted to move towards a circular economy are as follows:

- Support for eco-design
- Support for industrial ecology
- Developing business models that aim to intensify the use of the product (case of the functionality economy)
- Improving collection and sorting
- The development of business models for extending product life of products
- Development of the recycling business model
- The evolution of EPR channels towards greater prevention and optimisation of waste recovery
- Deployment of environmental labelling
- Developing more responsible communication
- Developing the supply of bulk products and reusable packaging for consumers
- More responsible public procurement
- Actions to be taken for EPR schemes,

The GSEP works closely with the various ministerial departments to define the terms of reference for each operational area. Once the mandates have been defined, the relevant ministries and GSEP are carrying out an in-depth analysis of the situation. On the basis of this shared diagnosis, based on objective data, the ministries will submit their proposals for priority actions. Priority actions are implemented by working groups involving the relevant stakeholders. This work is, depending on the case, provided by the ministries that are responsible for the policies addressed in the various workstreams or by the GSEP. The GSEP

¹⁶ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/indice-reparabilite> (in French)

¹⁷ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/indice-durabilite> (in French)

¹⁸ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/encadrement-des-allegations-environnementales-et-information-du-consommateur-sur-produits> (in French)

¹⁹ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049184670> (in French)

²⁰ <https://www.info.gouv.fr/france-nation-verte#cest-quoi-le-plan-> (in French)

²¹ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000046026058> (in French)

ensures that timetables and ambitions are respected. When decisions have to be made, it forwards them to the Prime Minister. It consolidates the work and ensures that it is consistent.

As part of this process, an **Action Plan** ⁽²²⁾ has been put in place in 2023: it defines the objectives, transitions and levers, sector by sector, player by player, to achieve the ambitions, particularly in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A number of projects are underway to refine and enrich the plan, particularly on the subject of the circular economy and adaptation. The plan will be adjusted according to the results obtained.

An **ecological planning dashboard** ⁽²³⁾ is regularly updated: it includes 250 indicators to measure the objectives to be achieved by 2030, particularly in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The indicators are divided into 9 sections, **one of which covers the circular economy** ⁽²⁴⁾, with around fifteen indicators. The tool will be expanded as work progresses. Work is also underway to extend the trajectories beyond 2030. The trajectories shown are sometimes based on official targets and sometimes on technical working hypotheses to date, which may change.

This dashboard is updated regularly.

Ecological planning is rolled out at local level:

- setting up **Regional Conferences** of the Parties (COP régionales) to bring together all the stakeholders in the region to organise the implementation of ecological planning.
- By the summer of 2024, the **regions will draw up a roadmap for their action** on climate and the environment up to 2030.

The dashboard of ecological planning indicators is intended to be territorialised (work in progress).

As a part of the anti-waste law, on the subject of plastics, France introduced a **3R strategy on plastic packaging** in April 2022 ⁽²⁵⁾. The aim of this strategy is to achieve the objective of putting an end to the marketing of single-use plastic packaging by 2040. The law also specifies that a reduction target, a re-use target and a recycling target are to be set by decree for the period 2021-2025, and then for each subsequent five-year period.

Three targets are set by the first 3R decree (2021-2025):

- A target of a 20% reduction in single-use plastic packaging by the end of 2025, at least half of which will be achieved through reuse;
- A target of a 100% reduction in “unnecessary” single-use plastic packaging, such as plastic blister packs around batteries and light bulbs, by the end of 2025;
- A target of 100% recycling of single-use plastic packaging by 1 January 2025 and, to achieve this, a target for single-use plastic packaging placed on the market to be recyclable, not to disrupt sorting or recycling chains, and not to contain substances or elements likely to limit the use of the recycled material.

A number of measures have been put in place to achieve this objective, and more generally to **put an end to single-use plastics**:

After the first bans in 2020 and 2021 (straws, disposable cutlery, takeaway cup lids, expanded polystyrene boxes, etc.), new obligations came into force in 2022:

- establishments open to the public must be equipped with at least one drinking water fountain that is accessible and free to the public, and with clear and visible signage;
- plastic toys offered free of charge to children as part of catering menus are banned;

²² [GSEP Taking Action, Ecological Planning](#)

²³ <https://www.vie-publique.fr/en-bref/293386-planification-ecologique-250-indicateurs-sur-les-objectifs-2030> (in French)

²⁴ <https://e.infogram.com/95444dec-4126-496a-85ce-6a017217c0a4?src=embed> (in French)

²⁵ [3R strategy on plastic packaging](#)

- integration of the requirement to stop buying single-use plastics, whether for use in the workplace or at events organised as part of the State's public procurement contracts,
- obligation to use reusable crockery, cutlery and containers for transporting food and drink for home catering services offering a subscription to prepared meals delivered at least 4 times a week,
- obligation for catering establishments (with at least 20 places) to serve meals on the premises using reusable crockery,
- obligation for producers to put reusable packaging on the market, 5% by 2023 (10% by 2027) etc.

