

# **What is needed at the EU level for more sustainable resource use?**

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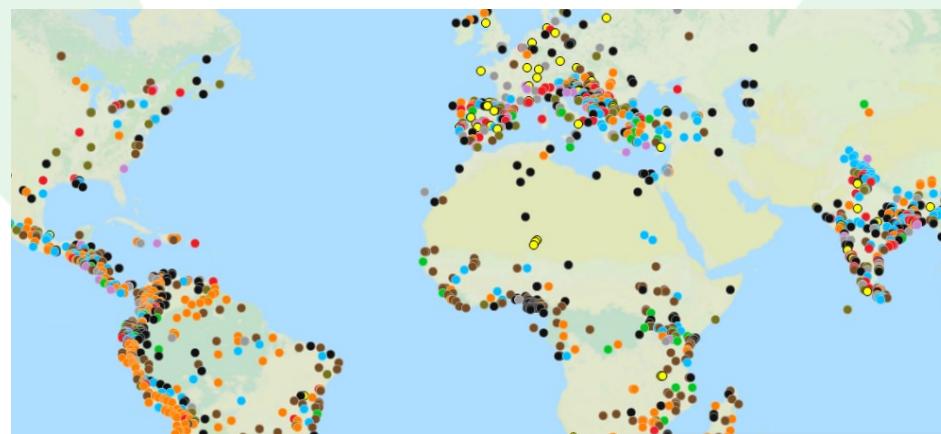


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# Some of the challenges we face today

- Natural resource depletion globally
- Inequitable European consumption of resources
- Not just environmental, also social impacts
- Concerning increase in metals and minerals extraction for green/digital transitions

Environmental  
Justice Atlas →



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# Solutions for more sustainable resource use

- Overall aim must be to reduce absolute European resource use
- Resource efficiency and circularity not enough (rebound effect etc.)
- ...“consumption of materials and energy, as well as the generation of nonmineral waste have continued to increase, despite the increases in circular material use and recycling”* – European Commission, European Green Deal 2019



# Solutions: Setting resource reduction targets and plans

- Binding EU resource reduction targets – for material, land, water and carbon footprints – to within ecological limits
- EU material footprint reduction target of 50% by 2030, from baseline 2015
- Sectoral plans to ensure achieve reduction – e.g. mobility, sustainable products and systems



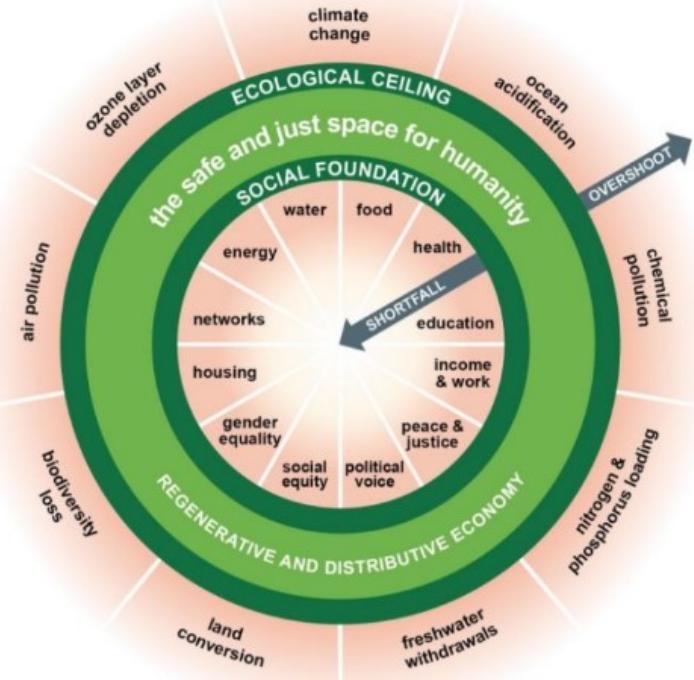
**A circular economy within ecological limits:**  
Why we need to set targets to reduce EU resource consumption and waste generation in the new Circular Economy Action Plan



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# Solutions: An economy that satisfies the needs of all within environmental limits

- New economic models that don't have economic growth and endless consumption at the core but where basic needs of all are satisfied within environmental limits
- Doughnut Economy excellent model
- Policy ideas include social policies as well as environmental, such as work-time reduction, cap on income, implementing Universal Basic Services



# Solutions: Address issue of increased metals and minerals mining for the green/digital transitions

- Reduce absolute energy and material demand; implement new more sustainable economic model
- Respect communities' Right to Say No to mining projects; mandatory EU human rights and environmental due diligence law



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