FRANCE

Circular economy 2-pager, July 2023

POLICY LANDSCAPE

EU LEVEL

In March 2020, the European Commission announced the **New Circular Economy Action Plan**, a comprehensive plan to enhance the EU's shift to circularity. The strategy focuses on waste management and reduction, and sustainable production, consumption and resource use. In February 2021, a resolution was adopted by the European Parliament calling for additional steps to escalate the region's effort, such as stricter recycling regulations and binding targets for material use and consumption by 2030 with the objective of achieving a carbon-neutral, sustainable, and circular economy by 2050. In 2022 a new packaging regulation was created with the aim of decreasing packaging waste while enhancing packaging design, urging a switch to biobased, biodegradable, and compostable plastics. Most recently, integrating into the puzzle of legislation created to regulate the shift to a circular economy, the **Critical Raw Materials Act** (CRMA) was promulgated. The Regulation strives to guarantee access to the EU of a reliable and sustainable supply of essential raw minerals.

NATIONAL STRATEGY

In 2018, the **Circular Economy Roadmap** outlined France's approach to a circular economy in 50 actions aimed at fostering ecodesign, repair and recycling through enhanced waste management, manufacturing, consumption, and stakeholders' engagement. In 2020, the **Anti-Waste for a Circular Economy Law** (AGEC) introduced new goals from outlawing some single-use plastic items to setting an electric and electronic product repairability index and requiring Producer Responsibility Organizations to support repair funds in several Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. A last set of measures were implemented in 2023, including on household packaging sorting and the collection of biowaste from large producers, and the final reform of EPR schemes (UPV). Another development in the legal system is the **Climate and Resilience Law** (2023), which incorporates numerous actions relating to CE, such as environmental information on consumer products or new reporting requirements for companies and the regulation on advertising and greenwashing.

FACTS & FIGURES

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- Population (2023): 68 million
- Nominal GDP (2022): $2,936 trillion
- World rank: 7th
- Purchasing power (2021): €20,662 / inhabitant
- Export to the NL (2022): €32 billion
- Economic growth (2022): 2,6%
- Ease of doing business rank (2020): 32/190
- Corruption index (2022): 21/180
- Unemployment rate (2022): 7.1%
- Currency: Euro

CE INDICATORS

- Municipal waste recycling rate (2020): 42.7%
- Share of energy from renewable sources (2020): 19.1%
- Circular material rate (2021): 20%

FRANCE CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY

• 30% reduction of resource use and consumption by 2030
• 50% reduction of non-hazardous waste in landfills by 2025
• 100% recycling of plastic waste by 2025
• Reduction of GHG emissions through plastic waste recycling

RELEVANT EU GOALS

• Empower consumers and tackle greenwashing by ensuring the accuracy of companies' green claims;
• Member states should restore at least 30% of habitats in terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, and marine ecosystems that are degraded by 2030;
• No foreign nation must supply more than 65% of the yearly consumption by the Union of any strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing;

SELECTED PRIORITY AREAS

Textile & Fashion

The sustainable transition in the French fashion industry is ongoing. Since 2019, the **Fashion Pact** acts as a cooperative strategy uniting fashion and textile businesses to work towards shared objectives on climate, biodiversity, and oceans. As part of the new EPR Roadmap (2023-2028), €1 billion will be allocated to 5 projects for the improvement of garment recycling. **The French Trade Association of the Circular Fashion Industry (FMC)** is also actively promoting textile reuse and recycling. Their efforts are directed at innovation and production, consumer education and information, and taxation and working conditions. Another notable industry initiative is the Lyon-based **Techtera** cluster, focused on advanced materials, smart textiles, sustainable solutions, and digital technologies. It fosters collaboration, promotes research, and facilitates access to funding, markets, and international networks.

Agriculture & Bioeconomy

France is further developing its bioenergy sector by increasing biofuel production and biomass utilization for power generation. This development is enhanced by clusters such as the **Tenerrdis**. This energy cluster coordinates a network of businesses and different stakeholders such as government and academia. The cluster operates in seven technology fields, including biomass and biogas. Among other innovative projects, the **National Forest and Wood Program (PNFB)**, which will be operative until 2026, is an important Initiative aiming at the reduction of GHGs through the utilization of woodlands to absorb carbon. In agriculture, France is promoting sustainable farming practices, the so-called agro-ecological transition. France is also developing cultures like hemp and linen for the production of textiles and other materials. Furthermore, the French **Bio-economy Strategy**, which was implemented from 2018 to 2020, is now being integrated into the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP, 2021 - 2027).

USEFUL RESOURCES

Reports

- Country Profile Circular Economy
- Brochure circular economy recycling techtera.org
- Sector study - The bioeconomy in France
- Waste Management France
- Forse ambities in Frankrijk met biobased economy | Agrospecials |Agroberichten Buitenland
- Circular plastics in France

Links

- www.circularstories.org
- Handelsmissie Olympische Spelen in Frankrijk
- www.eur-lex.europa.eu
- www.ec.europa.eu
- www.agriculture.gouv.fr

Batteries

France has the potential to become Europe's first battery producer and is investing steadily in the sector. The country recognises the need to produce locally and sustainably and is thus developing a battery ecosystem in Northern France. The government has successfully established a battery gigafactory, which will have an annual capacity of 50-60 GWh, sufficient to equip between 500,000- 750,000 electric vehicles (EVs). In the area, 3 other projects have already been announced. The improvements are consistent with the EU's Fit for 55 proposals, which were released to encourage Europe to generate more clean technology required to fabricate batteries for EVs. Crucially, there is a great need for action towards the management of end-of-life batteries. The French government will provide € 30 million to 2 projects aimed at the recycling of discarded battery components as part of the 2030 **Stimulus Plan**. Recovering essential metals (such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel) for the production of new batteries offers undeniable environmental advantages as well as responding to both rise in demand and the ability to attain industry independence.

CE THINK TANKS & RESEARCH INSTITUTES

INEC (Institut National de l'Économie Circulaire)
Orée (Holland Circular Hotspot partner)
ADEME (l'Agence de la transition écologique)

EMBASSIES

Netherlands Embassy in Paris
French Embassy in the Hague

BUSINESS NETWORKS

- Zakelijk netwerk en contacten in Frankrijk
- Business France
- Franse Kamer van Koophandel in Nederland
- French Network of the Circular Economy