

ENV 501 / GR A3 30

# Material Flow Analysis and resource management

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Teaching Assistant :Jaïr Campfens [jair.campfens@epfl.ch](mailto:jair.campfens@epfl.ch)

Teaching Assistant : Leonard Léchet [leonard.lechet@epfl.ch](mailto:leonard.lechet@epfl.ch)

Student Assistant: Alicia Pérez Domouso [alicia.perezdomouso@epfl.ch](mailto:alicia.perezdomouso@epfl.ch)

Fall 2025

8:15 - 9:00 and 9:15 - 10:00

13:15 - 14:00

14:15 - 15:00

Block I:  
EW-MFA  
global /  
national

W1 - Sep 11	Introduction to the course and general concepts	All	Exercise	Project
W2 - Sep 18	EW – MFA and EW – MFA in the Swiss context	External Guest – Florian Kohler	Exercise	Project
W3 – Sep 25	Examples of EW – MFA. Scaling EW-MFA to Cantons	FMC	Exercise	Project
W4 - Oct 02	Urban Metabolism and Circular Economy	FMC	Exercise	Project

Block II:  
MFA  
regional /  
urban

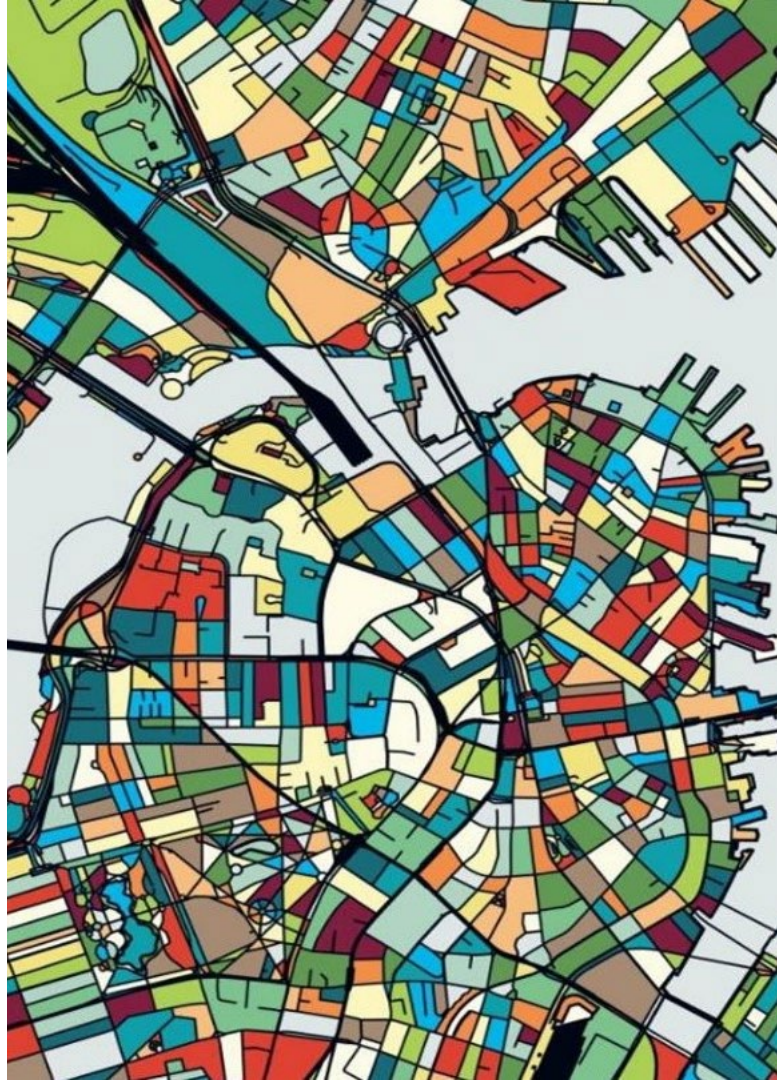
W5 - Oct 09	MFA method and the Stock-Flows-Service Nexus	CRB	Exercise	Project
W6 - Oct 16	Dynamic MFA	External Guest – Stefan Pauliuk	Exercise	Project
Oct 23	Autumn break			
W7 - Oct 30	Applications of MFA – case study	External Guest – Guillaume Massard	Exercise	Project
W8 - Nov 06	Input-Output Analysis and Material Flow Cost Accounting	External Guest – Vincent Moreau	Exercise	Project
W9 - Nov 13	Spatial MFA	FMC	Exercise	Project
W10 - Nov 20	Combined approaches: MFA + LCA; MFA + sociodemographics.	AS & FMC	Exercise	Project

Block III:  
Social  
sciences  
and  
public  
policy

W11 - Nov 27	Combined approaches: MFA + surveys; Quasi-dynamic MFA	GF & FMC	Exercise	Project
W12 - Dec 04	Social metabolism	CRB	Past exam	Project
W13 - Dec 11	Agent-based model	CRB, FMC, MAH, SLC	Project	Project
W14 - Dec 18	Group Project Presentation	All	Project	Project

# Agenda

- Teaching team
- Overview of HERUS
- Introduction to the course



# Teaching team HERUS



- Current**      **Full Professor for Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems (HERUS)**, EPFL, since March 2016  
**Dean School of Architecture, Civil & Environmental Engineering (ENAC)**, EPFL, 2020-2023
- Positions held**    **Assistant Professor for Social and Industrial Ecology**,  
Institute for Geography, University of Zurich, 2006-2009  
**Full Professor for Systems Sciences**, University of Graz, Austria, 2009-2011  
**Full Professor for Human-Environment Relations**, LMU, 2011-2016
- Habilitation**      **ETHZ Venia legendi Human-Environment Systems, 2006**  
Concept and models on material stocks and flows in human-environment systems:  
A contribution to transitions towards sustainable development
- Post-doc**          **University of Maryland, USA**  
Ecological Economics / Agricultural and resource economics
- PhD**                **ETH Zürich, 1996**  
The early recognition of environmental impacts of human activities in developing countries

# Dr. Francisco Xavier Félix Martín del Campo



**Current**      **Postdoctoral Researcher, Laboratory on Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems (HERUS), EPFL, since October 2023**  
Socio-metabolic research  
Material flows & stocks analysis  
Built environment  
Circular economy

**PhD**            **“Sustainability Management”, University of Waterloo, Canada, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED), Industrial Ecology Group, 2018 – 2023**  
Resource-use dynamics  
Socio-metabolic risks  
Sustainability & resilience to climate change

**Private sector**      **Construction & engineering sector**  
Corporate Social Responsibility / resources optimization  
Renewable energy / energy savings  
Energy management system for the construction sector



- Current**      **PhD student, Laboratory on Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems (HERUS)**  
Governance of energy transitions
- Research project**      **Enabling Decentralized renewable Generation in the Swiss cities, midlands, and the Alps (EDGE)**  
Socio-technical transition pathways
- Master**      **Eindhoven University of Technology, 2022**  
Sustainable Energy Technology  
**Maastricht University & UNU MERIT, 2022**  
Public Policy & Human Development



**Current**      **PhD student, Laboratory on Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems (HERUS)**  
Simulation of energy transitions

**Research**      **Analyzing tipping points in the adoption of low-carbon technologies**  
Socio-technical transition pathways

**Master**      **EPFL, 2024**  
Computational science and engineering

# Urbanization: Opportunity and challenge

Although urban areas only cover 3% of the Earth's surface, they...

house more than

**50%**

of the global population

generate more than

**80%**

of global economic activity

consume

**75%**

of global resources

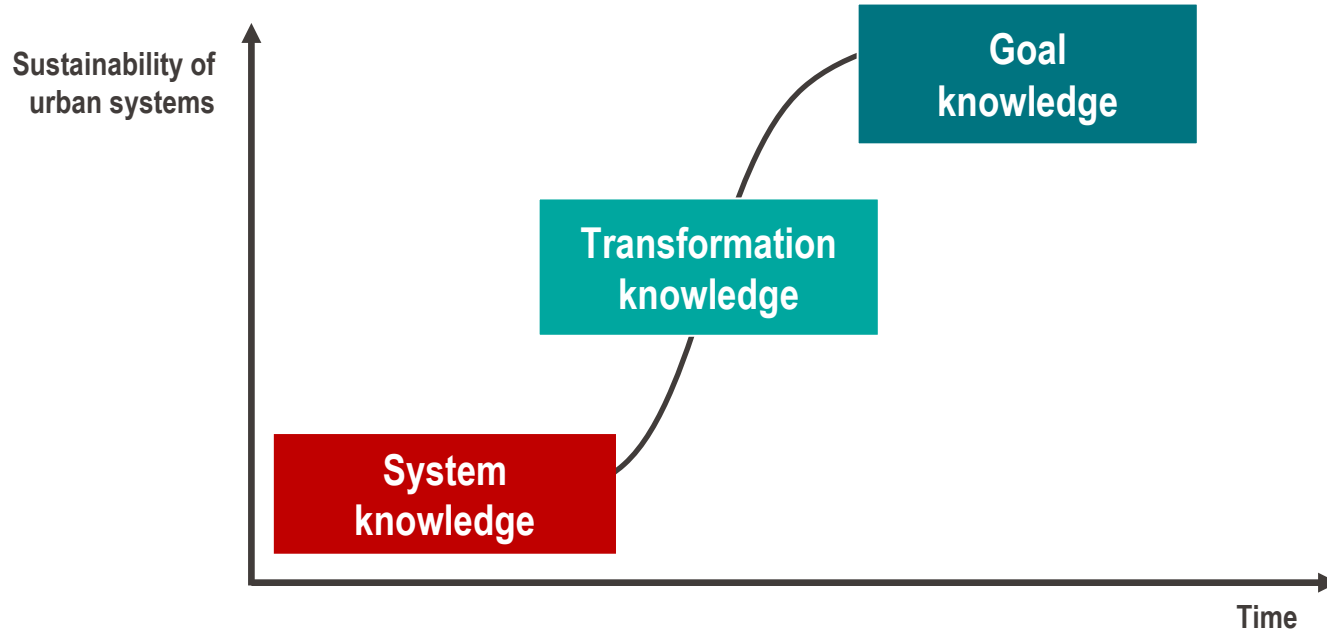
produce

**75%**

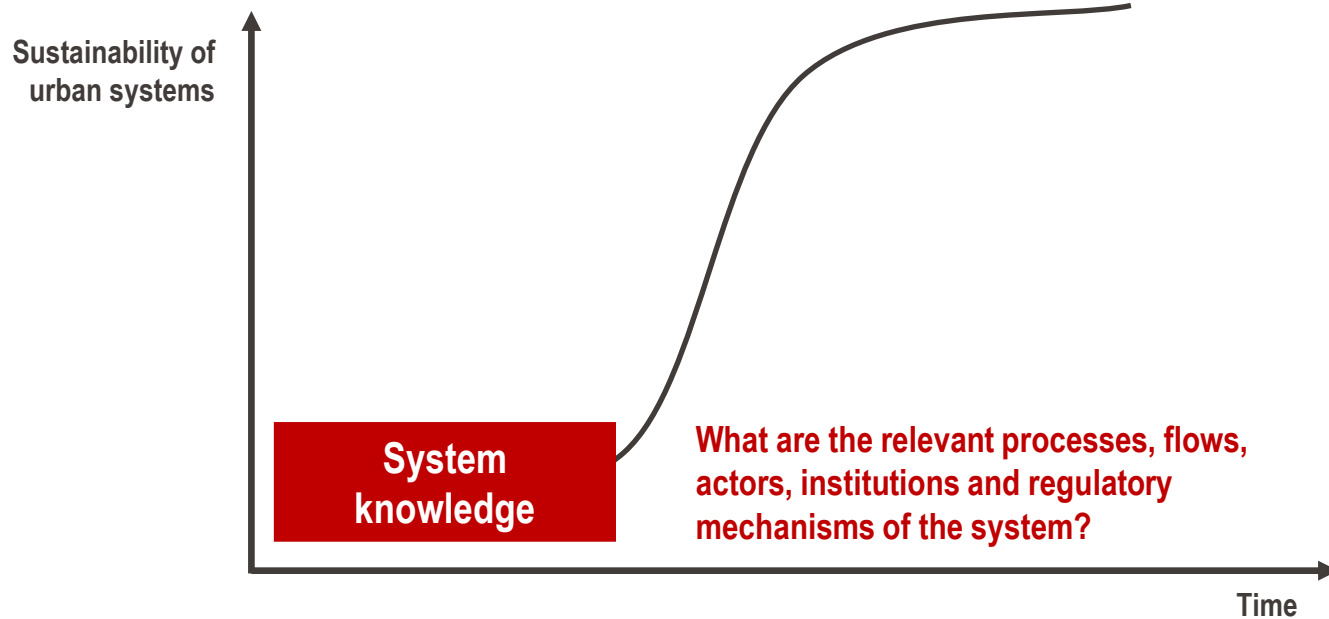
of global emissions



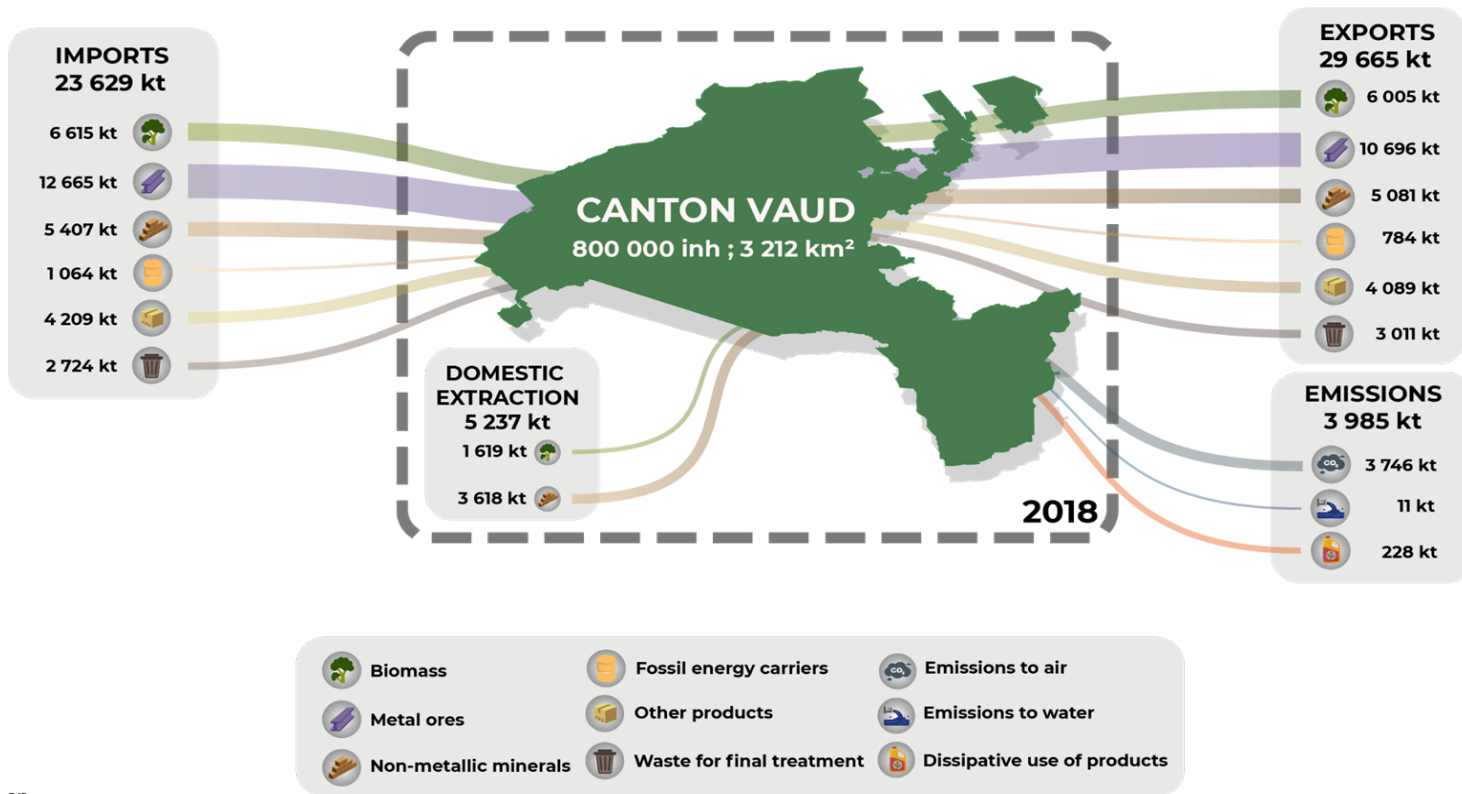
# Vision: Transition of urban systems towards sustainability



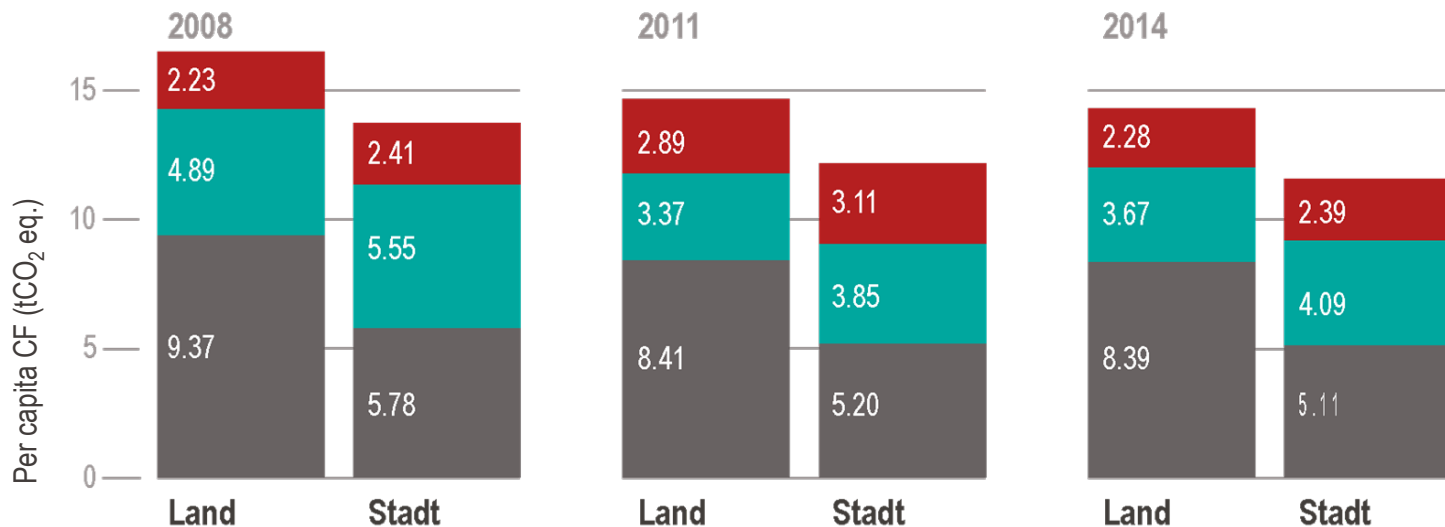
# What questions do we address?



