

Role of Logistics in a Resilient Net Zero Europe

Professor Alan McKinnon

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Hamburg*

'Industry and logistics as pioneers of the green transformation in Central and Eastern Europe'

East European Business Conference

KLU

28 November 2024

Brief Update on the Climate Science

Emissions Gap Report 2024



No more hot air ... please!

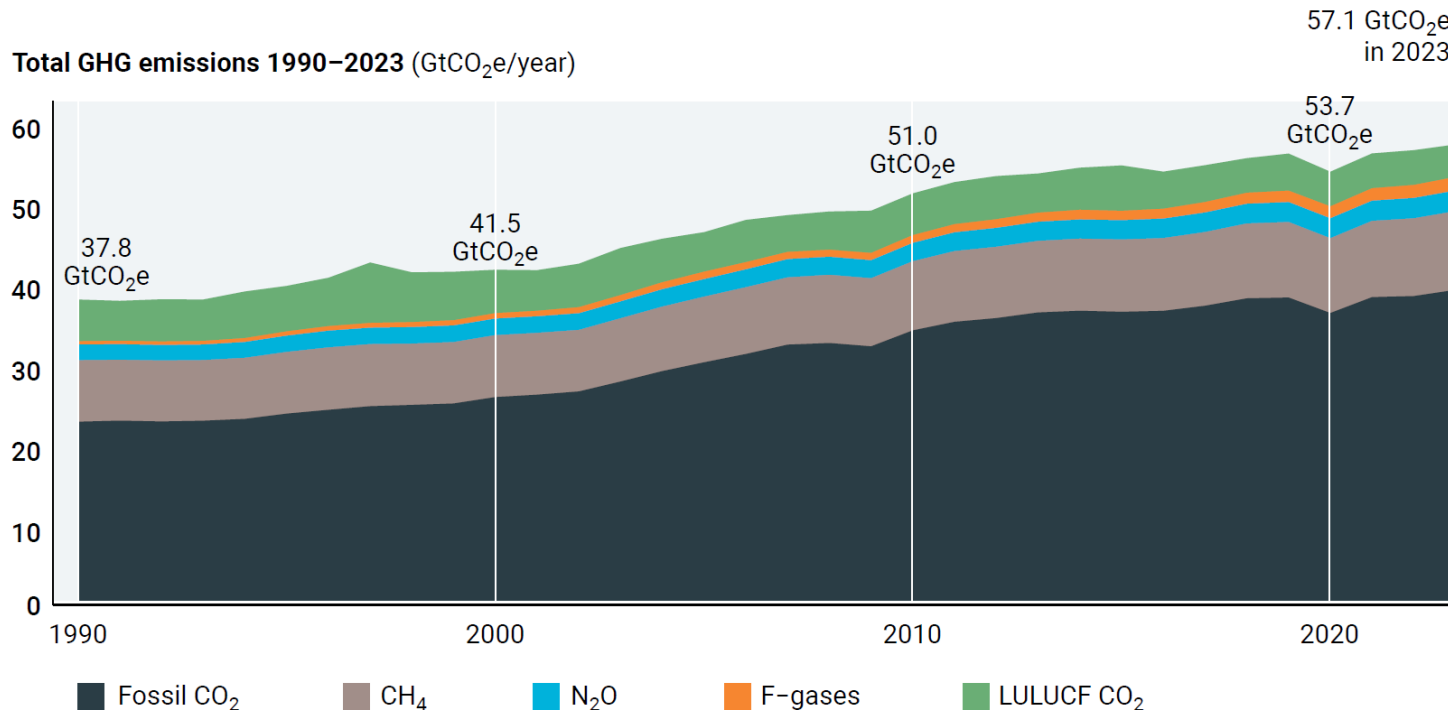
With a massive gap between rhetoric and reality,
countries draft new climate commitments

<https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2024>

'We are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster. This is a global emergency beyond any doubt. Much of the fabric of life on Earth is imperilled. We are stepping into a critical and unpredictable new phase of the climate crisis.'

[2024 State of the Climate Report \(Oct 2024\)](#)

Total GHG emissions 1990–2023 (GtCO₂e/year)



Remaining budget for a 50% chance of staying
within 1.5°C global temperature rise:

235 Gt of CO₂

At current rate of emissions will be exhausted
by 2031

<https://essd.copernicus.org/preprints/essd-2024-519/>

Pursuit of Net Zero



Proportion of Global GDP covered by Net Zero pledges: 2019 **16%** → 2024 **93%**

Net Zero: reduce emissions as much as possible by **mitigation** measures with any surplus balanced by the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere by carbon **sequestration** processes



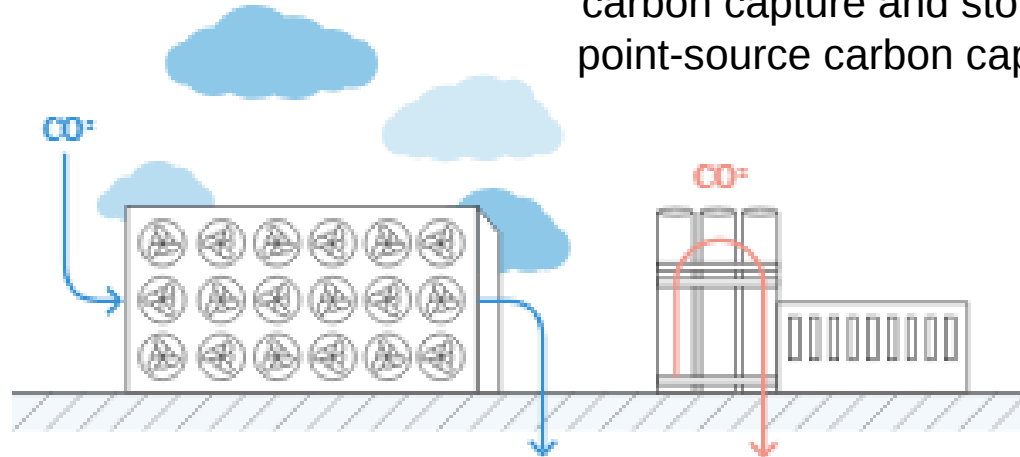
EU Residual Gross Emissions in 2050: between **390 and 1165 million tonnes of CO_{2e}** will need to be removed **annually** from the atmosphere. **(Germany emitted 674 Mt of CO_{2e} in 2023)**

concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere

422 parts per million

0.04% of the air

carbon sequestration
carbon dioxide removal
negative emissions



carbon capture and storage
point-source carbon capture

typical concentrations of CO₂ in exhaust / chimney gases

gas boilers:	4%
coal-fired power plants:	10-12%
chemical plants:	10%
cement kilns / blast furnaces:	10-40%
liquid natural gas plants:	90-100%

nature reviews earth & environment
Controversies of carbon dioxide removal



Carbon capture: a decarbonisation pipe dream



Role of Climate in Supply Chain Risk and Resilience

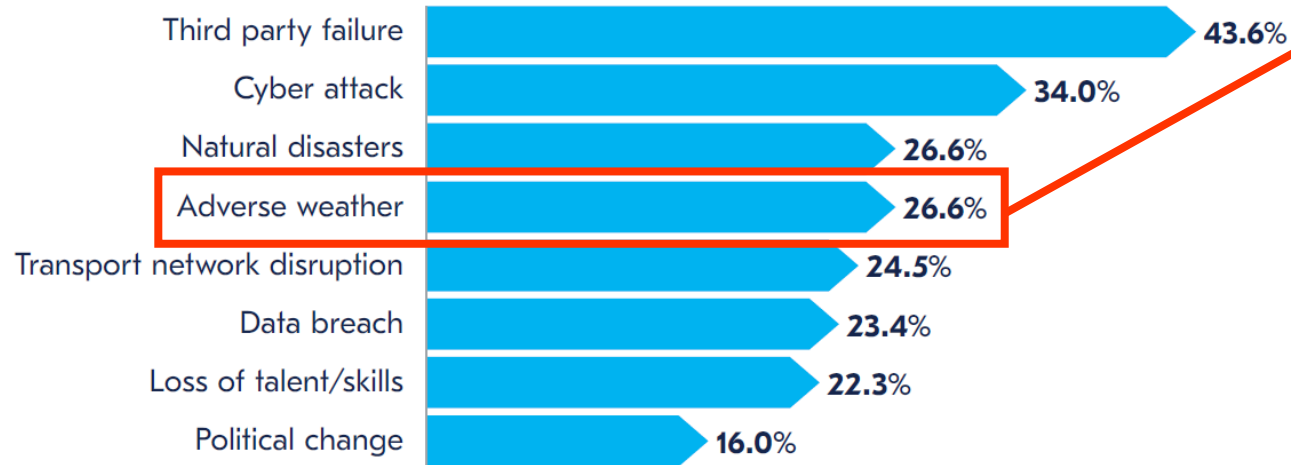


Supply chain resilience report 2024



Global <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/> Risks report 2024

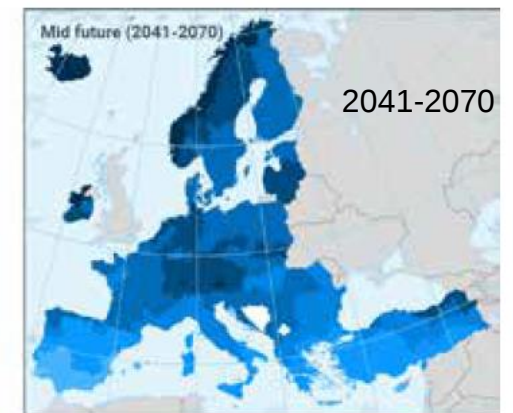
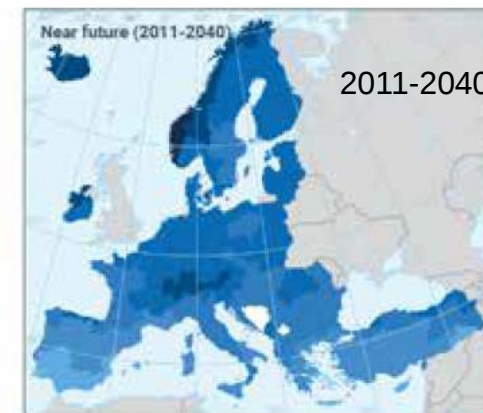
Causes of supply chain disruptions in the past year



Long term (10 years) Global risks ranked by severity



extreme precipitation: *days per annum*



Precipitation days



[European Environment Agency 2024](#)

