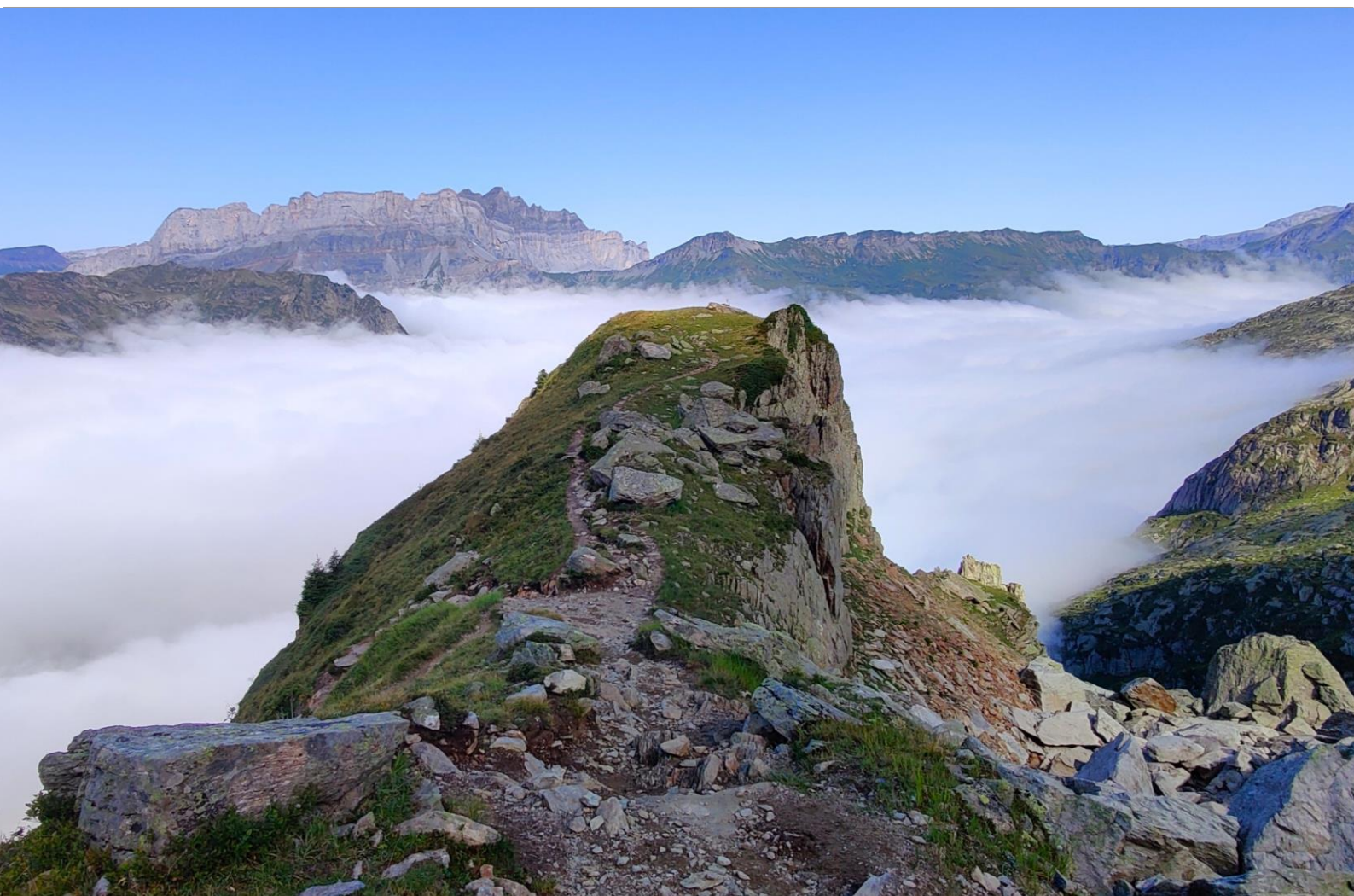


Circular economy country profile 2024 – Finland



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Contents

Introduction.....	2
Finland – 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.....	9
Circular economy policy elements included in other policies.....	9
Monitoring and targets	10
Assessment of circular economy performance.....	10
Circular economy monitoring frameworks and their indicators beyond the ones from Eurostat.....	11
Circular economy targets	11
Innovative approaches and good practices.....	12
Examples of public policy initiatives (national, regional or local)	12
Examples of private policy initiatives (sectoral).....	13
The way forward.....	13
Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges.....	13
Future policy plans	13

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 Finland, all input was provided by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. 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://www.euro.peco.eu/en/more-from-less-material-resource-efficiency-in-europe)

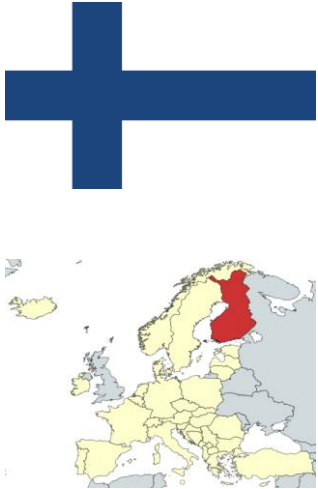
² [Resource efficiency and the circular economy in Europe 2019 – European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://www.euro.peco.eu/en/resource-efficiency-and-the-circular-economy-in-europe-2019)

³ [Country profiles on Circular Economy in Europe – Eionet Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://www.eionet.europa.eu/portal/en/country-profiles-on-circular-economy-in-europe)

⁴ [draft-report-for-dg-env_final.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

