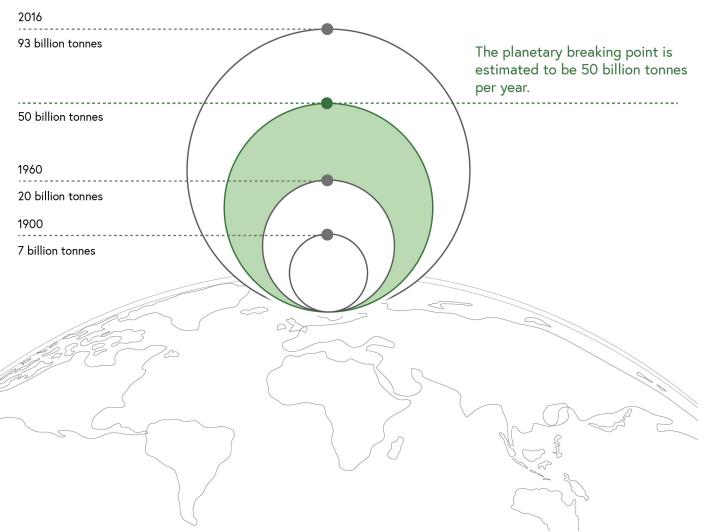
Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

# Austria's Circular Economy Strategy

## 1. Action needed for changes

The global consumption of resources has long exceeded the planetary load limit. In 2016, the planet's resources we used were nearly double that it could tolerate. In Austria, material consumption falls far over the European average. There is an urgent need for action

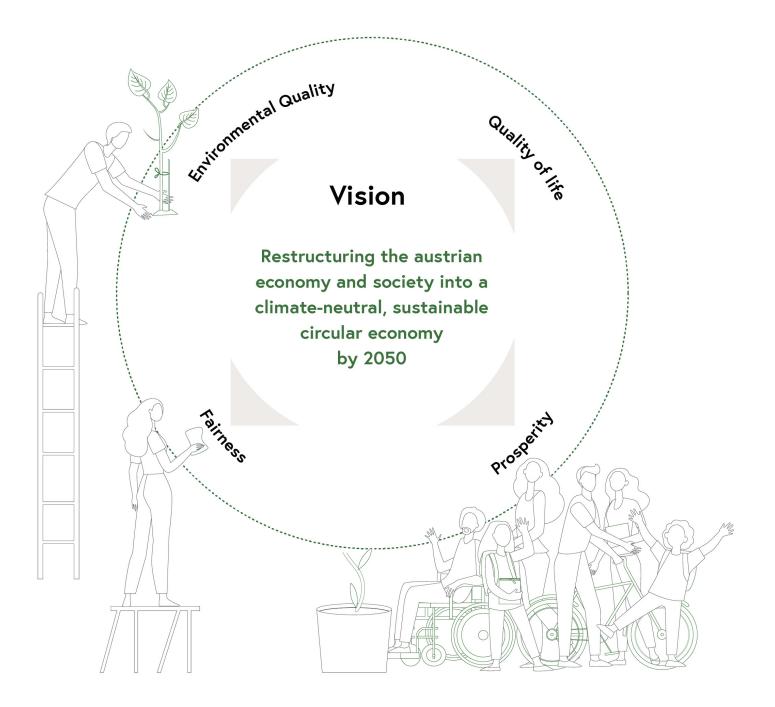
Development of the global material footprint



Source: Krausemann et al. (2009) U.N. International Resource Panel

# 2. A vision of the future for Austria

The vision of the federal government is the reformation of the Austrian economy and society into a climate-neutral, sustainable circular economy by 2050. This enables a sustainable and socially just development that protects the ecosystem, our quality of life and our prosperity for us and future generations.



# 3. The ten principles of the circular economy

The Austrian circular economy strategy is based on these ten principles that have the goal of avoiding environmental contamination and waste and increasing value and resource efficiency. These principles are the guiding basis for the development of all instruments and measures.

