



Network Debate



OPEN: EU Debate

Beyond resource efficiency: transition to a One Planet Economy



The State We're In

Our planet is buckling under the weight of the demands we are making on it. **The world's population is set to increase to nine billion by 2050 and global consumption levels are already five times what they were just 50 years ago.** This overconsumption is leading directly to climate change and species extinctions. We are losing some of the world's richest forests; we are degrading soil and sources of fresh water faster than ever before.



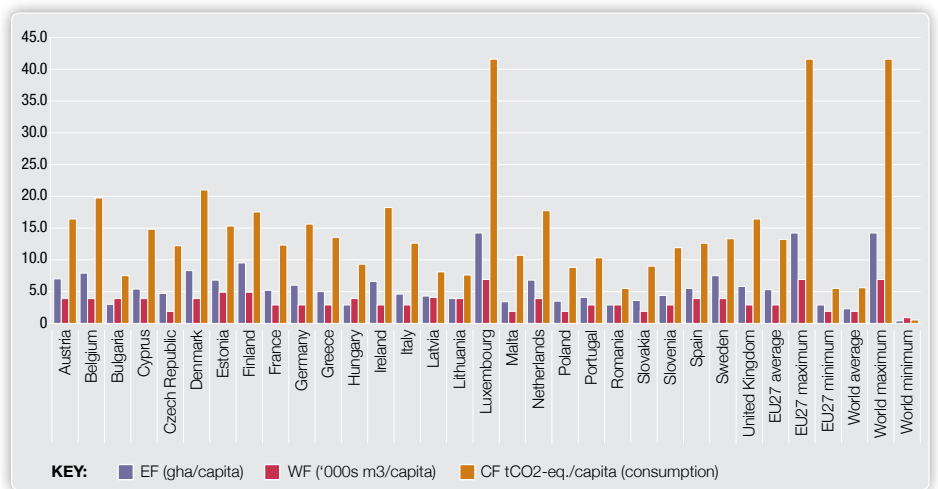
Europe's Footprint Family

Building on the premise that no single indicator is able to comprehensively monitor progress towards sustainability, the OPEN: EU project has defined a 'footprint family' suite of indicators to track human pressure on the planet from multiple angles.

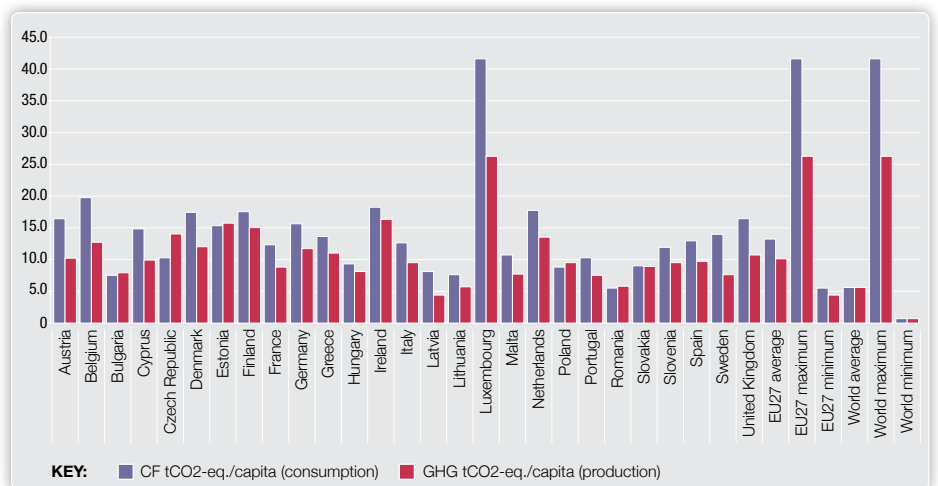
An environmentally-extended multi-regional input-output model was developed to group the Footprint Family indicators under a single, streamlined modelling framework, enabling the exploration of a range of environmental pressures – both inside and outside the EU borders – associated with changes in population, consumption patterns, production, technology or trade over time. From this evidence base the OPEN: EU project has calculated the impact of our carbon, ecological and water footprints for every European country shown in the graphs alongside. All evidence generated by the project will be made available through the EUREAPA tool in due course.