All the measures taken to reduce the use of single-use plastics are publicly available ⁽²⁶⁾.

Dedicated local strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy

Circular or Zero Waste Cities

Many French towns and cities launched **zero waste initiatives** following the call for projects launched by ADEME in 2014. For some of these areas, the initiative has been renewed. This is the case of Roubaix, for example. The Roubaix town council initiated a Zero Waste policy in 2011 after winning a nationwide call for projects on the theme of 'Zero waste, zero wastage'. The approach is designed to transform the town by mobilising all local stakeholders to reduce waste production and any forms of wastage. It is also an exemplary and inclusive project that promotes the circular economy (CE) and should contribute to developing employment and businesses. Since 2018, the city has a Circular Economy Department with three people dedicated to the development of circular businesses in the city.

These initiatives are not local versions of the circular economy roadmap, but incorporate and are consistent with the provisions of the various laws relating to the circular economy (energy transition law for green growth, circular economy roadmap, anti-waste law, climate and resilience law).

More recently, ADEME has introduced a "Territory committed to ecological transition ²⁷" label. This programme supports local authorities in structuring their ecological transition policy and their territorial project. It is based on two thematic guidelines: Climate Air Energy and Circular Economy.

ADEME has developed operational tools for local authorities to support them in their actions (action guidelines, territoiresentransition.fr steering platform) and offers financial support, training and personalised coaching. 359 local authorities are involved in the approach, covering a population of 32.7 million, i.e. almost 50% of the French population.

²⁶ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-pollution-plastique> (in French)

²⁷ <https://agirpourlatransition.ademe.fr/collectivites/territoire-engage-transition-ecologique> (in French)

Circular economy policy elements included in other policies

Circular economy policy element	Included in policy
Public Procurement + further text	Decree no. 2024-134
CE criteria (reuse and incorporation of recycled materials) for product groups: furniture, ICT, ...	Decree no. 2024-134
Implementation plans and prevention programmes	Waste Prevention Plan 2021-2027
The setting up of diagnosis for products, equipment, materials and waste in the building sector	Decree no. 2021-821
Waste prevention and recycling measures	National low carbon strategy

CE in Public Procurement ⁽²⁸⁾

Decree no. 2024-134 is on the obligation for public authorities to procure goods made from reused or reutilised materials or incorporating recycled materials, and on the ban on government procurement of single-use plastic products.

In order to increase the proportion of goods sourced from the circular economy by public purchasers in the State and local authorities, the decree repeals the 2021 decree and amends the list of products covered and, for each of them, the minimum proportion of purchases that must be sourced from the reuse or recycling sector. The decree also sets out a multi-year progression of these percentages up to 2030. For example, under the decree for IT equipment and telephony, the minimum proportion of the annual value of purchases of goods sourced from reuse or recycling must be 20% in 2024, 25% in 2027 and 30% in 2030, and the minimum proportion of the annual value of purchases of goods containing recycled materials 17 product categories are concerned. The decree will come into force in July 2024.

CE included Waste Prevention Plan 2021-2027 ⁽²⁹⁾

Several aspects of the waste prevention plan relate to the circular economy in the sense of “value retention”, such as extending the useful life of products by encouraging their maintenance and repair, combating food waste, developing re-use and recycling, and reducing the number of single-use products, including single-use plastic products.

The plan takes up the various objectives set out in legislation:

- Reduce the quantities of household and similar waste produced per inhabitant by 15% by 2030 compared with 2010 (AGEC law)
- Reduce by 5% the quantities of waste from economic activities per unit of value produced, in particular from the building and public works sector, by 2030 / 2010
- Increase the re-use of waste to reach a quantity equivalent to 5% of the tonnage of household waste by 2030
- Increase the proportion of reused packaging placed on the market to 5% by 2023 and 10% by 2027
- Reduce food waste by 50% by 2025, compared with 2015, in food distribution and mass catering, and by 50% by 2030, compared with 2015, in consumption, production, processing and commercial catering.
- Aim for an end to the marketing of single-use plastic packaging by 2040;
- Reduce the number of single-use plastic beverage bottles placed on the market by 50% by 2030.

