

Green Horizon

How to green the carbon in the chemical industry

Jacqueline Vaessen
Chair ChemistryNL



ChemistryNL

- 1 of the 10 high priority sectors in the Netherlands
- Leads the innovation agenda on Circular Economy
- Boosts innovation in the chemical industry
- Connects public and private organisations in an open, inclusive and inventive way



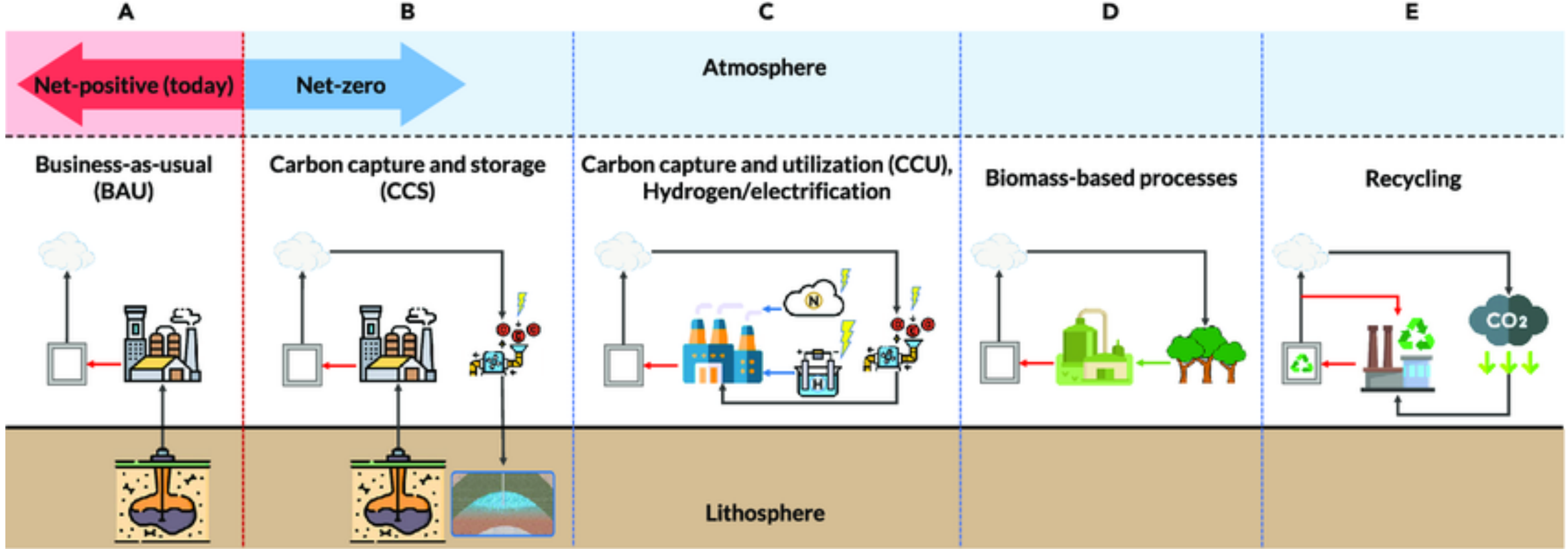
Chemical sector in The Netherlands

Key figures	Chemicals
Annual turnover in EUR:	83 billion
People working (in FTE):	85.000
Number of companies:	2530
Annual added value in EUR:	66 billion
Annual R&D expenditure in EUR:	Approx. 1,5 % of turnover

- **80% of chemical production is exported**
- **2 % contribution to GDP**



Challenge: How do we green the carbon in the chemical industry



Building elements

- Fossil fuels reservoir
- Fossil-based (BAU) chemical synthesis plant
- Chemical product end-of-life
- Chemical product end-of-life with recycle
- Chemical product
- Carbon-based product (fossil hydrocarbon, CO₂)
- Carbon-free product (hydrogen, nitrogen)
- Biomass