# Overview of flows in territories



# Rural and urban carbon footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub> eq/cap)



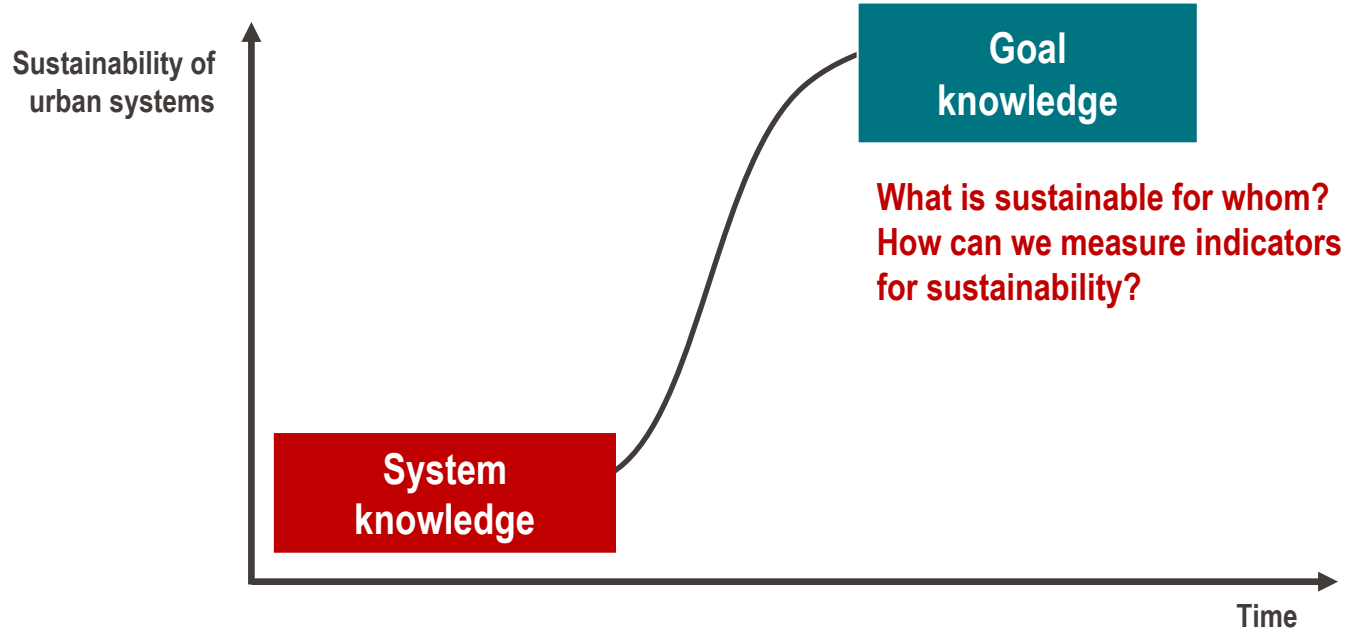
■ Indirect (imp.) ■ Indirect (dom.) ■ Direct

**Direct:** mobility und living (heating)

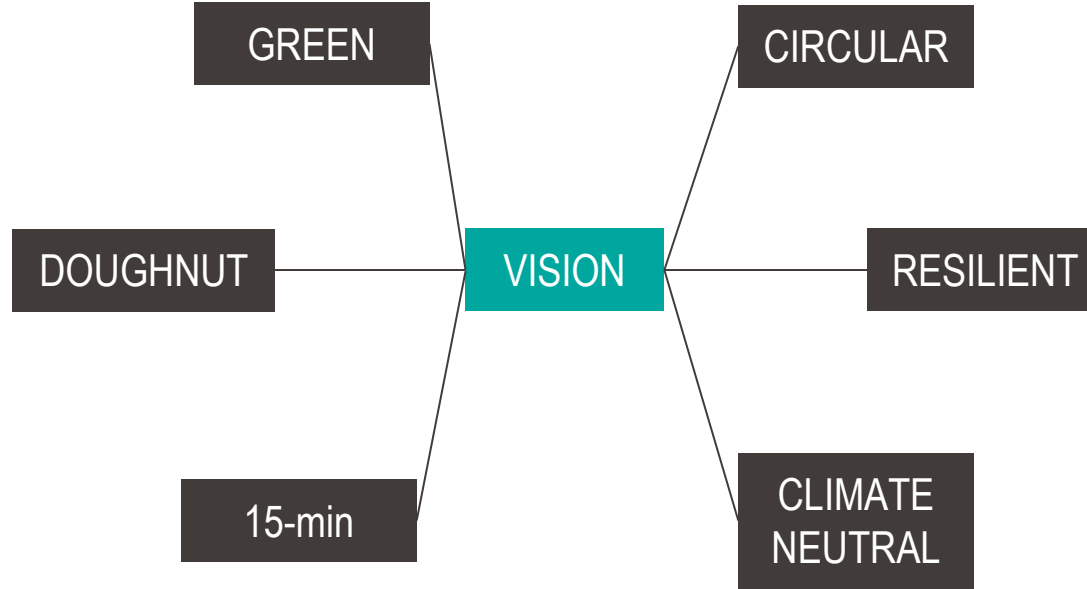
**Indirect:** consumption (e.g. clothes, food, travelling)

Source: Pang et al. 2019

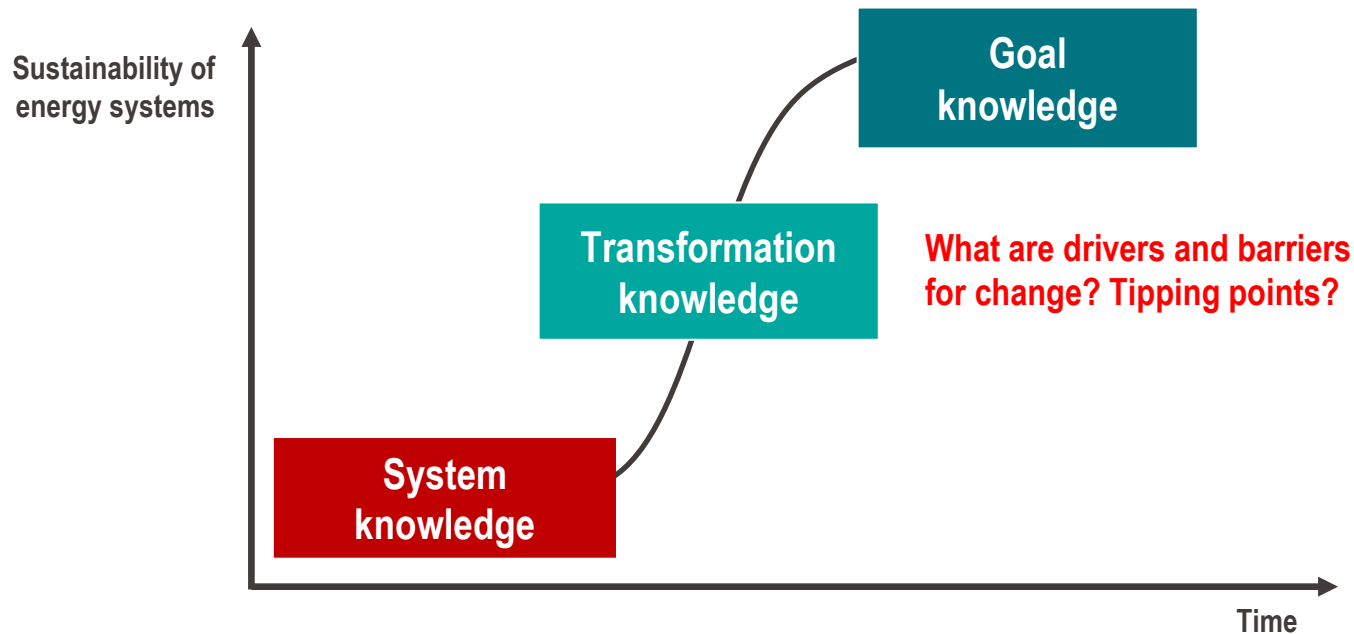
# What questions do we address?



# Different visions for cities



# What questions do we address?



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# Material Flow Analysis and resource management

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Fall 2025

# We have some questions for you !



- Please scan the QR code

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code **6805 6514**

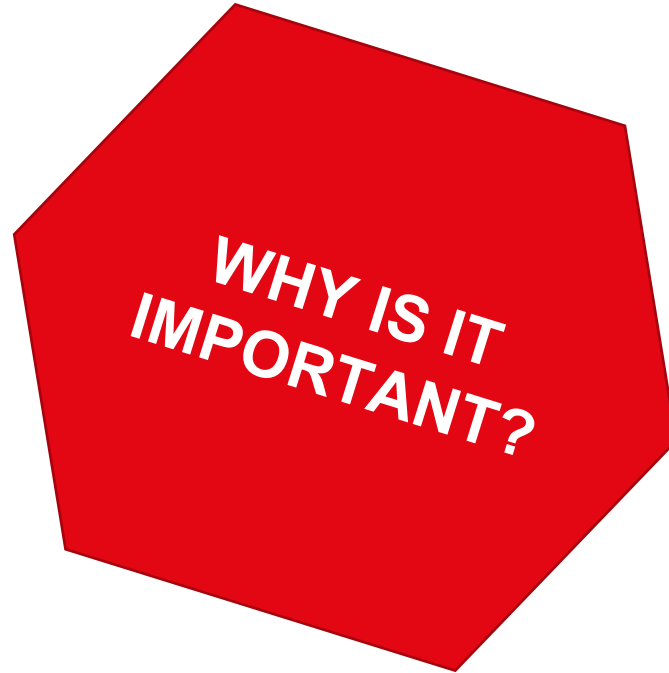
# Goals of today's lecture

- Understand the relevance of resources and resource depletion
- Situate material flow analysis (MFA) within a set of tools for resource management
- Get an overview of the course

# Content of lecture

- **Historical** overview of resource use in time and space
- **Key issues** in resource management
- **Industrial Ecology** as key research area of resource management
- **Overview of approaches** for resource management

# Material Flow Analysis





# The UNEP interdependent triple crises

- **Climate Change:** temperature rise and related environmental & health issues
  - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
  - International Resource Panel (IRP)
- **Biodiversity loss:** variety and abundance
  - Scientific body: Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- **Pollution:** air, water, soil – through the release of pollutants and harmful chemicals
  - Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

## Resources as boundary object

## MFA as one key methodology to support acting on these crises

# A historical perspective on resource use

Overview



# Resource: Definition

A **resource** [rɛ'sɜrsə] (frz. *la ressource* [RƏ'sʊRS], means, source' from lat. *resurgere* ,rise') is a **means to an action or a process.**

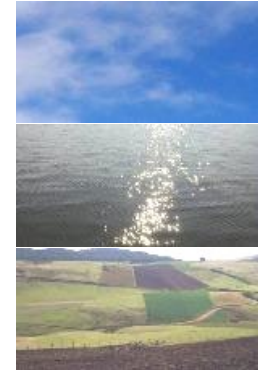
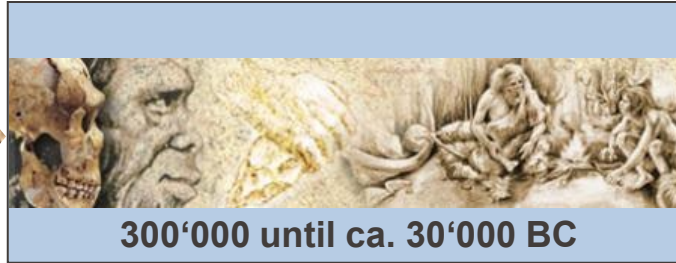
**Economy:** Resources as a production factor - labor, capital, land - new environment

**Sociology:** Cultural resources

**Psychology:** Inner potential of the human being

**Computer sciences:** Network resources

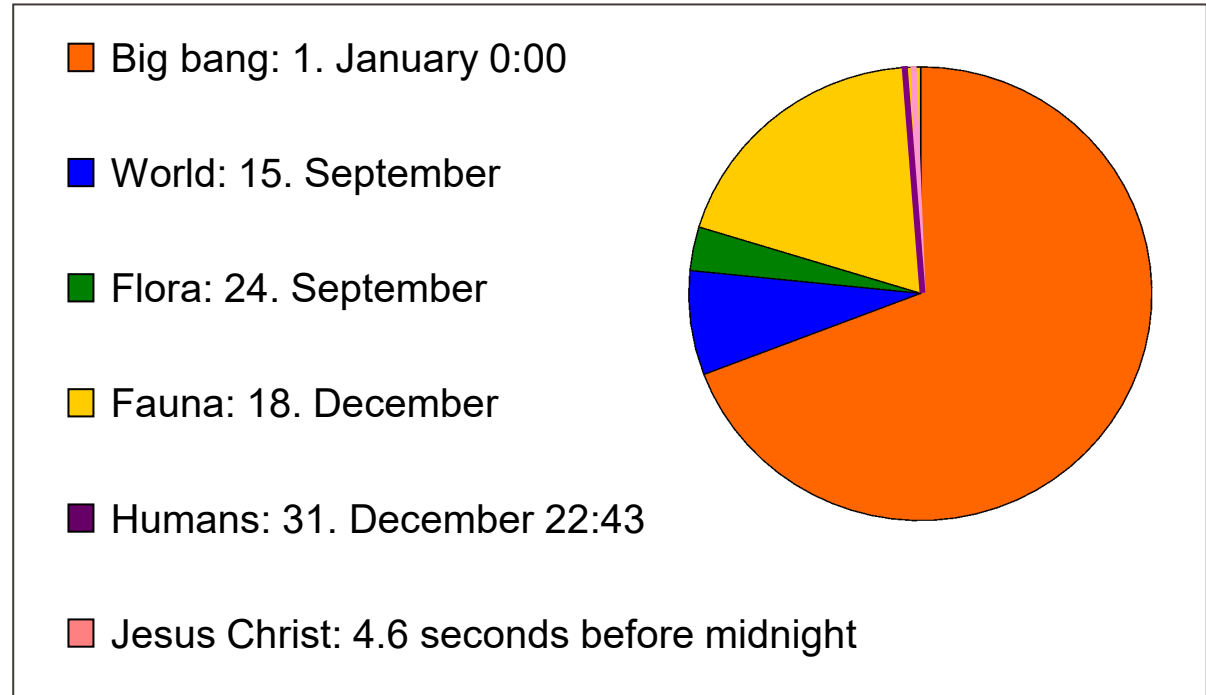
**Natural sciences:** The largest available stock. Corresponds to the concentration of an ore or another mineral or fossil fraction of the earth crust.



Binder, 2006

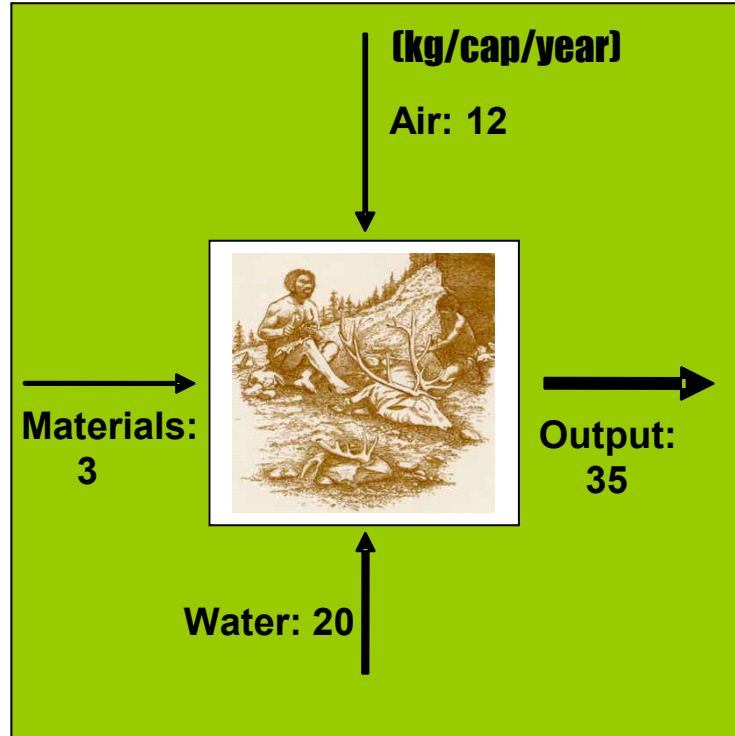
Chronological table  
 Hunters and gatherers

# Biological evolution: Chronological table

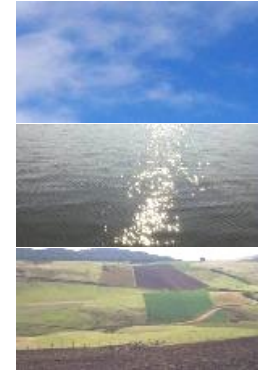
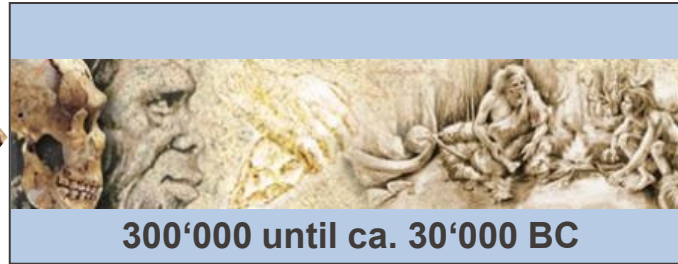


Binder, 2006; adapted from Lindl and Klötzer, 2006

# Resource use: Hunters and gatherers



Binder, 2006 after Fischer-Kowalski et al., 1997



Binder, 2006

Chronological table  
Hunters and gatherers

## The first humans

- Preservation of the species
- Equilibrium: use and regeneration of resources



# Cultural evolution



Agricultural & industrial age

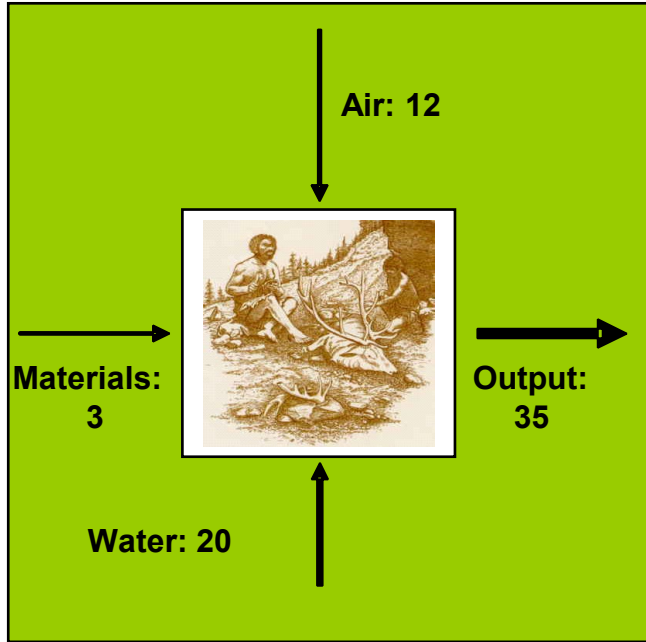
## Humans in the 20th/21st century

- Changing needs
- Increasing per capita consumption
- Increase of human impact on resource use

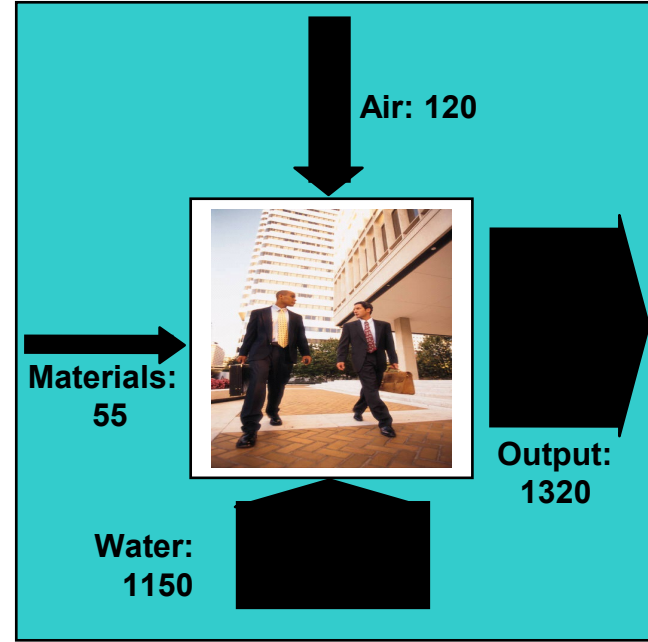


# Changes in the resource use (kg/cap\*year)

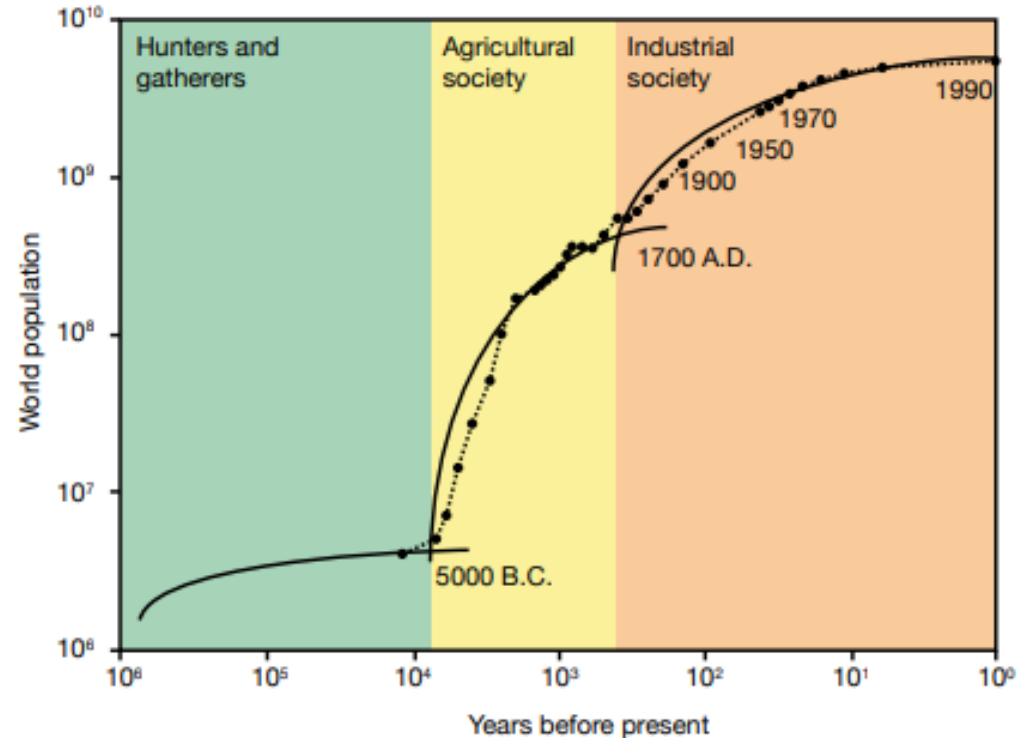
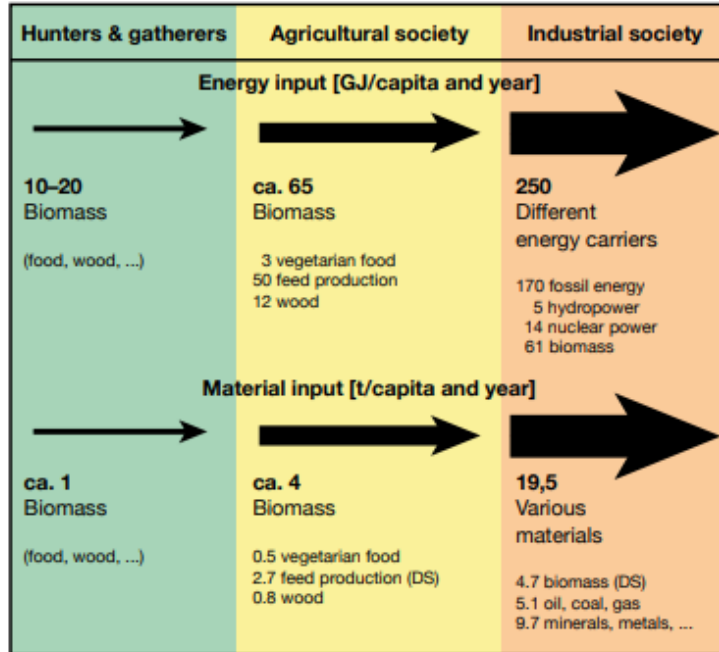
## Hunters and gatherers