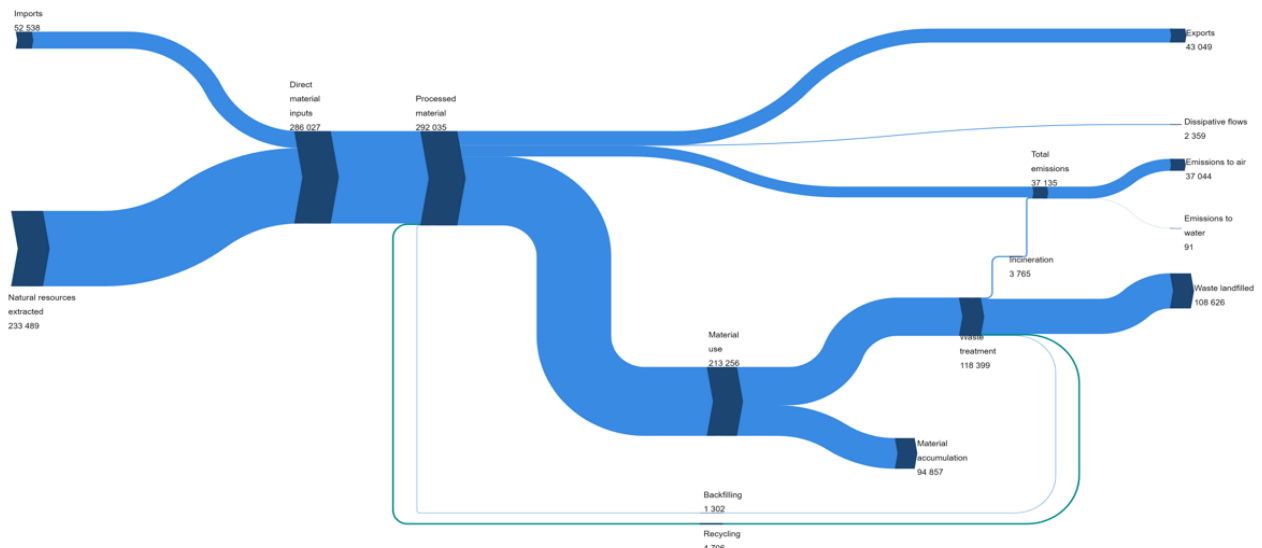
Finland – facts and figures

	GDP: EUR 274.9 billion (1.6 % of EU27 total in 2023)
	GDP per person: EUR 49,280 (purchasing power standard) (106.8 % of EU27 (from 2020) total per person)
	Use of materials (domestic material consumption (DMC)) 257.2 million tonnes DMC (4.0 % of EU27 total in 2022) 46.3 tonnes DMC/person (325.4 % of EU27 average per person in 2022)
	Structure of the economy (2023): Agriculture: 2.8 % Industry: 27.1 % Services: 70.1 %
	Employment in circular sectors: 41,744 people employed in CE sectors (1.0 % of EU total in 2021) People employed expressed as a percentage of total employment: 1.5 % (compared to 2.1 % for EU average in 2021)
Surface area: 338,440 square kilometres (8.0 % of EU27 total)	
Population: 5,563,970 (1.2 % of EU27 total in 2023)	

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

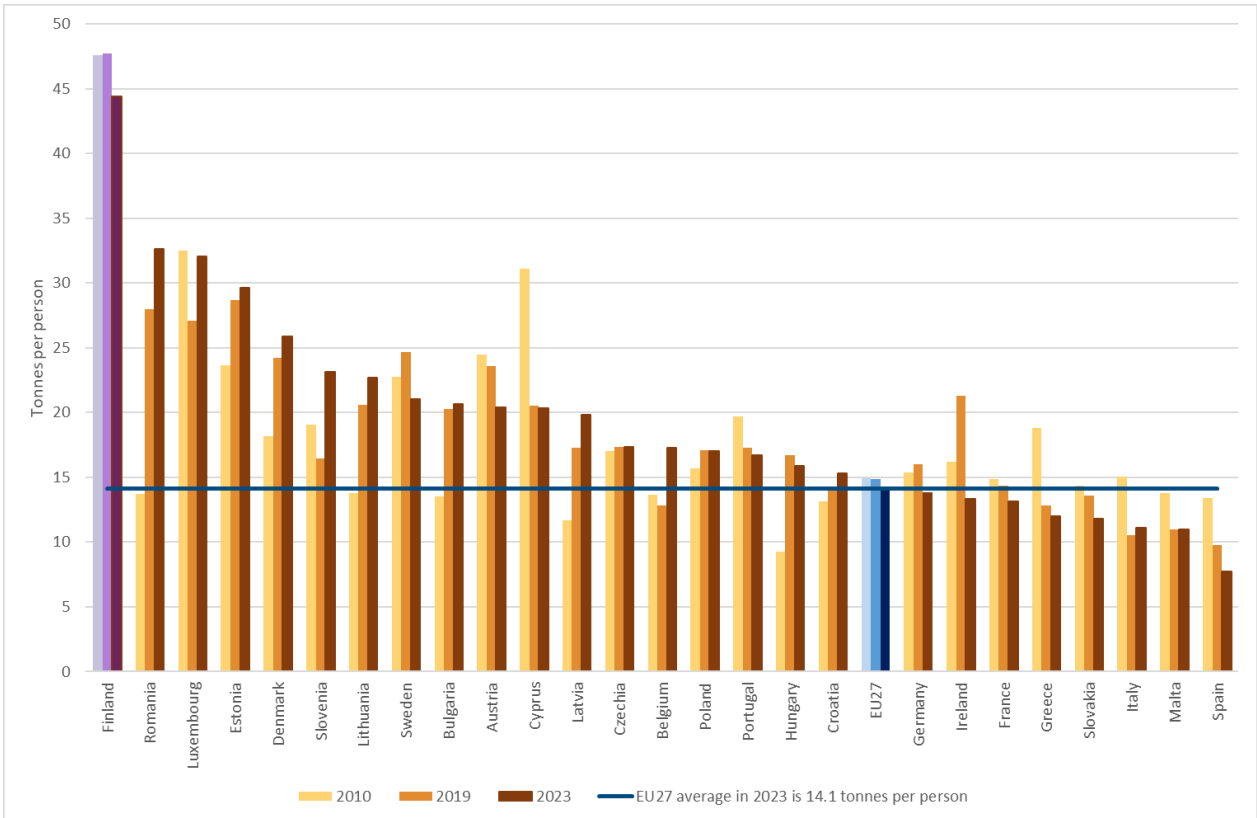
Source: Eurostat datasets, EU27 2021 EU27 2022 and EU27 2023 (accessed 21 August 2024)

