



# Waste and Climate Policy Agenda: Opportunities after COP21

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# Nations Unies Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques

COP21/CMP11

## Paris, France



*"Now, what has been promised must be delivered. Europe will continue to lead the global low-carbon transition we have agreed."*

**HOW?**

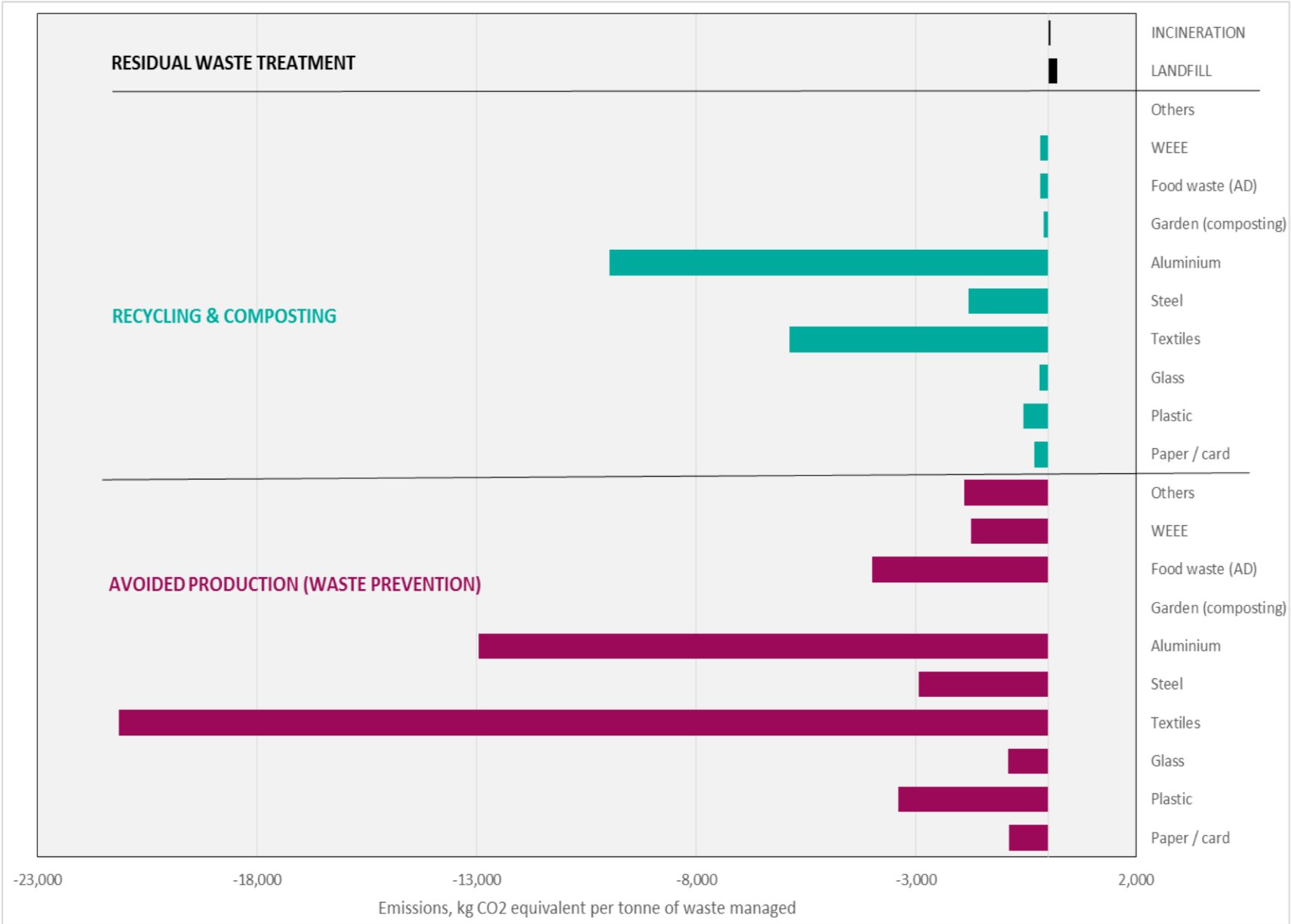