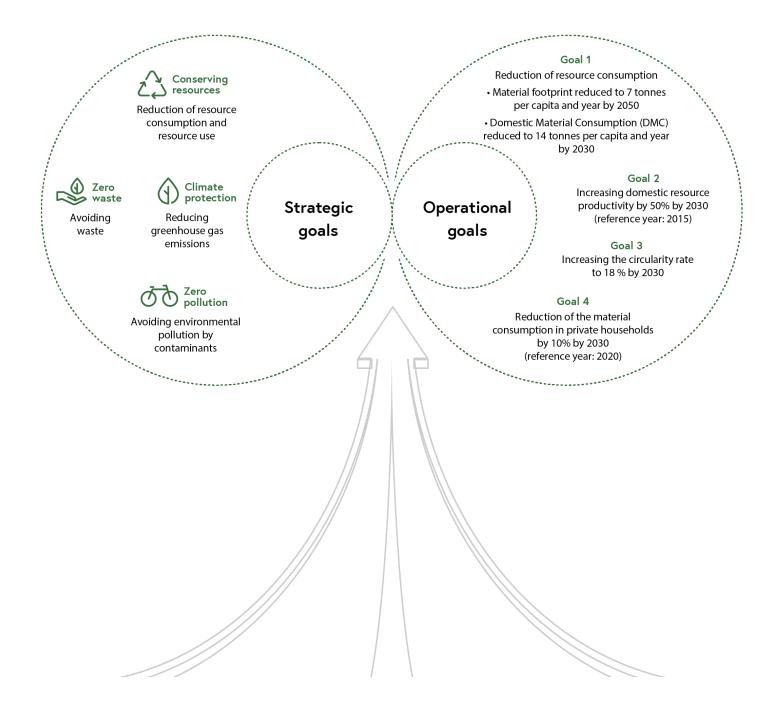
#### Circular economy -----Intelligent use and production of products and infrastructure 1. Refuse Make it superfluous. Products become superfluous, the product use is rendered elsewhere New thinking and circular design Design new products and use more intensively, 2. Rethink e.g. through sharing 3. Reduce Reduce. Increase efficiency in product production or use through less consumption of natural resources and materials Extended life of products, components and infrastructure 4. Reuse Reuse. Reuse functional products Repair. Maintaining products and continued use through repair 5. Repair Improve. Refurbish old products and bring up to the newest status 6. Refurbish 7. Remanufacture Reprocessing. Using parts from defective products for new products that fulfil the same functions Use for something different. Using parts from defective products for new products 8. Repurpose that fulfil different functions **Recycling materials** Recycling. Recycling materials to retain high quality and reintroduce them into 9. Recycle material circulation 10. Recover Thermal recycling with energy recovery -----.....

Source: BMK based on Potting et al. (2017)

Increasing circularity

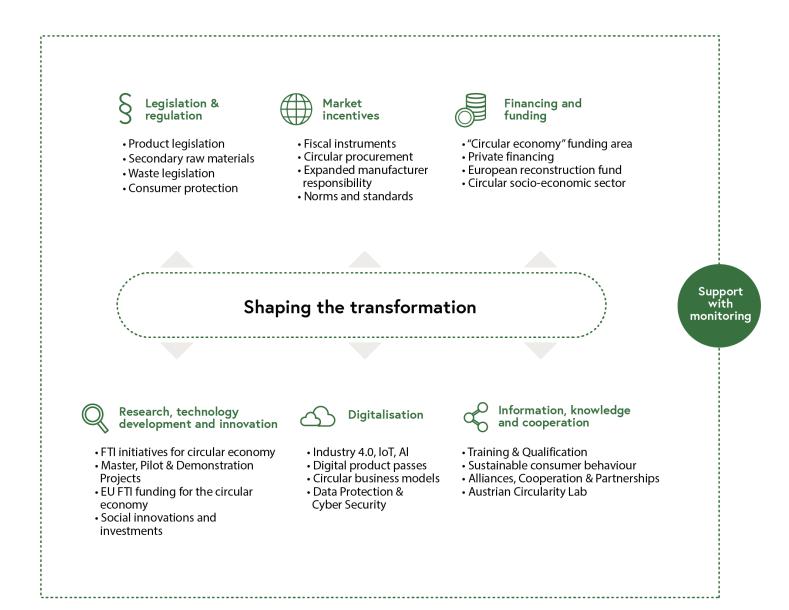
#### 4. Goals

The transformation into a circular economy means including resource flows in production, sales and consumption processes and thus massively reducing the use of raw materials and materials as well as the volume of waste and strain on the environment. The strategic and operational goals of the Austrian circular economy are derived from this.