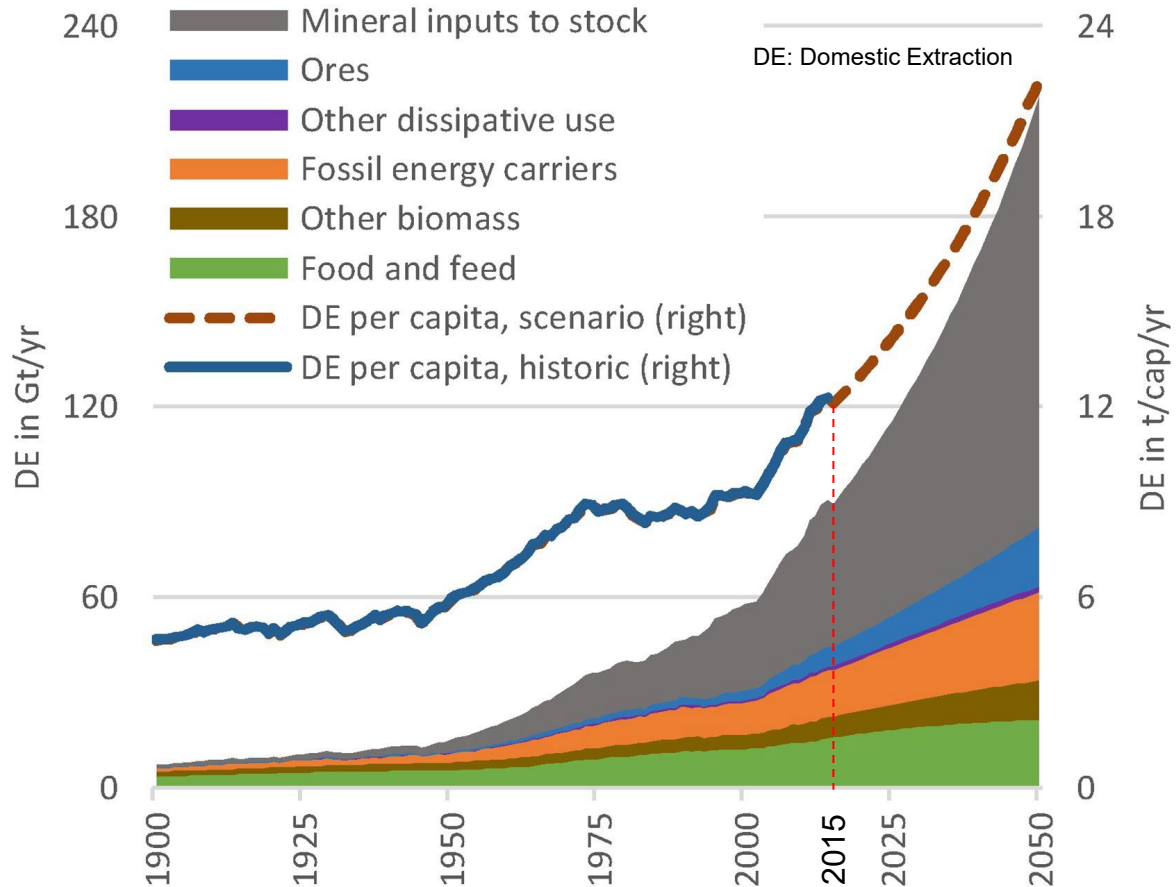
## Industrialised societies



Binder, 2006; after Fischer-Kowalski et al., 1997

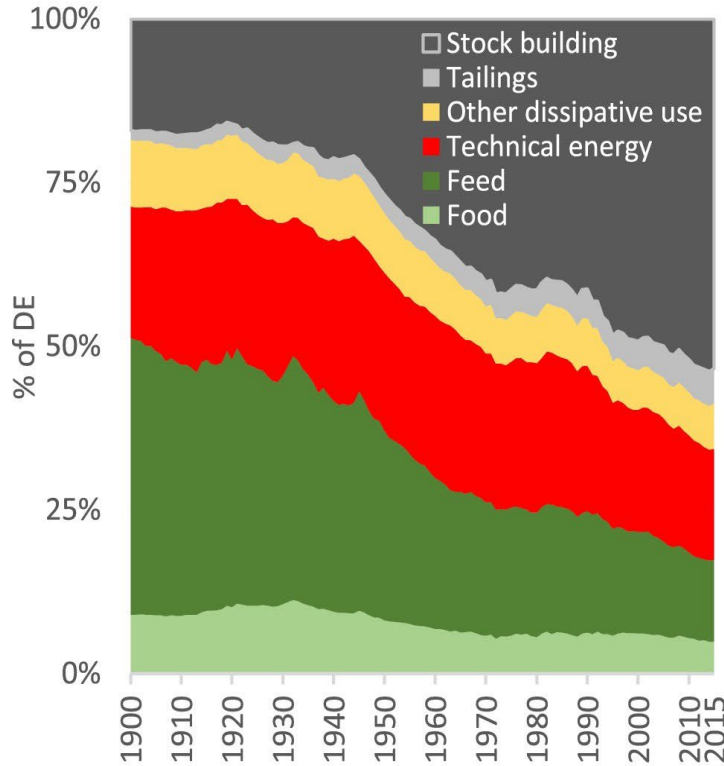


# Scenarios of global material extraction

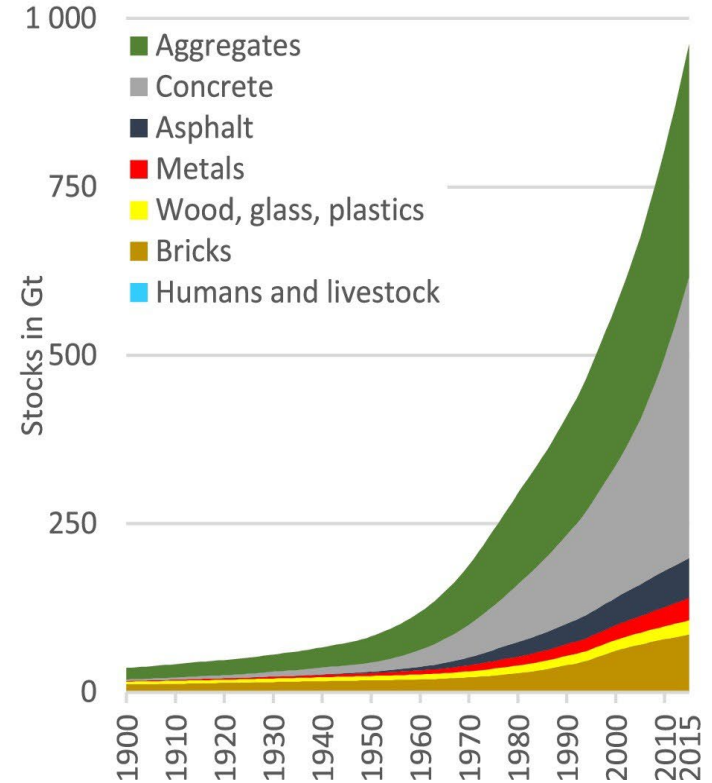


# Global material flows 1900 to 2015

Material use



Stocks



# A historical perspective on resource use

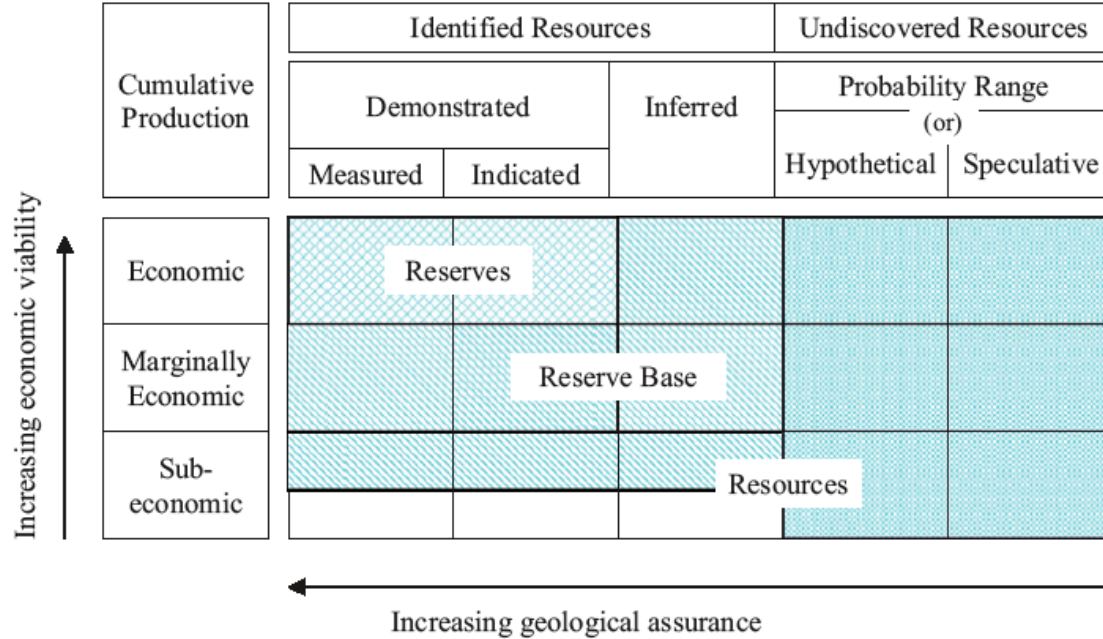
Reserves and demand



# Resources vs Reserves

- **Resources:** the “concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous material in or on the Earth’s crust in such form and amount that economic extraction of a commodity from the concentration is currently or potentially feasible”
- **Reserves:** “that part of an identified resource that meets specified minimum physical and chemical criteria related to current mining and production practices, including those for grade, quality, thickness, and depth

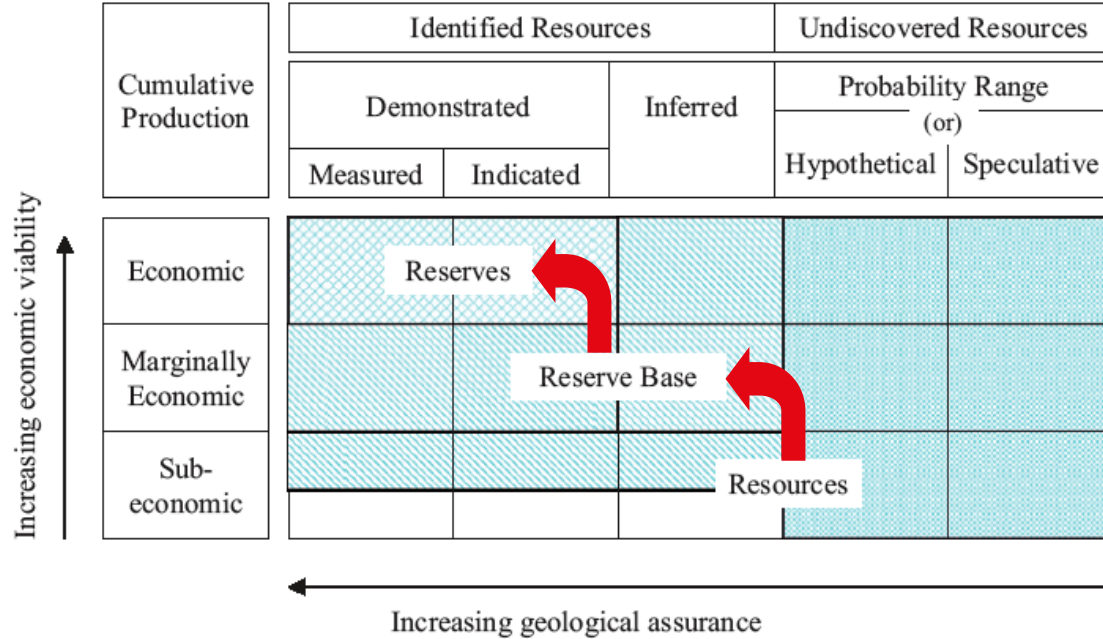
# The McKelvey chart



Gordon et al. 2007

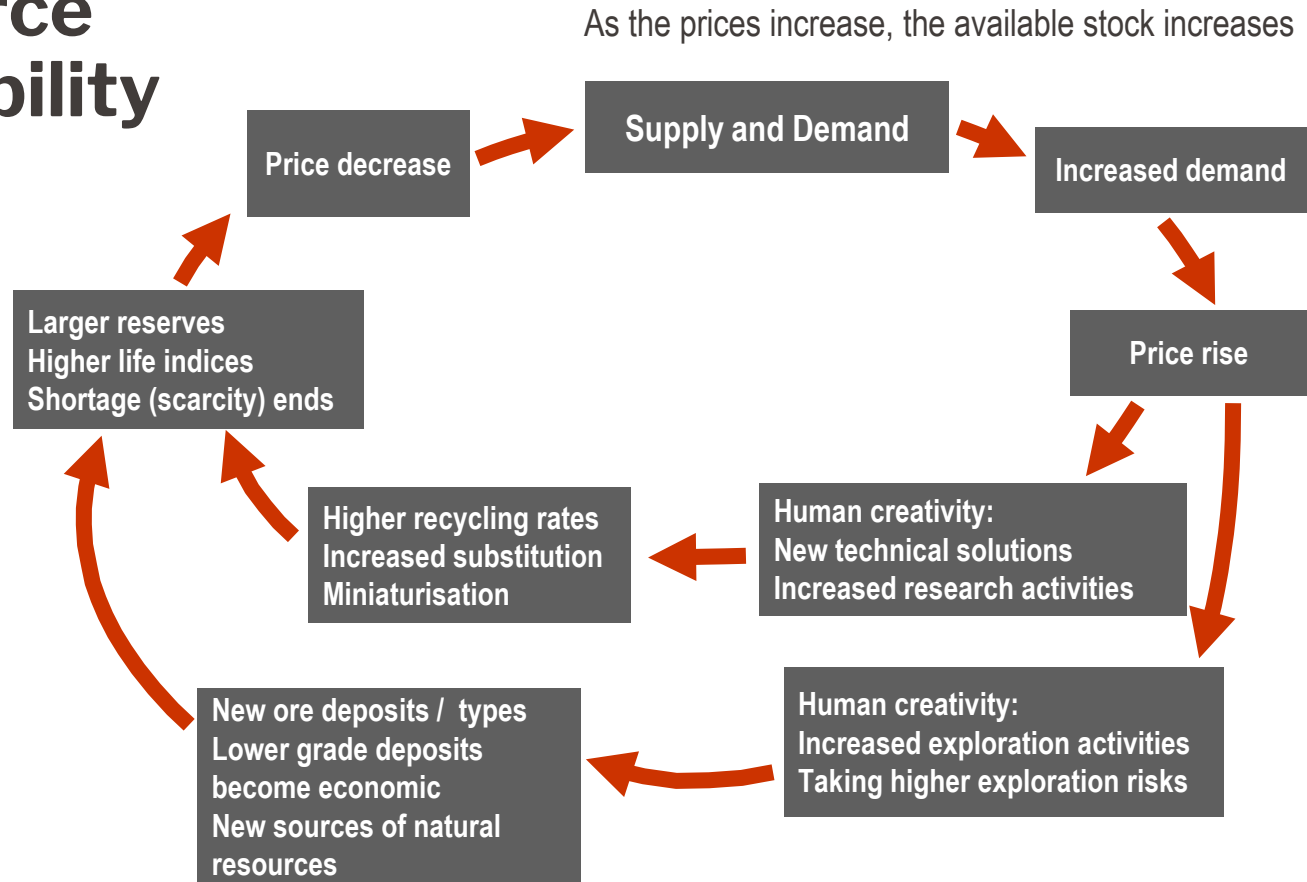
# The McKelvey chart

## Dynamic concept



Gordon et al. 2007

# Dynamics of resource availability



# Years until depletion of known reserves

**Remaining years until depletion of known reserves (based on current rate of extraction)**

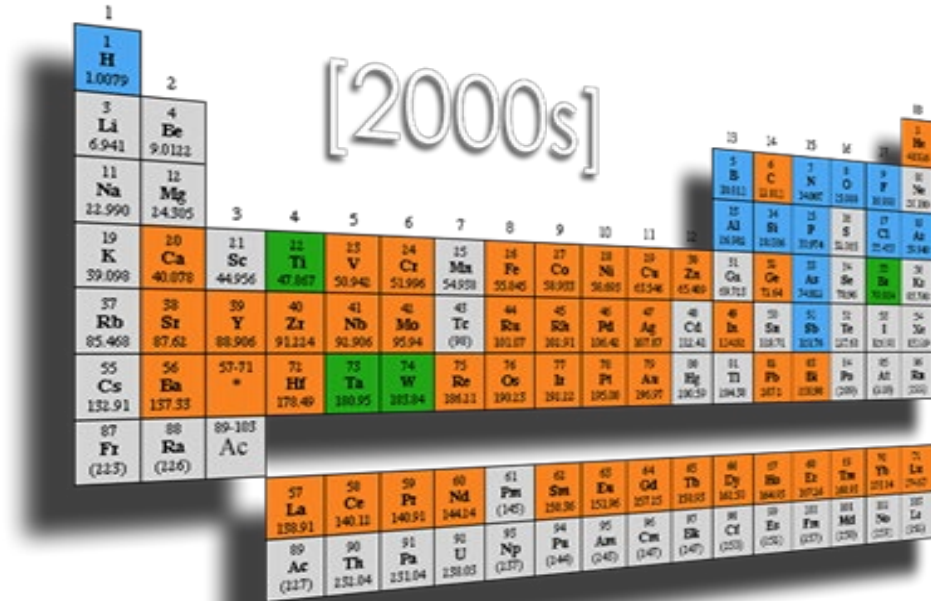
1 <b>H</b> 1.00794																	2 <b>He</b> 4.002602		
3 <b>Li</b> 6.941	4 <b>Be</b> 9.012182													5 <b>B</b> 10.811	6 <b>C</b> 12.0107	7 <b>N</b> 14.00674	8 <b>O</b> 15.9994	9 <b>F</b> 18.99840	10 <b>Ne</b> 20.1797
11 <b>Na</b> 22.98977	12 <b>Mg</b> 24.3050													13 <b>Al</b> 26.98153	14 <b>Si</b> 28.0855	15 <b>P</b> 30.97376	16 <b>S</b> 32.066	17 <b>Cl</b> 35.4527	18 <b>Ar</b> 39.948
19 <b>K</b> 39.0983	20 <b>Ca</b> 40.078	21 <b>Sc</b> 44.95591	22 <b>Ti</b> 47.867	23 <b>V</b> 50.9415	24 <b>Cr</b> 51.9961	25 <b>Mn</b> 54.93804	26 <b>Fe</b> 55.845	27 <b>Co</b> 58.93320	28 <b>Ni</b> 58.6934	29 <b>Cu</b> 63.546	30 <b>Zn</b> 65.39	31 <b>Ga</b> 69.723	32 <b>Ge</b> 72.61	33 <b>As</b> 74.92160	34 <b>Se</b> 78.96	35 <b>Br</b> 79.904	36 <b>Kr</b> 83.80		
37 <b>Rb</b> 85.4678	38 <b>Sr</b> 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> 88.9085	40 <b>Zr</b> 91.224	41 <b>Nb</b> 92.90638	42 <b>Mo</b> 95.94	43 <b>Tc</b> (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> 101.07	45 <b>Rh</b> 102.9055	46 <b>Pd</b> 106.42	47 <b>Ag</b> 107.8682	48 <b>Cd</b> 112.411	49 <b>In</b> 114.818	50 <b>Sn</b> 118.760	51 <b>Sb</b> 121.760	52 <b>Te</b> 127.60	53 <b>I</b> 126.9044	54 <b>Xe</b> 131.29		
55 <b>Cs</b> 132.9054	56 <b>Ba</b> 137.327	57 <b>La*</b> 138.9055	72 <b>Hf</b> 178.49	73 <b>Ta</b> 180.9479	74 <b>W</b> 183.84	75 <b>Re</b> 186.207	76 <b>Os</b> 190.23	77 <b>Ir</b> 192.217	78 <b>Pt</b> 195.078	79 <b>Au</b> 196.9665	80 <b>Hg</b> 200.59	81 <b>Tl</b> 204.3833	82 <b>Pb</b> 270.2	83 <b>Bi</b> 208.9804	84 <b>Po</b> (209)	85 <b>At</b> (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> (222)		
87 <b>Fr</b> (223)	88 <b>Ra</b> 226.025	89 <b>Ac ‡</b> (227)	104 <b>Rf</b> (257)	105 <b>Db</b> (260)	106 <b>Sg</b> (263)	107 <b>Bh</b> (262)	108 <b>Hs</b> (265)	109 <b>Mt</b> (266)	110 <b>Ds</b> (271)	111 <b>Rq</b> (272)	112 <b>Uub</b> (285)	113 <b>Uut</b> (284)	114 <b>Uuq</b> (289)	115 <b>Uup</b> (288)	116 <b>Lv</b> (292)	117 <b>Uus</b> (291)	118 <b>Uuo</b> (222)		