# The Potential Contribution of the Waste Sector to a Low-Carbon Economy

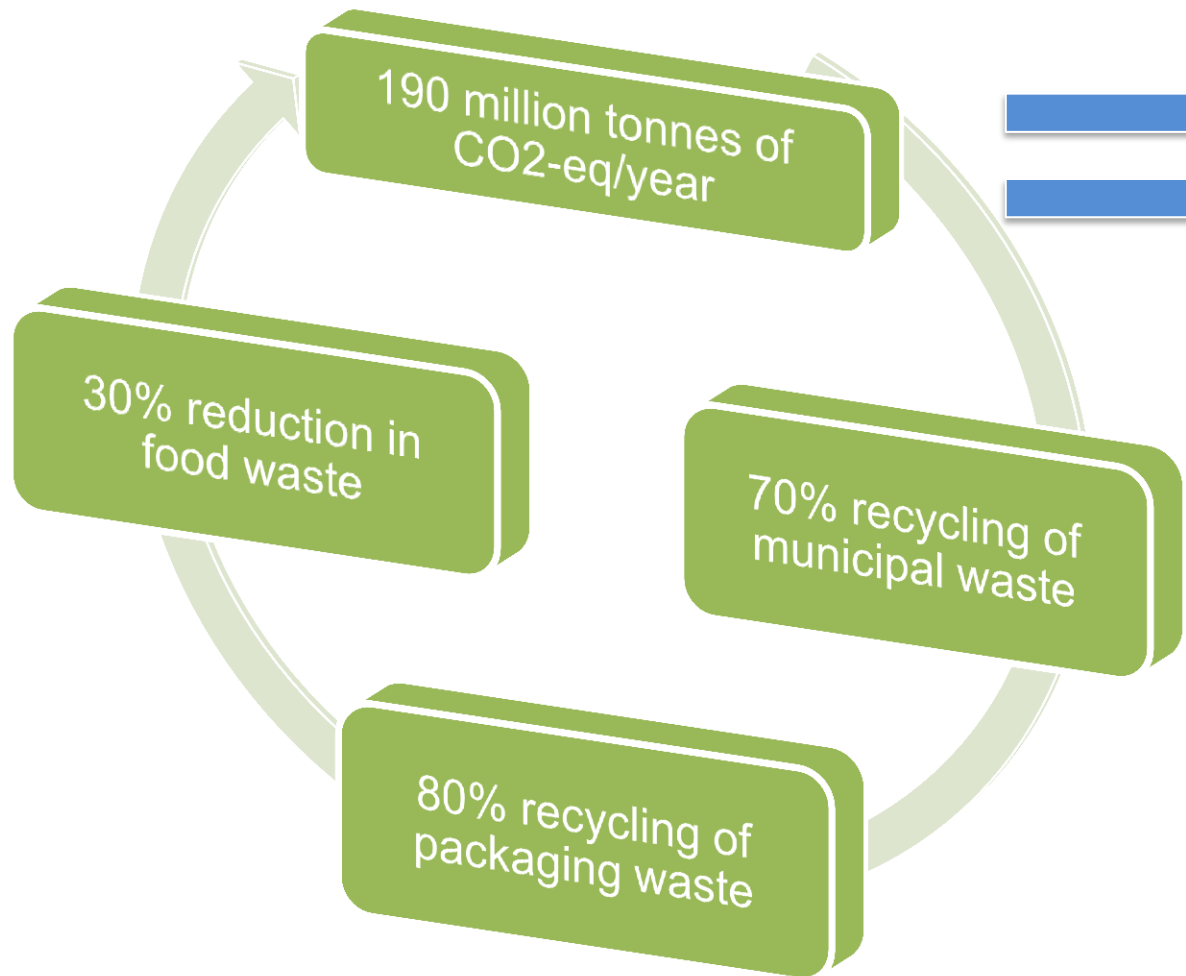
- Changing waste management practices can generate significant climate change benefits, mostly **from waste prevention and recycling, particularly of dry materials.**
- In comparison, residual waste treatment such as landfills and incinerators **actually contribute to climate change.**