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



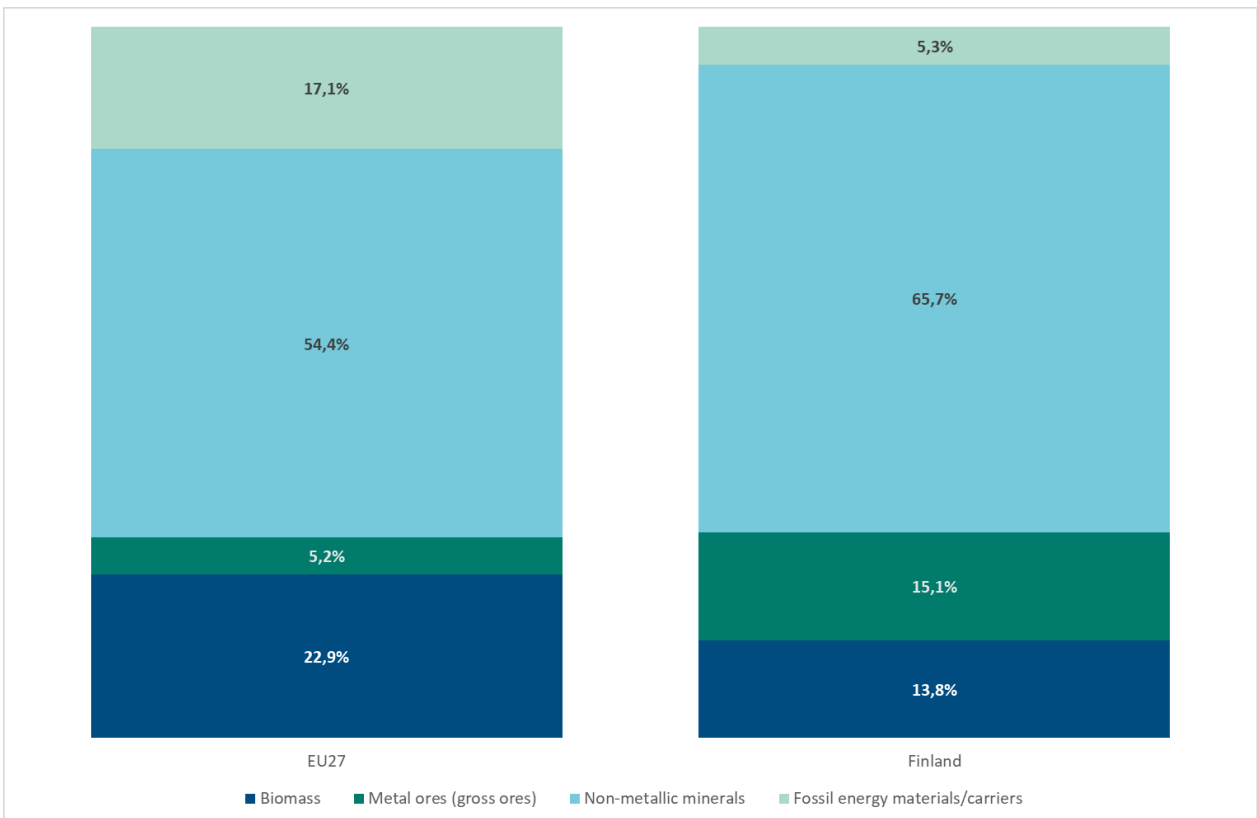
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa], [en_ac_sd], [env_wassd] (accessed 21 August 2024)

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



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

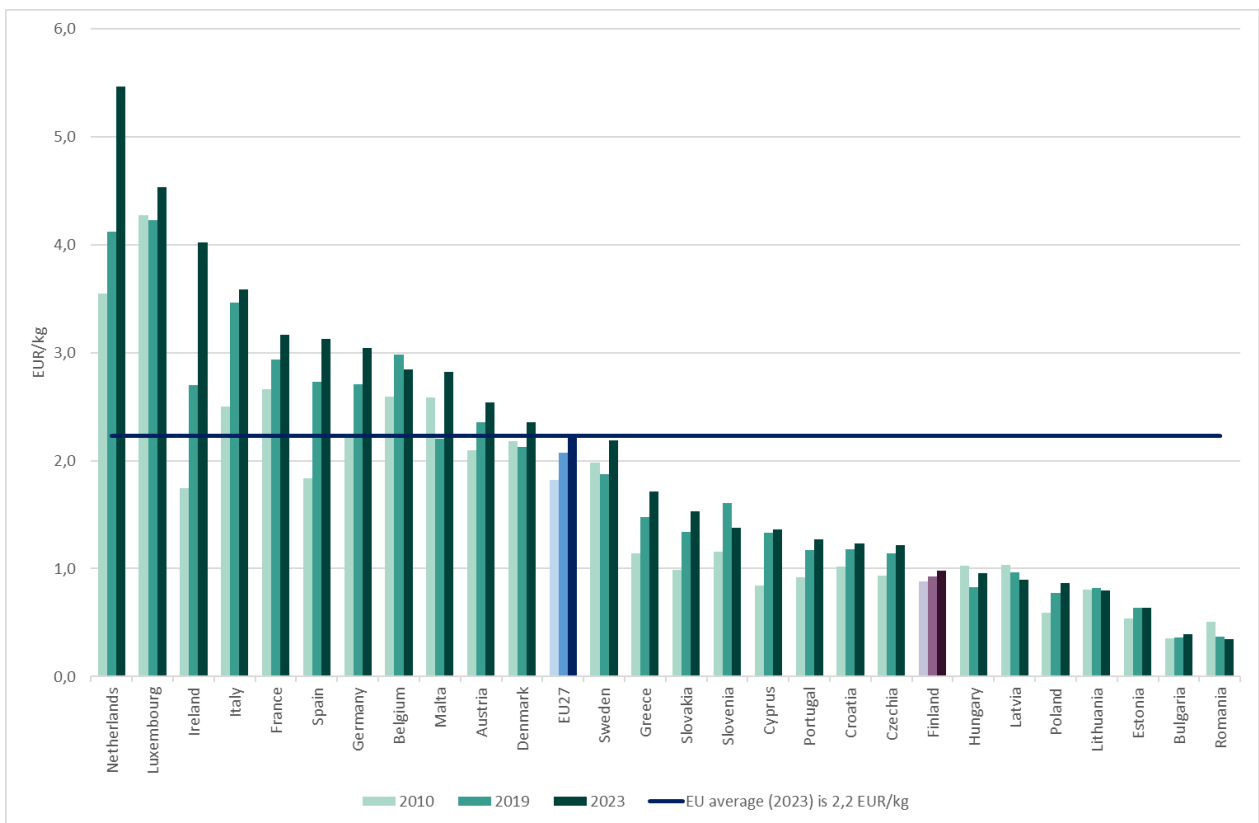
Figure 3 Domestic material consumption by selected material category, EU and Finland, 2023, per cent