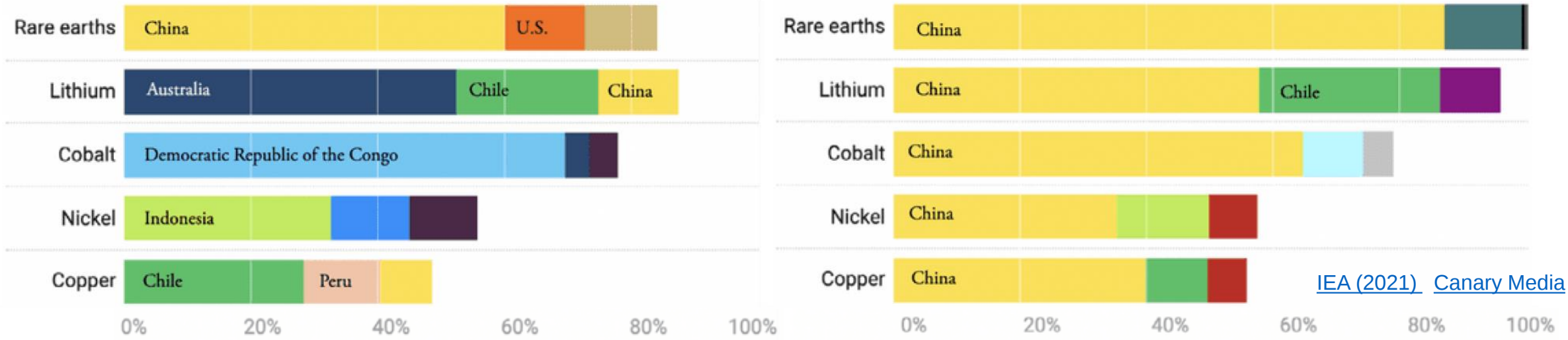
Materials for the Transition to Renewable Energy: *resilience of supply chains to **geopolitical risk**?*

extraction

global market shares

processing

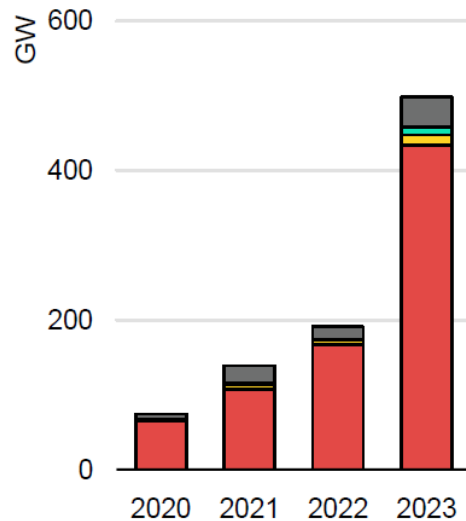
Minerals



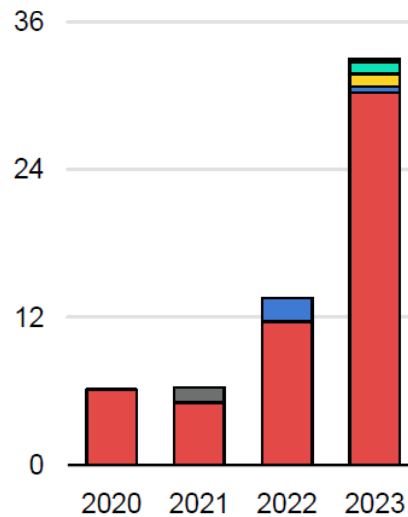
[IEA \(2021\)](#) [Canary Media](#)

additions to manufacturing capacity for low carbon technologies

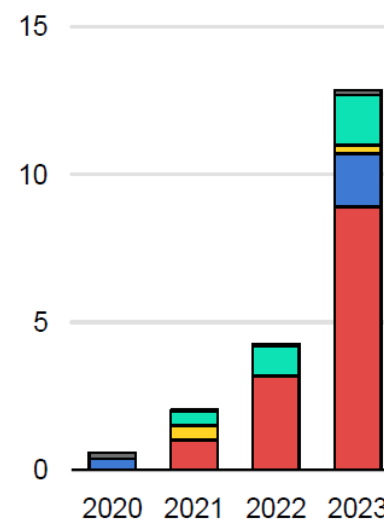
Solar PV (modules)



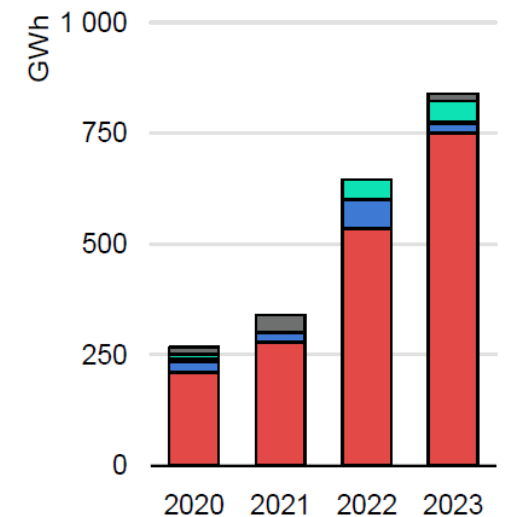
Wind turbine (nacelles)



Electrolysers



Batteries (cells)



[IEA \(2024\)](#)

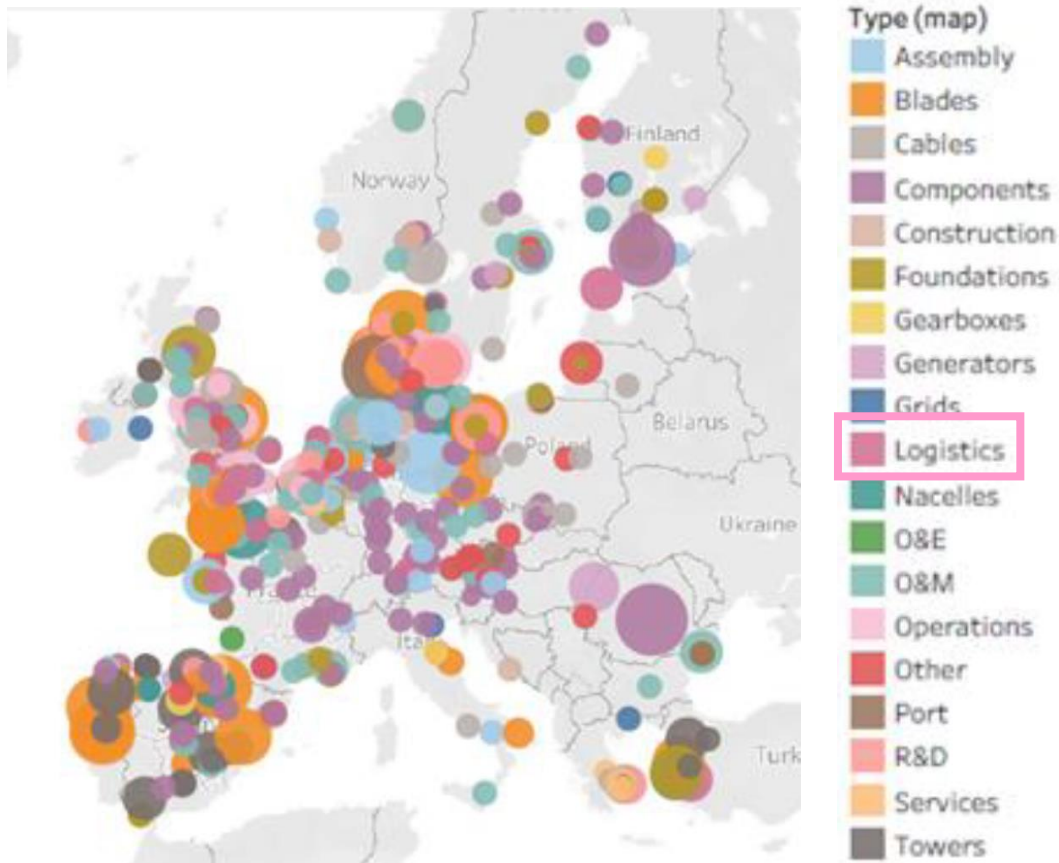
EU Initiatives to Diversify and Internalize the Sourcing of Green Materials and Technologies



A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age

Critical Raw Materials Club *to deliver on a secure, sustainable and affordable global supply of raw materials essential to our green and digital transition with a competitive and diversified industrial base.*

diversity and extent of European wind turbine manufacture



Logistical implications of EU efforts to mitigate risks In the supply of low carbon technologies

reconfiguring of EU external trading links for 'clean technology'

reducing total dependence on global sourcing of green tech & materials

increasing related logistical activity and emissions within the EU

Multiple Roles of Logistics in the Climate Crisis

GHG emissions

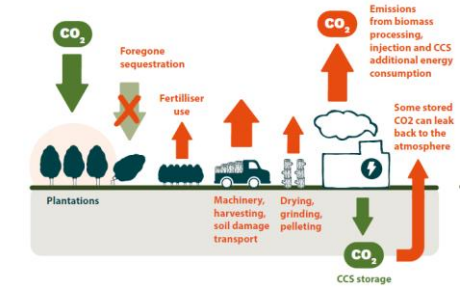
logistics

Cause

Last resort



Remover



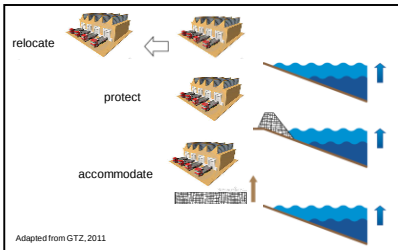
Rescuer



Facilitator



Adaptor



Decarboniser



CLIMATE CRISIS

Victim

Logistics and climate: an assessment of logistics' multiple roles in the climate crisis