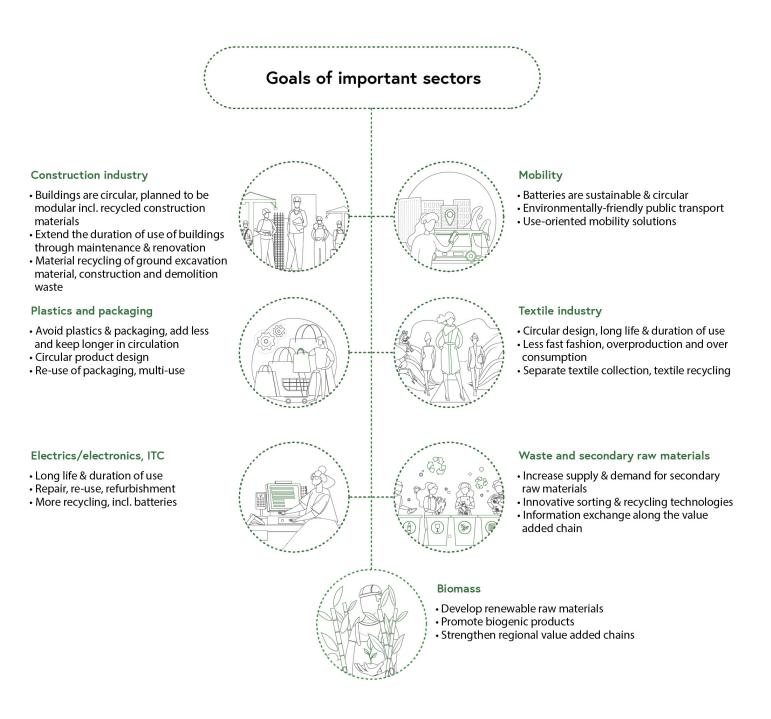
# 5. Shaping the transformation

So that the transformation to the circular economy in Austria is successful, it is necessary to be active simultaneously in many sectors and to implement a smart mix of various instruments and measures. Subsequently, the central intervention areas of the Austrian circular economy strategy spanning sectors and industries are presented.



#### 6. Seven transformation focal points

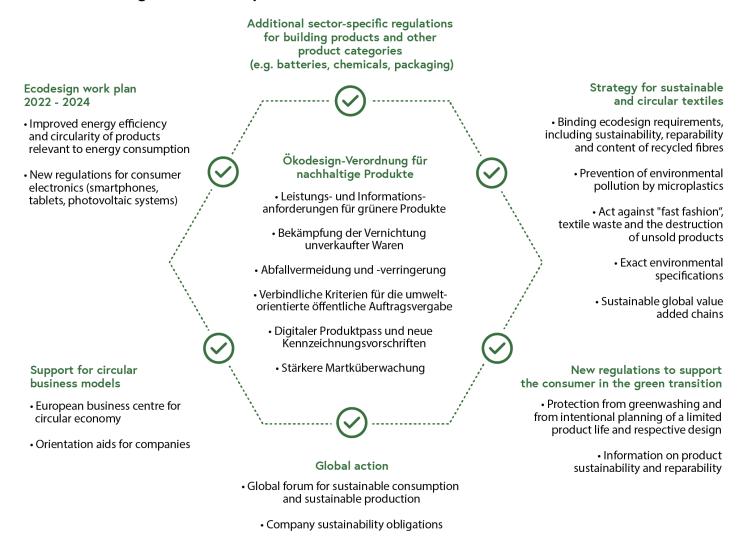
Within the transformation focal points, more than 600 proposals for measures from actors in the circular economy will be developed, assessed on their possibilities to be implemented in Austria, content summarized and included in the present circular economy strategy.



# 7. The Austrian circular economy strategy in the European context

With the Green Deal (2019) and the Action plan for circular economy (2020), the European Union is pursuing a transformation to a competitive, resource-efficient and climate-neutral economy by 2050. Sustainable product policy plays a key role in the action plan, with the goal of making sustainable products the norm in the European internal market. The introduction of the ecodesign regulation for sustainable products, EU textile strategy and new rights for consumers are the focus of this. The Austrian circular economy strategy is compliant with the European requirements and is linked to the EU plans.

#### Making sustainable products in a resilient internal market the norm



Source: European Union, 2022, formatting BMK

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Media owner, publisher, editor: Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology Radetzkystraße 2, 1030 Vienna +43 (0) 800 21 53 59 bmk.gv.at Layout: COPE Content Performance Group Vienna, 2022