²⁸ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049184670> (in French)

²⁹ [Waste Prevention Plan 2021-2027](#) (in French)

CE included in the building sector ⁽³⁰⁾

Introduction of a **diagnosis of the management of products, equipment, materials and waste from the demolition or major renovation of buildings (PEMW diagnosis)**. This decree follows on from the anti-waste law of which provides for the pre-demolition waste diagnosis to be replaced by a “products, equipment, materials and waste” (PEMW) diagnosis. The aim of this new diagnosis is to encourage and strengthen the implementation of circular economy approaches in the building industry, with priority given to re-use. The system is divided into two stages: a diagnosis prior to the works and a review once the works have been completed.

The PEMW diagnosis provides information on the products, equipment, materials and waste expected from these demolition or major renovation operations, with a view, as a priority, to their reuse or, failing that, their recovery. This diagnosis also indicates the recommended re-use or management and recovery channels and recommends additional analyses to ensure that these products, equipment and materials can be re-used. If it is not possible to reuse or recover the waste, the diagnosis will specify how it is to be disposed of.

Once the demolition or major renovation work has been completed, the project owner is then required to draw up an **inventory form** showing the nature and quantities of products, equipment and materials reused or intended for reuse, and the quantities of waste actually reused, recycled, recovered (in the form of materials or for energy production) or disposed of. The form also mentions the companies or collection or recovery centres to which these products, equipment, materials and waste have been deposited and provides evidence of this deposit. The project owner must submit the inspection form within 90 days of completion of the works.

CE included in the national low carbon strategy ⁽³¹⁾

The development of the circular economy is integrated as a lever for reducing GHG emissions in the industrial sector by controlling the consumption of materials and increasing the reincorporation of recycled materials.

Beyond the industrial sector, waste prevention through eco-design of products, reuse and repair of products, improved collection and recycling also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new national low carbon strategy is being drawn up.

Monitoring and targets

Assessment of circular economy performance

The European Commission has set up a [monitoring framework](#) to keep track of progress towards a circular economy. This framework provides a holistic view as it:

- measures direct and indirect benefits of 'becoming circular' and
- values the contribution of a circular economy in living well within the limits of the planet
- addresses energy and material supply risks.

It consists of **5 thematic sections** with a total of **11 statistical indicators**, some of which have additional sub-indicators. In some cases policy targets exist which should be achieved in the future, and the indicators monitor progress towards these targets. The current monitoring framework is a revision of the original framework which was set up in 2018.

³⁰ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques/diagnostic-produits-equipements-materiaux-dechets-pemd> (in French)

³¹ https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/documents/19092_strategie-carbone-FR_oct-20.pdf (in French)

This section elaborates on the assessment of France's progress in terms of observed trends over the last 5 years and what country characteristics or policy actions may explain differences between the country its performance and the average EU performance.

Overall, **the transition to a circular economy seems to be underway**. However, certain improvements appear to be vulnerable and need to be strengthened: the indicators linked to our consumption of materials are improving over the long term, but they remain highly dependent on the economy. The international context also has a major impact, as shown by the closure of China's borders influencing the amount of waste going to landfill. Household spending on repairs (appliances and equipment) is growing slower than spending on new goods, although more frequent repairs seem to be emerging. If this proves to be the case, it will be a source of jobs, most of which cannot be relocated. The inclusion of secondary raw materials in production processes is generally increasing, but the positive developments do not apply to all materials and the circular material use rate remains low. Plastic and demolition waste are sources of materials that need to be better recovered.

The **employment estimates for the CE** are different from those published by Eurostat: 811,400 full-time equivalents for French ecological transition statistics department versus 523,900 for Eurostat (2021). This is due to a difference in scope, not quality. In particular, the inclusion of organic farming accounts for half the difference.

There is **no estimate for the informal/voluntary circular economy**.

Circular economy monitoring frameworks and their indicators beyond the ones from Eurostat

We develop our own monitoring framework. Since 2017 we have published **key indicators for monitoring the circular economy**. Originally numbering 10, they were updated in 2021 and currently number 11 ⁽³²⁾. They will again be updated and published (in principle by the end of 2024) as a **web dashboard** and no longer as a PDF publication. This will enable indicators to be updated as and when they become available, without having to wait until they are all available.