Alan C. McKinnon

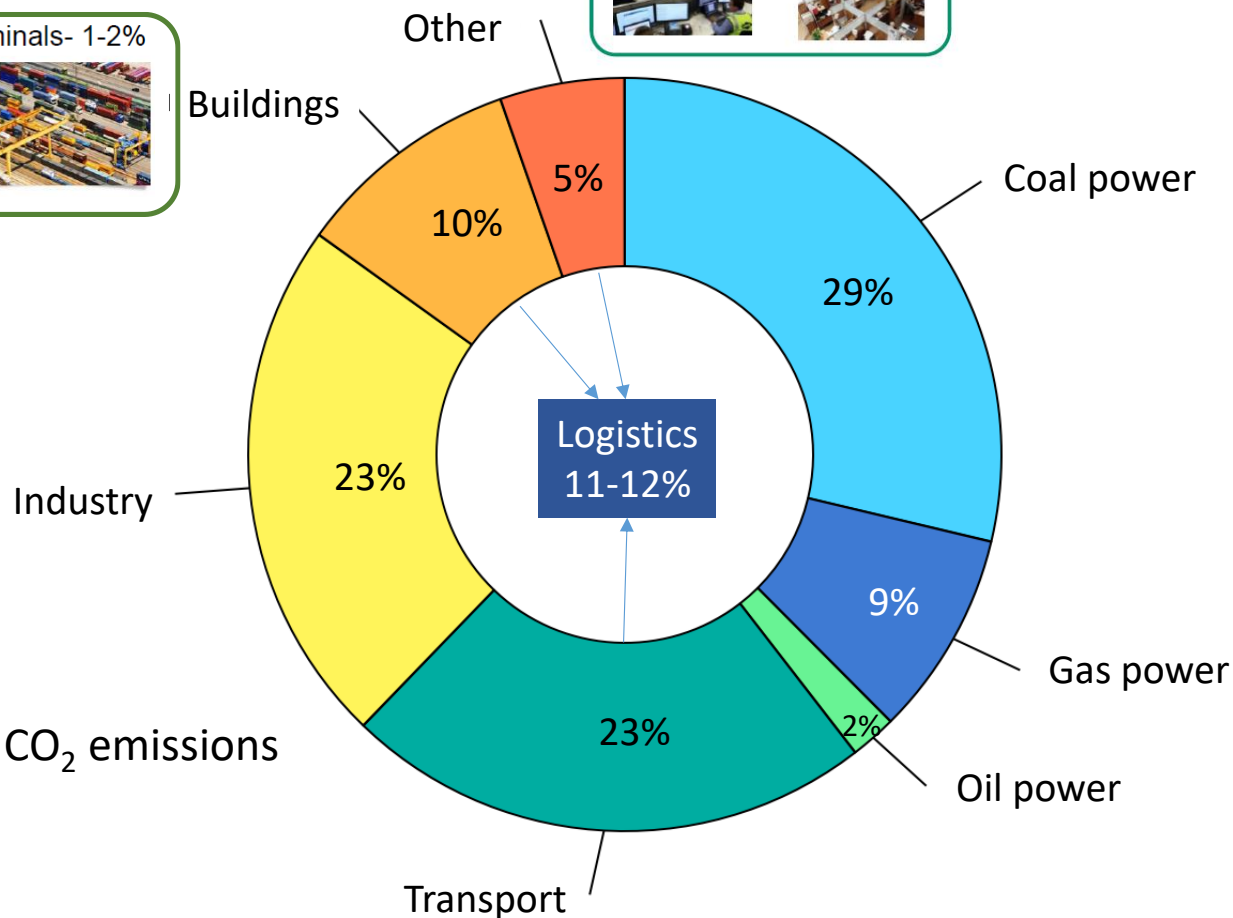
CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Guest post: The forgotten role of logistics in achieving net-zero

Logistics as a CAUSE

Logistics' Global Carbon Score-card

Logistics annual emissions:
4.2 Gtonnes of energy-related CO₂
If it were a country.....



Million tonnes CO₂ (2020)

1	China	11680
2	United States	4535
3	Logistics	4200
4	India	2411
5	Russia	1674
6	Japan	1061
7	Iran	690
8	Germany	636
9	South Africa	621
10	Saudia Arabia	589

Significant under-estimation

Exclude emissions from energy supply chains
and emissions of other GHGs (methane,
nitrous oxide, refrigerant gases) and black
carbon particles

No comparable statistics for logistics' share
of EU GHG emissions

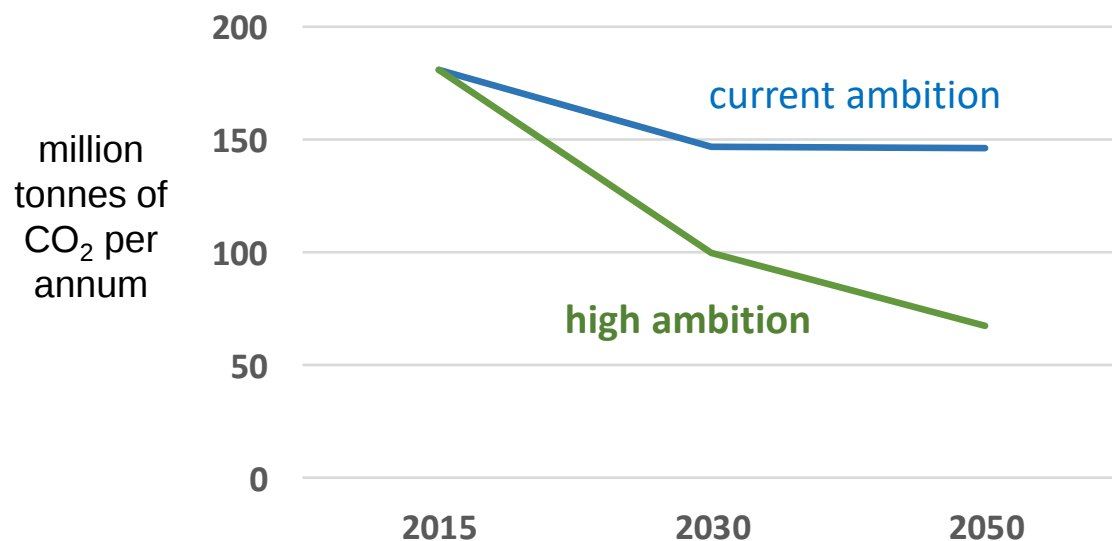
Logistics as a DECARBONISER

very difficult activity to decarbonise

- heavy dependence on fossil fuel
- high forecast growth of freight movement
- long life of freight assets (*typical replacement rate in years*)

van	truck	locomotive	ship	plane
5-7	10-15	25-30	30	30

trends in CO₂ emissions from EU freight transport: 2 scenarios



[International Transport Forum 2021](#)

5 Freight Transport Decarbonisation Levers

1. Reduce the total amount of freight movement

2. Shift freight to lower carbon transport modes

3. Optimize utilization of freight transport capacity

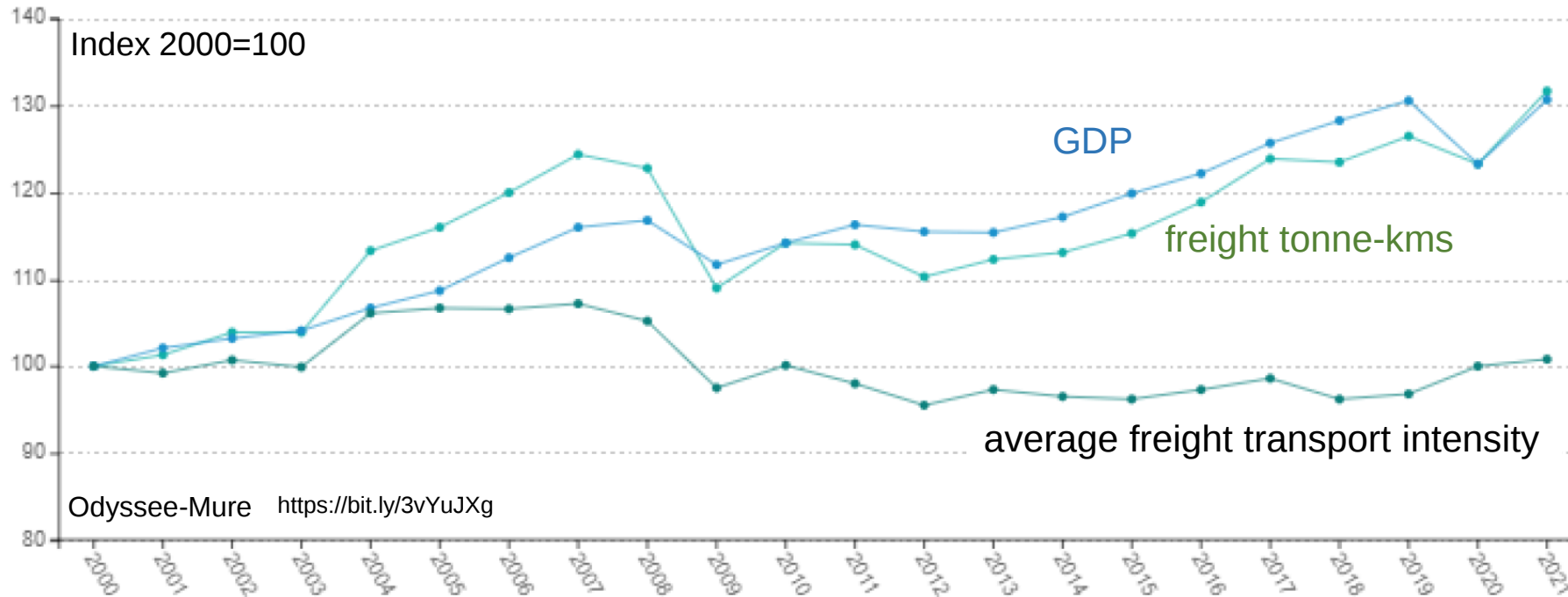
4. Improve energy efficiency of freight movement

5. Transition freight transport to low carbon energy

1. Reduce the total amount of freight movement / constrain the rate of freight traffic growth

EU reference scenario: **27% increase** in total freight tonne-kms between 2020 and 2030

<https://bit.ly/490wnp2>



very close correlation in EU between economic and freight traffic growth

regional cohesion policies and reshoring of production to the EU likely to increase average freight transport intensity