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

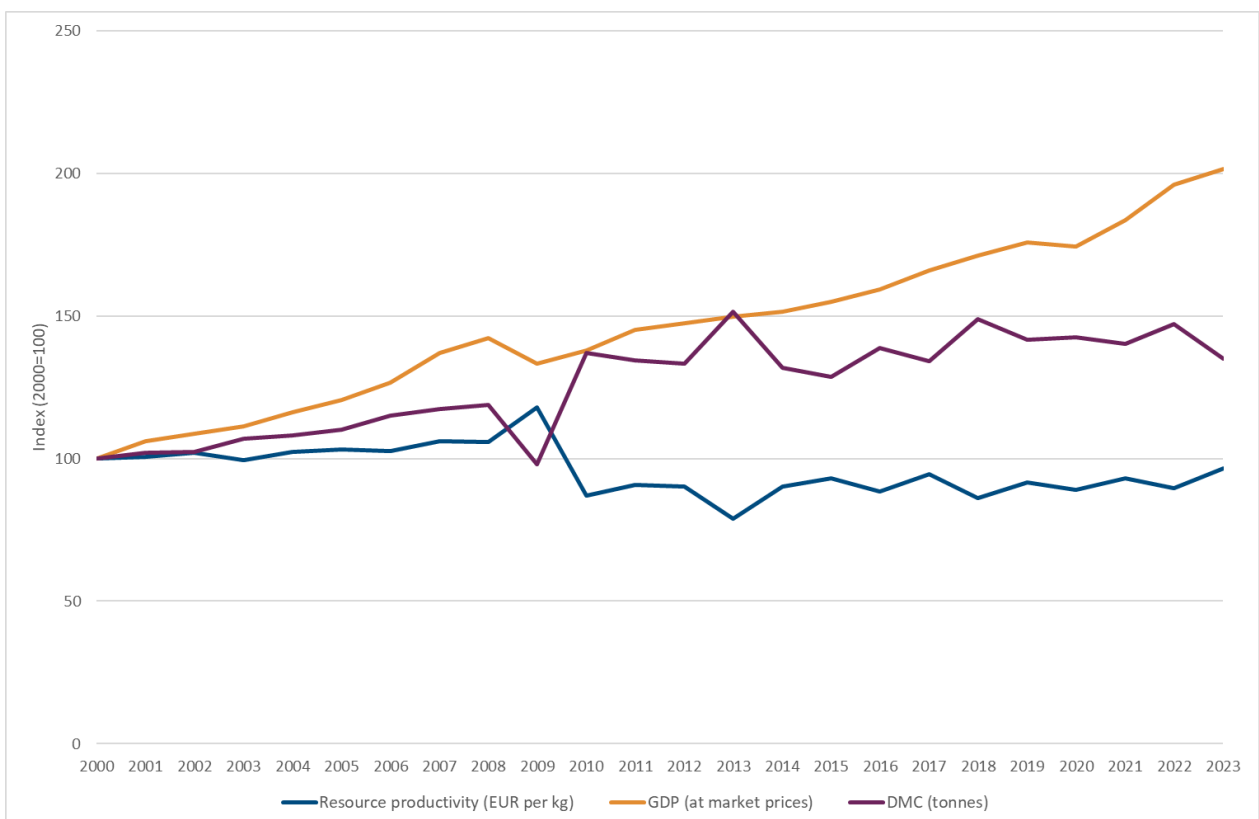
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa] (accessed 21 August 2024)

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



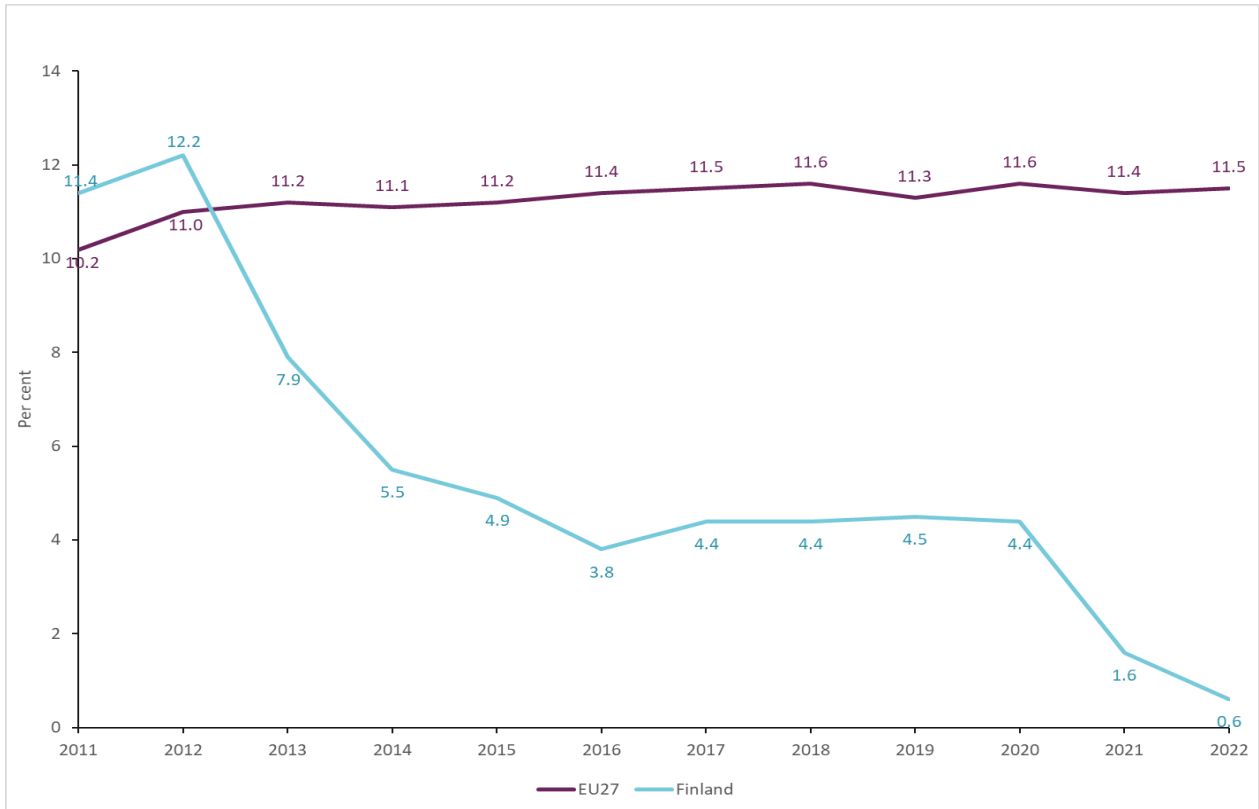
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_rp] (accessed 21 August 2024)