Lanthanides *	58 <b>Ce</b> 140.9077	59 <b>Pr</b> 144.24	60 <b>Nd</b> (145)	61 <b>Pm</b> 150.36	62 <b>Sm</b> 151.964	63 <b>Eu</b> 157.25	64 <b>Gd</b> 158.9253	65 <b>Tb</b> 158.9253	66 <b>Dy</b> 162.50	67 <b>Ho</b> 164.9303	68 <b>Er</b> 167.26	69 <b>Tm</b> 168.9342	70 <b>Yb</b> 173.04	71 <b>Lu</b> 174.967
Actinides ‡	90 <b>Th</b> 232.0381	91 <b>Pa</b> 231.0289	92 <b>U</b> 238.0289	93 <b>Np</b> (237)	94 <b>Pu</b> (244)	95 <b>Am</b> (243)	96 <b>Cm</b> (247)	97 <b>Bk</b> (247)	98 <b>Cf</b> (251)	99 <b>Es</b> (252)	100 <b>Fm</b> (257)	101 <b>Md</b> (258)	102 <b>No</b> (259)	103 <b>Lr</b> (262)

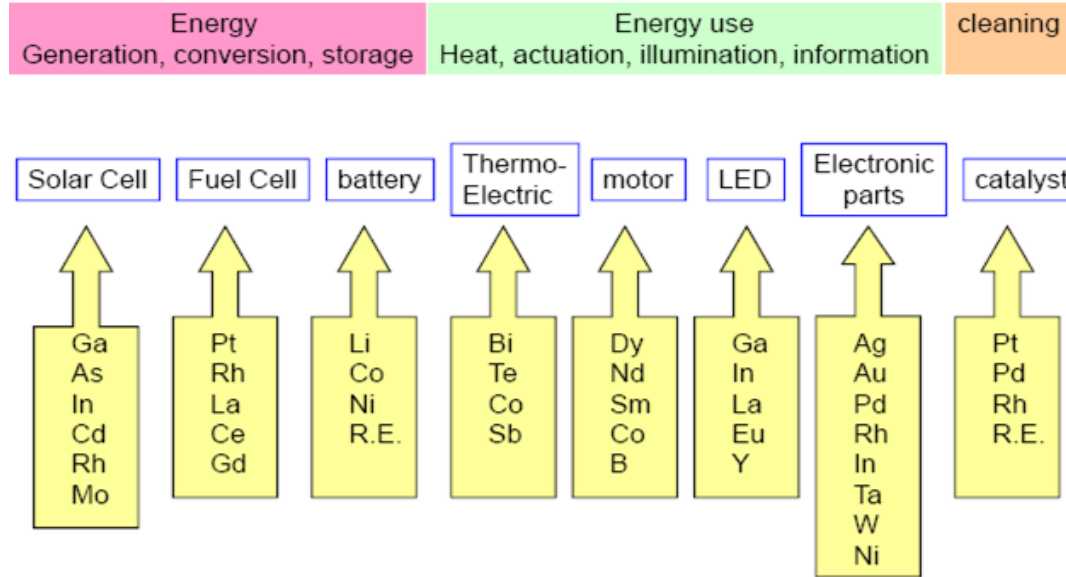
# Elements in an intel circuit board

+45 Elements  
(Potential)

Before 1980  
Today  
Future



McManus, Intel Corp., 2006



Green technologies increase the demand for scarce resources

# The lockdown: Shifting material consumption?

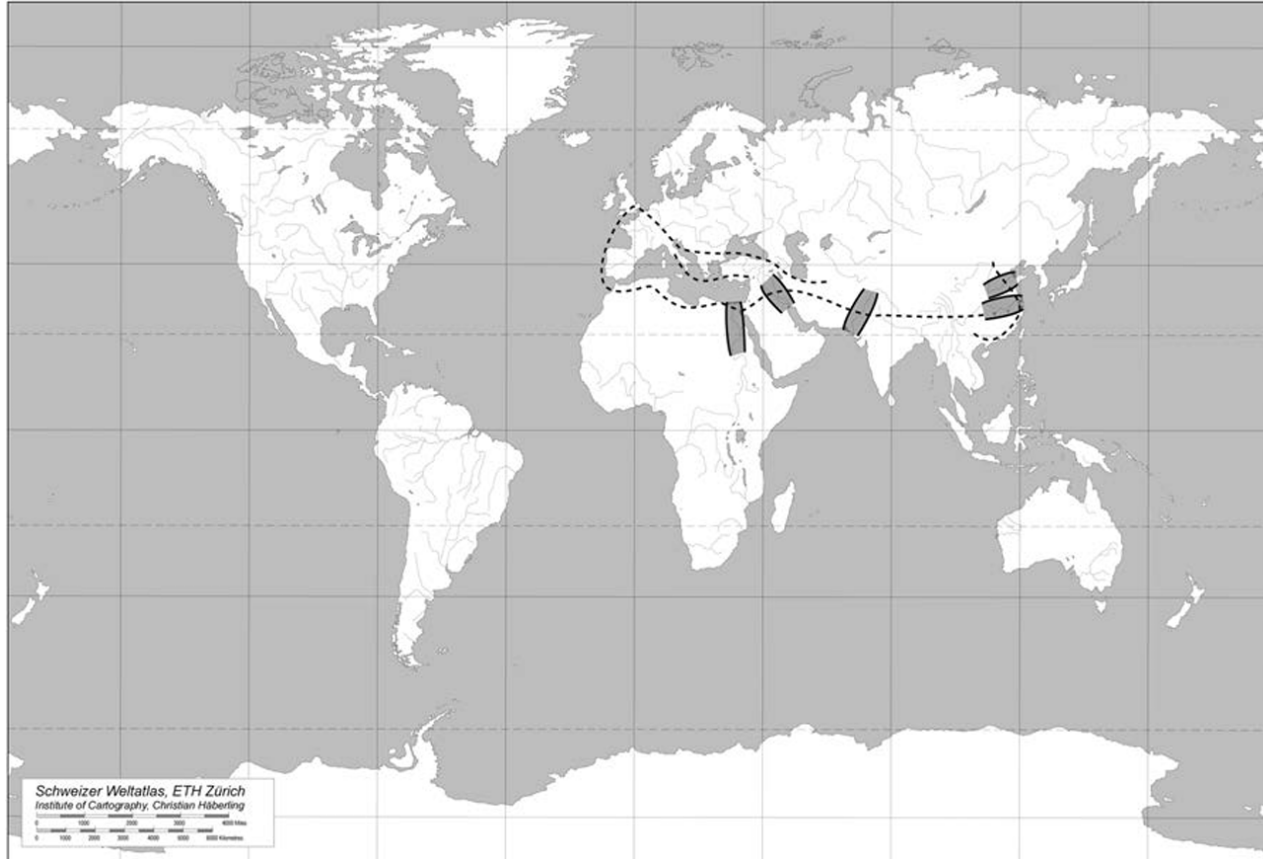


# A historical perspective on resource use

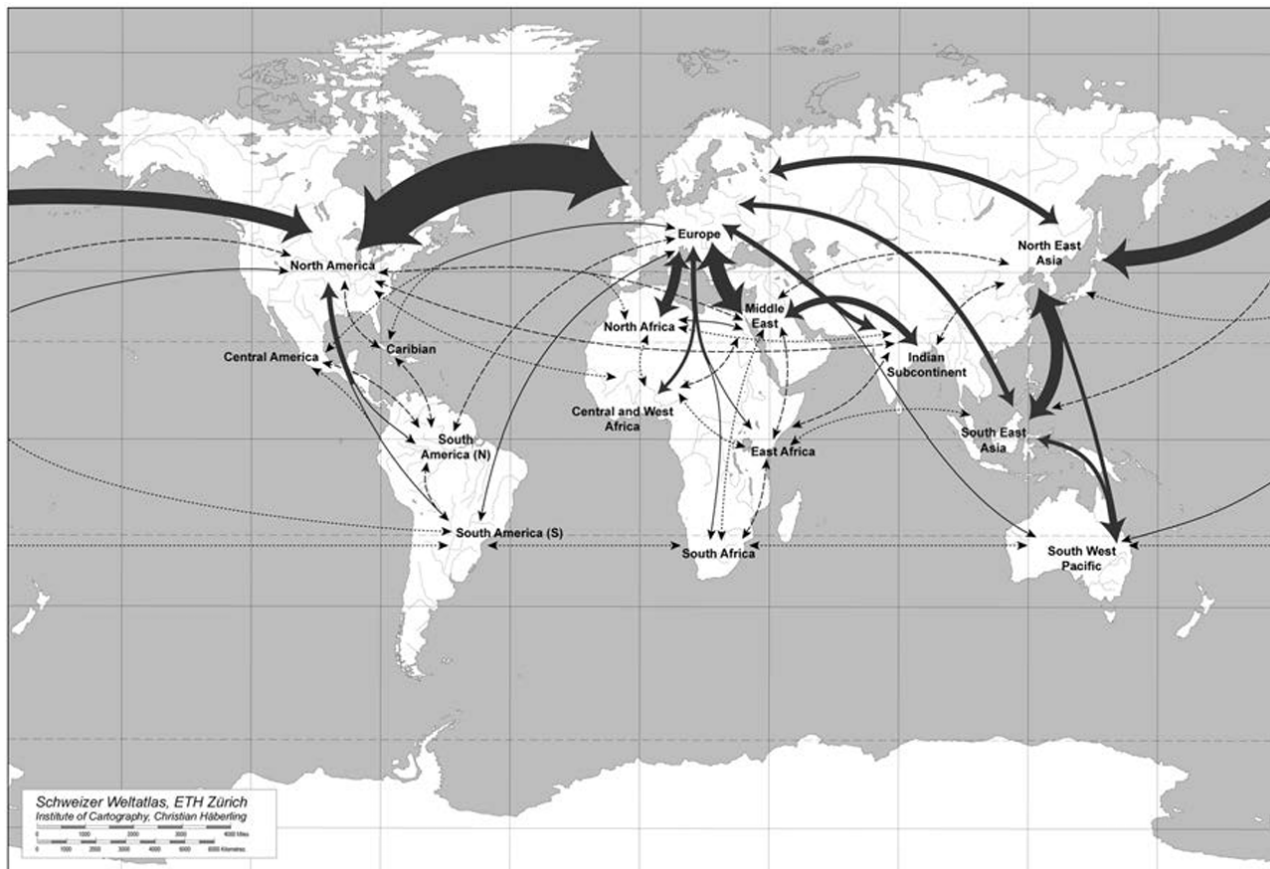
Resource use and space



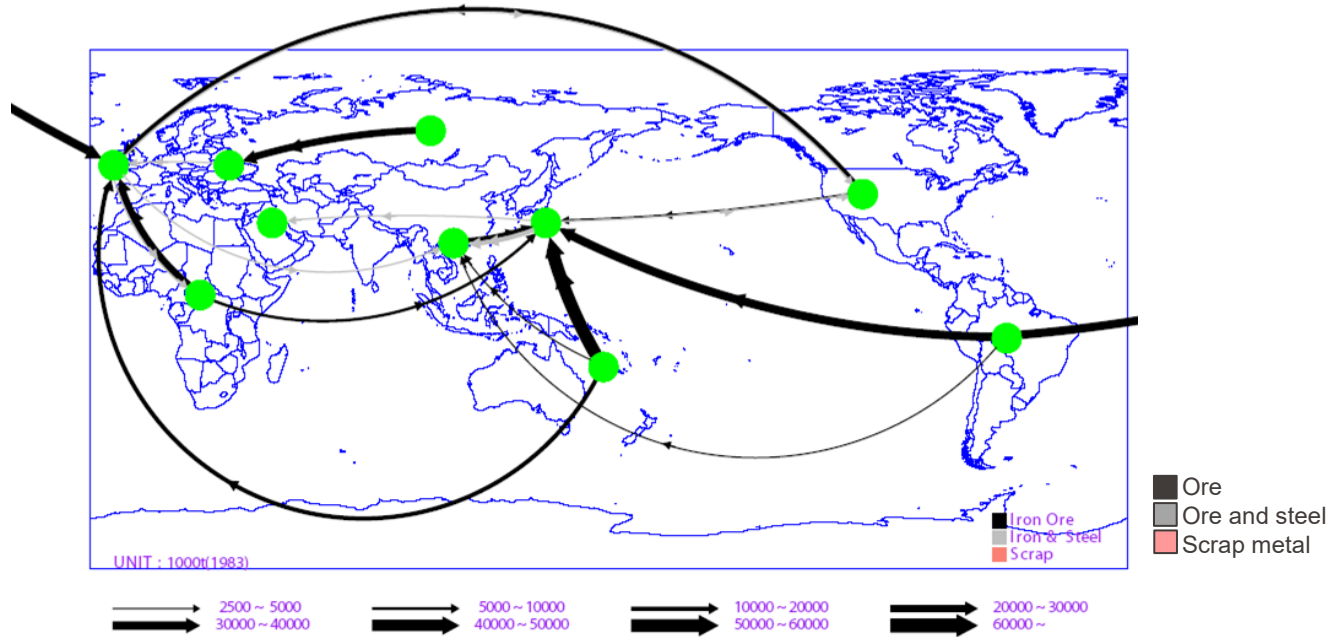
# First anthropogenic trade routes (400 BC)



# Today's anthropogenic trade routes



# Example: Iron 1983

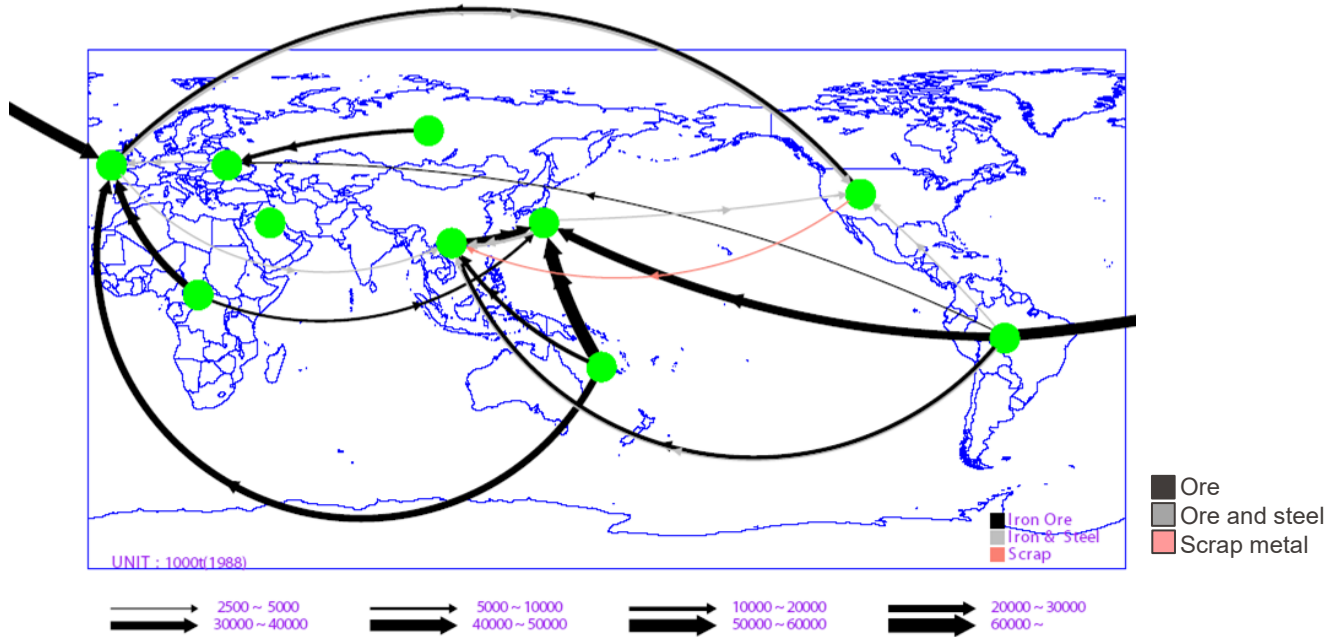


Trade Flow of the Iron in the World[1983]

Source: NIES

CGER-D040-2006, CGER/NIES  
Copyright(c)National Institute for Environmental Studies.All Right Reserved.

