



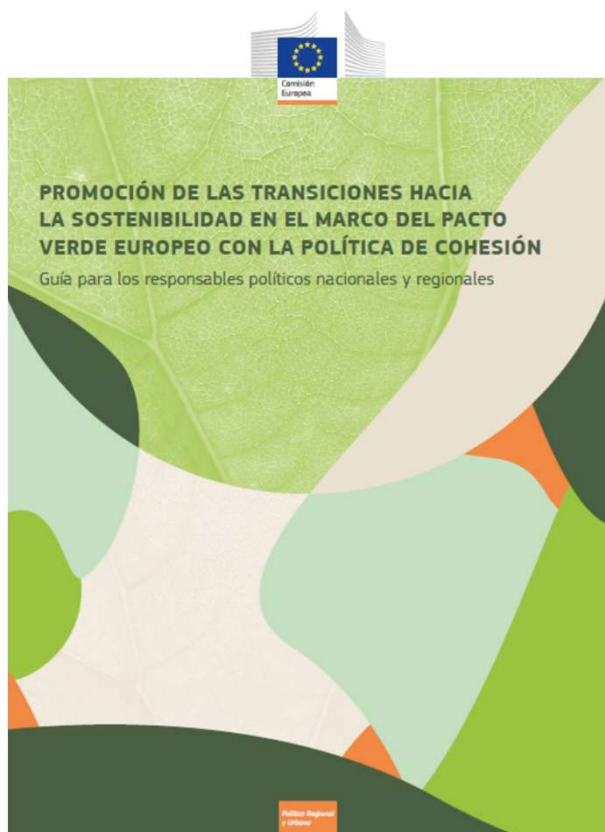
# Supporting sustainability transitions under the European Green Deal with cohesion policy