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



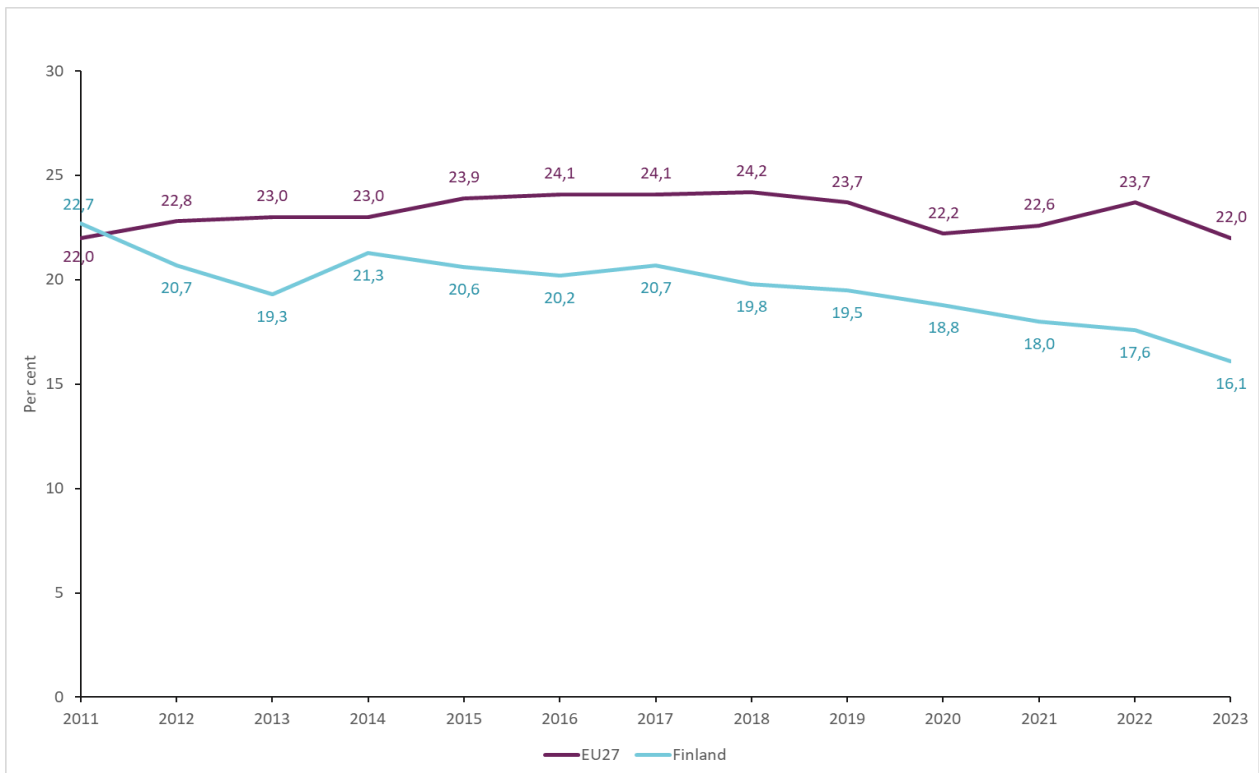
Source: Eurostat (2024) [env_ac_mfa], [env_ac_rp] & [nama_10_gdp] (accessed 21 August 2024)

Figure 6 Circular material use rate in Finland, 2011–2022, per cent ⁽⁵⁾



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

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



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

⁵ There appears to have been some change in methodology over the period (particularly in 2012-2013 and 2020-2021), but the source of the change is presently unknown.

Existing policy framework

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

The new CE initiatives ⁽⁶⁾ that have been adopted/are ongoing since the publication of the 2022 CE Country Profile ⁽⁷⁾ are as follows:

- The Report “**Material Flows of Finland’s National Economy: Impacts, Actual Development and Circular Economy Scenarios for 2035**” was finalised in February 2024 ⁽⁸⁾. This is the first time that Finland has drawn up modelled future paths on the opportunities for implementing the circular economy transition and its impacts on the environment and the national economy. The results of the research have produced a knowledge base for the Green Deal on circular economy (see below). The results of the scenario work show that a transition towards circular economy is feasible without weakening the economy. At the same time, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution can be reduced, and biodiversity loss can be slowed down. However, decoupling economic growth from the consumption of natural resources and environmental impacts requires that circular economy and low-carbon measures are widely adopted in different sectors of society, such as construction, industry, consumption, energy sector and food system.
- The **Circular Economy Green Deal** is in its starting phase. The Green Deal is building on the CE scenarios work. Participating organisations voluntarily commit to reducing their use of natural resources, setting effective goals, and taking actions that promote a low-carbon circular economy ⁽⁹⁾. Almost 90 different actors joined the process, including nearly 20 key industry associations, over 20 cities and 10 regions, and around 20 companies.
- The **Design Programme for the CE** for corporate management and experts in charge of design, research and development was conducted in 2023 ⁽¹⁰⁾. The one-year programme focused primarily on increasing circular design capabilities of participating companies. The free-of-charge pilot programme involved 50 companies of various sizes and industries selected through an application process.
- **Circular Economy Finland (KiSu)** is a hub of skills and knowledge which unites those who seek CE solutions with those who offer them. The network supports different actors in finding their own circular economy paths. KiSu is one of the actions launched by the national Circular Economy Programme of Finland. The programme is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment ⁽¹¹⁾.
- The **Innovation fund “Business Finland’s Circular Transition for Zero Waste”** aims to accelerate the global transition to a circular economy by supporting Finnish pioneers in scaling up circular economy transitions and solutions. Funding can be granted to companies of all sizes registered in Finland whose investments create conditions for growth in the circular economy and green growth, as well as growth in business operations and employment ⁽¹²⁾.