Required to achieve net-zero carbon emissions

- CCU / electrification chemical synthesis plant
- Biomass-based chemical synthesis plant
- Recycle-based chemical synthesis plant
- Generic carbon removal (biomass, CO₂ capture, CO₂ capture and storage)
- Permanent geological CO₂ storage
- CO₂ capture (direct air, point-source capture)
- Sustainable biomass
- Low-carbon electricity
- Low-carbon hydrogen
- Low-carbon nitrogen

Defossilising Chemical industry:

Sustainable carbon supply (keep carbon in the loop)

- Biobased feedstock
- Recycling
- CCU

Sustainable energy supply

- Increase of renewable energy production (solar-PV, Wind)
- Increase of supply of renewable energy by providing energy storage solutions
- Sustainable supply of critical materials



It is a worldwide opportunity



Key figures	Chemicals*	Refining
Annual turnover in EUR:	83 billion	23 billion
People working (in FTE):	85.000	6.300
Number of companies:	2530	45
Annual added value in EUR:	66 billion	32 billion
Annual R&D expenditure in EUR:	Approx. 1,5 % of turnover	

International collaboration

ChemistryNL takes initiative and direction by using the competences of Dutch chemistry in (inter)national cooperation.

Bilateral cooperation

- Collaboration in research and innovation
- International network with innovation attachés (IA's) at key strategic /partnering countries.
- **Brazil** is one of the focus countries for the chosen theme **biobased chemistry**
- Webinar Nov2022 -> NWO –FAPESP KIC Call in-prep
- Innovation Mission Brazil on circular bio economy
11-15 Dec 2023



TRAINING BACTERIA TOGETHER

Example of academic coloboration from the NWO-FAPESP program

- The partners: São Paolo State University and TU Delft
- The project: reengineering Escherichia coli that it can synthesize polyhydroxyalkanoates under anaerobic conditions
- The goal: developing a new and more cost-competitive way of producing feedstock for bioplastics



We wanted to use sucrose for the bacteria to grow on. That is why Brazil is a perfect match for us, since it is the largest producer of sucrose.

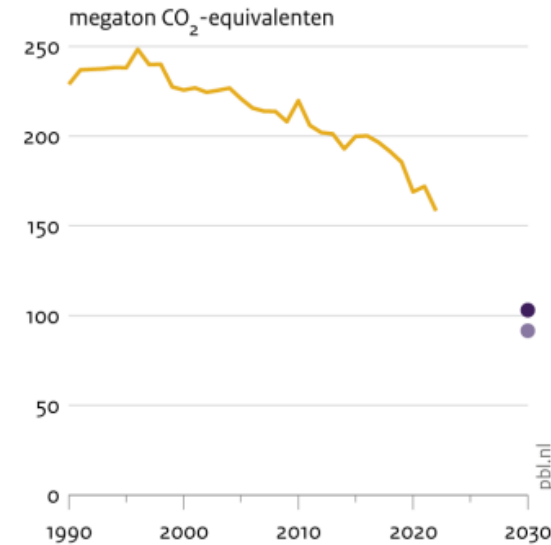
Karel Olavarria Gamez
Delft University of Technology

The Dutch biotechnology is very much oriented towards practical applications, like it is here in Brazil.

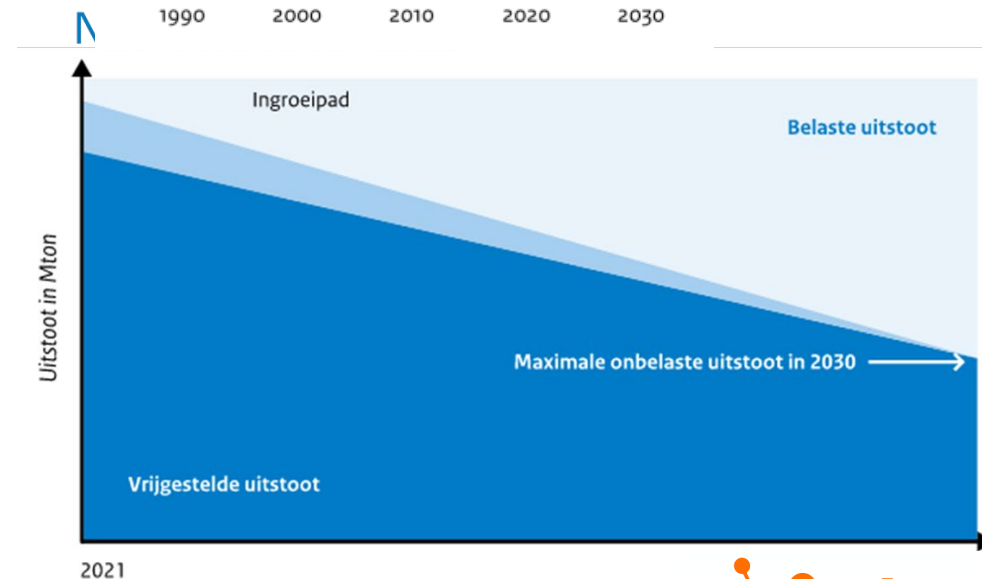
Jonas Contiero
São Paulo State University