# Example: Iron 1988

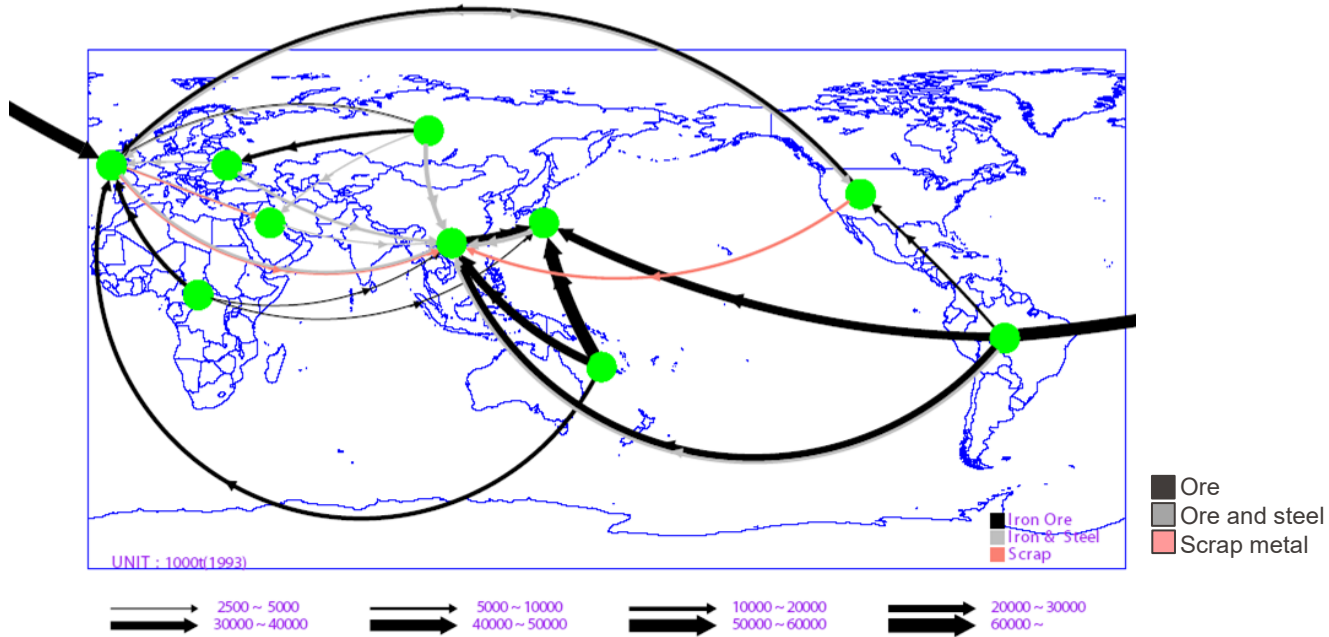


Trade Flow of the Iron in the World[1988]

Source: NIES

CGER-D040-2006, CGER/NIES  
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# Example: Iron 1993

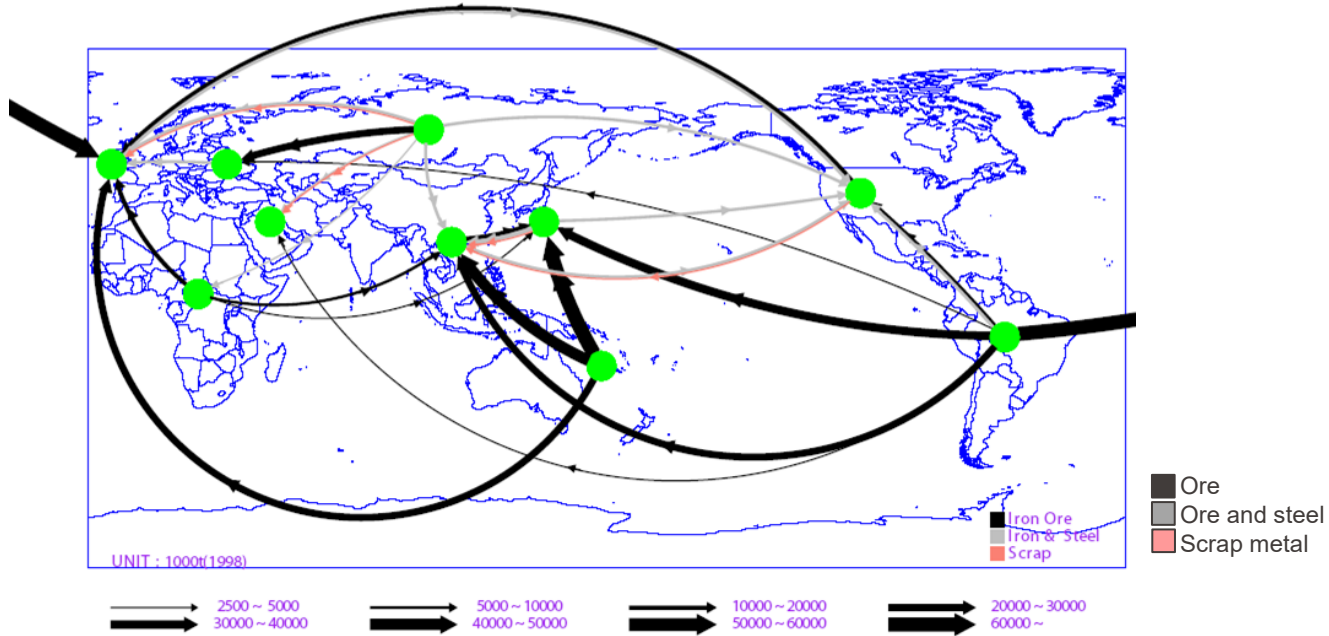


Trade Flow of the Iron in the World[1993]

Source: NIES

CGER-D040-2006, CGER/NIES  
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# Example: Iron 1998



Trade Flow of the Iron in the World[1998]

Source: NIES

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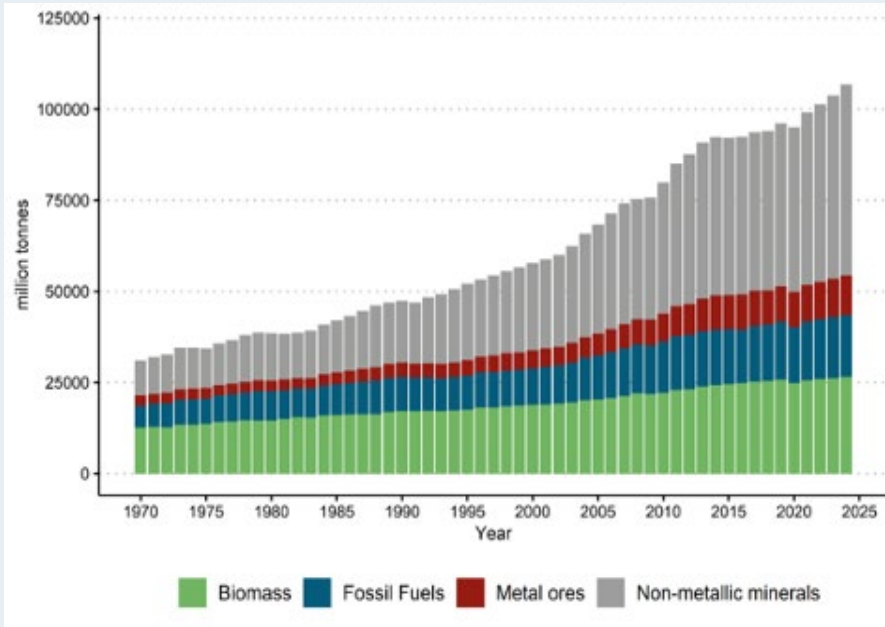
# A historical perspective on resource use

Trends and drivers

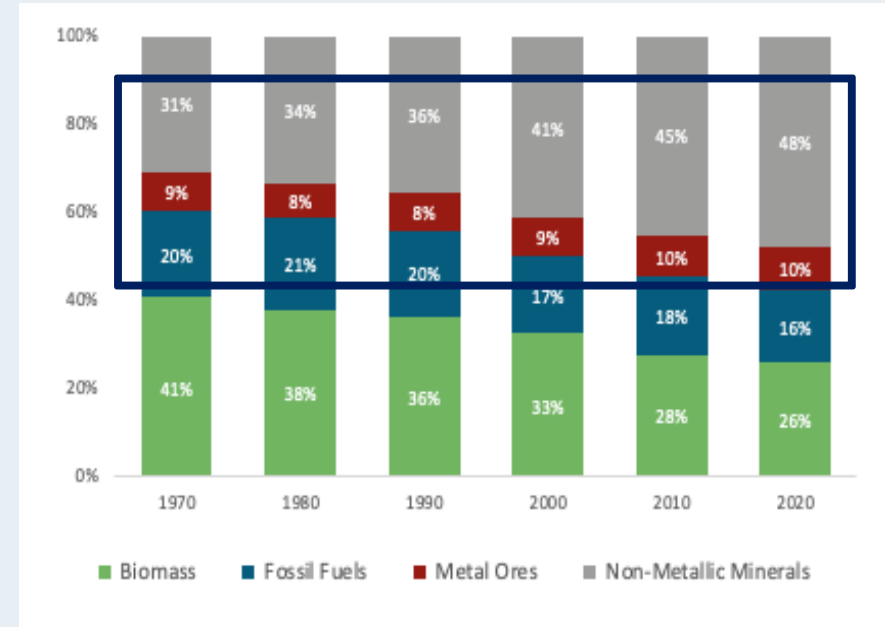
# Trends: Global Material Use & Share in 1970-2023

**Global Material Use** has increased for more than a factor of 3 since 1970 due to urbanisation and industrialisation (& population growth) - 2.3% per year

... which is increasing also the share of Non-Metallic Minerals in Global Material Use



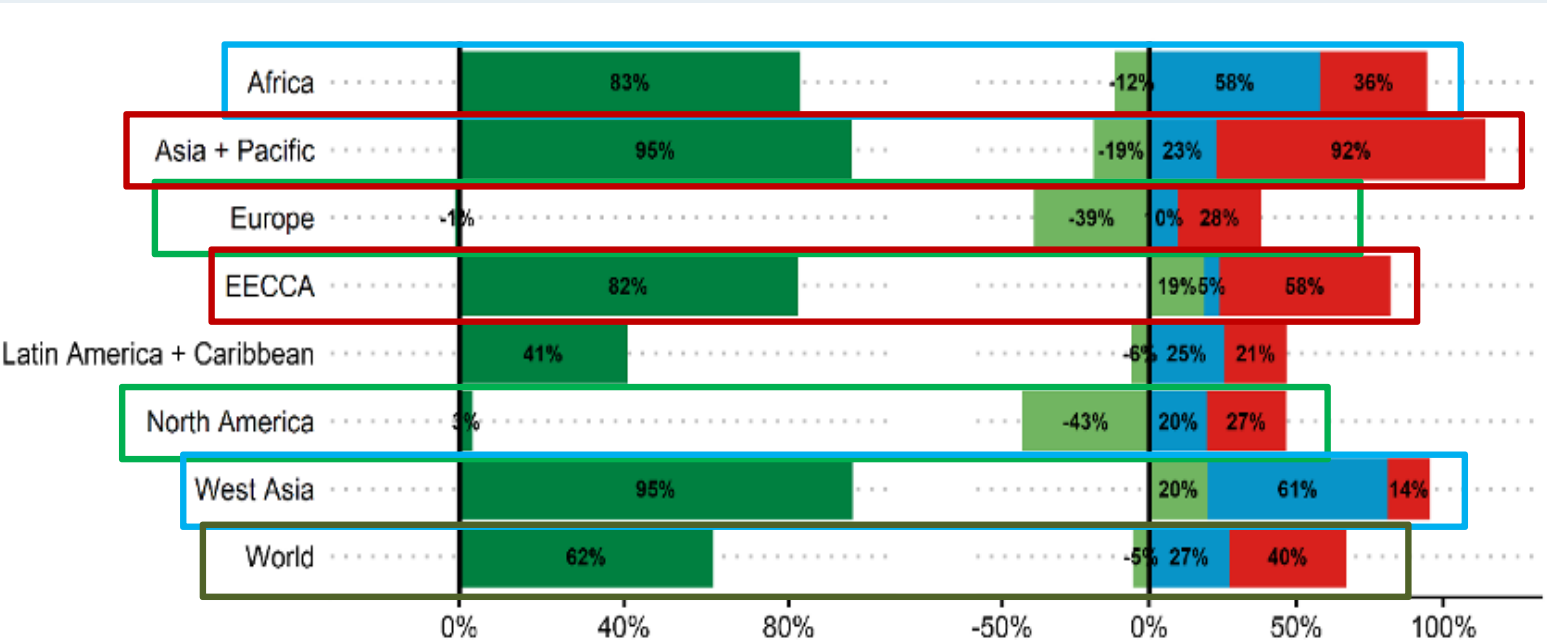
*Global material extraction, four main material categories, 1970 – 2024, million tones.*



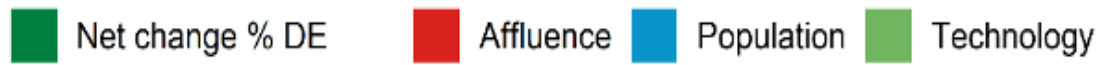
*Global material extraction, four main material categories, 1970-2020, shares*

# Trends: Drivers of Material Footprint 2000-2022, % by world regions

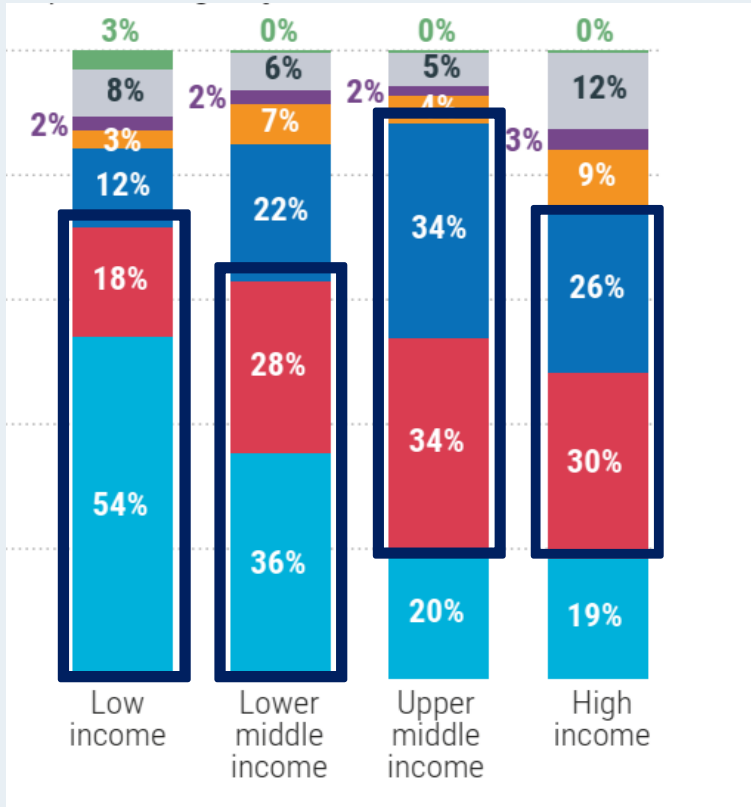
Tons per capita - 2020	
Africa	5
Asia + Pacific	13
Europe	17
EECCA	18
Latin America + Caribbean	12
North America	30
West Asia	13
World	13



EECCA: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region



# Material needs for provisioning systems (built environment, mobility, energy and food) by country income groups (2020)



■ Food    ■ Mobility    ■ Built environment  
■ Energy    ■ Communication    ■ Other  
■ Waste Management and Resource Recovery

Energy includes household energy consumption  
 All other provisioning systems include their embodied energy

**Built environment and mobility:** (construction, transport & infrastructure): 59 billion tons

**Food:** 23.6 billion tons

**Energy:** (electricity, power, heat): 6.1 billion tons

**Together = 90% of total global material demand, but differ in importance by income group**

# Trends: High-income countries use 6 times more materials per capita and are responsible for 10 times more climate impacts per capita than low-income countries.

Material footprint (total and per capita) by income group



Since 2000 ...

- **High-income:** Highest material footprint of all groups, relatively constant. Climate impact per capita = 10 x low-income group.
- **Middle-income:** Material footprint more than **doubled**, approaching high-income levels. Climate impact per capita = roughly 50% of high-income group; 6 x low-income group.
- **Low-income:** Remain comparatively low, and mostly unchanged.



# A historical perspective on resource use

## Summary

## The transition to the industrial age involved changes in human-environment relations

- Higher material flows
- Disequilibrium between use and regeneration of resources and the production and the decomposition of wastes
- Changes in the impact of human action in time and space

# Summary

**To address the coupled climate, energy, biodiversity crises there is a necessity to manage the human-environment (resource) relations (more) sustainably**

- Understanding the key material and energy flows and their development over time
- Understanding the link between economic flows and material and energy flows
- Understanding policy needs and regulatory mechanism of the human-resource relations

# Overview of the course



# Industrial Ecology (IE)

The research field for sustainable  
resource management

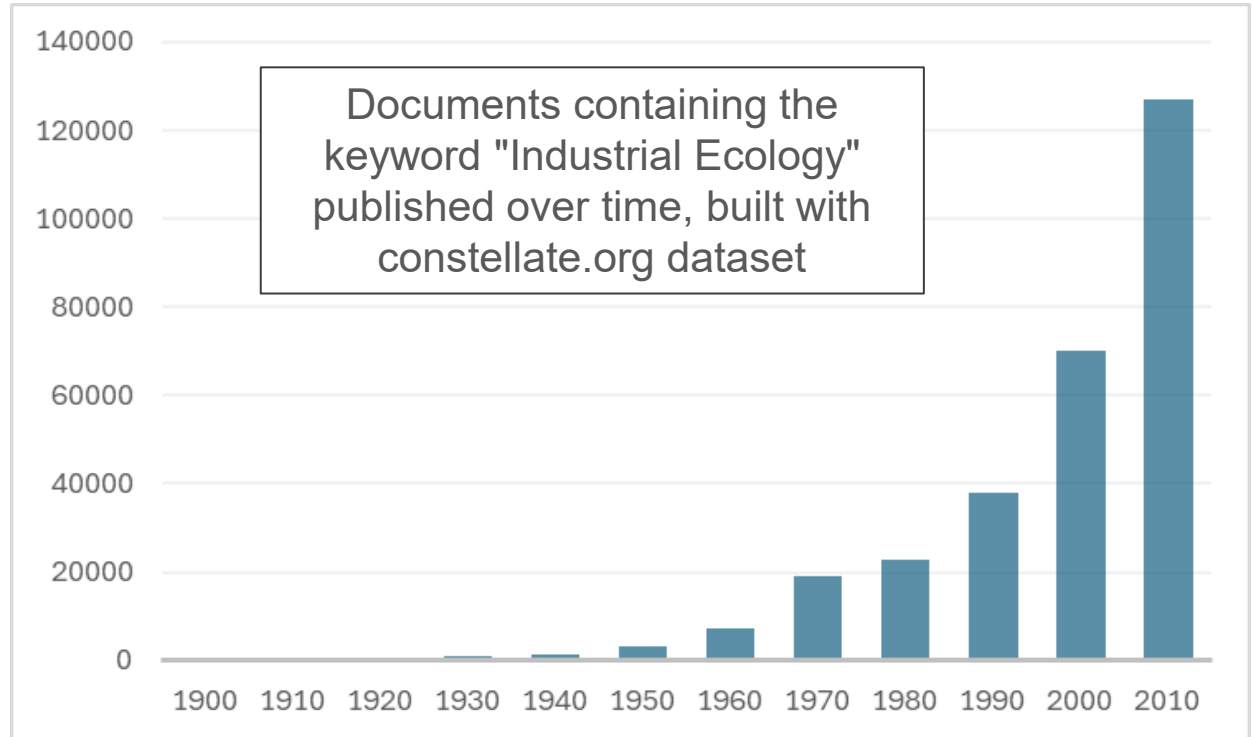
- **Ecology:** Science of ecosystems
- **Industrial:** All economic activities taking place within the industrial system
- **Industrial Ecosystem:** “An industrial system in which the use of energies and materials is optimized, wastes and pollution are minimized, and there is an economically viable role for every product of a manufacturing process”

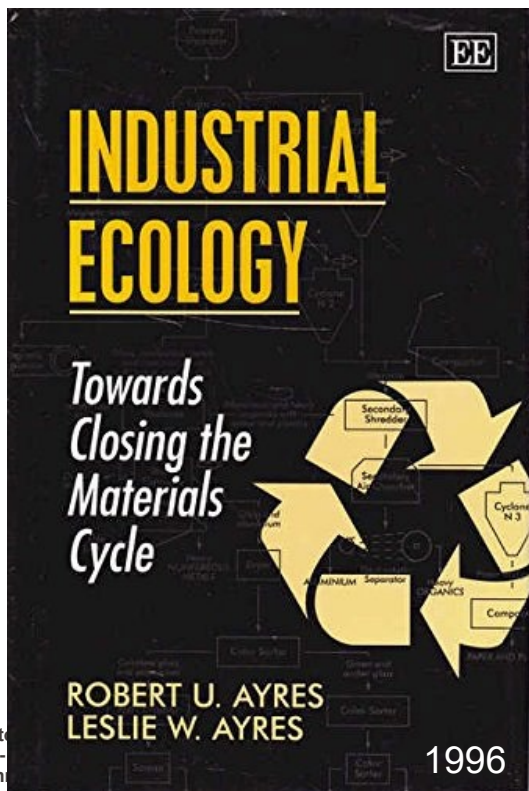
- ... the study of the **technological organisms\***, their **use of resources**, their potential environmental **impact** and the way in which their **interactions** with the natural world could be **restructured** to enable global **sustainability** (Graedel & Allenby 2010).
- ... the study of the **flows of materials and energy** in industrial and consumer activities, of the **effects of these flows** on the environment, and of the **influences** of economic, political, regulatory, and social factors on the flow, use, and **transformation of resources** (White, 1994).

\* Technological organism is an overarching name for manmade systems such as cities, industrial production systems, agricultural production systems, transport systems.