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# Toolkit

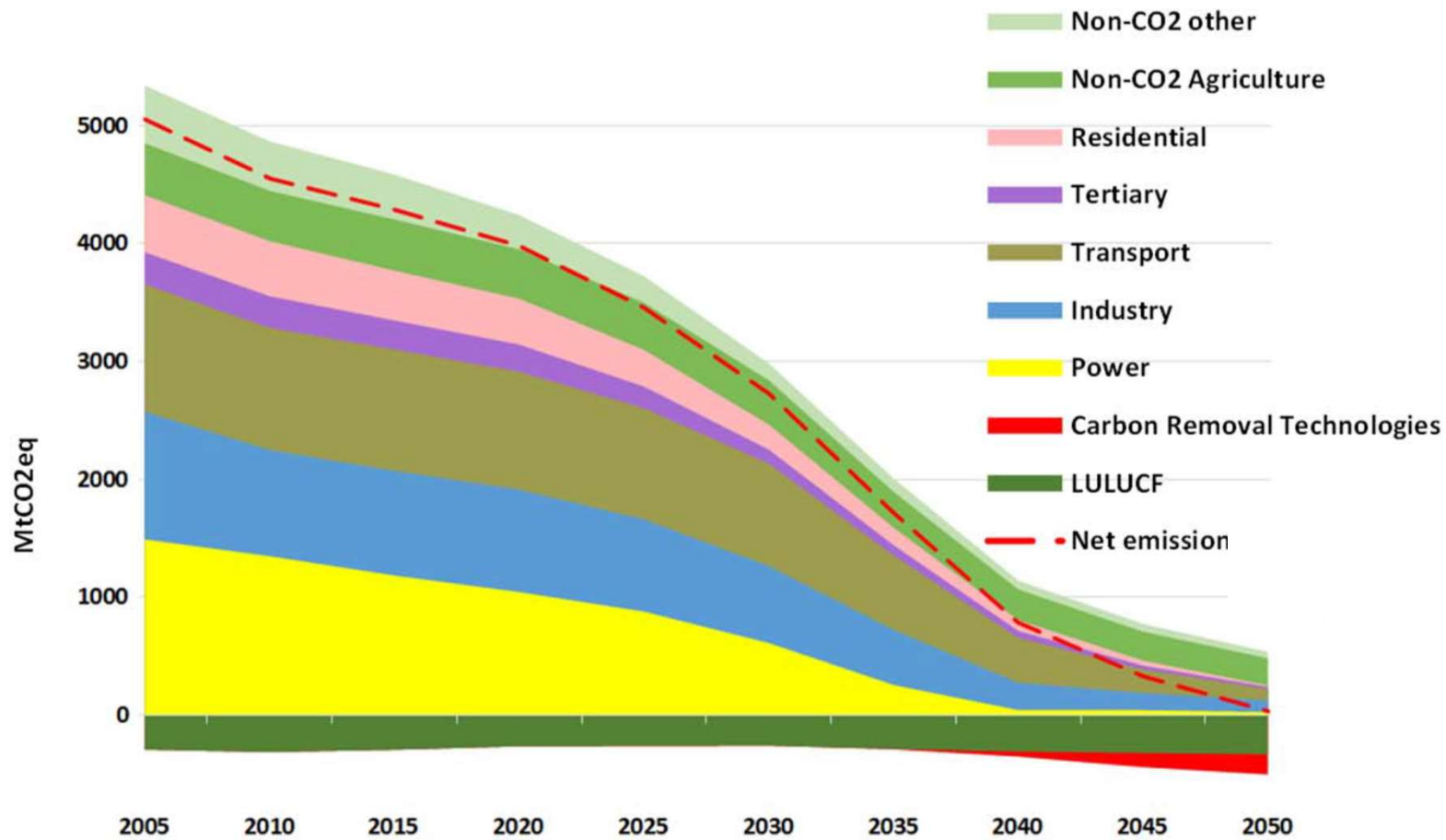


- Guía (25 páginas, todas lenguas):  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/es/information/publications/guidelines/2020/supporting-sustainability-transitions-under-the-european-green-deal-with-cohesion-policy-toolkit-for-national-and-regional-decision-makers](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/es/information/publications/guidelines/2020/supporting-sustainability-transitions-under-the-european-green-deal-with-cohesion-policy-toolkit-for-national-and-regional-decision-makers)
