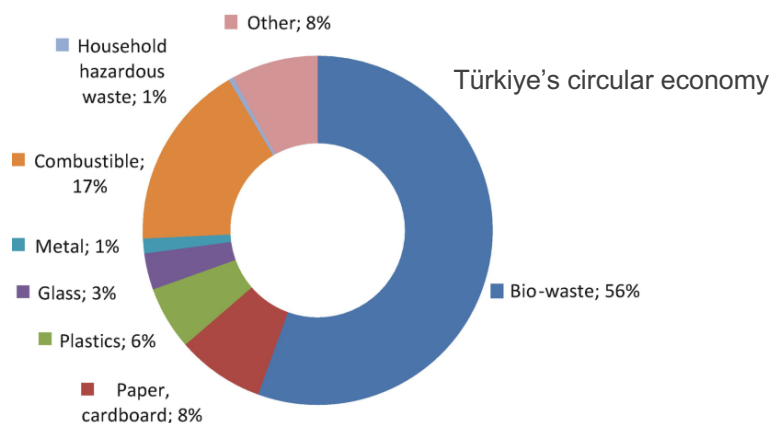




## Circular economy 2-pager, February 2024

### POLICY LANDSCAPE

Türkiye has stepped up efforts to combat climate change and embrace a more sustainable future. Following commitments to the **Paris Agreement** and the **Green Deal Action Plan**, ambitious goals have been set: a 41% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2053. Aligning with European regulations, Türkiye has implemented key directives on waste management, covering electronics, vehicles, batteries, construction materials, textiles, and food transport. These are further bolstered by educational initiatives and the **Zero-Waste Project**, aiming for a 35% municipal waste recycling rate by 2023. Demonstrating further commitment, the EU-funded 'Technical Assistance for Assessment of Türkiye's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy' (**DEEP Project** 2022-2025) is underway, building national and corporate capacity to transition towards a circular economy. This project encompasses the development and publication of an ambitious **National Circular Economy Action and Roadmap**. This comprehensive plan outlines six strategic goals, 24 key objectives, and 58 measures to be implemented across various sectors over five years. Alongside this, 35 legislative changes are planned, addressing infrastructure, technology, institutions, financing, and the overall economy. These developments showcase Türkiye's proactive approach to tackling climate change and transitioning to a more sustainable, circular economy, paving the way for a greener future.



### FACTS & FIGURES

#### ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- Size: 785.350 square kilometers (2021)
- Total Population: 84,98 million (2022)
- GDP (nominal + ranking): 907 billion USD, #19 (2022)
- Purchasing power: 10.618 per capita USD (2022)
- Import from the NL (€): 6,26 billion USD (2021)
- Economic Growth: 5,9% (2023)
- Ease of doing business: 33 (2022)
- Corruption Perception Index: 64, 109/180 (2022)
- Unemployment rate: 10,03% (2022)
- Currency and exchange rate euro: 1€ = 33,15 Turkish lira (TRY) (2024)
- Time difference with NL: +2 hours in winter, +1 in summer

#### CE INDICATORS

- Global innovation index: 37/132 (2022)
- Recycling rate of municipal solid waste: 19% (2022)
- Renewable energy production: 54% (2022)

### REPORTS & LINKS

- [Defining Circularity of Textile Industry in Türkiye](#)
- [Zero Carbon Building Accelerator](#)
- [To Cycle or not to Cycle: towards a circular economy in Türkiye](#)
- [Preliminary Research Report on Circularity Potential of Five Sectors in Türkiye](#)
- [Guidelines on Circular Economy for the countries of the Western Balkans and Türkiye](#)
- [Turkish Textile Industry, Circular Economy, and Dedication to Sustainability](#)
- [ETC CE Report 2022/5 – Türkiye](#)
- [Towards a Greener and More Resilient Türkiye](#)
- [Circular Food Türkiye](#)
- [Circular Food Co-Design Event](#)
- [Circular Food Series](#)
- [Global Lessons Learned for Urban Resilience and Regeneration Projects](#)
- [Save your Food](#)
- [Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in Turkey](#)
- [Food Losses and Waste in Turkey – FAO Country Report](#)
- [Circular Agrifood & Biomass: Food & Materials for a Sustainable Future](#)
- [Circular Infrastructure: The Road towards a Sustainable Future](#)