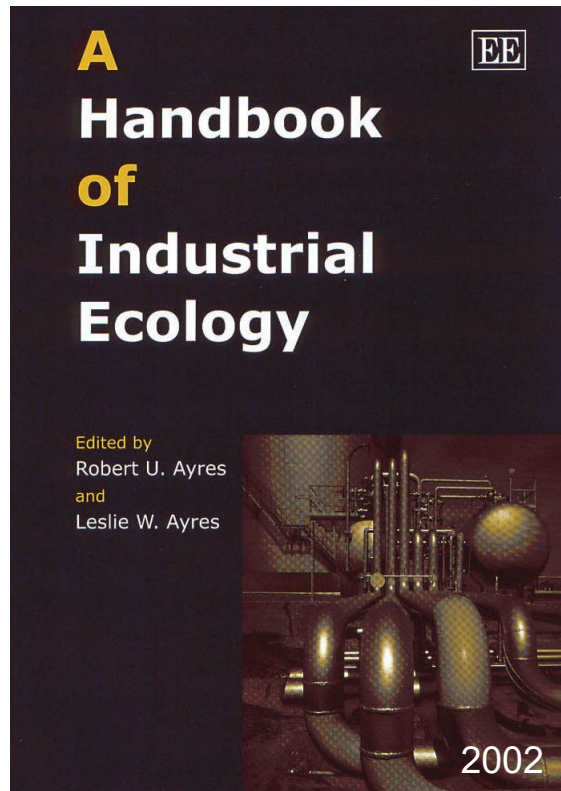
The term "industrial ecology" first gained significant search interest on Google in 2004, reaching its peak popularity around 2005-2006.

Since then, its global usage has gradually declined, making way for other emerging concepts like circular economy to take center stage.

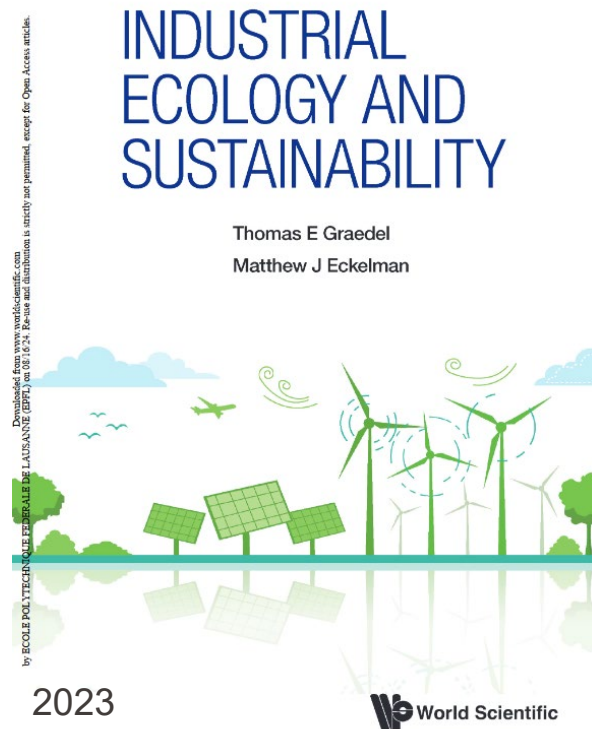




Laborat  
Human-  
Environ  
Relations in  
Urban Systems



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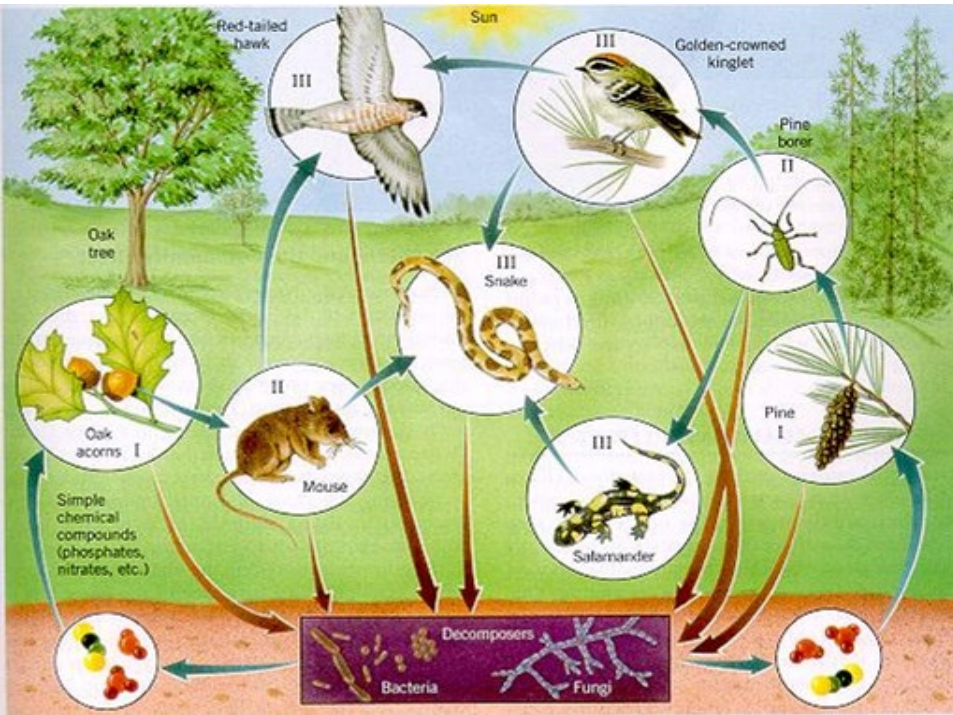


# Core elements of IE

- Biological analogy
- Use of systems perspective
- Role of technological change
- Dematerialization and eco-efficiency
- Forward-looking research and practice

Lifaset and Graedel in Ayres and Ayres, 2001

# Core element: The biological analogy



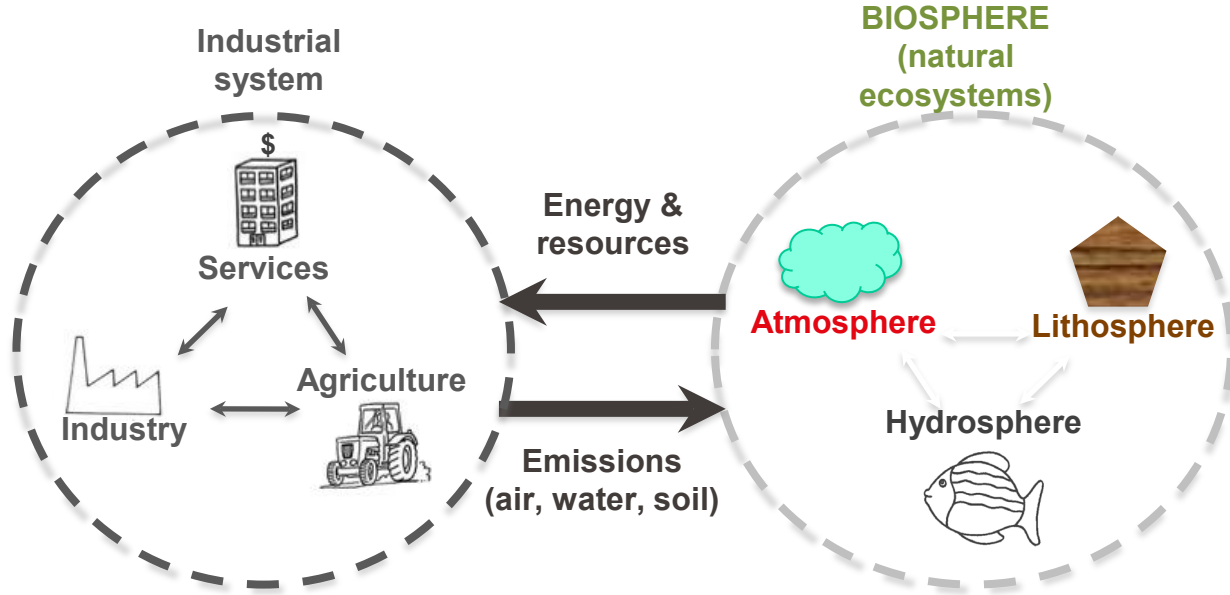
- Laboratory on Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems

# The biological analogy: Metabolism

“ to sustain the processes of life, a typical cell carries out thousands of biochemical reactions each second. The sum of all biological reaction constitutes metabolism. What is the purpose of these reactions – of metabolism? Metabolic reaction convert raw material, obtained from the environment, into the building blocks of proteins and other compounds unique to organisms. Living things must maintain themselves, replacing lost material with new ones; they also grow and reproduce, two main activities requiring the continued formation of macromolecules”.

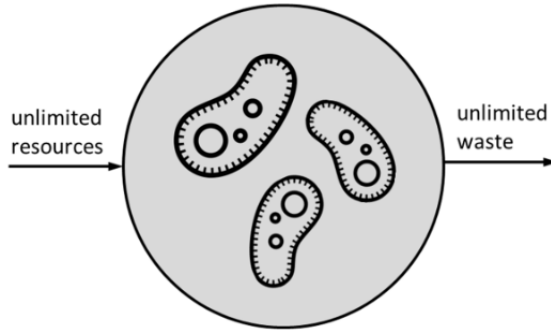
Fischer-Kowalski in Ayres and Ayres, 2001

# Ecosystems as models for facilities, districts, cities, regions

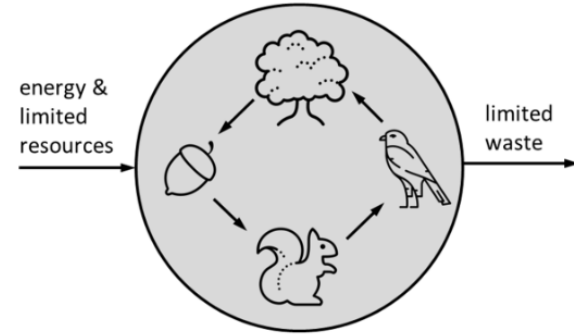


Source: Université de Lausanne

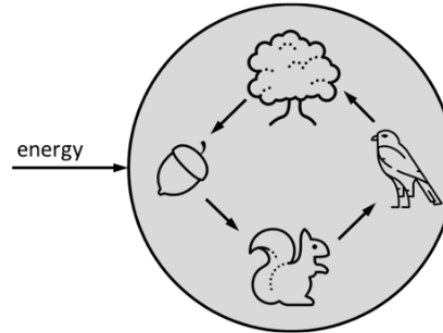
# Typology of ecosystems



Linear materials flows in Type I biological ecology.



Quasi-cyclic materials flows in Type II biological ecology.



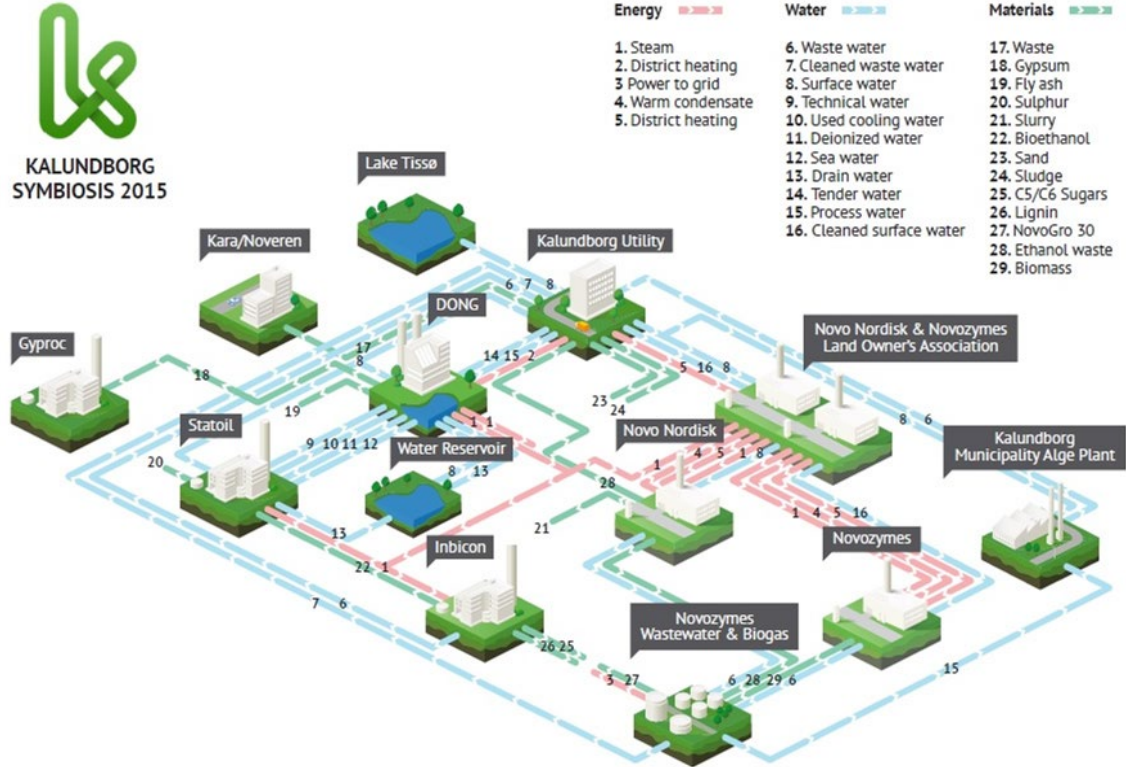
Cyclic materials flows in Type III biological ecology.

Graedel, 2020

# Type III: Kalundborg in DK

1972. World's first industrial symbiosis with a circular approach to production.

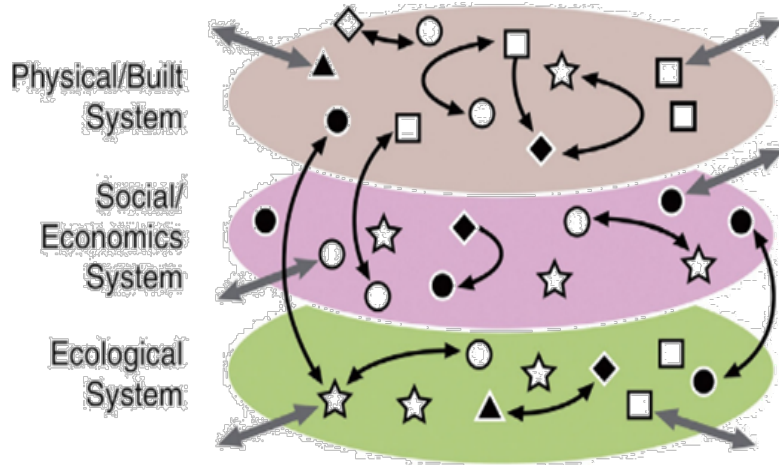
- Residual flow in one company becomes a resource in another,
- The symbiosis creates growth in the local community and supports the green transition.