NL targets to sustainability and circularity

- **National goal:** -55-60% CO₂-reduction by 2030 (relative to 1990), set by law. 2022: 158mton, target 2030 103mton
- **Targets in 5 sectors** based on analysis of national cost-effectiveness
- Intensive stakeholder process through negotiations **on National Climate Agreement** (75 parties signing)
- For **Industry** task is to reduce emissions from 54mton (2021) to 29mton (2030), 50% target since 1990 is reached. Instruments: European Trading System (ETS), national CO₂-levy, and subsidies e.g. for H₂(-market) and tailormade approach with biggest emitters



1. CCS
2. Efficiency
3. Reduction
4. Circularity
5. Electrification
6. Hydrogen



ChemistryNL fosters the ambition to renew Dutch Industry for a strong Europe

Nationaal Groeifonds

groen vermogen.nl

Battery Competence Cluster - NL

Circular Plastics NL

BioBased Circular

BIG CHEMISTRY
Chemistry driven by robots and AI

FutureCarbon^{NL}

SOLARNL
CIRCULAR INTEGRATED
HIGH-EFFICIENCY
SOLAR PANELS

ChemistryNL

CircularPlasticsNL (M€ 220)

Programme lines

P1. System integration and design (incl. microplastics)

P2. Characterizing, sorting, washing

P3. Recycling of polyolefin packaging

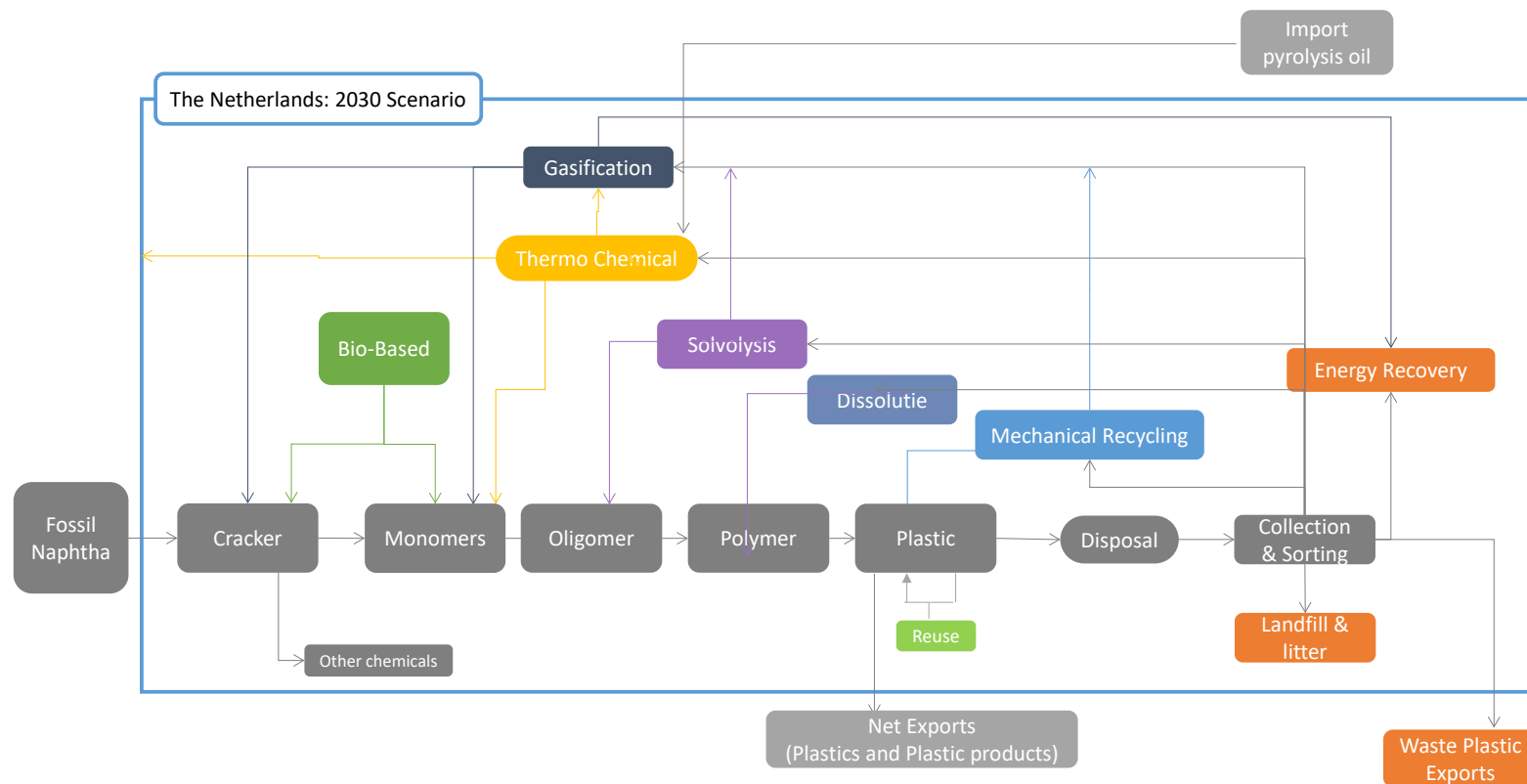
P4. Recycling of styrene based materials