We plan to add a few indicators to our monitoring framework. Two new features are:

- **patents** related to recycling and secondary raw materials
- % of **households** having purchased in the past month, one or more **eco-labelled products**

We also plan to improve existing indicators:

- number of **industrial symbiosis initiatives** replaced by “surface of initiatives”;
- **food waste**: modification of the methodology in accordance with the European definition;
- **jobs**: extension to the entire circular economy sector.

We plan to publish one sheet per indicator, with the following headings for each:

- context/definition;
- objective;
- trend;
- a graph showing the trend.

The indicators will also be grouped together in a single table showing the annual time series since 2010, and the average annual change.

Our **indicators do not include social aspects** (apart from jobs). We need to make progress in this area.

³² <https://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/indicateurs-cles-pour-le-suivi-de-leconomie-circulaire-edition-2021> (in French)

This data is available to the wider public.

Circular economy targets

Many circular economy targets have been set in France. Some of these targets are based on targets set in European legislation (Waste Framework Directive, SUP Directive, sectoral directives such as batteries, D3E, packaging, etc.). These targets are not included here.

Other targets are specific to France:

- Reduce natural resource use related to French consumption: 30 % reduction in resource consumption in relation to GDP between 2010 and 2030;
- Prevention target for household waste (-15% between 2010 and 2030 per inhabitant);
- End of marketing of plastic packaging by 2040, with intermediate targets set every 5 years by decree (see question 1 for the first five-year decree);
- Achieve a proportion of 5% of reused packaging put into circulation in France in 2023, expressed in sales units or sales unit equivalents, and 10% in 2027;
- Achieve the equivalent of 5% of the tonnage of household waste (and in particular electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furnishings) being prepared for re-use by 2030;
- In 2022, the amount of household waste electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furnishings prepared for re-use amounted to 17,3604 tonnes. Most of this was textiles (66.4%), furniture (23.1%) and electrical and electronic equipment (10.5%);
- By 2025, reduce food waste by 50% compared to its 2015 level in the areas of food distribution and mass catering, and by 2030, by 50% compared to its 2015 level in the areas of consumption, production, processing and commercial catering;
- Increase the quantity of waste recovered in the form of materials, particularly organic waste, by directing 55% of non-hazardous non-inert waste by 2020 and 65% by 2025, measured in mass, towards these recovery methods;
- Aim for 100% recycled plastic by 1 January 2025;
- Reduce the quantities of non-hazardous non-inert waste admitted to landfill by 30% in 2020 compared with 2010, and by 50% in 2025;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: avoid the emission of 8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year thanks to plastic recycling;
- Create up to 300,000 additional jobs, including in new professions.

New targets have been set in connection with the deployment of the new EPR sectors provided for under the anti-waste law: the **DIY and garden products** sector ⁽³³⁾, **sports and leisure products** ⁽³⁴⁾, **construction products and materials for the building sector** ⁽³⁵⁾, and the **toys** sector ⁽³⁶⁾.

The circular economy objectives of a number of former EPR sectors (those that existed before the anti-waste law) have also evolved, for example to include reuse, or have become more ambitious. The **objectives of the EPR schemes** are also available ⁽³⁷⁾.

Some targets have been **regularly monitored** for many years: for example, the target to reduce the landfilling of non-hazardous waste, set out in the Energy Transition Law for Green Growth, which was to reduce the landfilling of non-hazardous non-inert waste by 25% between 2010 and 2020, and by 50%

³³ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP/filiere-ABJ> (in French)

³⁴ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP/filiere-ASL> (in French)

³⁵ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP/filiere-PMCB> (in French)

³⁶ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP/filiere-JOUET> (in French)

³⁷ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-rep> (in French)

between 2010 and 2025. In 2022, the reduction in landfill compared with 2010 was -23%, close to the 2020 target but far from the 2025 target. Various measures are currently being implemented to rectify the situation: An increase in the landfill tax, the introduction of new extended producer responsibility schemes and more ambitious targets for existing schemes, increased support as part of the recovery plan, the circular economy fund and France 2030, support for the development of a solid fuel recovery scheme for non-recyclable waste, the roll-out of source separation of bio-waste, etc. The objective of reducing landfill is monitored as part of ecological planning. Numerous targets are also set as part of the extended producer responsibility schemes, of which there are many in France. To ensure better monitoring of the implementation of the obligations of these schemes, a department for the supervision of these schemes has been created within ADEME. This creation has been accompanied by a strengthening of the obligations for the transmission of the data necessary for the proper monitoring of these channels by the producer responsibility organisations and the individual systems to ADEME. The anti-waste law also increased the penalties for failure to comply with the regulatory obligations relating to extended producer responsibility.