Finland has appointed a **monitoring group to oversee the implementation of the Circular Economy Strategic Programme** (adopted in 2021) ⁽¹³⁾. Additionally, the secretariat of the ministries has been meeting regularly to provide updates on the situation.

⁶ This list of measures includes a wide range of different initiatives adopted since 2022 (not only policies).

⁷ <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-products/etc-ce-report-5-2022-country-profiles-on-circular-economy/finland-ce-country-profile-2022-for-publication.pdf>

⁸ https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/165490/VN_2024_8.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y (in Finnish).

⁹ <https://ym.fi/en/circular-economy-green-deal>

¹⁰ <https://designforum.fi/en/for-business/projects/circular-design-training>

¹¹ <https://kiertotaloussuomi.fi/> (in Finnish).

¹² <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/whats-new/news/2024/circular-economy-an-increasingly-strong-source-of-growth-for-businesses>

¹³ <https://ym.fi/en/strategic-programme-to-promote-a-circular-economy#:~:text=The%20programme,leader%20in%20the%20circular%20economy>

Currently, the **National Audit Office of Finland is assessing the coordination and management of the circular economy at the government level** and will present recommendations by the end of 2024. However, the **interim evaluation of the Circular Economy Programme** ⁽¹⁴⁾ indicates that the mandate for the Strategic Programme and its **implementation are insufficient**. Besides, the focus is on incentives related to the development of new solutions, while hardly any measure is targeted to dismantling the structures that slow down the progress of the circular economy. Similarly, according to the interim evaluation, few consumers interface measures have been implemented.

Dedicated local strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy

With regard to the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI), it has to be noted that both **Helsinki-Uusimaa and Tampere regions are CCRI pilot regions, while the City of Jyväskylä and the Päijät-Häme region are follower entities**. They all have been also active in national work and are, for example, at the moment, planning to make a voluntary Circular Economy Green Deal commitment.

- **Helsinki-Uusimaa** has created a Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley in 2022 for supporting the achievement of the 2030 carbon neutrality goal, systemic change and circular transition, working on the circular economy of construction, plastics and textiles, food and electronics. The Circular Valley Handbook includes exemplary models of circular economy: pilots, regional business collaborations, and other forms of innovative activities ⁽¹⁵⁾.
- The **Tampere region** has launched KiPi ⁽¹⁶⁾, a regional, publicly funded development centre for circular economy in 2023. KiPi develops operational models for circular economy in three regionally significant themes (building, road and street construction, industrial material flows) that promote and strengthen circular business operations.
- **City of Jyväskylä**: the city strategy of Jyväskylä, adopted in 2022, focuses on carbon neutrality, zero waste, and minimizing the ecological footprint. The city collaborates with local industry and academia, with the Center for Circular Economy at the University of Jyväskylä serving as a key contact point for industry in recovering critical raw materials. Jyväskylä’s regional industry is transitioning to sustainable materials and operations, while the city actively pursues carbon neutrality. In the second half of 2024, the OECD will conduct a circular economy analysis to further guide and motivate Jyväskylä's efforts in this area.
- **Fisu (Finnish Sustainable Communities)** is a network of Finnish municipalities committed to working towards becoming carbon neutral and waste-free and curbing overconsumption by 2050. Today, the network consists of 11 municipalities: Forssa, Hyvinkää, Ii, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Riihimäki, Turku, and Vaasa ⁽¹⁷⁾.

Circular economy policy elements included in other policies

Circular economy policy element	Included in policy
National procurement strategy was adopted in 2020. One of the targets of the strategy is that public procurement supports Finland's carbon neutrality target 2035 and the implementation of the circular economy. One of the “products” of the strategy work is for example a digital criteria bank “Responsibility criteria for public procurement”. The criteria bank	National procurement strategy 2024-2027 (in Finnish and Swedish) and responsibility criteria for public procurement

¹⁴ https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/164796/VN_2023_32.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (in Finnish).

¹⁵ <https://circularvalley.fi/handbook>

¹⁶ <https://kiertotalouspirkanmaa.fi/en>

¹⁷ <https://fisunetwork.fi/en/>

includes 8/13 product and service categories ⁽¹⁸⁾ and several products and services, as well as criteria in each category.	
The National Waste Plan to 2027, adopted in 2022, sets the objectives for waste prevention and management and the measures to reach these objectives. The main goals are material efficient production and consumption, saving natural resources, and mitigating climate change.	National Waste Plan to 2027
Plastics Roadmap for Finland 2.0 is a national programme updated in 2022 that aims for a breakthrough in the circular economy of plastics by 2030. The related package of actions will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce littering of the environment and other environmental harm caused by plastics, 2. Avoid unnecessary consumption of plastics and promote the reuse of plastics, 3. Enhance the recycling of plastics and recyclability of plastic products, and 4. Replace virgin plastic manufactured from fossil raw materials with recycled plastics or sustainably produced renewable materials. 	Plastics Roadmap
The Ministry of the Environment has set up an expert group to develop the life cycle characteristics (durability, adaptability, repairability, demountability, portability and reusability of new buildings) to be integrated into the new building legislation. The package of CE measures is also included in Finland's Architectural Policy Programme 2022-2030.	Building legislation and Finland's Architectural Policy Programme 2022-2030 .
Finland is committed to halving food waste by 2030. To reach the target, Finland's first national food waste Roadmap was developed in 2022. It is a digital solution showcasing existing methods, projects and guides for reducing waste in different stages of the chain. The Roadmap also motivates reporting on solutions and projects that reduce food waste.	Etusivu - Luonnonvarakeskus

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

¹⁸ The following product and service categories are addressed: Food and catering services, Energy, Transport and mobility, Appliances, furniture and instruments, Construction, real estate and maintenance, Cleaning services and chemicals, Textiles, Healthcare and medical supplies.

monitor progress towards these targets. The current monitoring framework is a revision of the original framework which was set up in 2018.