P5. Chemical depolymerization

P6. Thermochemical recycling

P7. Brightlands Circular Space

P8. Seed fund for fundamental research



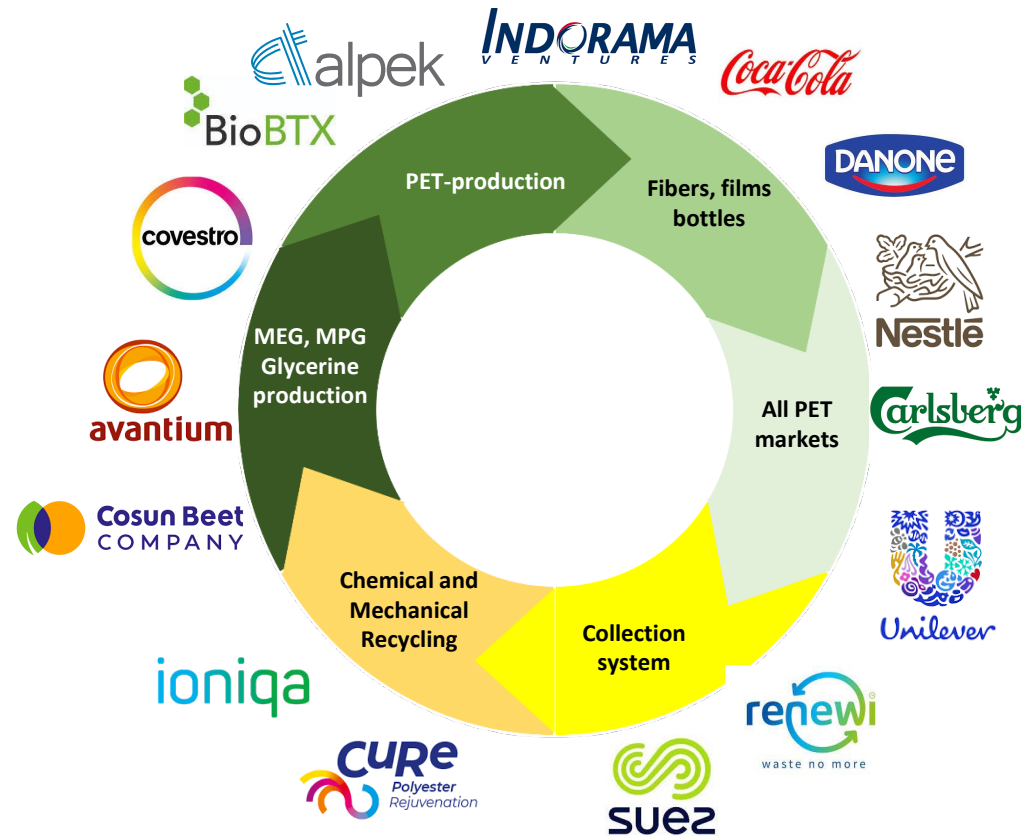
BBC growthfund

- 5 value circles at scale
- Time: 8 years
- Budget: € 340 mln from fund
- > 125+ organizations