circular economy



fossil fuel phase-out



dematerialisation



3D printing

Examples of future drivers of road freight demand pushing in opposite directions



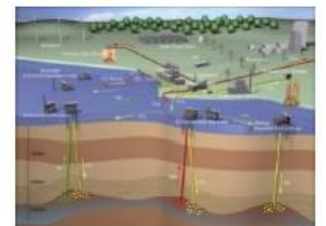
renewable energy infrastructure



carbon sequestration



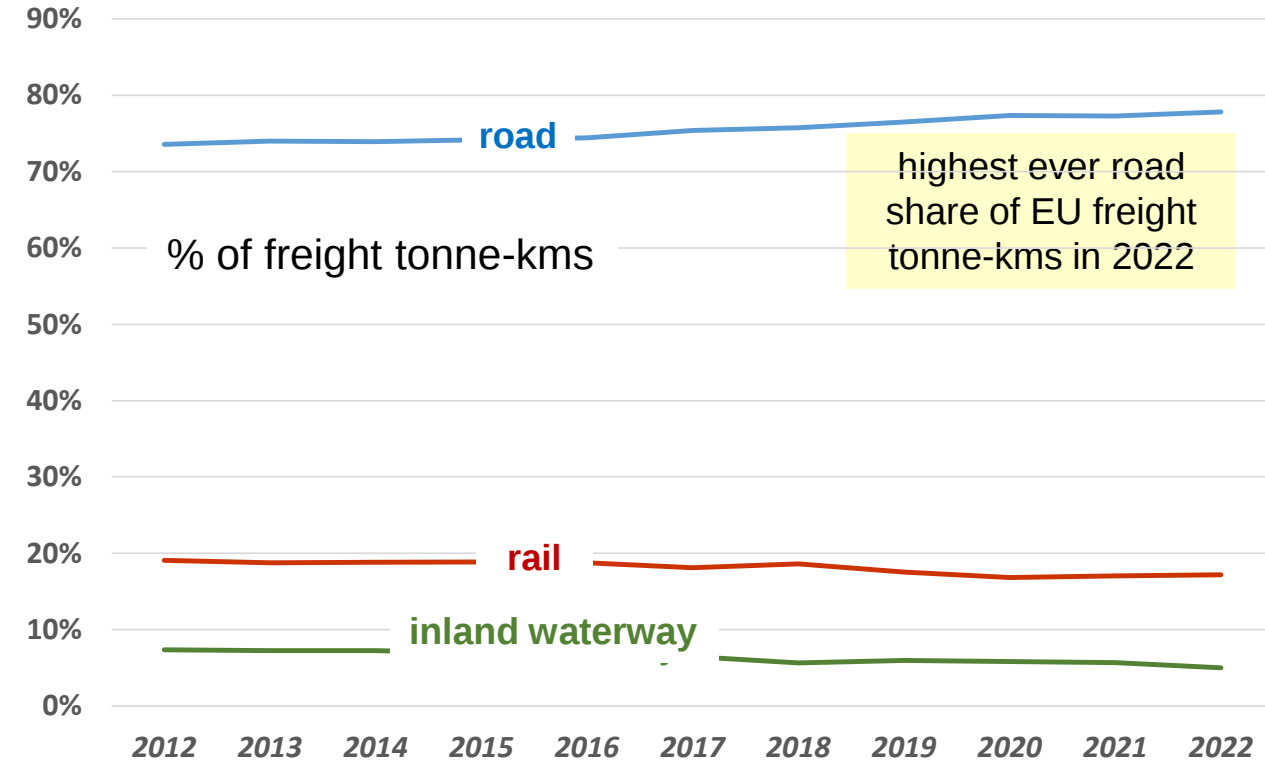
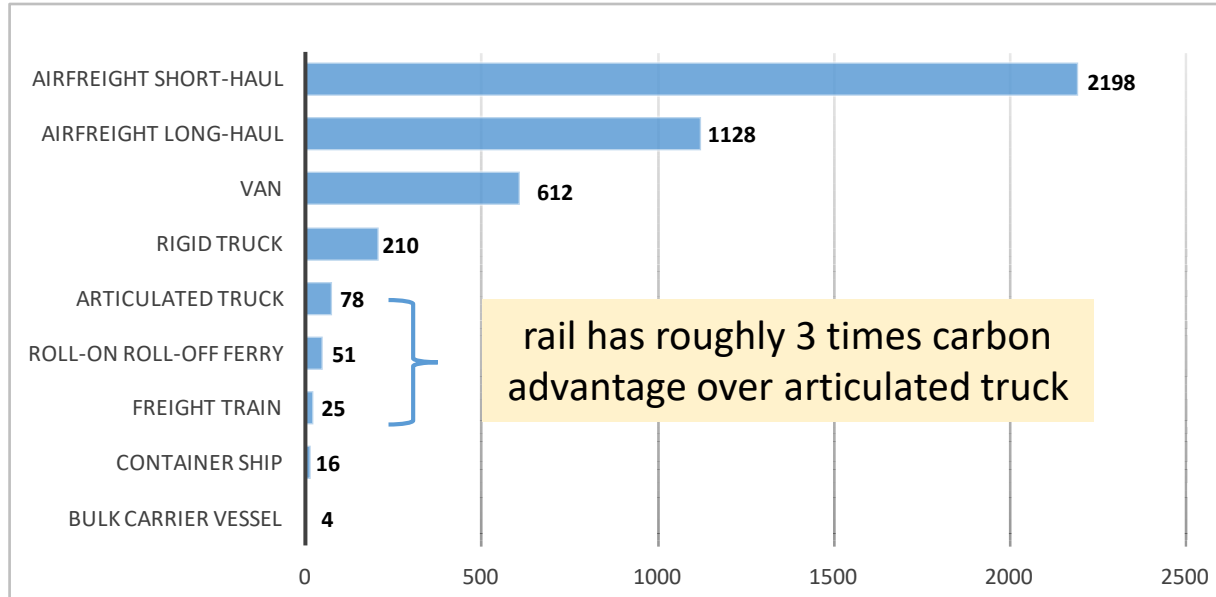
climate change adaptation



2. Shift freight to lower carbon transport modes

Eurostat (2024) <https://bit.ly/4aYxZRk>

wide variation in the carbon intensity of transport modes
average carbon intensity of freight transport modes: $gCO_2 / \text{tonne-km}$



EU reference scenario: 71% increase in rail freight tonne-kms between 2020 and 2040 – still only 19% modal share

<https://bit.ly/490wnp2>

- history of over-ambitious freight modal shift targets not achieved
- long term 'logistical lock-in' to trucking is very difficult to reverse
- decarbonisation of EU economy depriving rail of fossil fuel traffic



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

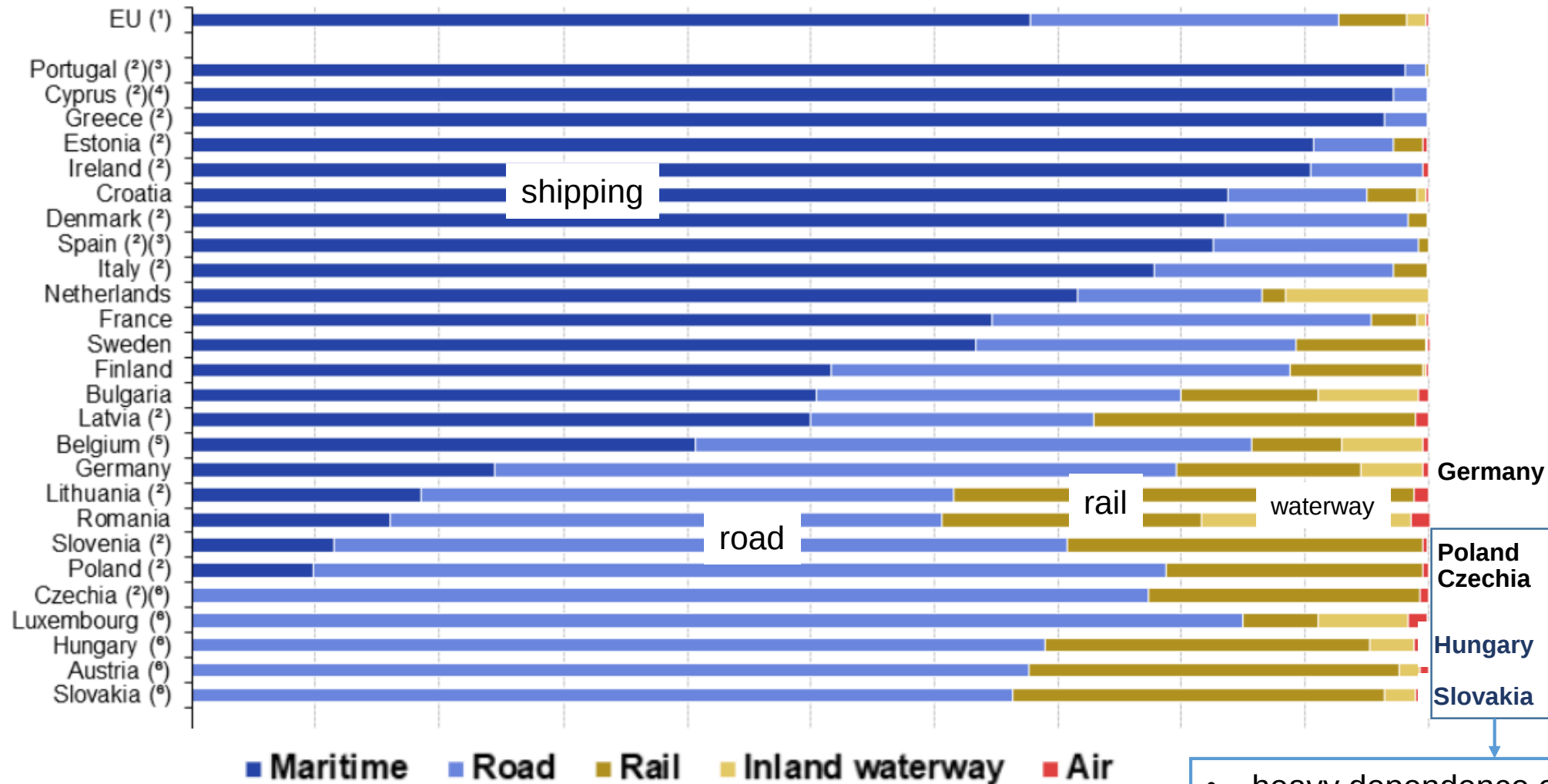
August 2023

<https://bit.ly/4b3yJ7Y>

'...unrealistic EU targets for 2030 and 2050 for the increased use of rail and inland waterways for the transport of freight. These targets were not based on robust simulations of how much modal shift could be achieved.'

2. Shift freight to lower carbon transport modes

Relative Use of Different Freight Transport Modes across the EU (% of total tonne-kms)



- heavy dependence on road carriers
- rail is the main alternative mode
- minimal use of waterborne transport