Figure E- 1: Indicative Climate Change Impacts of Key Waste Management Activities (excl. CO<sub>2</sub> from biogenic sources)



# Climate Impact of the Circular Economy Package (version 2014)

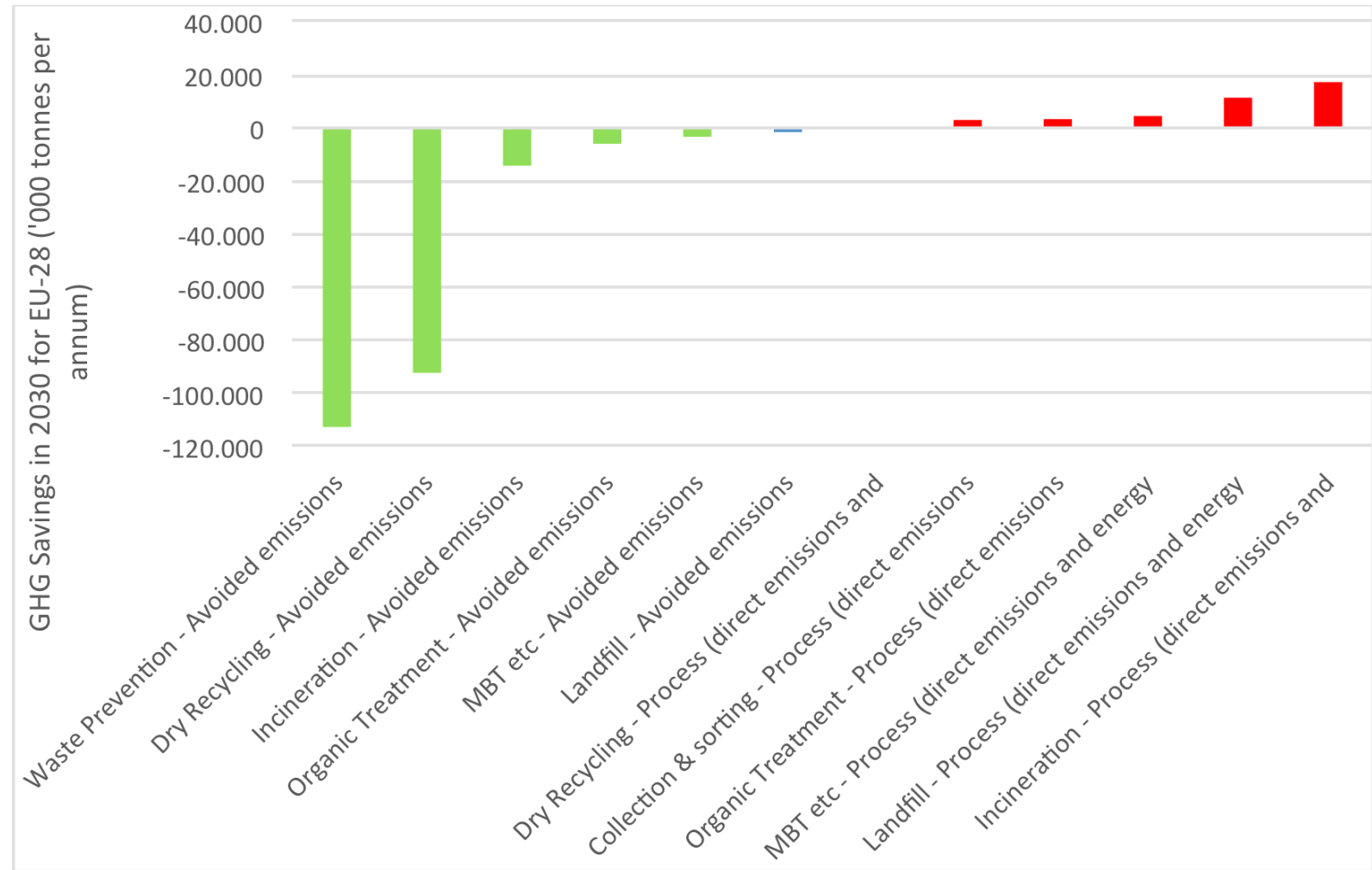


Annual emissions reported to the UNFCCC by the whole of the Netherlands.