## URBAN SYSTEM

Multiple

- actors/constituents
- structures
- processes
- linkages
- functions

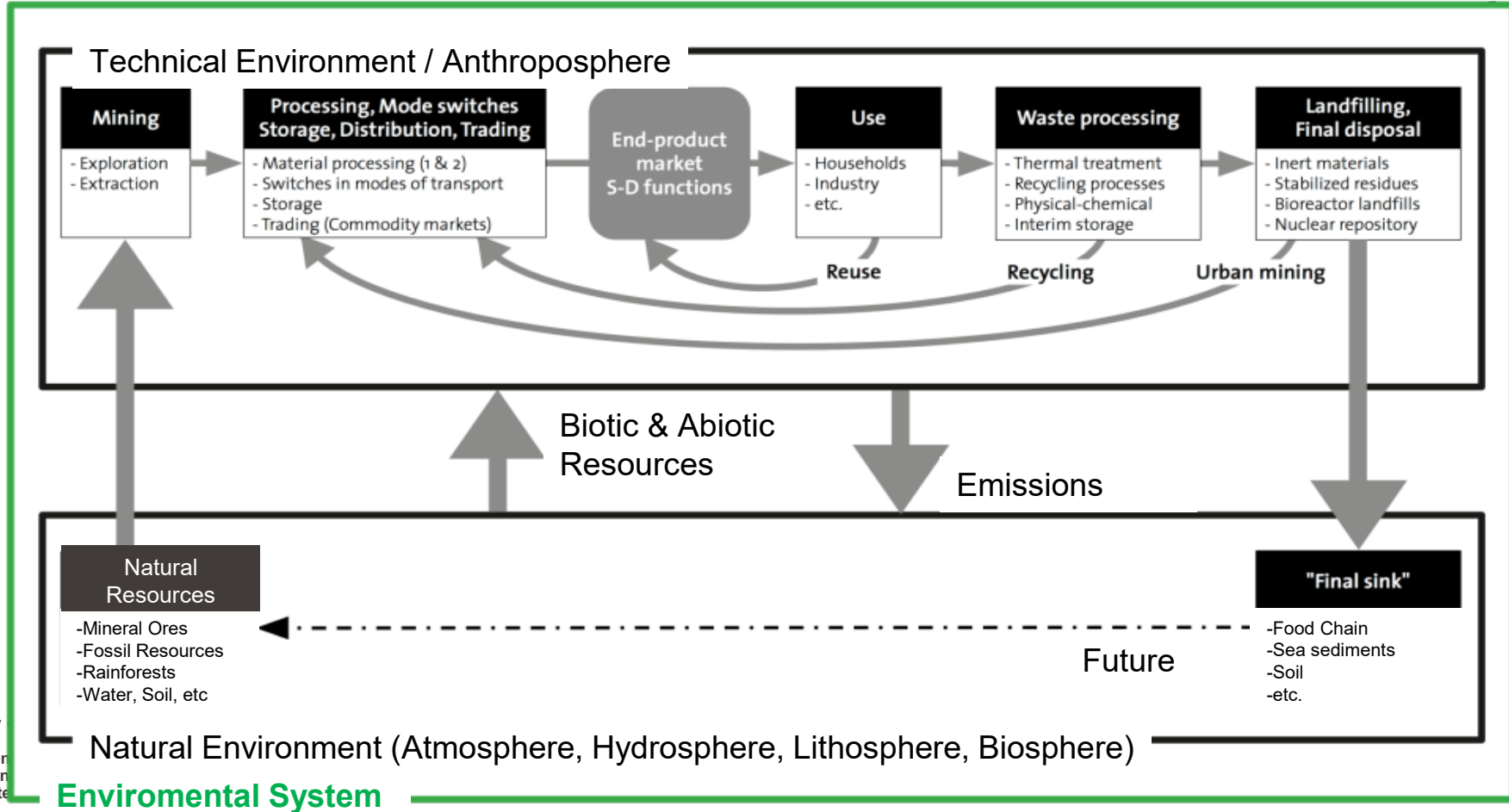


# Core element: Use of systems perspective

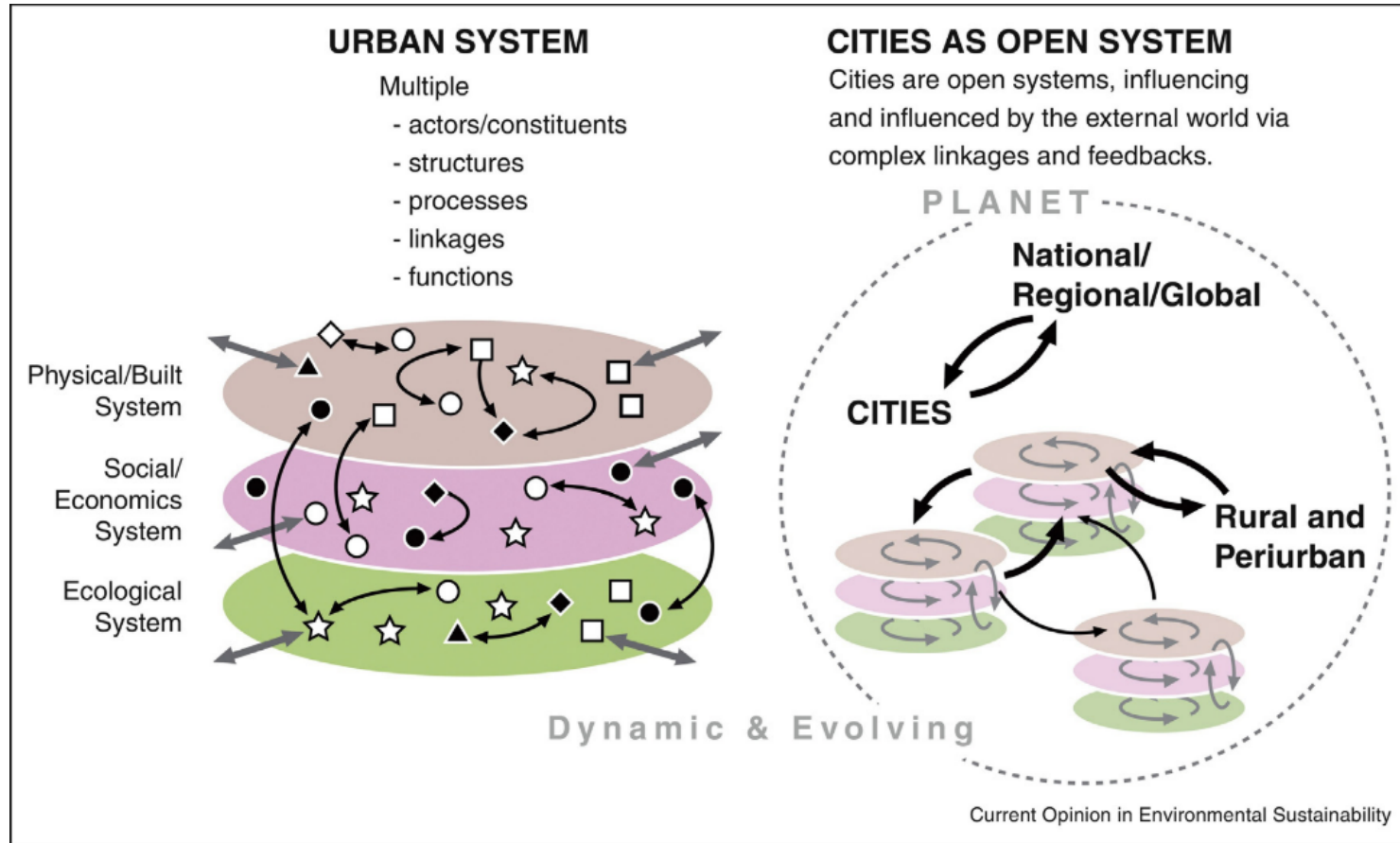
# The systems perspective

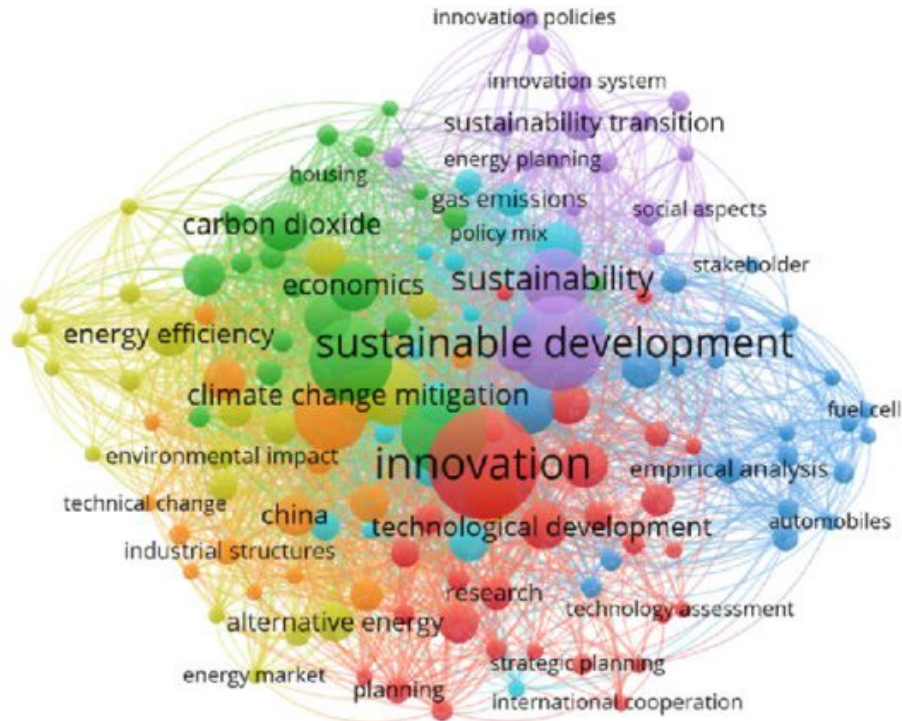
- **Goal:** Avoid narrow, partial analyses that can overlook important variables and lead to unintended consequences.
- **Holistic thinking:** Solving problems must involve understanding the connections that exist between sub-systems, multiple factors cannot be analyzed in isolation.
- **Example:** A city can be divided into commercial areas, residential areas, offices, services, infrastructures, .... all sub-systems of the bigger picture. Problems can emerge in one sub-system, but the solution has to be global.
- **Life cycle thinking:** All environmental impacts caused by a product, system, or project during its life cycle are taken into account. From raw material extraction, material processing, manufacture, use, maintenance, disposal

# The life cycle of resources



# Cities as systems





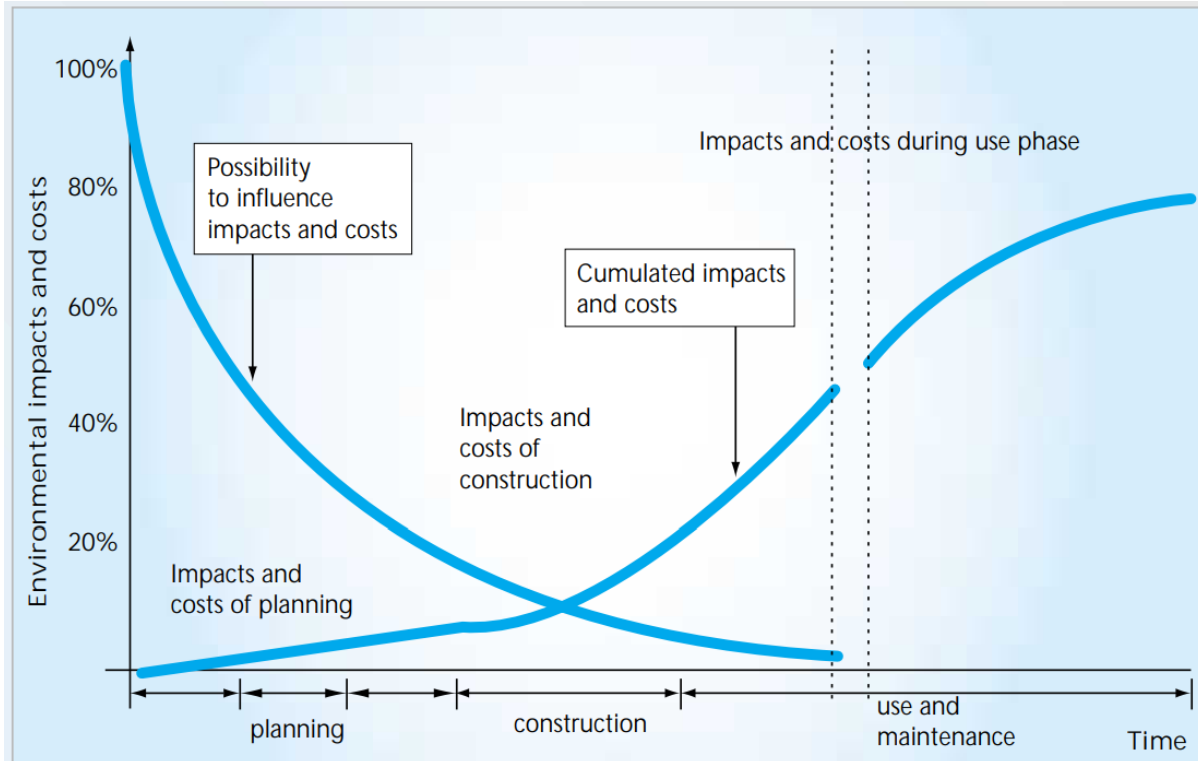
# Core element: Technological change

# Technological change

Technological innovation as a central means to solve environmental problems



# Influence of design decisions on life cycle impacts and costs





# Core element: Dematerialization and eco-efficiency

- Laboratory on Human-Environment Relations in Urban Systems

# Dematerialization and eco-efficiency

- **Dematerialization:** absolute or relative reduction in the quantity of materials used and/or the quantity of waste generated in the production of a unit of economic output' (Cleveland and Ruth 1998, p. 16)
- **Eco-efficiency:** conceptualization and development of materials or structures to reduce the consumption of virgin materials and provide a utility.

# Dematerialization and eco-efficiency



# Dematerialization and eco-efficiency

## Dematerialization (world, nation level)

- Reduction in quantity of materials used to accomplish a task
- Offer the possibility to **decouple resource use** and environmental impact (CO2 emissions, i.e. decarbonization) from **economic growth**

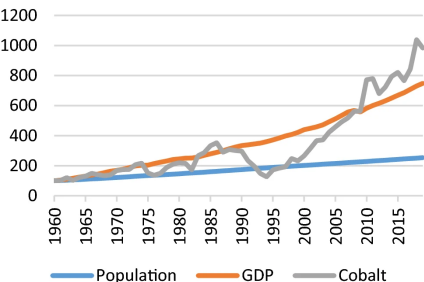
## Eco-efficiency (firm level)

- How can companies produce the same level of output (or service) with reduced use of environmental resources?
- Indicator: output / environmental resources
- Problem of **rebound effect**

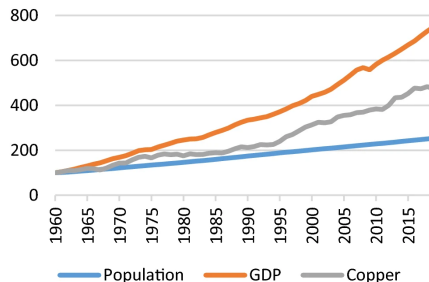
Link to technological change, industrial symbiosis, eco-design etc.

# Decouple resource use from economic growth

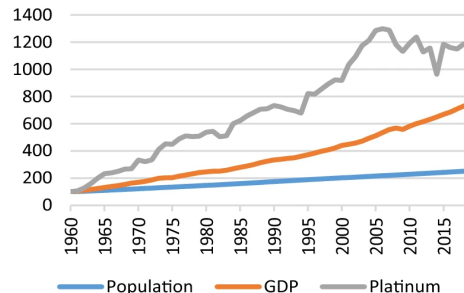
Cobalt



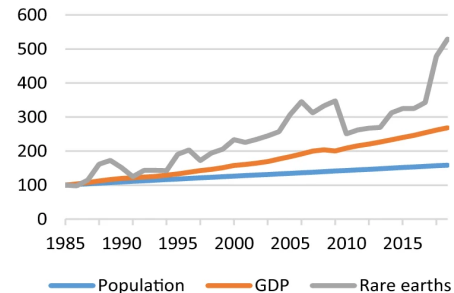
Copper



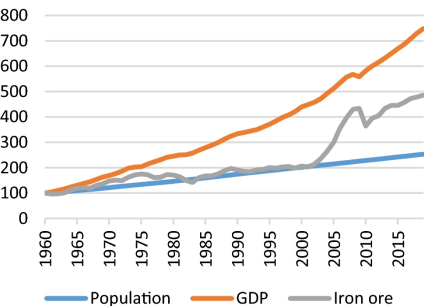
Platinum group



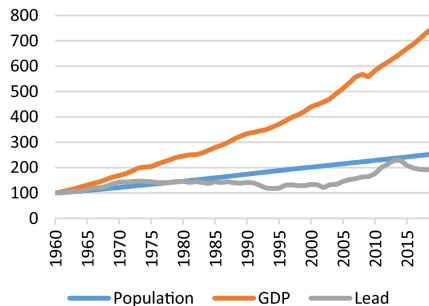
Rare earths



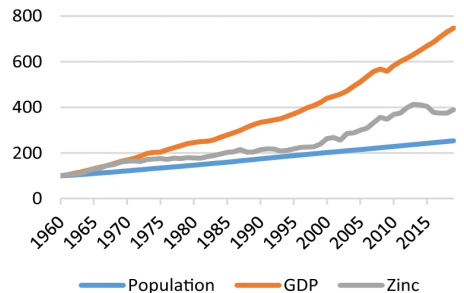
Iron ore



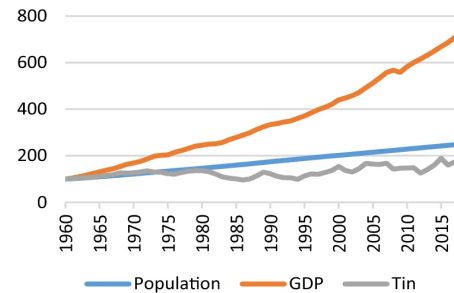
Lead



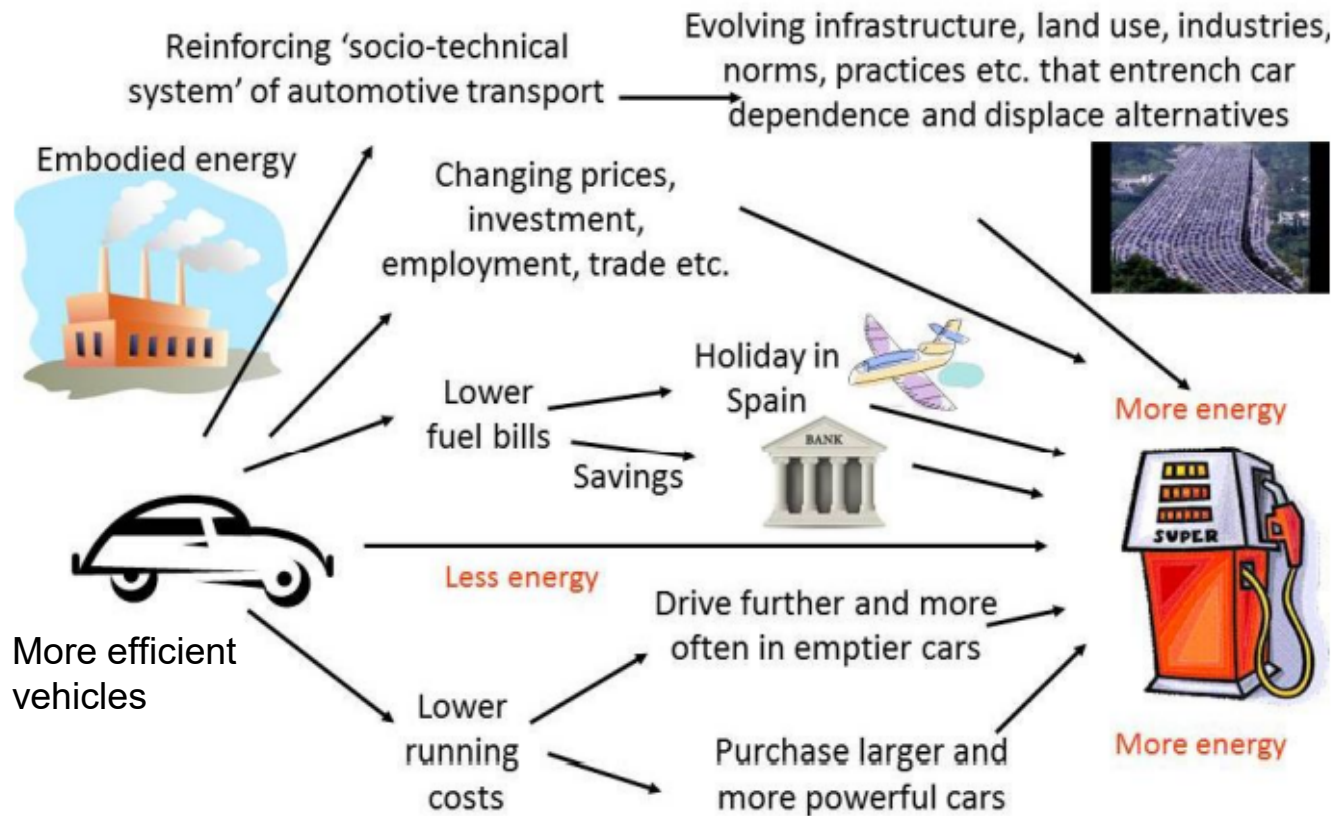
Zinc



Tin



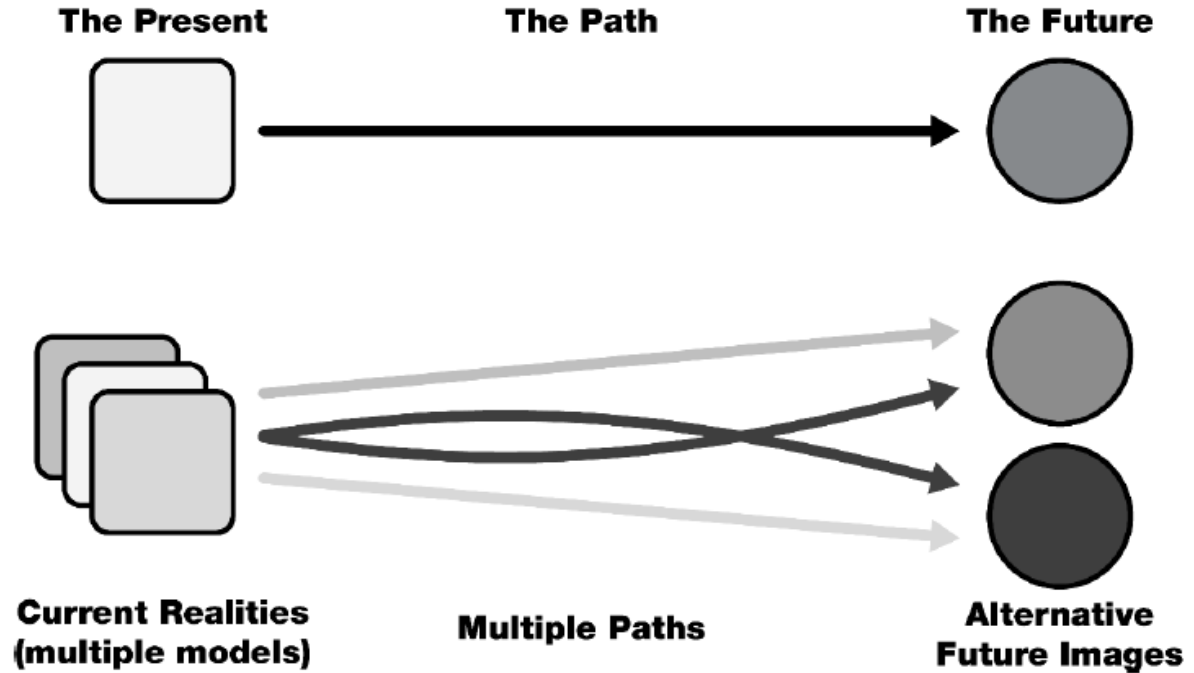
# Ecoefficiency and Rebound effects



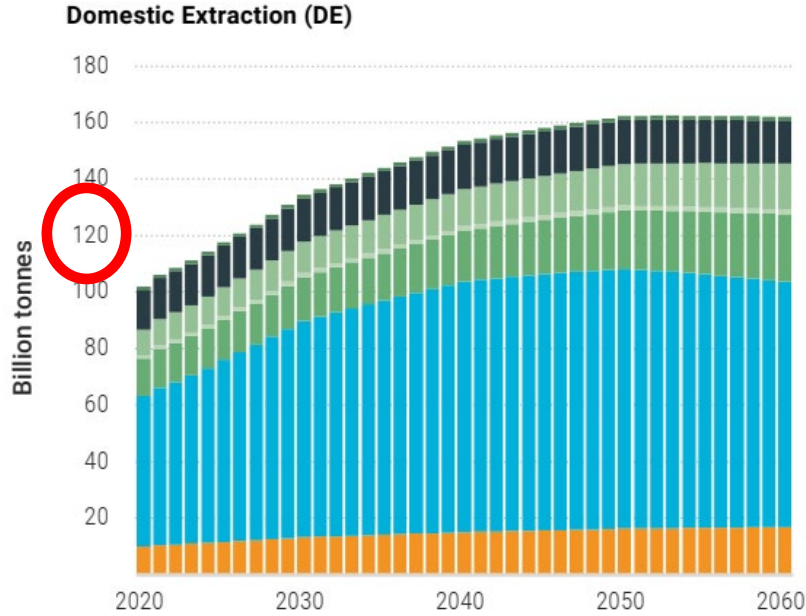


A **prediction** assesses the present, sketches the transitions, and presents its presumption of the future

A **scenario** looks at the present from different perspectives, imagining several possible transitions to a future state