3. Optimise the utilisation of freight transport capacity

large potential emission savings

both economic and environmental benefit

short-medium term implementation

Chronic lack of data on the utilisation of freight transport capacity

<https://bit.ly/4fw9QDQ>

empty running of trucks



under-loading

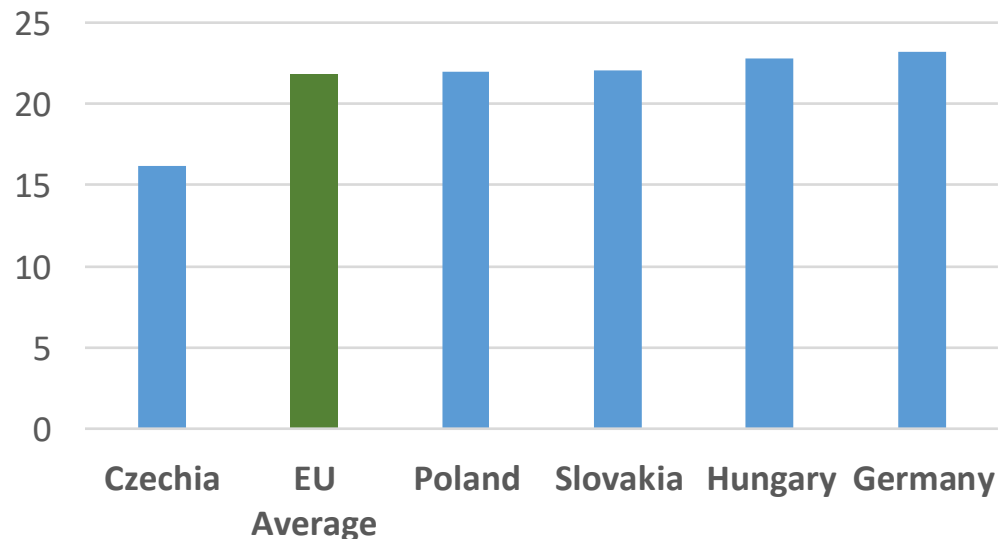


ways of raising vehicle load factors



Logistical collaboration
– *sharing assets*

% of truck-km run empty



2010 24% 2022 22%



Digitalisation of freight
markets and operations



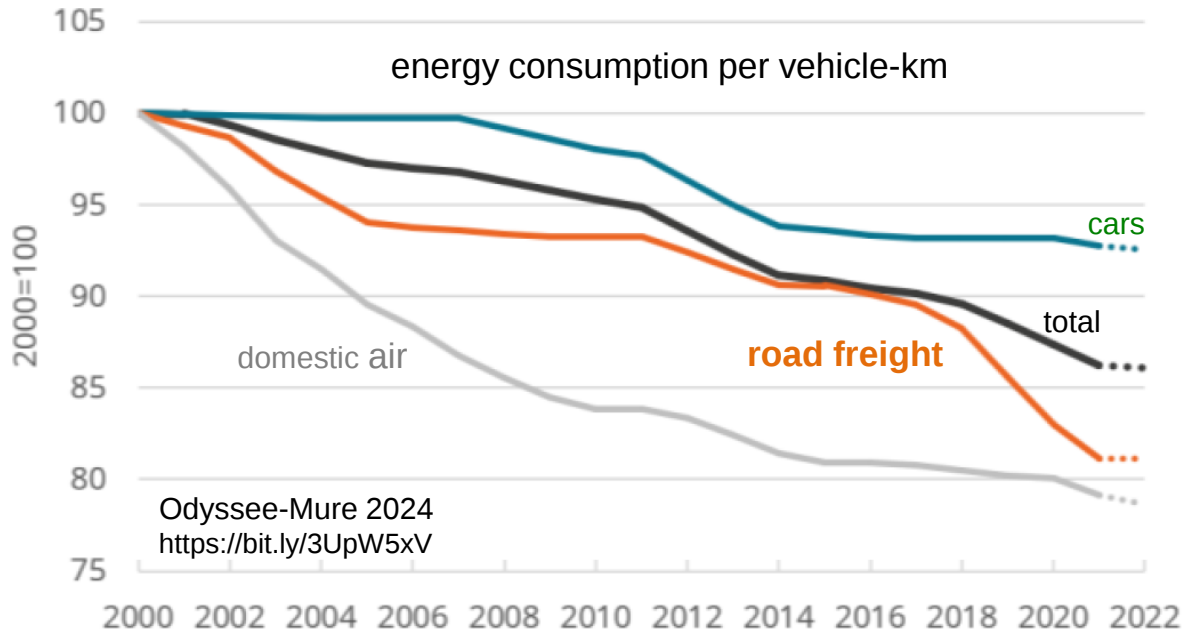
High-capacity transport
if infrastructure is adequate



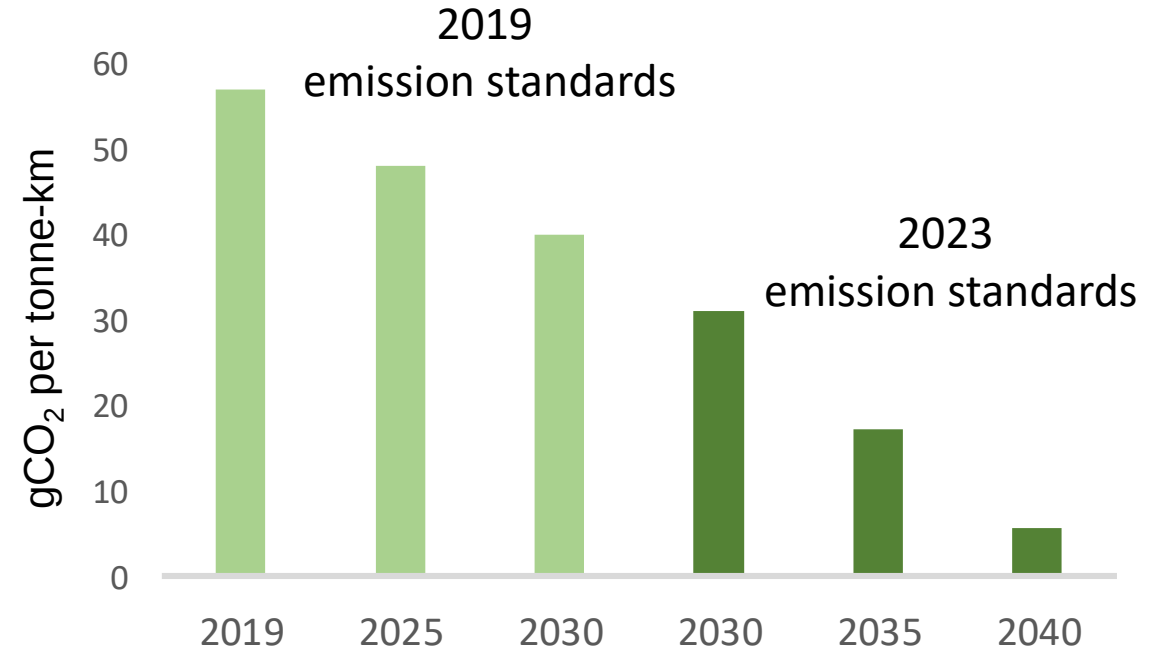
Relaxation of JIT pressures?

4. Improve the energy efficiency of freight transport

energy consumption per vehicle-km



EU fuel / CO₂ efficiency standards for new trucks



<https://bit.ly/446KxDW>

At average EU truck replacement rate of 5-7% per annum 15-18 years to replace entire truck fleet
average age of trucks much higher in some Eastern Europe countries, e.g. Slovakia, Czechia and Romania

short-to-medium term measures to improve the energy efficiency of existing fleets

5. Transition freight transport to low carbon energy



short haul road	long haul road	rail	shipping	airfreight
battery	battery	catenary	e-methanol	biofuel
'pedal-power'	e-highway	battery	green ammonia	e-kerosene
	biogas	hydrogen (?)	biofuel	hydrogen (?)
	HVO		battery / shore power	battery
	hydrogen (?)		wind	

heavily dependent on direct or indirect **electrification** of the freight transport system and decarbonisation of the electricity supply

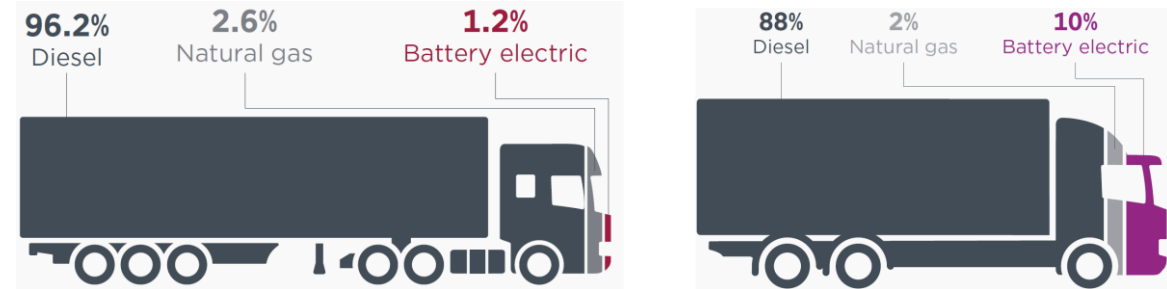
need captured CO₂ as a feedstock

slow transition

coordinating the development of **transport and energy infrastructures** with the **manufacture of new low carbon vehicles** and **operators' fleet replacement cycles**.

5. Transition freight transport to low carbon energy

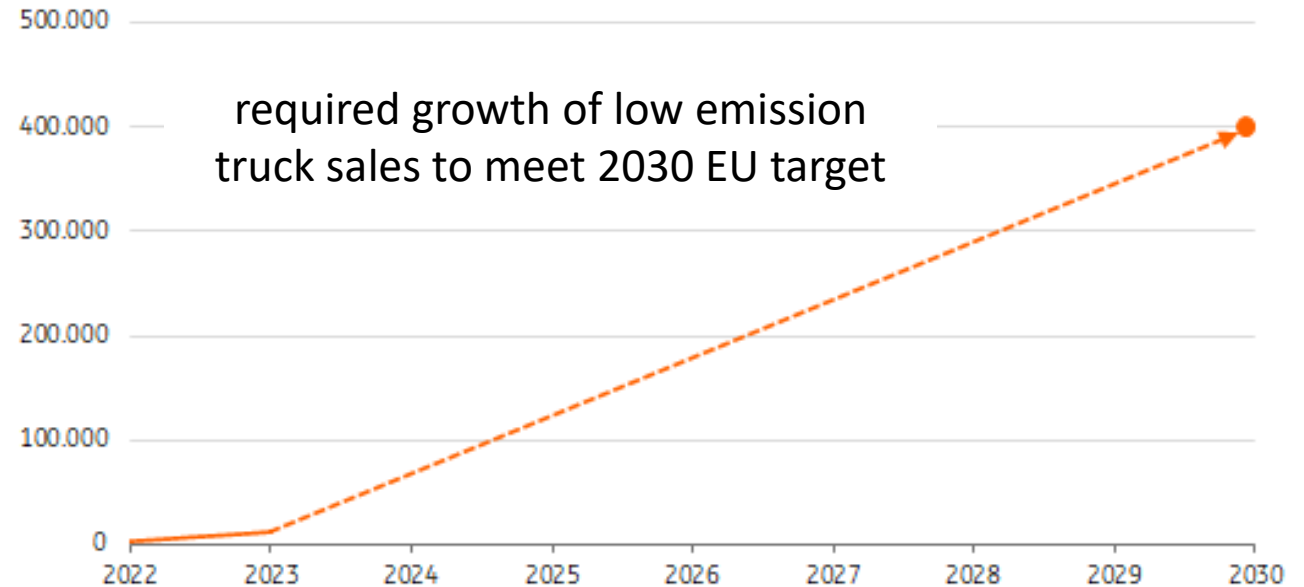
European truck sales (Q2 2024) by energy type