With the introduction of the ecological planning dashboard, a certain number of objectives deemed to be priorities are being monitored more closely, with the aim of taking corrective action if the monitoring indicator for an objective is not on track.

To date, we have **not identified a target for the circular use of materials (CMU) rate.**

Innovative approaches and good practices

Examples of public policy initiatives (national, regional or local)

- ➔ *Good practice example: Product-related policies, including on the R-strategies (repair, reuse, remanufacturing, etc)*

Reparability and durability score ⁽³⁸⁾

France conducted a study ⁽³⁹⁾ to assess the influence of the reparability index on consumer purchasing behaviour. With the reparability index due to evolve into a sustainability index in 2024, it seemed essential to understand and objectify the impact of the scheme.

According to the study, the index has led to changes in consumer purchasing practices, with consumers moving towards more repairable choices, and retailers seemingly keen to sell increasingly repairable products.

Four results were identified, demonstrating an evolution in consumer purchasing practices:

- A positive, but not statistically significant, effect of the introduction of the index on sales of repairable products compared to less repairable products. There was a clear increase in sales of more repairable products, but this cannot be attributed with sufficient confidence to the introduction of the index alone;
- The introduction of the index had a positive and statistically significant effect on sales of more repairable products online, and a positive (but non-significant) effect on those sold in-store;
- Both retailers studied sold increasingly repairable products, and in greater proportions than less repairable products;
- Since the introduction of the index, product scores have risen, underlining the positive effects of the new, increasingly repairable models offered to consumers.

³⁸ [Repairability and durability indices](#)

³⁹ <https://www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr/donnees-et-ressources/ressources/liens-utiles/article/evaluation-d-impact-de-l-indice-de-reparabilite/> (in French)

Taken together, these results testify to a virtuous circle: the index encourages changes in consumer behaviour, while at the same time changing the products on the market.

The repair bonus ⁽⁴⁰⁾

Deployed since December 2022, the repair bonus is an amount deducted directly from the bill of consumers who go to a labelled repair centre to have their product repaired. The aim of the repair bonus is to encourage consumers to repair a broken product, rather than replacing it with a new one; the products concerned, and the bonus amounts are the same throughout France and in the French Overseas Territories; to date, there is a repair bonus for electrical and electronic products, textiles and footwear, with other products to follow.

The repair bonus is financed by contributions paid by producers to government-approved producer responsibility organisations as part of extended producer responsibility schemes.

- **Application for electrical and electronic products**

The repair bonus applies to 73 types of electrical and electronic products: hoovers, washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, mobile phones, televisions, computers, steam generators, cookers, drills, toasters, coffee machines, etc. To benefit from the repair bonus, you need to visit a "Qualirépar" approved repairer, listed for its professional skills. All types of repairs are represented: craftsmen, independent repairers, industrial repairers, manufacturer after-sales services and distributor after-sales services. In 2024, the repair bonus has been strengthened (an increase in the repair bonus for a large number of products, extension of the bonus to new products, etc.).

- **Application for textiles and footwear**

This "repair bonus" applies to all clothing and footwear belonging to the textiles, household linen and footwear sector (excluding underwear and household linen for phase 1). These are repairs, not alterations (sizing) or upcycling, such as a tear, lining, resealing, etc. To benefit from the repair bonus, you need to visit a certified "repairer". Approved repairers include shoemakers, alterers, brands and distributors offering a repair service. To obtain the label, you need to apply via a single portal managed by the Refashion eco-organisation.

➔ *Good practice example: Producer /supplier responsibility*

The EPR scheme for construction products and materials for the building sector

France has introduced many extended producer responsibility schemes (EPR schemes) to speed up the implementation of the circular economy. The anti-waste law adds 11 new extended producer responsibility schemes to the 12 that already existed prior to the law.

The EPR scheme for construction products and materials for the building sector (called PMCB in French) is particularly important in view of the amount of waste generated by this sector (42 million tonnes, equivalent to the total amount of waste produced annually by households in France) and the performance of its management. The recycling rate for inert waste is only 30%, and only 25% of non-hazardous construction waste is recovered. Several million tonnes of waste from the construction sector are still going to landfill. Construction waste, particularly asbestos-containing waste, is also frequently found in illegal dumps.