New CE package is not as ambitious:

- less recycling,
- no specific targets for prevention

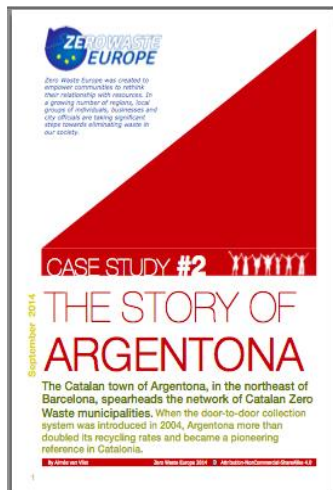
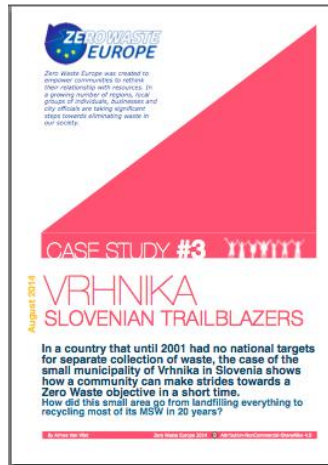
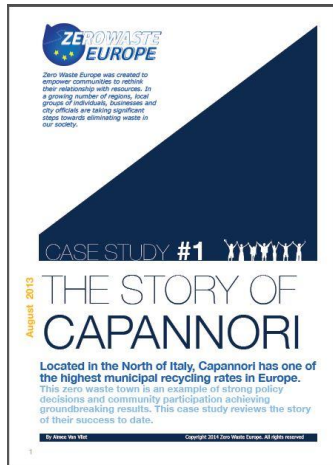
**Figure E- 1: GHG Benefits of the Withdrawn Circular Economy Package**



*Note: Modelled with 70% MSW recycling by 2030: 80% packaging recycling by 2025 and 30% reduction in food waste (modelled here as applying only to MSW).*



# Zero Waste for Climate Action!



## Network of Zero Waste Municipalities



**300+ Zero Waste  
Municipalities and growing**

**[www.zerowastecities.eu](http://www.zerowastecities.eu)**



# What's next for 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

## Overarching aims:

- Align and mainstream the climate dimension across EU policies.
- Avoid and correct policy contradictions and financial misalignments.

# Key policies to update within the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

- **Effort Sharing Decision:** 2020 ESD targets are too low and not aligned with Circular Economy Package. ***ESD targets should increase and should account for emissions beyond waste disposal treatment.***
- **Renewable Energy Directive:** subsidies given to waste incineration ***should be discontinued.***
- ***Biogenic emissions from burning bio-waste should be accounted and not considered carbon neutral.***
- **EU ETS Reform:** incinerators are not included in the EU ETS and ***their emissions should be capped as any other energy plant.***

# Wrapping up...

- The Paris Agreement is an opportunity to increase our ambition for climate action and the EU must take leadership.
- In the waste sector, waste reduction, reuse and recycling (zero waste solutions) are the best ways to reduce GHG emissions and develop local economies.
- Main challenges are the contradictions between waste and climate and energy policies, specially the climate-related financial incentives given to thermal treatments, which prevent appropriate support for zero waste solutions.

# Key message for 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

- ✓ Aiming at ambitious targets for emission reduction and providing renewable energy is as important as having the **appropriate policies in place to actually reduce emissions in the best way.**
- ✓ **EU Climate policies** need to seek coherence and catch up with the **Circular Economy Package** to **support the best climate mitigation options in the waste sector and avoid financing waste disposal.**

# Thank you!



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