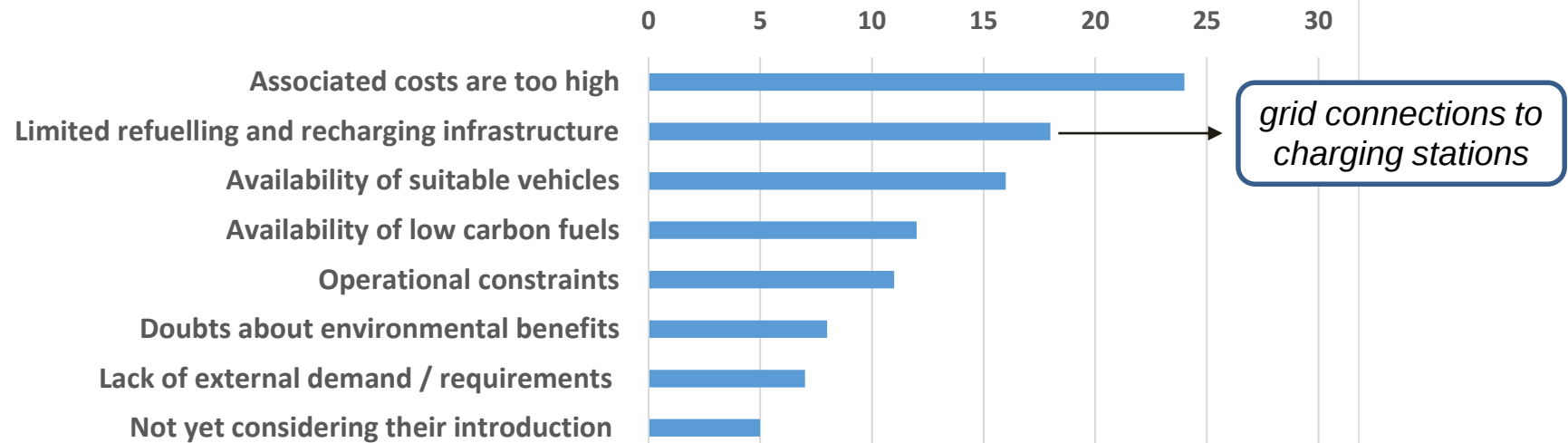
ICCT (2024) <https://bit.ly/3AP7th1>

relative importance of the main barriers to implementing low/zero CO₂ emission fuels and vehicles

% of consolidated responses



<https://think.ing.com/articles/european-truck-market-slows-while-electric-journey-accelerates/>

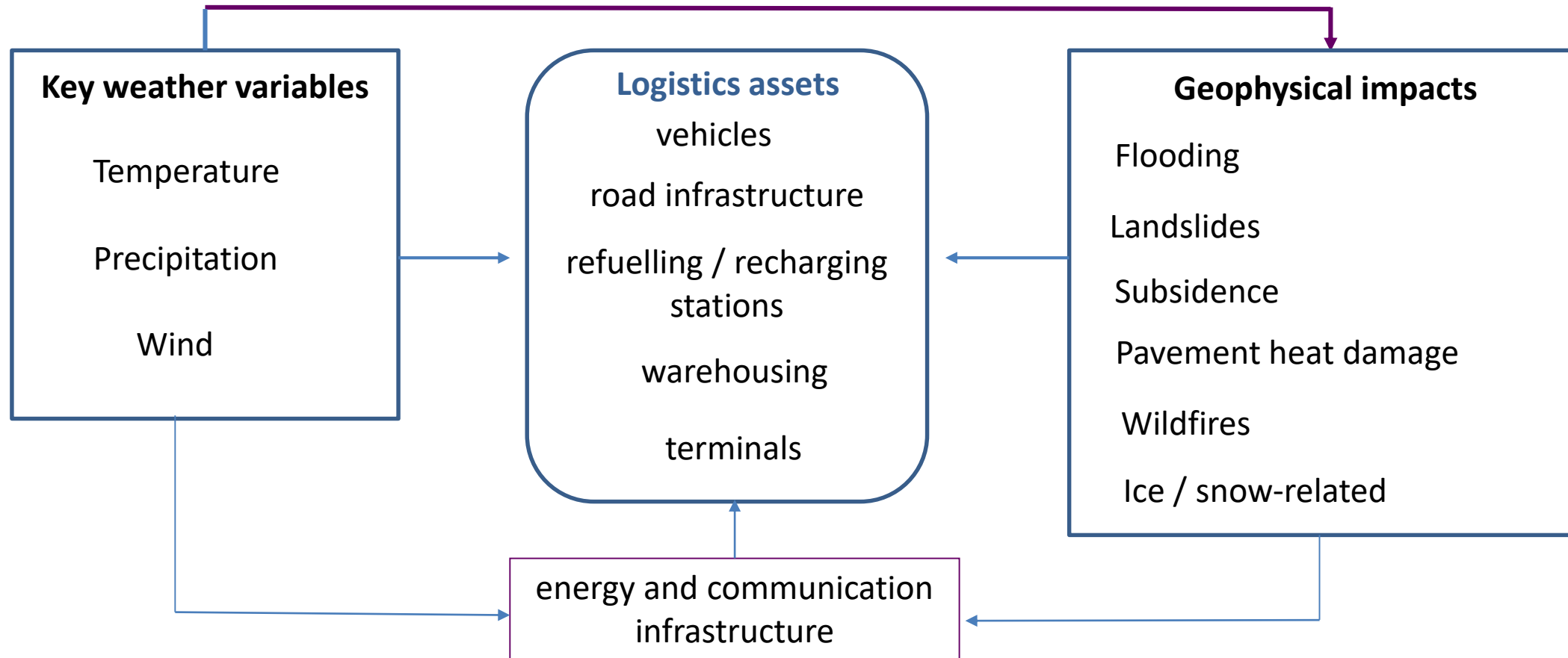




geographically extensive

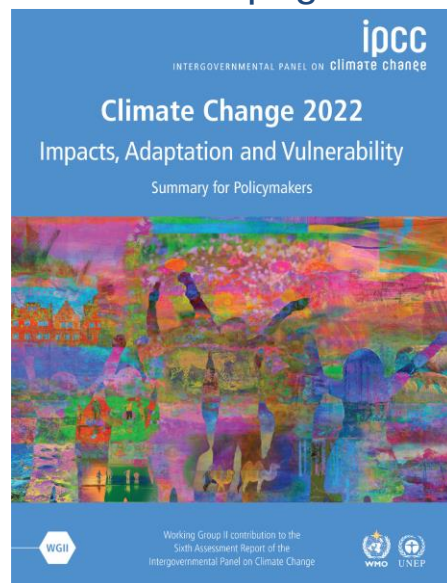
closely inter-connected

time-sensitive



Logistics as an ADAPTOR

3068 pages



3 brief references to vulnerability and adaptation of logistics systems

Little research on the climate adaptation of road freight operations and logistical systems as a whole to climate change

Logistics and supply chains are ‘adaptation blind spots’ in the private sector. Goldstein et al 2019

EU guidance on climate proofing infrastructure

Phase 1 (screening)

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS				EXPOSURE ANALYSIS			
Indicative sensitivity table: (example)				Indicative exposure table: (example)			
Climate variables and hazards				Climate variables and hazards			
	Flood	Heat	Drought		Flood	Heat	Drought
On-site assets, ...	High	Low	Low	Current climate	Medium	Low	Low
Inputs (water, ...)	Medium	Medium	Low	Future climate	High	Medium	Low
Outputs (products, ...)	High	Low	Low	Highest score, current+future	High	Medium	Low
Transport links	Medium	Low	Low				
Highest score 4 themes	High	Medium	Low				

The output of the sensitivity analysis may be summarised in a table with the sensitivity ranking of the relevant climate variables and hazards for a given project type, irrespective of the location, including critical parameters, and divided in e.g. the four themes.

The output of the exposure analysis may be summarised in a table with the exposure ranking of the relevant climate variables and hazards for the selected location, irrespective of the project type, and divided in current and future climate. For both the sensitivity and exposure analysis, the scoring system should be carefully defined and explained, and the given scores should be justified.

VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS			
Indicative vulnerability table: (example)			
Exposure (current + future climate)			
	High	Medium	Low
Sensitivity (highest across the four themes)	High	Medium	Low
	High	Medium	Low

The vulnerability analysis may be summarised in a table for the given specific project type at the selected location. It combines the sensitivity and the exposure analysis. The most relevant climate variables and hazards are those with a high or medium vulnerability level, which are then taken forward to the steps below. The vulnerability levels should be carefully defined and explained, and the given scores justified.

Phase 2 (subject to the outcome of phase 1)

LIKELIHOOD ANALYSIS				IMPACT ANALYSIS					
Indicative scale for assessing the likelihood of a climate hazard (example):				Indicative scale for assessing the potential impact of a climate hazard (example):					
Term				Impacts:					
Qualitative				Quantitative (%)					
Rare	Highly unlikely to occur	5%		Asset damage, engineering, operational	Significant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Unlikely	Unlikely to occur	20%		Safety and health					
Moderate	As likely to occur as not	50%		Environment, cultural heritage					
Likely	Likely to occur	80%		Social					
Almost certain	Very likely to occur	95%		Financial					
The output of the likelihood analysis may be summarised in a qualitative or quantitative estimation of the likelihood for each of the essential climate variables and hazards. (*) Defining the scales requires careful analysis for various reasons including e.g. that the likelihood and impacts of the essential climate hazards may change significantly during the lifespan of the infrastructure project among other due to climate change. Various scales are referred to in the literature.				Reputation					
				Any other relevant risk area(s)					
				Overall for the above-listed risk areas					
				The impact analysis provides an expert assessment of the potential impact for each of the essential climate variables and hazards.					

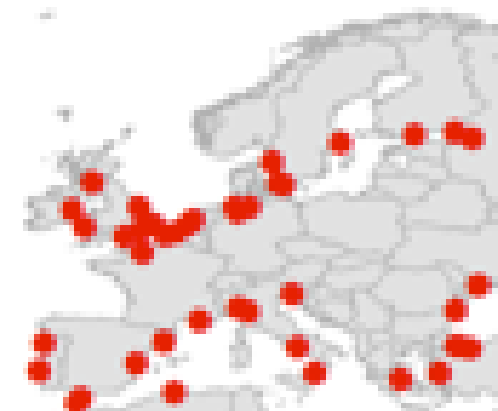
RISK ASSESSMENT					
Indicative risk table: (example)					
Overall impact of the essential climate variables and hazards (example)					
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Rare					
Unlikely					
Moderate					
Likely					
Almost certain					

The output of the risk analysis may be summarised in a table combining likelihood and impact of the essential climate variables and hazards. Detailed explanations are required to qualify and substantiate the assessment conclusions. The risk levels should be explained and justified.