The aim of the EPR system for the construction industry is thus to:

- a. Reduce illegal dumping by improving waste collection through the free collection of waste, increasing the number of collection points and improving traceability;
- b. Prevent landfill saturation by developing material recycling and reuse.

Several objectives have been set for this sector:

⁴⁰ [the repair bonus](#)

Collection targets for each waste stream (for inert waste, 82% must be collected by 2024, and 93% by 2027; for other waste, the figures are 53% and 62% respectively).

Recovery targets

- For inert waste, 77% recovered and 35% recycled by 2024, and 88% recovered and 43% recycled by 2027.
- For other waste streams, 48% of waste recovered and 39% recycled by 2024, and 57% recovered and 45% recycled by 2027.

Recycling targets have also been set for:

- Concrete: 60% to be recycled by 2024;
- Metal: 90% to be recycled by 2024;
- Wood: 42% from 2024, rising to 45% by 2027;
- Gypsum: 19% by 2024, rising to 37% by 2027;
- Plastics: 17% by 2024, rising to 24% by 2027;
- Glass: 4% in 2024, then 18% in 2027.

The targets for re-use (excluding backfill) are set at 2% in 2024 and 4% in 2027.

The **PMCB EPR scheme** ⁽⁴¹⁾ also has **obligations in terms of the territorial coverage of free waste collection points**. The aim is to ensure that there are enough take-back points throughout the country to guarantee effective free take-back of PMCBs at the end of their life cycle.

➔ *Good practice example: Financial support programmes targeting CE*

Financial support for the circular economy - France 2030 ⁽⁴²⁾

France 2030 (an investment plan worth €54 billion over 5 years) includes financial support for the development of recycling, in particular through the financing tools deployed as part of the

“Recyclability, recycling and reincorporation of materials” acceleration strategy and a call for projects dedicated to the industrial deployment of plastics, composites and elastomer recycling projects.

Focused on 5 priority materials (plastics including elastomers, composites, strategic metals, textiles, and paper/cardboard), the acceleration strategy aims to support research and development projects across the innovation chain to improve the recyclability of products, develop a supply of high-quality recycled raw materials and their reincorporation. The following have been launched:

- **A priority research programme and equipment** ⁽⁴³⁾: the aim is to provide financial support for fundamental research projects with a technological maturity level of between 1 and 4;
- **A call for proposals to support projects in the process of maturing** ⁽⁴⁴⁾: the aim is to strengthen the support chain for high-potential innovation projects, and accelerate their transfer to the socio-economic world (TRL 4-6);
- **A call of projects to support demonstrator** projects ⁽⁴⁵⁾ (“innovative solutions for improving the recyclability, recycling and reincorporation of materials” known as the “RRR”);
- **A call for proposals to support projects to develop jobs and skills** ⁽⁴⁶⁾.

⁴¹ <https://filieres-rep.ademe.fr/filieres-REP/filiere-PMCB> (in French)

⁴² <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/france-2030> (in French)

⁴³ <https://www.cnrs.fr/fr/presse/france-2030-un-tout-nouveau-programme-pour-accelerer-le-recyclage-et-la-re-utilisation-des> in French)

⁴⁴ <https://anr.fr/fr/detail/call/maturation-pre-maturation-appel-a-propositions/> (in French)

⁴⁵ <https://agirpourlatransition.ademe.fr/entreprises/aides-financieres/20220613/solutions-innovantes-lamelioration-recyclabilite-recyclage> (in French)

⁴⁶ <https://anr.fr/fr/detail/call/competences-et-metiers-davenir-cma-appel-a-manifestation-dinteret-2021-2025/> (in French)

Between 2021 and the end of March 2024, the implementation of this strategy has benefited from almost €180m of public support, including almost €100m for the RRR PAA (support for 33 projects at the end of March).

Between 2022 and March 2024, **the call of project on plastics, composites and elastomers recycling** ⁽⁴⁷⁾ provided support for around twenty industrial recycling projects, representing financial support of around €260m. Once up and running, these projects should make it possible to produce or incorporate more than 450,000 tonnes of additional recycled plastics.