Impact in 2050

- ~ 2.5 Mton CO₂ emissions reduction
- 3500 jobs
- € 1.5 bln economic growth

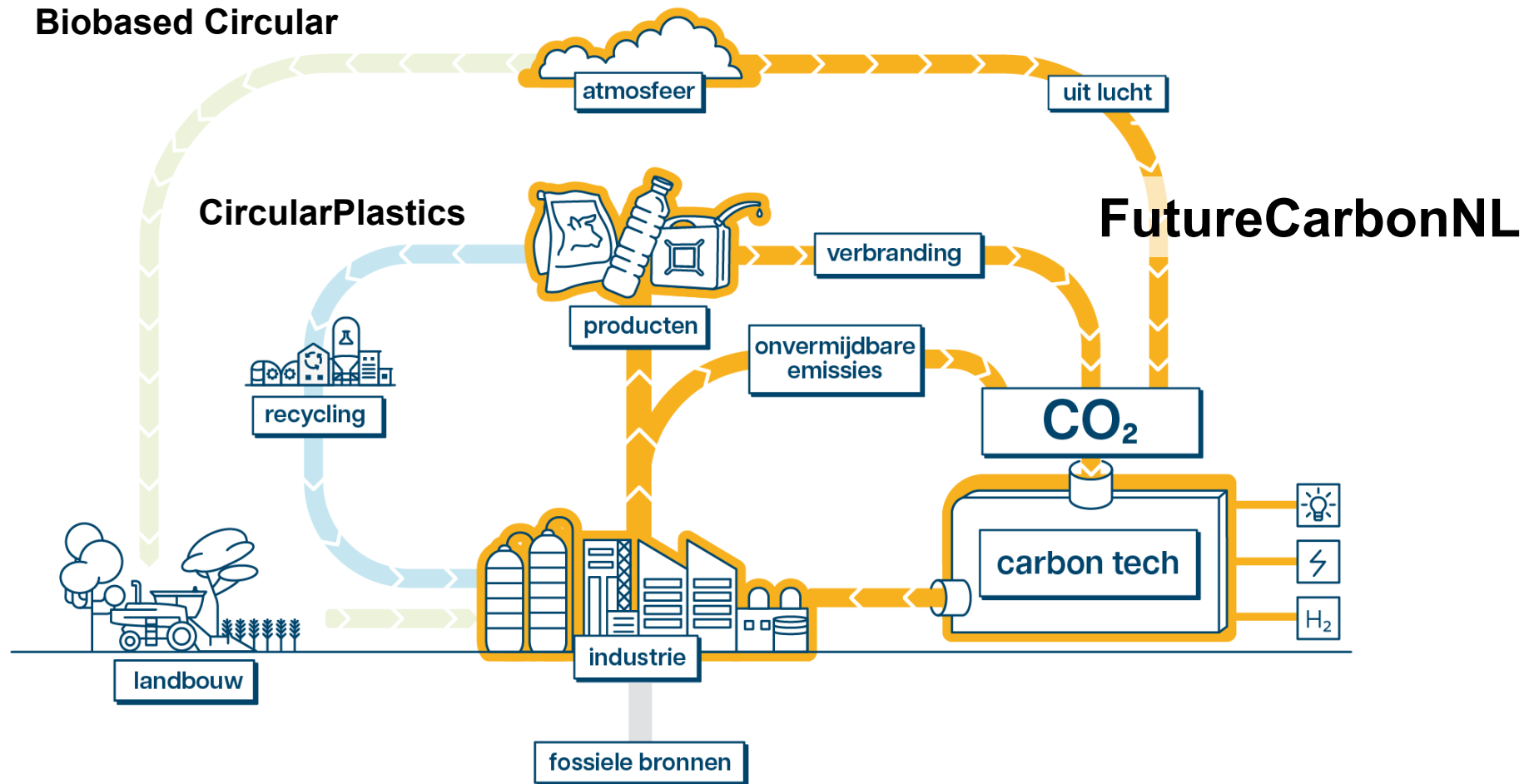
2050 – circular PET chain



BBC Focus

- Carbohydrates / Polyesters
- Packaging, textile, building
- Recycling
- Design for circularity
- TRL 4-9

Closing the carbon cycle - FutureCarbonNL

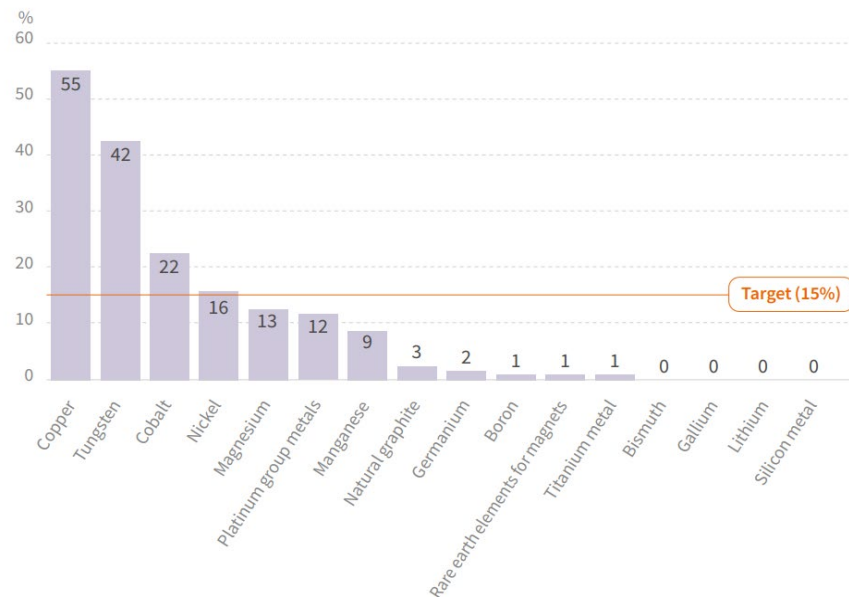


Carbontech (CCU) is a necessary tool for circularity and the raw material transition.

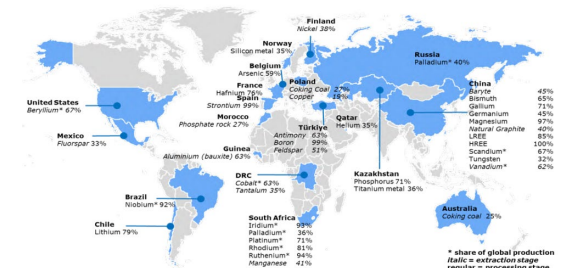
Innovation agenda on strategic autonomy of raw materials

Knowledge questions and directions for solutions have been formulated from four perspectives: |

1. Insight into product chains, material streams, delivery risks and impact on the economy and society.
2. Technology, industry and value creation.
3. Developing competencies.
4. Governance, behaviour and chain responsibility.



Major EU suppliers of CRMs



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