This section elaborates on the assessment of Finland its 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.

Finland's raw material consumption per capita is more than three times higher than the EU average, and the added value of natural resource use is among the lowest in the EU. Finland has a high domestic material consumption compared to other EU countries, due to the large volume of mining and quarrying.

The Circular economy set ⁽¹⁹⁾, developed by Statistics Finland (see the Section below “Circular economy monitoring frameworks and their indicators beyond the ones from Eurostat”) also includes:

- Number, turnover and personnel of circular economy establishments;
- Circular economy business activity by region;
- Pay level in circular economy industries;
- Persons employed in circular economy industries by level of education.

Employment and turnover of circular economy industries grew until 2020, when turnover decreased by 5%, and personnel numbers fell by 2%, likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, 74% of employees in circular economy industries had vocational education, a proportion that has remained stable over time. The second most common and fastest-growing educational level is university of applied sciences education.

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

Statistics Finland assesses, together with the Finnish Environment Institute, circular economy trends irregularly. Circular economy is described as a set of activities that are pivotal from the perspective of a product or service life cycle. There are **eight activities** (design, material extraction, production, logistics, trade and services, consumption and sharing economy, waste, reuse and recycling), which encompass a total of **18 indicators** ⁽²⁰⁾. Some indicators are available as time series (usually covering the years 2013 to 2020) and some regionally.

The Finnish Environment Institute has produced **indicators to measure sustainable development for Finnish municipalities**. The purpose is to provide a concise and up-to-date description of sustainable development at the municipal level. Indicators were selected in cooperation with pilot municipalities. The indicators describe 13 phenomena, which are divided into **three topics**. **Environmental sustainability includes “Natural resources and circular economy”**. The indicators are available for all municipalities ⁽²¹⁾. For example, Fisu (Finnish Sustainable Communities) municipalities use and update three indicators: greenhouse gas emissions per capita, material losses, and ecological footprint per capita.

Circular economy targets

Targets in the National CE Programme adopted by the Government are the following:

- The consumption of non-renewable natural resources will decrease, and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources may increase to the extent that the **total consumption of primary**

¹⁹ https://stat.fi/tup/kiertotalous/kiertotalousliiketoiminnan-indikaattorit_en.html

²⁰ https://stat.fi/tup/kiertotalous/kiertotalousliiketoiminnan-indikaattorit_en.html

²¹

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNjhiOGQ0OTgtMjMjNi00NjNiLTg3ZWItOTIwM2YwZTk4YTU3IiwidCI6IjY2MTAzOGQ5LTEyMTEtNGE4NS1hZGI5LWU3YjQ0OGVmNGUxMjMlMmMiOj9&pageName=ReportSectionf03ef38d018910cb40c0> (in Finnish).

raw materials in Finland in 2035 will not exceed what it was in 2015 (i.e. 212 million tonnes). Natural resources used to manufacture products for export are not covered by the objective ⁽²²⁾.

- The **productivity of resources will double by 2035 from what it was in 2015** (i.e. 1.04).
- The **circular material use (CMU) rate will double by 2035 compared to 2015** (when it was 3%) ⁽²³⁾.

No new targets have been adopted since 2022.

With regard to the **implementation** of the above-mentioned targets (that were reported in the 2022 CE Country Profile) ⁽²⁴⁾, it has to be noted that **CMU and Raw Material Consumption (RMC) targets** mentioned in the previous survey **can be achieved**, but Finland has difficulties in doubling the productivity of resources according to the scenario work conducted in 2022-2024 ⁽²⁵⁾.

Innovative approaches and good practices

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

➔ *Good practice example: Research - Scenarios on future natural resource use and Green Deal* (see also the Section “Existing policy framework”)

Four research institutes (Finnish Environment Institute, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke, the Geological Survey of Finland GTK and Statistics Finland) **produced a national-level material flow analysis, along with three scenarios on the future of natural resource use in Finland.** The analysis and scenario work was carried out in 2022-2024.

The research process led to the **identification of impactful measures across various sectors and regions** needed to reach the targets established by the National CE Programme. It also functioned as a validation mechanism for assessing the impacts of the measures to be included in the Circular Economy Green Deal.

The results of the scenario work show that a transition towards circular economy is feasible without weakening the economy. At the same time, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution can be reduced, and biodiversity loss can be slowed down. However, decoupling economic growth from the consumption of natural resources and environmental impacts requires that circular economy and low-carbon measures are widely adopted in different sectors of society, such as construction, industry, consumption, energy sector and food system.

The **collaborative process together with key stakeholders and ministries helped to identify and strengthen consensus around needed policy measures and changes in business and societal practices.** The idea is to commit to the Circular Economy Green Deal, which is a voluntary agreement in which the participating organisations commit to reducing their use of natural resources and setting effective goals, and to taking actions that promote a low-carbon circular economy ⁽²⁶⁾.

²² The objective takes into account Finland’s total consumption that includes the imported products needed to run our everyday lives and infrastructure and the consumption of domestic raw materials. Finland’s total consumption includes raw material consumption in countries where the products are manufactured minus the raw materials used to manufacture Finnish products for export. The total consumption is shown by the Raw Material Consumption (RMC) indicator calculated by using the ENVIMAT tool developed by the University of Oulu and Finnish Environment Institute.

²³ See footnote n. 5

²⁴ https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-products/etc-ce-report-5-2022-country-profiles-on-circular-economy/finland-ce-country-profile-2022_for-publication.pdf

²⁵ <https://www.sttinfo.fi/tiedote/70117442/kiertotalous-vahvistaa-suomen-vihrean-siirtyman-mahdollisuuksia?publisherId=69819243&lang=fi> (in Finnish).