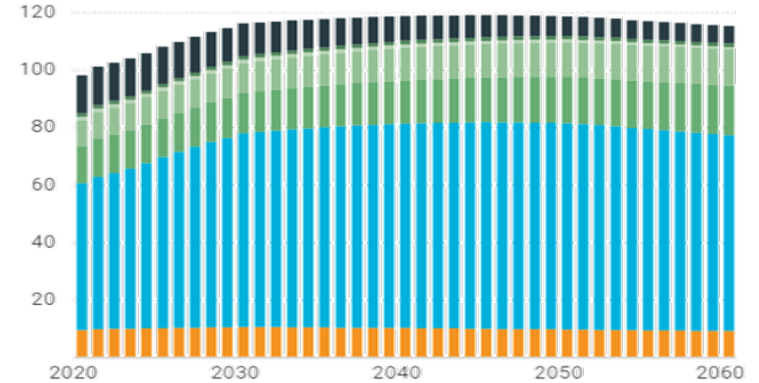


## Historical Trends



## Sustainability Transition

**Resource extraction by major categories**



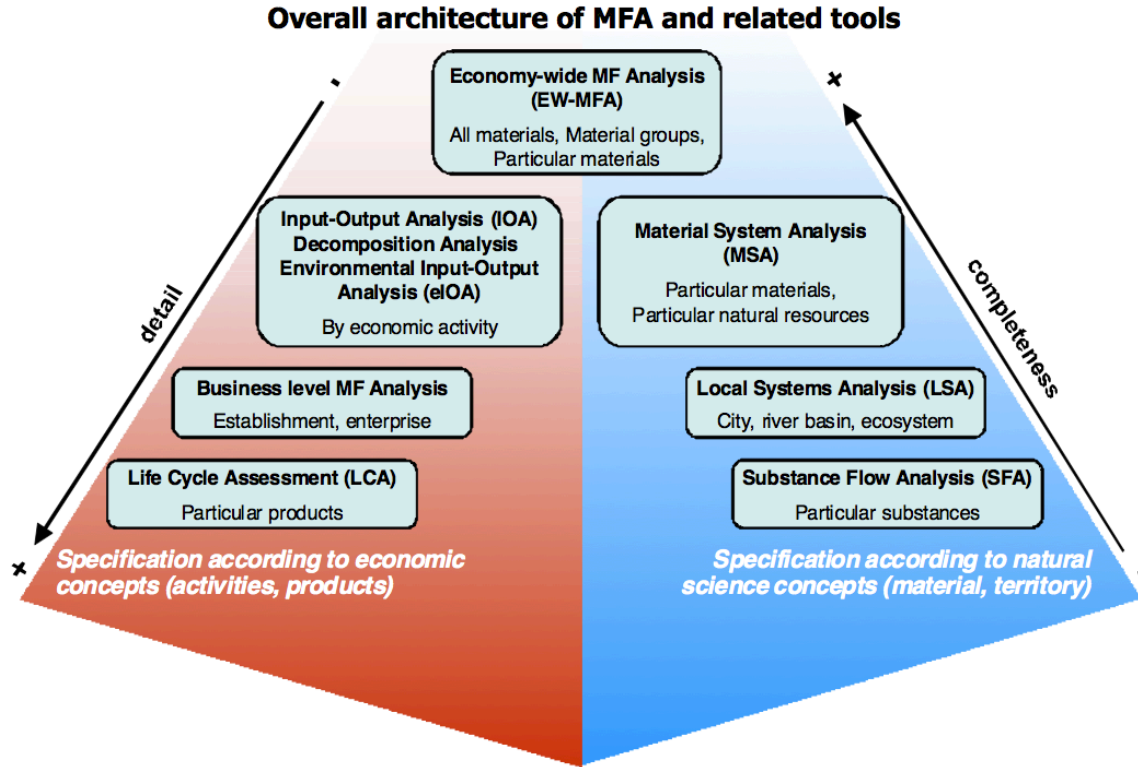
■ Metal Ores ■ Non-Metallic Minerals ■ Biomass: Grazing & Fibre

■ Biomass: Timber ■ Biomass: Food ■ Fossil Fuels ■ Biomass: Energy

# Industrial Ecology tools



# Hierarchy of MFA tools



# MFA approaches

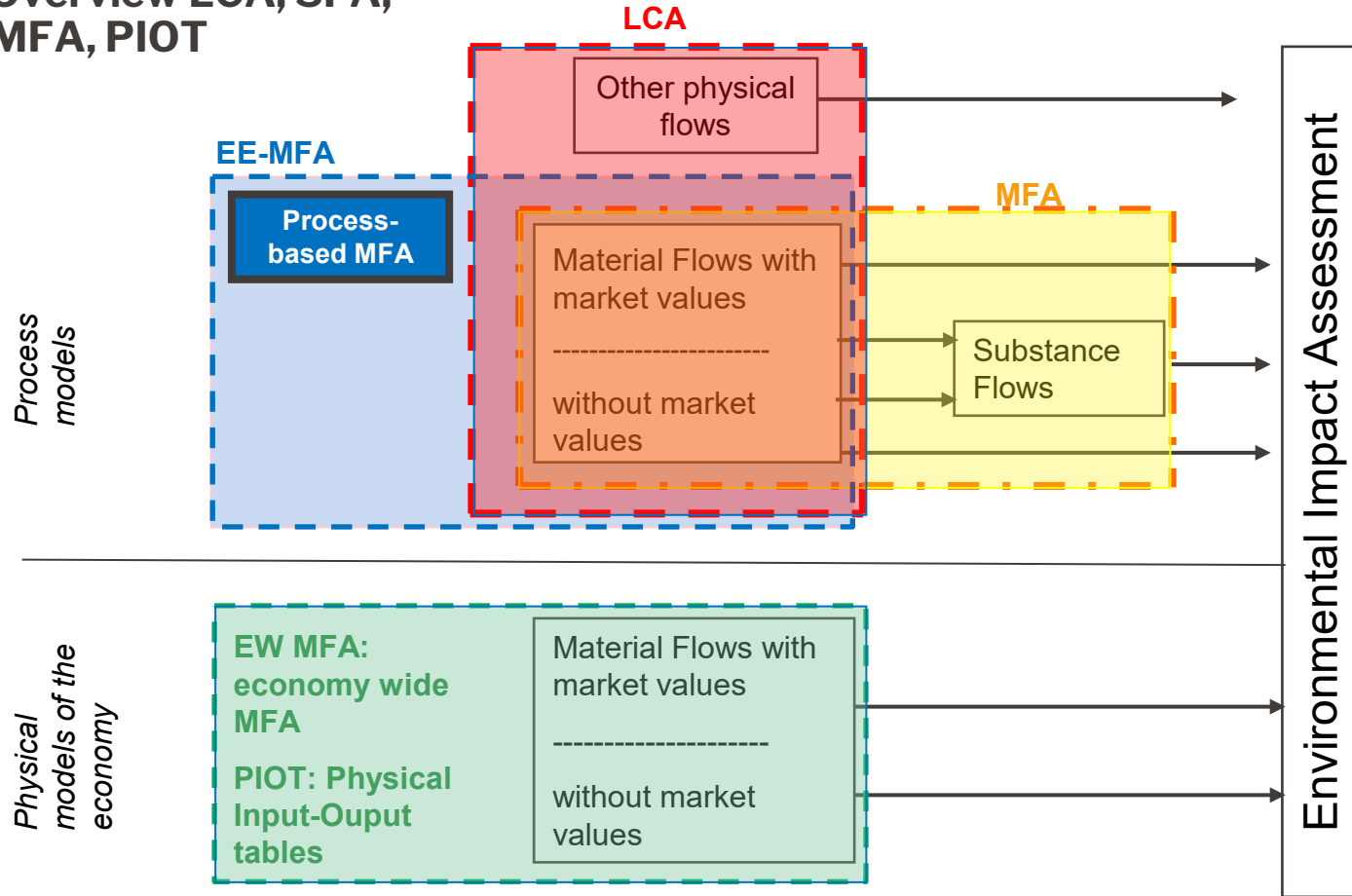
	Substances	Materials	Products, Goods and Services	Businesses	Economic activities	Countries, Regions
<b>Scale of the system</b>	f.e. regions, industrial plants, private households, whole economy, specific parts of economy...					
<b>Materials</b>	f.e. substances, materials, products...					
<b>Type of analysis</b>	Substance Flow Analysis	Material Flow Analysis	Life Cycle Assessment	Business level Material Flow Analysis	Input-Output Analysis	Economy-wide Material Flow Analysis
<b>Data sources</b>	f.e. national or international econometric statistics, physical substance flows					
<b>Tools</b>		Urban or Regional Metabolism	Impact Assessment (ISO 14040)	Accounting (ISO 14051)	Business Flow Accounting	Physical Input-Output Tables, NAMEA approaches

Source: Moreau and Massard, 2017

# IE approaches in this course

Main objective	Substances	Materials	Products, Goods and Services	Businesses	Economic activities	Countries, Regions		
	e.g., chemical elements or compounds (Cd, Cl, Pb, Zn, Hg, N, P, C, CO <sub>2</sub> , CFC)	e.g., raw materials and semi-finished goods, energy carriers, metals (ferrous and nonferrous), sand and gravel, timber, plastics	e.g., batteries, transportation, packaging	e.g., offices, plants, small and medium sized enterprises, multi-national enterprises	e.g., mining, construction, chemical industry, iron and steel industry	e.g., aggregated mass of materials and related mixed or selected materials		
Type of analysis	Substance Flow Analysis	Material Flow Analysis	Life Cycle Assessment	Business level Material Flow Analysis	Input-Output Analysis	Economy-wide Material Flow Analysis		
Type of analytical tools	Substance Flow Accounts	Material Flow Accounts, Industrial, Urban or Regional Metabolism	Life-Cycle Inventory, Impact Assessment (ISO 14040)	Lif-Cycle Costing	Material Flow Cost Accounting (ISO 14051)	Business Material Flow Accounting	Physical Input-Output Tables, NAMEA approaches	Economy-wide Material Flow Accounts

Source: Moreau and Massard, 2017



# Overview of MFA tools

Material Flow Analysis (MFA)

Substance Flow analysis (SFA)

Life-cycle assessment (LCA)

Material Flow Cost accounting (MFCA)

Input-Output Analysis (IOA)

Economy-wide MFA (EW-MFA)

# Definition: Material Flow Analysis (MFA)

- Material Flow Analysis (MFA) is the study of **physical flows of natural resources and materials** into, through and out of a given system (usually the economy).
- It is based on accounts in **physical units**, and uses the principle of mass balancing to analyze the **relationships between material flows** (including energy), **human activities** (including economic and trade developments) and **environmental changes**.

# MFA in practice supports policy and decision making in...

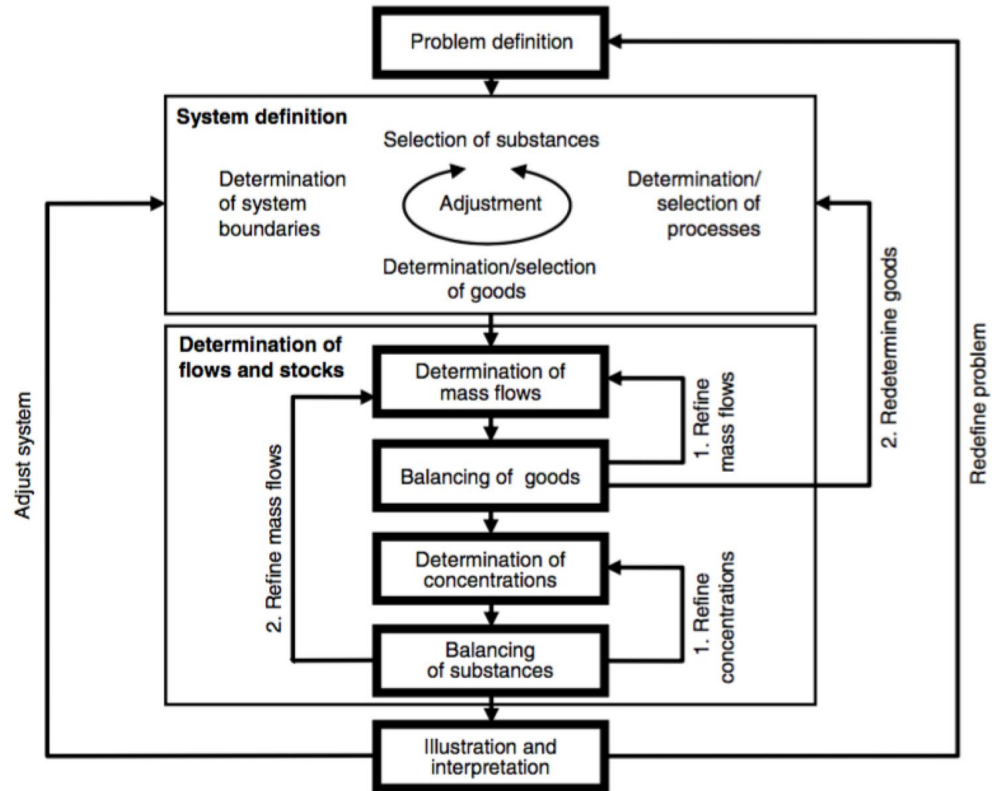
***“You can’t manage what you can’t measure.”***

*Brunner, 2012*

- Urban planning
- Energy planning
- Economic and environmental performance
- Development of industrial symbiosis and eco-industrial parks
- Closing material loops and circular economy
- Pollution control
- Material and energy supply security

# 4 Steps of MFA

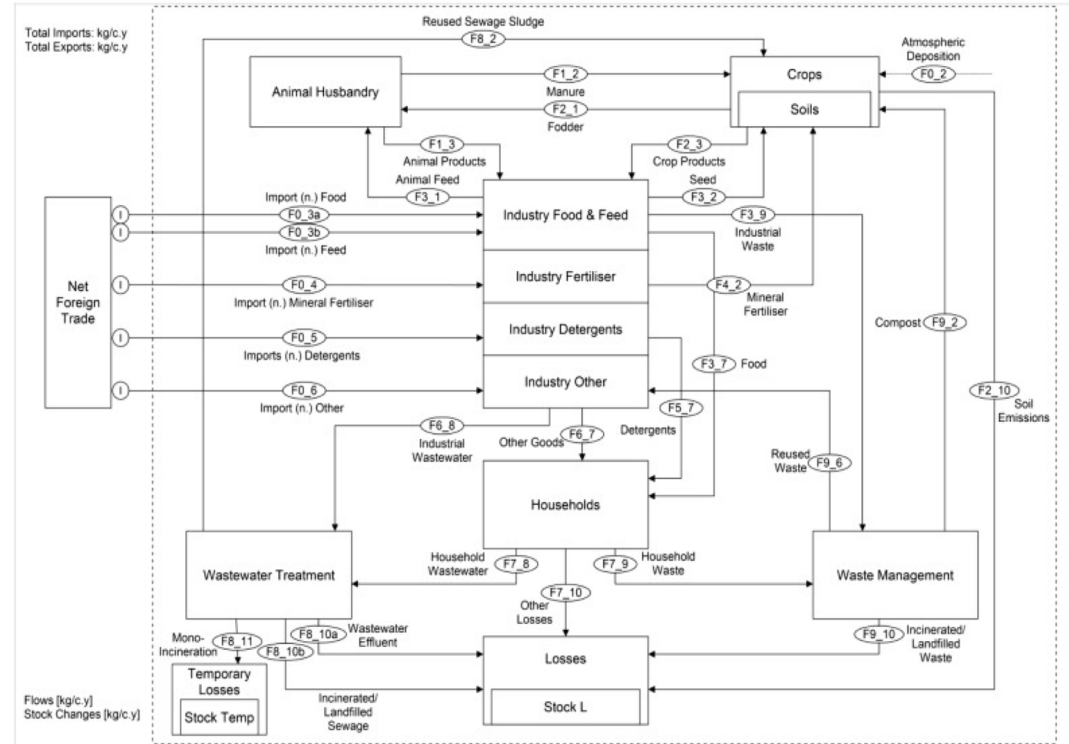
- System definition
- Data acquisition
- Calculation
- Representation and interpretation



# Substance Flow Analysis (SFA)

- MFA for **specific substance** (f.e. phosphorus, iron, zinc, copper...)
- Provide information on **resource management** and **environmental impacts** for specific (limited) substance

## Phosphorus stocks and flows in CH



Source: Jedelhauser & Binder 2015

# Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

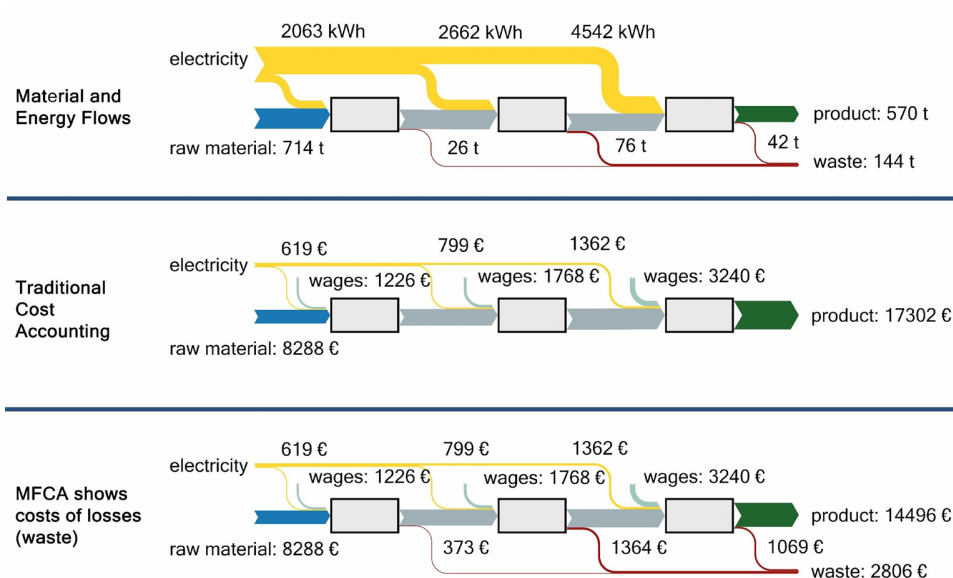
- Addresses **environmental impacts** throughout a **product's life cycle** starting from raw material acquisition through production, use, end-of-life treatment, recycling and final disposal (i.e. cradle-to-grave)
- **Environmental impacts** f.e. climate change, human health, ecosystem quality, resource depletion
- Comprehensive approach which **identifies impact shifting** from **one phase** of the product life cycle **to another**



Source: <https://www.nist.gov/systems-integration-division/lifecycle-graphic>

# Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA)

- Assessing materials flows in physical and monetary terms along the value chain / production processes, from purchase to disposal
- Companies** understand better the environmental and financial consequences of their material and energy use for improvements



# Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA)

- MFCA links monetary and material flows at the activity level
- Costs: **Monetary value of resources** used to perform activities
- Cost allocation: **Indirect** attribution of a **cost** between different objects, such as a product or process, by using an appropriate share basis
- Cost assignment: **Direct** attribution of a **cost** to a specific object, such as a product or process

# Input-Output Analysis (IOA)

- Details the **supply and use of products sector by sector**, including imports and exports and final consumption categories (f.e. households)
- Understand the interactions between economic sectors
- **Environmental extended IOA (EE-IOA)** typically includes energy intensity and carbon emissions by sector

Table 2

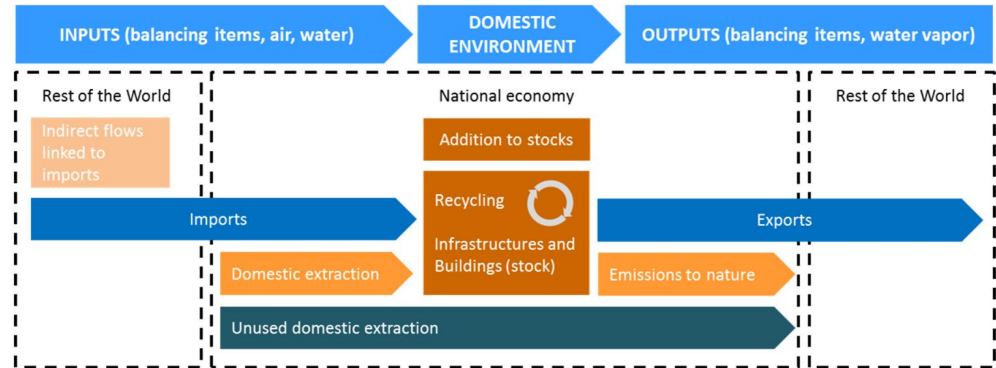
Purchases by / Sales of	Industry 1	Industry 2	Industry $n$	Total sales
Industry 1	$x_{11}$	$x_{12}$	$x_{1n}$	$X_1 = \sum_j x_{1j}$
Industry 2	$x_{21}$	$x_{22}$	$x_{2n}$	$X_2 = \sum_j x_{2j}$
...	...	...	...	...
Industry $n$	$x_{n1}$	$x_{n2}$	$x_{nn}$	$X_n = \sum_j x_{nj}$
Total purchases	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_n$	

Table 1: Inter-Industry Transactions

Industries	Inputs to agriculture	Inputs to manufacturing	Final demand	Total outputs
Agriculture	25	175	50	250
Manufacturing	40	20	60	120
Labour services	10	40	0	50

# Economy-wide Material Flow Analysis (EW-MFA)

- Quantification of **material flows** (biomass, fossil fuels, metals, mineral ores) **into and out of a whole economy**
- Material flows are **extracted domestically or imported directly and indirectly** through finished and semi-finished goods
- Describes **interaction** of domestic **economy** with the natural **environment** and the **rest of the world economy**



# Next week: Guest lecturer, Florian Kohler

- Head of the Natural Resources and Territory group at the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).
- Statistics on material flow accounts, economic accounts for the primary sector, agriculture and food analysis, and territorial analysis.
- Over 10 years of experience in producing and developing economy-wide material flow accounts for Switzerland.
- Represents Switzerland in various Eurostat groups and task forces related to material flow accounts.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**



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