- Informe (125 páginas, inglés):  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/publications/reports/2020/report-on-a-toolkit-for-national-and-regional-decision-makers-supporting-sustainability-transitions-under-the-european-green-deal-with-cohesion-policy](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/reports/2020/report-on-a-toolkit-for-national-and-regional-decision-makers-supporting-sustainability-transitions-under-the-european-green-deal-with-cohesion-policy)

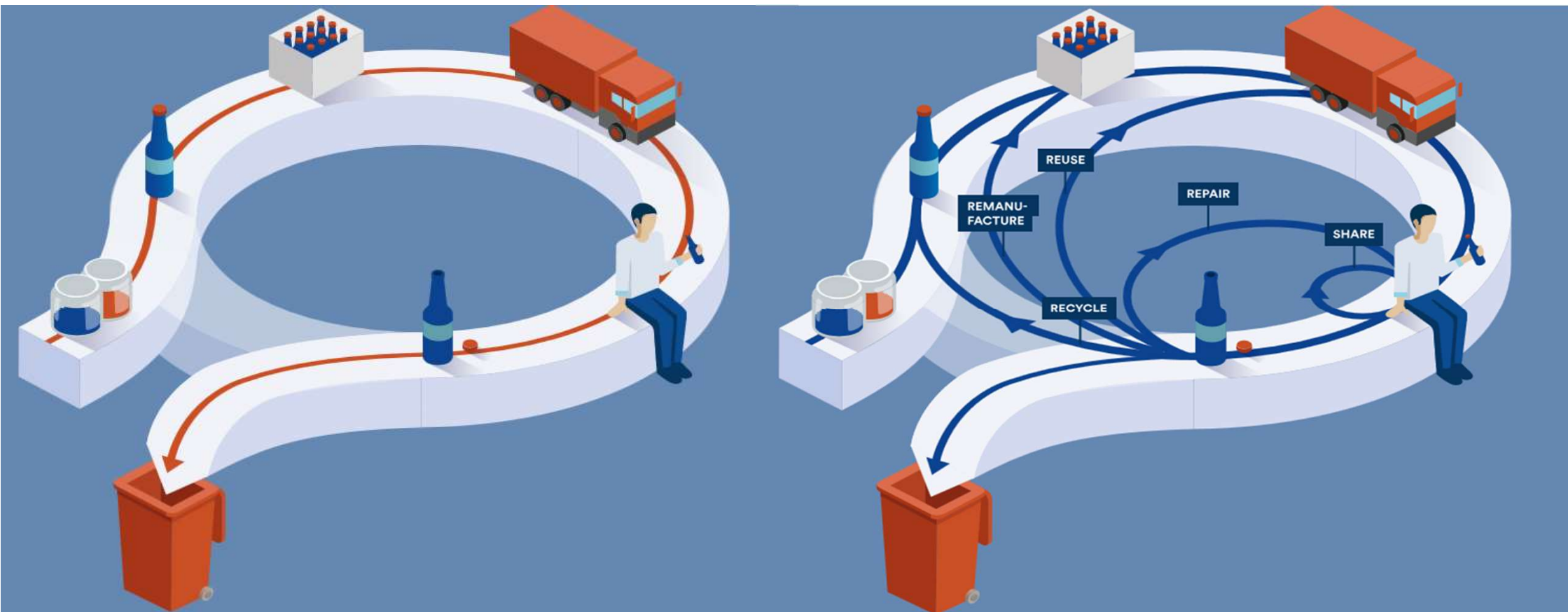
# The European Green Deal and the perspective of sustainability transitions