²⁶ <https://helda.helsinki.fi/items/2d18ab44-741e-4f6d-931d-82c1d035c3e3> and <https://helda.helsinki.fi/items/2d18ab44-741e-4f6d-931d-82c1d035c3e3>

Examples of private policy initiatives (sectoral)

→ *Good practice example: New business models*

- Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra has compiled a **list of most interesting companies (124 companies after the recent update) in the circular economy in Finland** ⁽²⁷⁾. The companies represent the following business models: **product-life extension, product as service, sharing platforms, renewability and resource-efficiency and recycling**. Sitra has updated the list since 2017. During this time, circularity has gone from being a niche initiative from a selection of individual pioneering companies to being a widespread profitable business phenomenon. However, no impact studies are available in Finland on CE business models and how they deliver benefits.
- Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, together with Deloitte, published in 2023 the **Circular economy playbook, which helps companies to unlock circular economy opportunities** ⁽²⁸⁾. The playbook provides insight, examples and hands-on tools to help businesses make the transition to a circular economy.

The way forward

Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges

According to the **circular economy barometer (2023)** ⁽²⁹⁾, the **concept of circular economy is familiar to Finnish companies and the majority see it as an opportunity**. Concrete measures, however, are still quite rare in companies. On the other hand, almost a third of companies intend to increase their circular economy business within the next five years. Especially growth companies have plans related to the circular economy. One barrier consists of **skills gap**: many companies needed information on concrete measures to strengthen the company's circular economy business. According to the survey, 69% of companies had not commissioned emissions calculations, material reviews, or life cycle assessments. Additionally, 51% of companies do not organize training for personnel on circular economy practices, 16% provided individual training, and 12% offered continuous training.

Future policy plans

The following **CE-related activities were included in Finland's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Plan**:

1. Strategic promotion of the circular economy and reform of the Waste Act (reform).
2. Re-use and recycling of key materials and industrial side streams (investment).
3. Low-carbon built environment programme (investment).
4. Key programmes for international growth (investment).

Key objectives and main initiatives of the activities (quotations from the RRF Plan) ⁽³⁰⁾:

1. Strategic promotion of the circular economy and reform of the Waste Act (reform)

"This measure consists of two reform elements. First, **Finland shall implement the reformed Waste Act (646/2011)**, which is central to the regulation of the circular economy environment and the national waste plan. The reform shall include separate collection obligations for packaging and biowaste from households and businesses, packaging producers' responsibility for the costs of

²⁷ <https://www.sitra.fi/en/projects/interesting-companies-circular-economy-finland/>

²⁸ <https://www.sitra.fi/en/news/new-playbook-helps-companies-to-unlock-circular-economy-opportunities/>.

²⁹ <https://helda.helsinki.fi/server/api/core/bitstreams/5d34bab5-27c8-4b5e-9c20-1baadb03815a/content> (in Finnish).

³⁰ <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163176> (in Finnish).

packaging waste management, implementation of the Single-Use Plastics Directive and the obligation to separate collection of textile waste at regional reception points. The recycling rate of municipal waste shall be increased from the current 41% to 55% in 2025 and 60% in 2030. The recycling rate of plastic packaging shall be increased by 31%. The implementation of the reform shall be completed by **31 December 2024**.

Second, Finland shall promote the circular economy by means of a **Strategic Programme for 2035**, which sets concrete targets for the consumption of non-renewable natural resources, resource productivity and circular material use rate [see the section “Monitoring and targets”]. This shall **comprise a national framework programme, complemented by the promotion of voluntary sectoral agreements between the state and municipalities, business and other stakeholders**. The target is to have at least two key industry associations, as well as at least 20 municipalities and cities, join the agreement and commit to implementing measures that promote the objectives of the Strategic Circular Economy Programme to: reduce the use of natural resources, increase the use of recycled materials and promote a low-carbon circular economy society. It shall also include the publication of “support scenarios” that shall assist in the identification of stakeholders’ most relevant measures to be taken under such agreements, in cooperation with relevant research institutes” [See the sections “Existing policy framework” and “Examples of public policy initiatives”].

Key objective regarding the national circular economy strategy: “**The Government resolution on the implementation of the Strategic Programme for a circular economy has been adopted in April 2021 and the present Government is continuing to implement the strategy**. It includes the objective that the consumption of non-renewable natural resources shall decrease, and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources may increase so that the total consumption of domestic primary raw materials will not exceed the 2015 level by 2035”.

2. Re-use and recycling of key materials and industrial side streams (investment)

“The measure aims at promoting a circular economy that re-uses and recycles industrial side and waste streams and other key materials such as battery materials, plastics, textiles, packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, construction and demolition materials.

Support shall be provided for:

- first commercial plants, pilot and demonstration plants;
- the introduction of new technologies in existing processes;
- digital platforms and service investments promoting re-use and recycling.”

The objective is that at least ten supported projects shall be completed by the end of Q2/2026. These shall correspond to a budgetary commitment of at least EUR 99 000 000 of the EUR 110 000 000 allocated to the measure.

3. Low-carbon built environment programme (investment)

“This measure consists primarily of a **research, development and innovation programme that aims at accelerating the development and adoption of low-carbon solutions** (such as operating models, products, materials) **in the built environment**. The measure contributes to climate change mitigation and promotes a low-carbon and circular economy, focusing on research and innovation, technology transfer and cooperation between research, business and local government.

The following actions shall be supported:

- a grant support scheme for research, development and innovation to stimulate investment (at least EUR 32 million);
- procurement of knowledge base and assessment tools that support climate-friendly and low-carbon solutions in the built environment, including the possibility for investment support under the scope of the programme (at least EUR 4 million); and
- support to the development and coordination of joint business projects that aim to export low-carbon solutions in the built environment (at least EUR 2 million).

The objective is that **all supported projects shall be completed by the end of Q2/2026. These shall correspond to a budgetary commitment of at least EUR 36 000 000 of the EUR 40 000 000 allocated to the measure”.**

4. Key programmes for international growth (investment)

“The objective of this investment is to support international growth of companies by means of specific development grants”.

One of the investment’s four interventions is the “programme to promote low-carbon, circular economy and digital renewal in industry and to increase exports of industrial services”.

“The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2025.”

Key objective: at least 40 projects supported under the calls for applications.

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