Other calls of projects launched as part of FR 2030 are likely to provide financial support for industrial recycling projects. This is particularly the case with the call of project on Critical and Sustainable Metals: by the end of March, **a dozen critical metals recycling projects had received funding**, representing more than €150m in financial support. The development of recycling is seen as a lever for reducing dependence on foreign supplies.

Eco-responsible Digital Acceleration Strategy ⁽⁴⁸⁾

Another financial support through France 2030 has been created for IT product and services: as the financial and investment component of a general policy aimed at reconciling the digital and environmental transitions, the [Eco-responsible Digital Acceleration Strategy](#) aims to develop the eco-responsibility of the digital sector, while at the same time developing a more sober competitive offering of digital solutions. It is structured around 4 axes and 12 measures:

- Supporting methodological developments to enhance knowledge of the environmental footprint of digital technology, and research into eco-design and sobriety of digital solutions;
- Promote innovation for a circular economy in the digital sector, to make France a leader in eco-design, sobriety and extending the lifespan of digital solutions;
- Create a range of initial and continuing training courses on eco-design and digital sobriety;
- Acculturate and support the various players in this digital transformation.

As part of France 2030, a call for projects was launched in July 2023. Its aim is to encourage the emergence of innovative projects to reduce the environmental footprint of digital technology through:

- Ecodesign of digital goods and services to meet the challenges of depleting abiotic resources (fossil fuels, minerals and metals) and rare resources, including critical raw materials;
- Reuse, repair and reconditioning to extend the lifespan of digital goods and services.

In addition to France 2030, the French agency for ecological transition (ADEME) manages a fund dedicated to supporting the development of the circular economy. With a budget of around €160m per year until 2022, this **fund has been almost doubled from 2023**, with a total budget of €300m per year.

The funding is structured around a number of areas, including:

- Sustainable consumption (studies of new consumer practices, structural changes in lifestyles and their impact, improving consumer information, combating food waste, etc);
- Changes in organisation and economic mechanisms (introduction of pay as you throw schemes for household waste services, development of product service system (33 projects supported in 2022 for a total of €2.39m);
- Support for repair and reuse and the extension of the lifespan of products and the development of industrial and territorial ecology;
- Support for waste recycling and in particular material recovery operations (modernization of sorting centres and support for plastics manufacturers to use more materials from recycling, etc.);
- Support for recovery of organic waste including for sorting operations at the source of biowaste;

⁴⁷ <https://agirpoulatransition.ademe.fr/entreprises/aides-financieres/20220406/appel-a-projets-national-recyclage-plastiques-composites-elastomeres> (in French)

⁴⁸ [Eco-responsible Digital Acceleration Strategy](#)

- Communication (financing of national campaigns on extending the lifespan of products with a reminder on the fight against waste, repair, reuse, recycling and reducing the impacts of digital use).

→ *Good practice example: Green/Circular/Sustainable public procurement*

Public procurement ⁽⁴⁹⁾

A study was carried out on the **effect of the mandatory targets** for public buyers to purchase products **from reuse or that contain recycled materials**.

More than 160 billion euros are spent each year on public procurement by the State, local authorities, and inter-municipalities. It is essential to make these purchases a lever for transforming the economy towards a more sustainable and circular model. This is the objective carried through the application of article 58 of the February 10, 2020 law to combat waste and promote a circular economy, known as the AGECE law. Implemented by public purchasers since March 2021, this scheme obliges state and local authority purchasers to acquire certain products derived from reuse or reemployment or which includes recycled materials. Since the new decree published in 2024, the mandatory percentages will gradually increase until 2030. In addition, free acquisitions through donations are now included in this scheme.

Here are a few concrete examples of the obligations set out in the current regulatory framework:

- purchase of 20% reconditioned telephones and 20% incorporating recycled materials per year;
- purchase of 20% second-hand office furniture and 15% made from recycled materials per year;
- 5% second-hand sporting goods and equipment and 20% recycled content per year.

Examples of private policy initiatives (sectoral)

As part of the **National Industry Council and the industry strategic committees** ⁽⁵⁰⁾, the State has pushed companies to develop a **roadmap to accelerate the transition to the circular economy of the construction ecosystem**. Published in January 2024, this roadmap aims to strengthen existing initiatives and come up with new ones, based on close cooperation between companies in different sectors.