Luxembourg has the highest carbon footprint per capita in the world. Its large value in comparison with other EU countries is explained by its high GDP per capita (about two times higher than the next EU country in purchaser power parity), further compounded by a domestic energy supply that is dominated by oil and gas.

Footprint Family of EU-27



Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Consumption vs Production

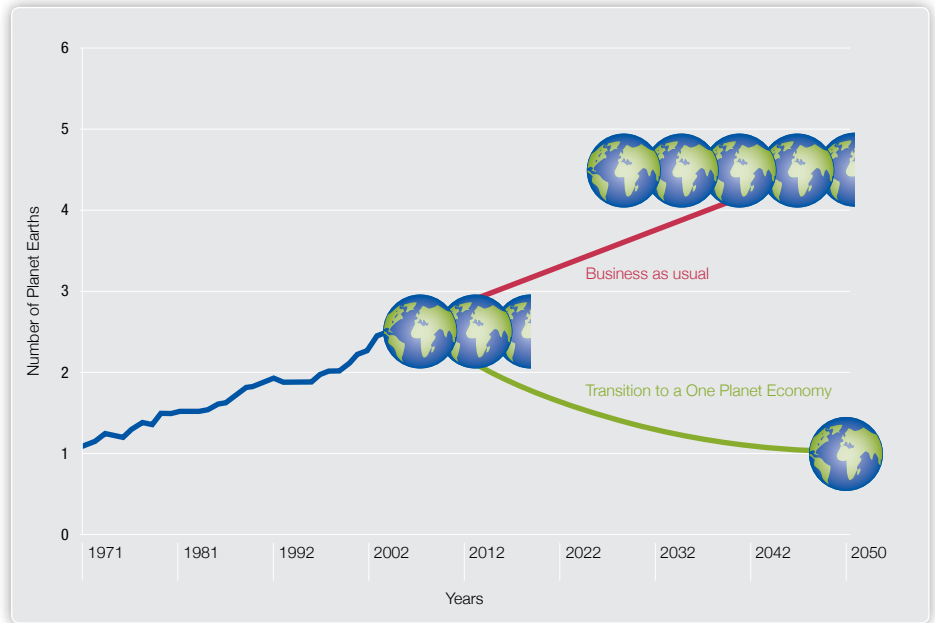


The Challenge Ahead

Currently, the European economy is using nearly three times more ecological assets than those available. This situation cannot continue indefinitely. Action is needed to start to reverse the condition. This amounts to a 3-4% reduction in ecological impact year on year over the next 40 years.

As our consumption of resources outweighs any increases in resource efficiency and is well beyond our planet's ability to regenerate them or assimilate our waste, we need to develop new economic models to rapidly bring the human economy back within carrying capacity of the planet.

The One Planet Economy Challenge



Co-create the Future

Evidence and tools alone are not enough to create a One Planet Economy in our lifetime. We need to harness our collective intelligence to hasten this transition. We invite all policy-makers, business leaders, political activists, environmentalists, academics, social entrepreneurs and concerned individuals to join in the One Planet Economy Network Europe Debate and help all of us achieve a future we desire. There are many pathways to a One Planet Economy and all ideas are necessary. It's our future and the time for action is now.

The OPEN: EU Debate

- How can we achieve a One Planet Economy in one generation?
- What needs to happen in our food, transport and energy systems?
- How will we finance the transition?
- What forms of new governance and social support will be needed?
- What will our new cultural and political landscape look like?

Join the debate and help produce an 'Action Plan for a One Planet Economy in Europe' to feed into the Rio+20 processes.

As an OPEN:EU stakeholder, you are invited to engage in an online dialogue process, by sharing visions, knowledge and insights so as to identify ways to accelerate the transformation of Europe to a One Planet Economy 2050.

Please visit oneplanetecconomynetwork.ning.com to join the debate and shape the future.



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Project Partners



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