# A climate-neutral Europe in 2050



# From a linear to a circular economy

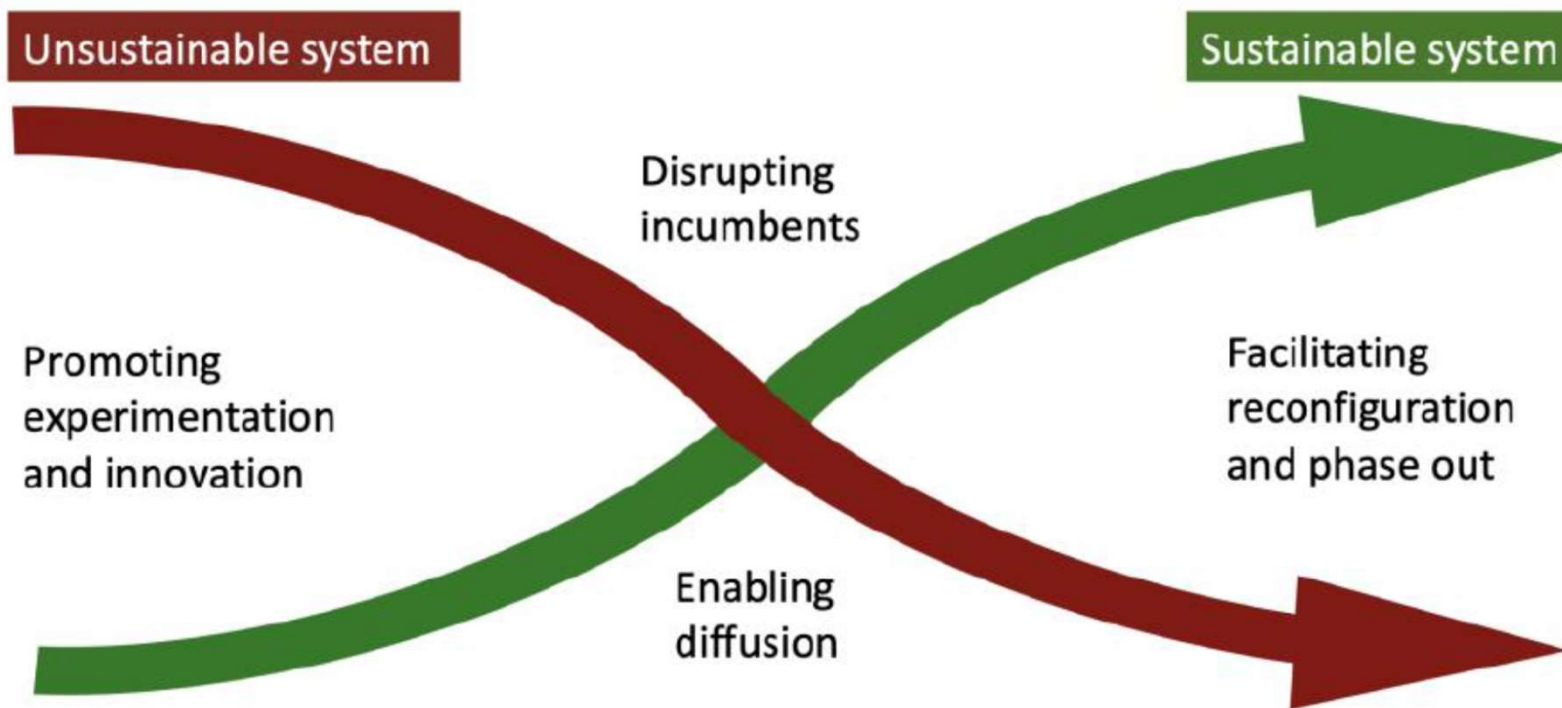


# State and Outlook of the Environment 2020

- 5-yearly EEA report measuring 35 key policy targets for environment and climate
- EU policy works, but:
  - 2020 objectives would have been better reached with stronger policy implementation
  - 2030 objectives will not be reached without systemic transformations in 4 critical systems: food, energy, mobility, built environment
  - Number of possible pathways is decreasing
- Investments made in next decade will be crucial
  - Marginal efficiency gains are costly and lead to dead-ends
  - Investments need to be transformative
  - Emergence and spread of diverse forms of innovation, and societal shifts



# The X-curve of sustainability transitions





# 2021-2027 cohesion policy delivering the European Green Deal





# Cohesion policy in the European Green Deal



*“Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.*

*In this transition, **we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point.** We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.”*

**EUR 392 billion** in 2021-2027 (ERDF, CF, JTF, ESF+) to:

-  Invest in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
-  Deploy technological and social innovation on a large scale
-  Facilitate phase-out of unsustainable practices
-  Ensure a just transition for all regions

# Delivering the European Green Deal



- The previous period (2014-2020):
  - 20% climate mainstreaming across the EU budget
  - Earmarking up to 20% ERDF for low-carbon economy
  - Ex-ante conditionalities linked to compliance with key legislation
- Reinforcements for current period:
  - 30% (ERFD) and 37% (CF) climate mainstreaming at fund level
  - Earmarking 30% ERDF at MS level for Policy Objective 2
  - Minimum spending ambition for biodiversity
  - Enabling conditions focused on effectiveness of spending (e.g link with NECPs)
  - Excluding undesirable investment (e.g. fossil fuels, landfilling, treatment of residual waste)
  - Climate proofing of infrastructure projects
  - 'Do no significant harm' principle
  - Just Transition Mechanism and Just Transition Fund

# Higher ambitions for long-term transition



- What we expect
  - Programming according to priorities expressed in European Semester Country Reports
  - Reflecting on the link between innovation and deployment
  - Enabling conditions: not a paper exercise, but a strategic framework for achieving long-term ambitions
  - ‘Do no harm’: taking environmental assessments seriously, sustainable project selection criteria, etc.
- What we aim for
  - Using programming as opportunity to formulate pathways for long-term transitions
  - Transformational change instead of marginal efficiency gains
  - Thinking beyond 2027 to avoid lock-ins (e.g. energy sources, waste management)
  - Integrating elements of the European Green Deal into programmes
  - Nature-based solutions to avoid negative impact of grey infrastructure and to achieve co-benefits
  - Exploiting full potential of cohesion policy to ensure a just transition

# A transformative agenda adapted to different starting points

This is what we need our programmes to do better:

- Develop a **vision** of a sustainable future, and formulate **pathways**
- Put in place a system of proactive **governance** to manage the transition
- Support **innovation** to develop sustainable solutions
- Support **deployment** of innovation, and **phase-out** of unsustainable practices
- Ensure a **just transition** so that the transformation benefits everyone
- Apply specific **territorial approaches** to the delivery of the Green Deal (e.g. cities, rural areas, coal regions)
- **Mainstream sustainability** into programmes and projects

<https://europa.eu/!Tc67vw>

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