## SELECTED OPPORTUNITY AREAS

### Textiles

Türkiye's textile sector is a significant contributor to its GDP, boasting \$9.8 billion in exports in 2020. However, its resource-intensive processes pose environmental challenges, accounting for 15% of the nation's industrial water consumption. Despite this, the industry is undergoing a transition towards sustainability. Türkiye's key strengths, including its proximity to major European markets and flexible manufacturing, position it as a prime location for circular textile practices. The sector benefits from strong domestic capabilities across the entire value chain, coupled with vertical integration within regional clusters, fostering an ideal ecosystem for circularity. Moreover, Türkiye's expertise in EU fashion and adaptable production systems further enhance its suitability for circular textile transformations. Over 267 companies have already joined the **Better Cotton Initiative**, signalling a commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. Moreover, Turkish textile manufacturers play a pivotal role in the **Denim Deal**, a collaboration aimed at increasing the use of recycled textiles in jeans in the Netherlands. Türkiye's production of carbon fibre further adds to its circular potential. In 2023, a **Dutch trade mission** brought 17 circular textile innovators to Türkiye, with more planned in 2024, aiming to enhance collaboration in recycling, circular production, digital tech utilization, circular design, and renewable energy use, underscoring a commitment to advancing circular solutions in Türkiye's textile sector.

### Construction

The construction sector in Türkiye is vital to the economy but poses challenges as a major greenhouse gas emitter and resource-intensive industry. With buildings accounting for 31% of energy consumption and 30% of carbon emissions, there's a pressing need for circular solutions, especially amid rapid urbanization and seismic risks. Initiatives like **'Urban Renewal'** and **'Türkiye's Seismic Resilience and Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings Project'** (2021-27) aim to reconstruct risky buildings and enhance infrastructure. Certifications incentivize greener practices, creating opportunities for Dutch companies in circular design, recycling technology, and bio-based materials. Türkiye's emission reduction targets align well with the demand for energy-saving construction methods, amplified by initiatives like the **Zero Carbon Building Accelerator** (2021-23). Workshops and projects, such as the 'Developing Circular Reconstruction Strategies for Türkiye', part of the Embassy Science Fellowship (ESF) program, and the 'Critical Infrastructure and Modular Building Report Türkiye' project by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ankara, highlight the potential for Dutch solutions in circular construction, particularly in earthquake-affected regions.

### Food & Agriculture

Türkiye ranks as the 7th largest global food producer but grapples with substantial food losses and waste, totaling \$38 billion annually. In response, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock (MFAL) has initiated measures to mitigate these losses, including upgrading storage facilities and enhancing processing systems. Key initiatives such as the **Bread Waste Prevention Campaign** (2013), the **Zero Waste Project** (2017), and the collaborative **Save Your Food/Gidani Koru's Action Plan** (2020) with the FAO have shown promising results, resulting in significant household savings and increased food waste recycling. Additionally, the Food Banking project by the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry focuses on distributing excess food to those in need. Promising opportunities lie in alternative protein production, horticulture, aquaculture, and biomass utilization. Collaboration with Dutch companies can expedite the adoption of sustainable practices, particularly in protein sourcing, greenhouse technologies, aquaculture, and biowaste-to-energy solutions. This alignment with Türkiye's efforts underscores the potential for a circular and sustainable food and agriculture sector, offering mutually beneficial prospects for both nations.

## RELEVANT NETWORKS

### Business Networks & Knowledge Institutes

[BCSD Türkiye](#)  
[Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Support Administration \(KOSGEB\)](#)  
[Circular Economy Cooperative D-Cube](#)

[Türkiye Circular Economy Platform](#)  
[Turkish Statistical Institute \(TUIK\)](#)

[TR. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies \(TAGEM\)](#)

### Embassies & related organizations

[Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ankara and the Consulate General in İstanbul](#)  
[Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change \(MoEUCC\)](#)