IDENTIFYING ADAPTATION OPTIONS			APPRAISING ADAPTATION OPTIONS			ADAPTATION PLANNING		
Option identification process: • Identify options responding to the risks (use e.g. expert workshops, meetings, evaluations, ...) Adaptation may involve a mix of responses, e.g.: • training, capacity building, monitoring, ... • use of best practices, standards, ... • nature-based solutions, ... • engineering solutions, technical design, ... • risk management, insurance, ...			The appraisal of adaptation options should give due regard to the specific circumstances and availability of data. In some cases a quick expert judgement may suffice whereas other cases may warrant a detailed cost-benefit analysis. It may be relevant to consider the robustness of various adaptation options vis-à-vis climate change uncertainties.			Integrate relevant climate resilience measures into the technical project design and management options. Develop implementation plan, finance plan, plan for monitoring and response, plan for regular review of the assumptions and the climate vulnerability and risk assessment, and so on. The vulnerability and risk assessment and adaptation planning is aiming to reduce the remaining climate risks to an acceptable level.		

No EU estimates of the **quantity of materials required** and the **amount of freight movement** needed to source, process and distribute them.

climate protection for 36 European ports to 2 metre sea level rise



material requirements

83m cubic metres



x1000

100

million m³

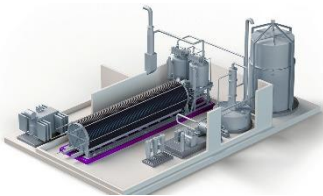
50

Material

- Concrete
- Quarry Run Stone
- Sand
- Gravel
- Large Riprap
- Small Riprap
- Structural Steel

Becker and Chase (2016)

Transitioning from Fossil to Renewable Energy *creation of new renewable energy infrastructure*



renewal energy infrastructure more material-intensive in *tonnes per megawatt*

2030 forecast: 60m tonnes of 'structural materials' needed for wind turbines in EU

	steel	concrete
wind	460	870
coal	100	270
nuclear	40	195
natural gas	5	25

Source: Petersen (2006)

generation of renewable energy is more geographically dispersed than generation of 'fossil' energy

Germany 2022: 1055 wind turbines to produce as much electrical power as the country's largest coal-fired power station

complex global supply chains for renewable energy materials and equipment (*lithium, cobalt, batteries, solar panels etc.*)

much renewable power generation equipment 'out-of-guage' requiring specialist transport and handling

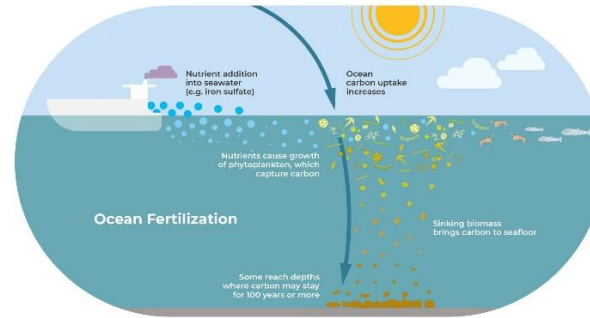


Nature-based methods

Afforestation



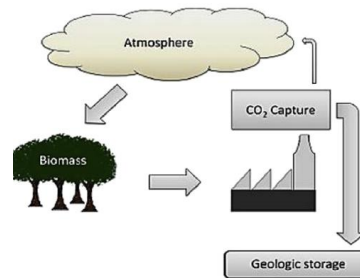
Ocean fertilisation



Hybrid nature-based and engineered sequestration



Biochar (charcoal-like substance produced by pyrolysis, rich in carbon, scattered on the land)



Bio-energy carbon capture and storage BECCS

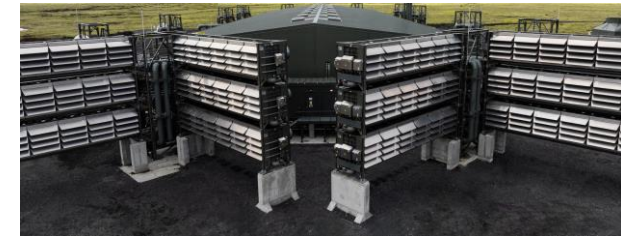
Mechanical-chemical methods

'engineered CO₂ removal'

Enhanced rock weathering / Mineralisation



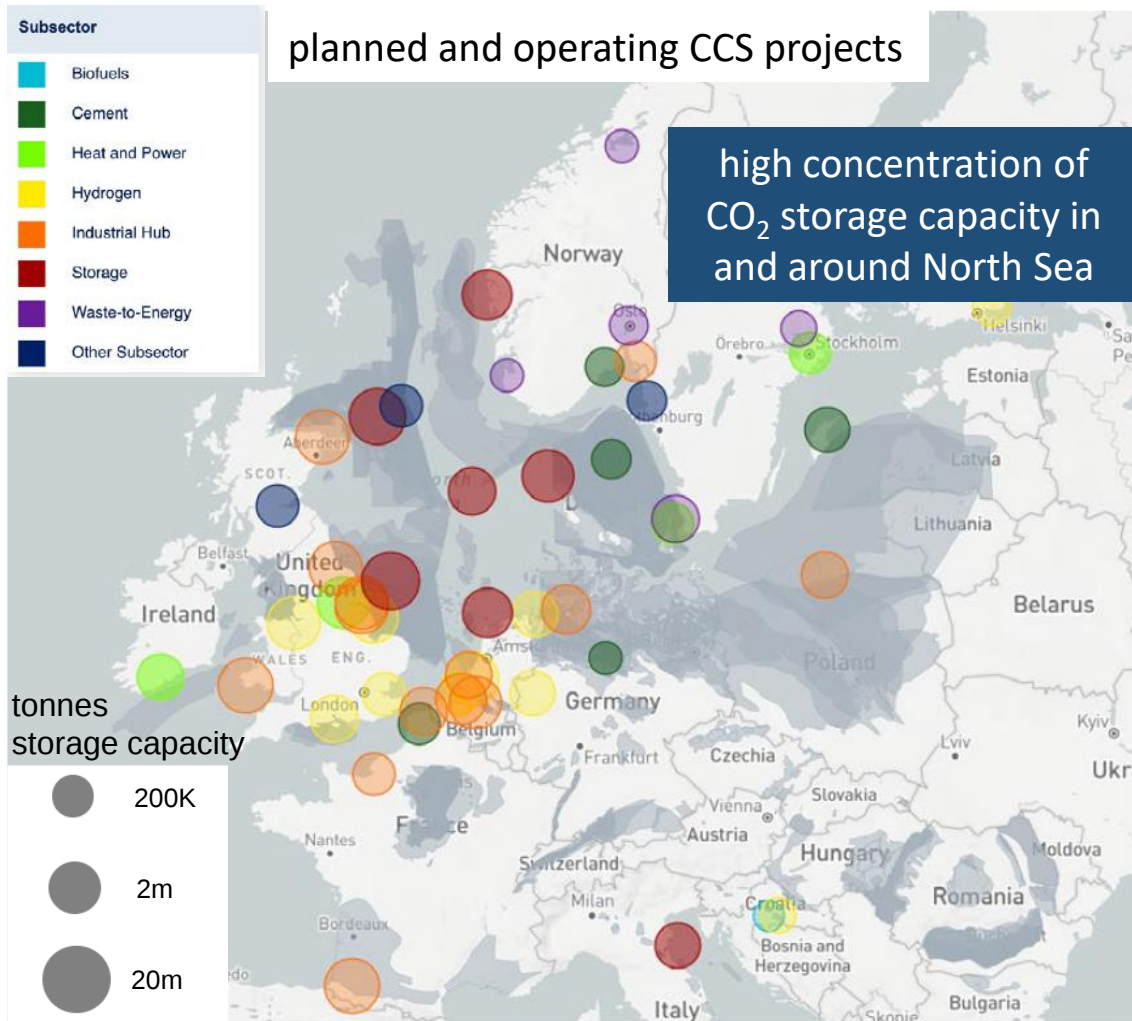
Direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS)



Logistical requirements vary widely, many as yet unquantified, but likely to be very freight transport-intensive

Movement of captured CO₂ likely to be mainly by pipeline and sea. Road will handle many of the other flows in CDR supply chains

Geography of European Carbon Capture **Transport** and Storage

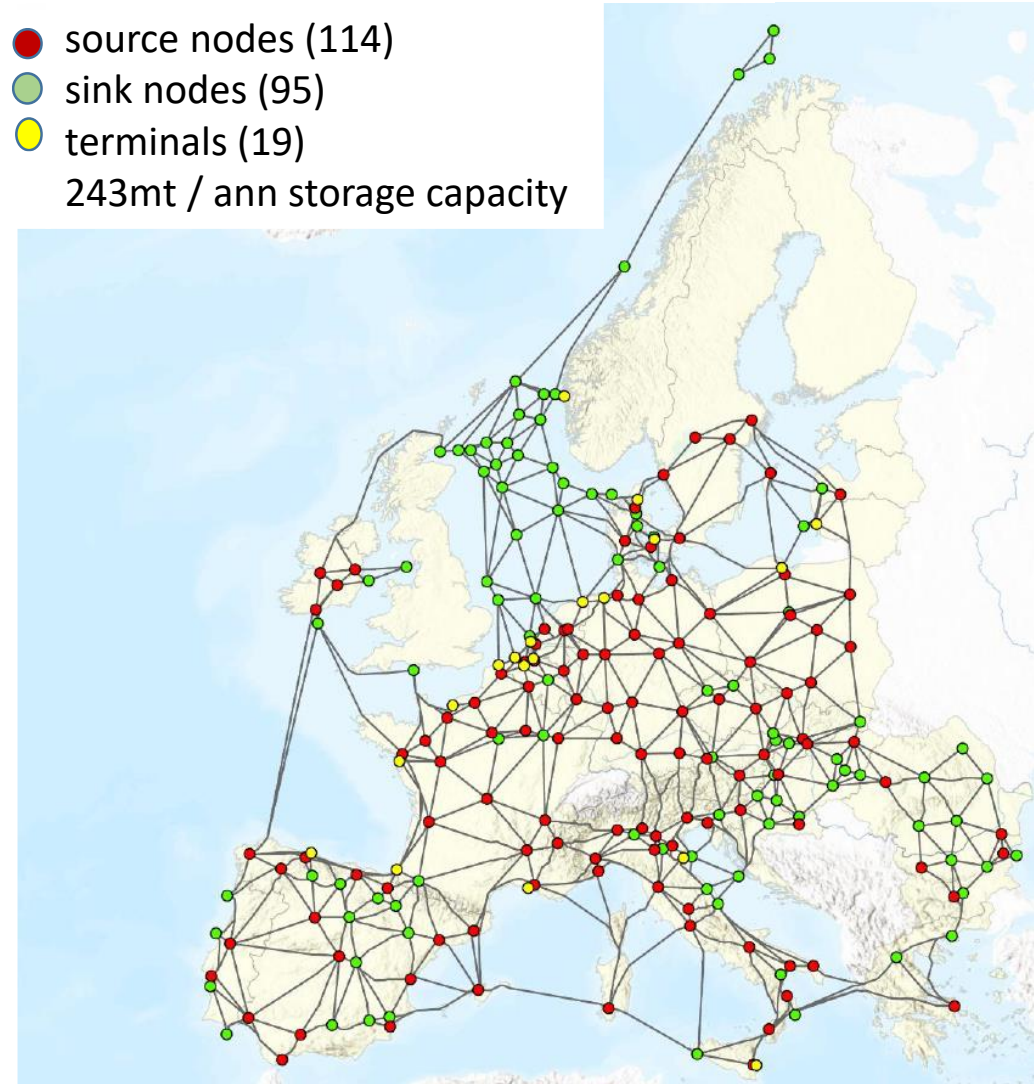


‘To ensure Europe’s emitting industries have equal access to the decarbonising potential of this infrastructure, it is vital to promote and facilitate the development of other suitable storage geology throughout the region, including onshore storage in **Central and Eastern Europe**, and offshore storage in the Mediterranean.’

