

Mobilising the circular economy for energy-intensive materials: faster transition to fossil-free, energy-efficient and independent industrial production

Friday, 25 March 2022, 9:00-11:00 CET | Webinar

Context and aims

Accelerating the phase down of fossil fuels, increasing energy savings and reducing over-dependencies on foreign material inputs is now critical for the EU. The Commission has released some proposals as part of its new Circular Economy Action Plan last December with further elements expected for 30 March and 20 July 2022. Will this package live up to what is required from an industrial decarbonisation perspective? A renewed focus on fossil fuel savings combined with climate neutrality by mid-century means the EU's green industrial transition must increasingly harness the enormous greenhouse gas abatement potentials offered by both enhanced circularity and material efficiency.

With the launch of the new study "Mobilising the circular economy for energy-intensive materials: How Europe can accelerate its transition to fossil-free, energy-efficient and independent industrial production", produced with the support of Material Economics, Agora quantifies the very large potentials for more circular and efficient use of CO₂-intensive materials like steel, cement, aluminium and plastics to reduce associated energy use and emissions in these sectors. The study argues that a more material-efficient and circular economy is essential to making the scale of the industrial transition to clean technologies feasible by 2050.

This event brings together EU policy makers and key stakeholders from industry and recycling value chains to discuss, together with civil society representatives and the wider public, what is needed from the CEAP 2.0 legislation for the most CO₂-intensive materials and products.

Key questions to be addressed

- Why do we need to boost our circular economy policies for CO₂-intensive industry?
- What are the different circular economy levers to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions? By how much could they reduce energy consumption and emissions?
- What policies should we prioritise under EU legislation? What policy should be prioritised by Member States for fast action on the ground?

AGENDA

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| 9:00-9:05 | Welcome Nikola Bock , Head of Events, Agora Energiewende |
| 9:05-9:10 | Introduction Matthias Buck , Director Europe, Agora Energiewende |
| 1st Session | Moderation: Nelly Azais , Project Manager, Agora Energiewende |
| 9:10-9:25 | Presentation of Agora Industry's study findings and recommendations Nelly Azais , Project Manager, Agora Energiewende Wido Witecka , Project Manager, Agora Industry Camilla Oliveira , Project Manager, Agora Industry Helen Burmeister , Project Officer, Agora Industry Oliver Sartor , Senior Advisor, Agora Industry |
| 9:25-9:35 | Presentation on plastic waste data and plastic recycling targets Per Klevnäs , Partner, Material Economics |
| 9:35-9:45 | Reactions from EU policy makers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Neale, Adviser on Circular Economy, DG Environment, European Commission • Bas Eickhout, MEP, ENVI Vice-Chair, European Parliament |
| 9:45-10:05 | Discussion with the audience (Q&A) |
| 2nd Session | Moderation: Oliver Sartor , Senior Advisor, Agora Industry |
| 10:05-10:15 | Presentation of key issues in CEAP 2.0 Oliver Sartor , Senior Advisor, Agora Industry |
| 10:15-10:55 | Roundtable with industrial stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory Cronin, Global Corporate Affairs, Unilever • Edward Heath-Whyte, Head of Environment and Sustainability, LibertySteel UK • Adela Putinelu, Head of Policy & Sustainability, Plastic Energy • Roland Scharf-Bergmann, SVP, Head Center of Excellence for Recycling, Norsk Hydro • Koos Schenk, Director, Smartcrusher |
| 10:55-11:00 | Conclusions and closing of the webinar Matthias Buck , Director Europe, Agora Energiewende |