This **roadmap** ⁽⁵¹⁾ identifies structuring circular economy projects along three axes: Making construction more circular, making buildings more circular, promoting circularity in public works. The projects focus on reuse and recycling. The actions are very varied and all led by manufacturers: proposals for legal changes to encourage the economic model for reuse in the building sector, assessment of the economic feasibility of recycling buried pipes and connections, study of an economic model for the reuse of roof tiles and bricks via a network of players in the value chain (roofers and bricklayers, manufacturers, inspectors), the design of new installation and gluing techniques to facilitate dismantling, the development of masonry dismantling equipment, the introduction of training, the construction of reference systems, etc.

As part of the **3R strategy on plastics** ⁽⁵²⁾, many federations have drawn up 3Rs sector roadmaps, the aim of which is to qualify and quantify the packaging used by the various sectors and to set out the potential for reduction, reuse and recycling in line with the 3Rs decree (see question 1) and to draw up the roadmap for 2025 and 2040 to achieve these objectives. 25 roadmaps representing 30 sectors (out of the 40

⁴⁹ https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Rapport_evaluation_article_58_loi_AGECE.pdf (in French)

⁵⁰ <https://www.conseil-national-industrie.gouv.fr/decouvrez-19-csf> (in French)

⁵¹ https://www.conseil-national-industrie.gouv.fr/files_cni/files/csf/construction/2024.01.23-feuille-de-route-economie-circulaire-construction.pdf (in French)

⁵² <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Download%20the%20summary%20of%20the%20report.pdf> (in French)

identified in the 3R plastics strategy) were drawn up. Summaries of these roadmaps will soon be available on the ADEME website.

24 of them have been supported by ADEME in 2022 to the tune of €2.2 million. This work, which has led to the various players in the value chain working together, has enabled the trade federations concerned to realise that alternatives to plastic packaging are possible.

Below are a few illustrative examples of sectoral roadmaps drawn up by certain sectors:

- The roadmap drawn up by French players in the **coffee, tea and infusion plant, specialised nutrition** and 6 other grocery trade unions ⁽⁵³⁾;
- The roadmap for the **hygiene and cleaning sector** ⁽⁵⁴⁾;
- The roadmap for the **distribution sector** ⁽⁵⁵⁾.

The way forward

Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

The costs associated with changing the model: investment costs, but also organisational costs, particularly for the development of short circular economy loops, which often require the involvement of other players in the value chain or the development of collective approaches, which is far from companies' usual practices.

The globalisation of value chains, which makes a value chain approach more difficult.

Future policy plans

Two measures relating to the circular economy have been included in the **recovery plan**: one relating to the modernisation of sorting centres to develop recycling, and the development of sorting at source and the recovery of bio-waste, the other one focused on reduction and recycling especially on plastic waste.

Implemented over the period 2021-2022, the recovery plan has made it possible to:

- Support the modernisation of 26 household packaging and paper sorting centres, with a sorting capacity of around 850,000 tonnes, in the context of the extension of sorting instructions to all plastic packaging;
- Support the modernisation of around fifty sorting centres for waste from economic activities (including trade waste collection centres), corresponding to a capacity of 1.3 million tonnes of waste;
- Support more than 100 organisations (including local authorities) to deploy more than 15,000 selective sorting points installed in public spaces;
- Support 130 projects for the organic recovery of bio-waste from economic activities, i.e. 460,000 tonnes of additional bio-waste eventually recovered, and 402 local authorities for the development of source separation of bio-waste, enabling more than 5.5 million additional inhabitants to be covered by a source separation solution;
- Support 325 organisations (including 178 social economy companies) in their projects to develop re-use and repair.

⁵³ <https://syndicatfrançaisducafe.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Synthese-feuille-de-route-Cafe-The-SFNS.pdf> (in French)

⁵⁴ https://www.fher.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/FHER_Rapport-de-synthese_VFcorrige_e_13-10-2023.pdf (in French)

⁵⁵ https://www.fcd.fr/media/filer_public/9f/80/9f801d0f-a85e-4dc7-973b-e312ab857cac/090623_fdr_eic_synthese_publique.pdf (in French)

- Support nearly 500 investment projects for the reduction, reuse or development of alternative solutions for plastic, which will eventually make it possible to avoid nearly 640 million units of single-use plastic packaging.
- Support more than 350 projects for the production or incorporation of recycled plastics, enabling, in a near future, 800,000 tonnes of recycled plastics to be produced or incorporated each year.

European Topic Centre on
Circular economy and resource use
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce>

The European Topic Centre on Circular economy and
resource use (ETC-CE) is a consortium of European
institutes under contract of the European
Environment Agency.