[Clean Air Task Force, 2022](#)

Climate Target Plan 2040 scenario: CO₂ transport network

- source nodes (114)
 - sink nodes (95)
 - terminals (19)
- 243mt / ann storage capacity

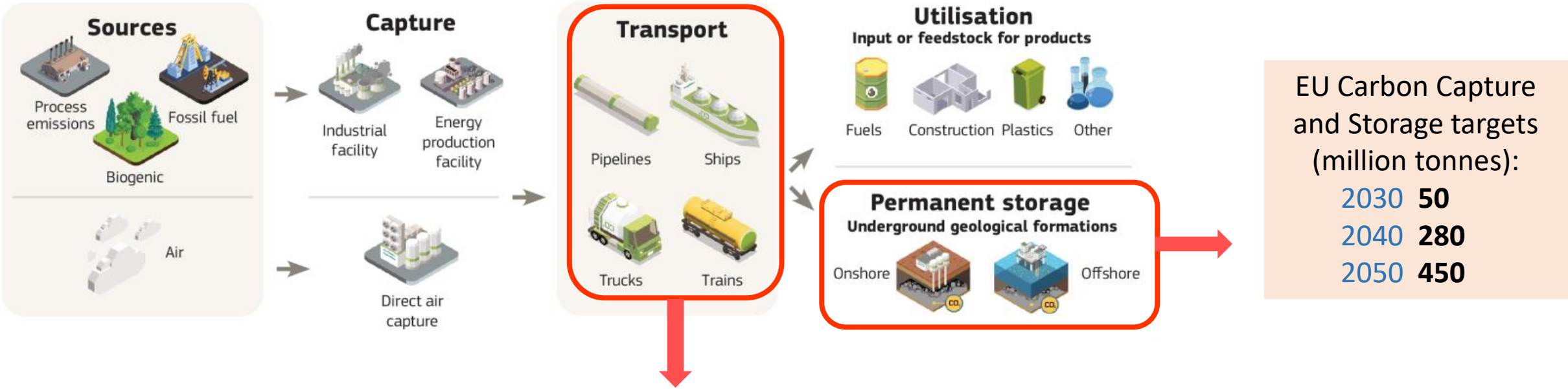


Transport network for captured CO₂

6700-7300km by 2030
15000-19000km by 2050

<https://bit.ly/4eEXpos>

Logistical Impact of Carbon Capture and Storage



Freight transport requirements of carbon dioxide removal

infrastructure

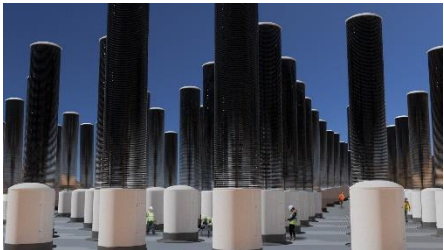
construction of CO₂ removal and storage facilities
electrical grid infrastructure for CDR facilities
pipeline networks for captured CO₂

equipment

supply chains for production of **CO₂ removal devices**
and vessels and vehicles to transport captured CO₂

inputs

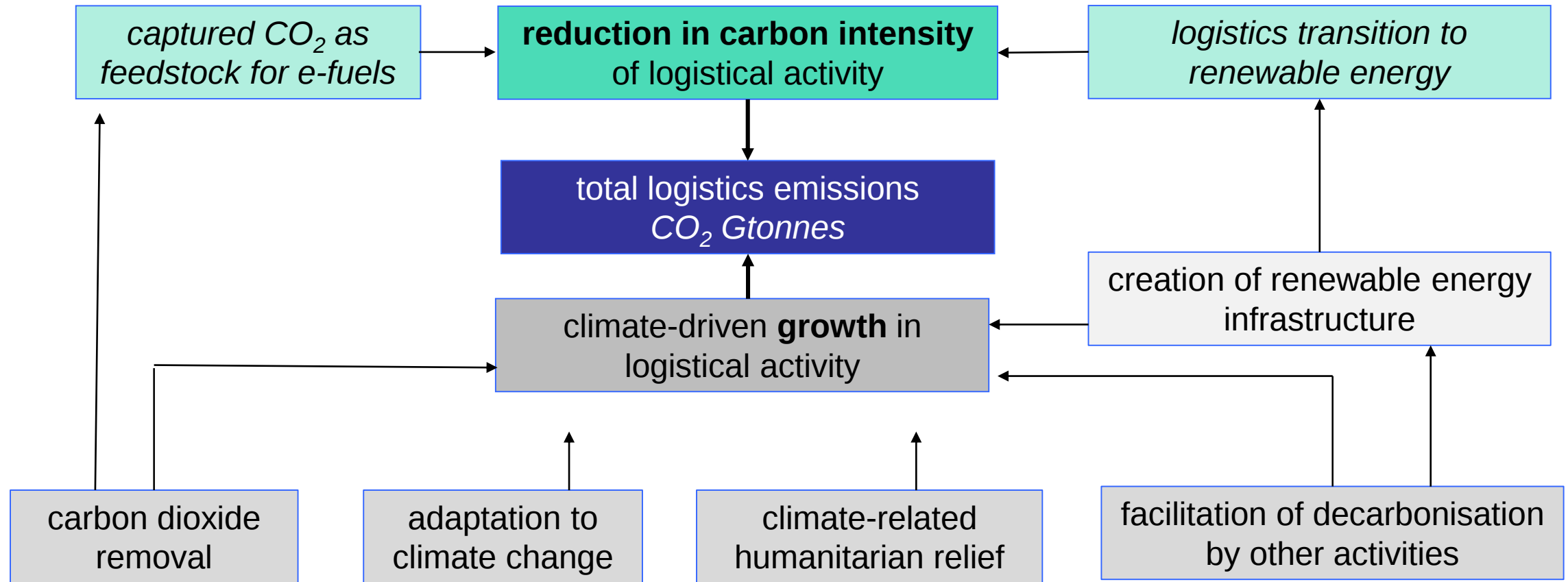
10m *'mechanical trees'* per year
Prof Klaus Lackner
solvents / sorbents for the CO₂ removal process
biomass for BECCS
biochar, olivine, ocean fertilisation chemicals



outputs

captured CO₂ for storage or use
by-products of the sequestration process

Net Zero Logistics: a Process Map and Four Recommendations



- Recommendations:
- **assess the logistical requirements** of the EU's Net Zero industrial plans
 - **examine regional differences** in these requirements across the continent
 - logistics businesses should explore **new commercial opportunities** arising in the Net Zero age
 - award logistics sector **carbon credits for its critical roles** in the management of the climate crisis

Professor Alan McKinnon

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www.linkedin.com/in/alan-mckinnon-a3a79722

3 hour online video course



Smart Freight Centre Academy

3 hour online video course

Sign up

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS [PARTNER COURSE]

Decarbonizing Logistics

A comprehensive guide to the decarbonization of logistics, from climate science through managerial concepts and much more

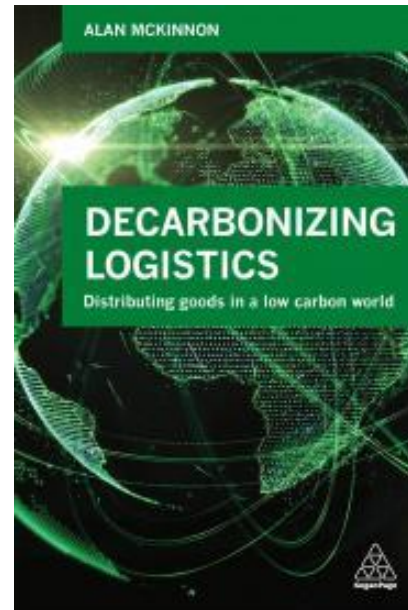
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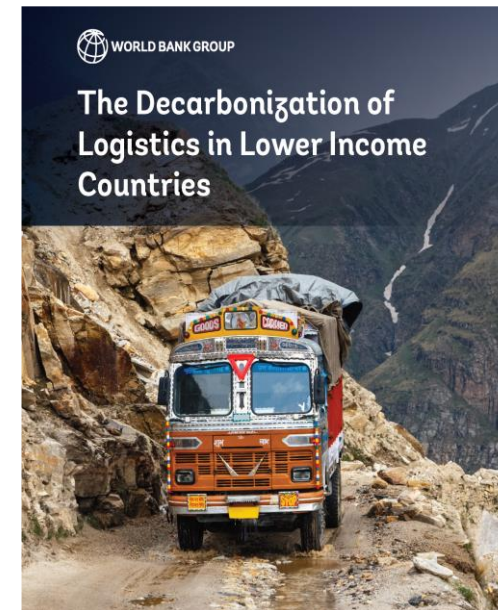
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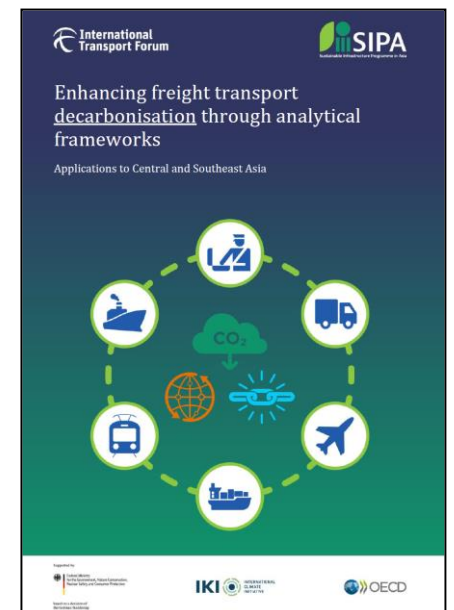
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