



# **From Linear to Circular**

## ***Opportunities & challenges for the chemical industry***

**Dr. Peter J. Nieuwenhuizen**  
GC3 Chair of the Board



# Agenda

- Intro / about me
- Linear vs Circular
- Wat maakt het zo moeilijk?
- Circulaire pioniers in Nederland
  - FoamPlant, BioBTX, PeelPioneers

# Achtergrond



Universiteit  
Leiden

**AkzoNobel**



Itaconix

**GCB**

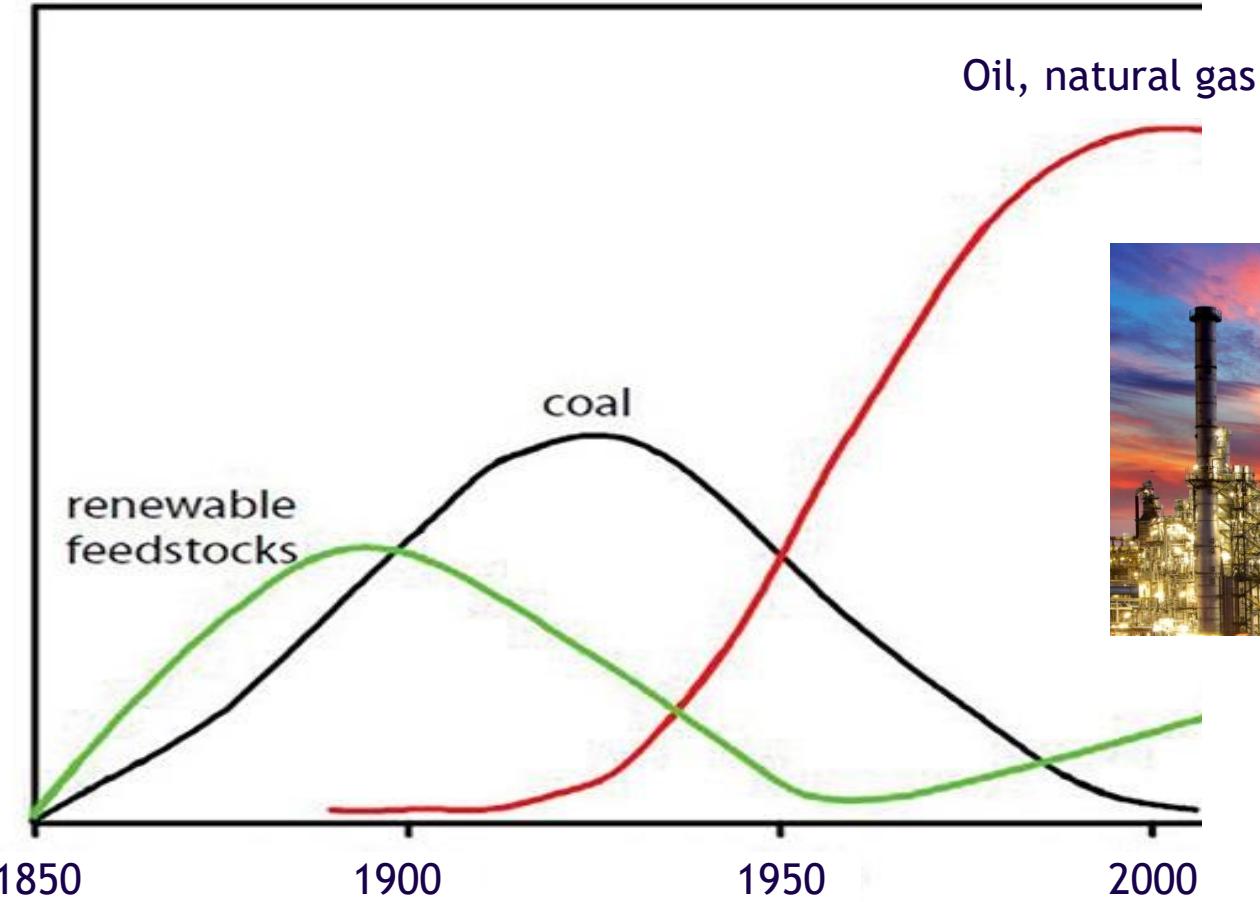
# One word:



- The Graduate, 1967



# A great future!

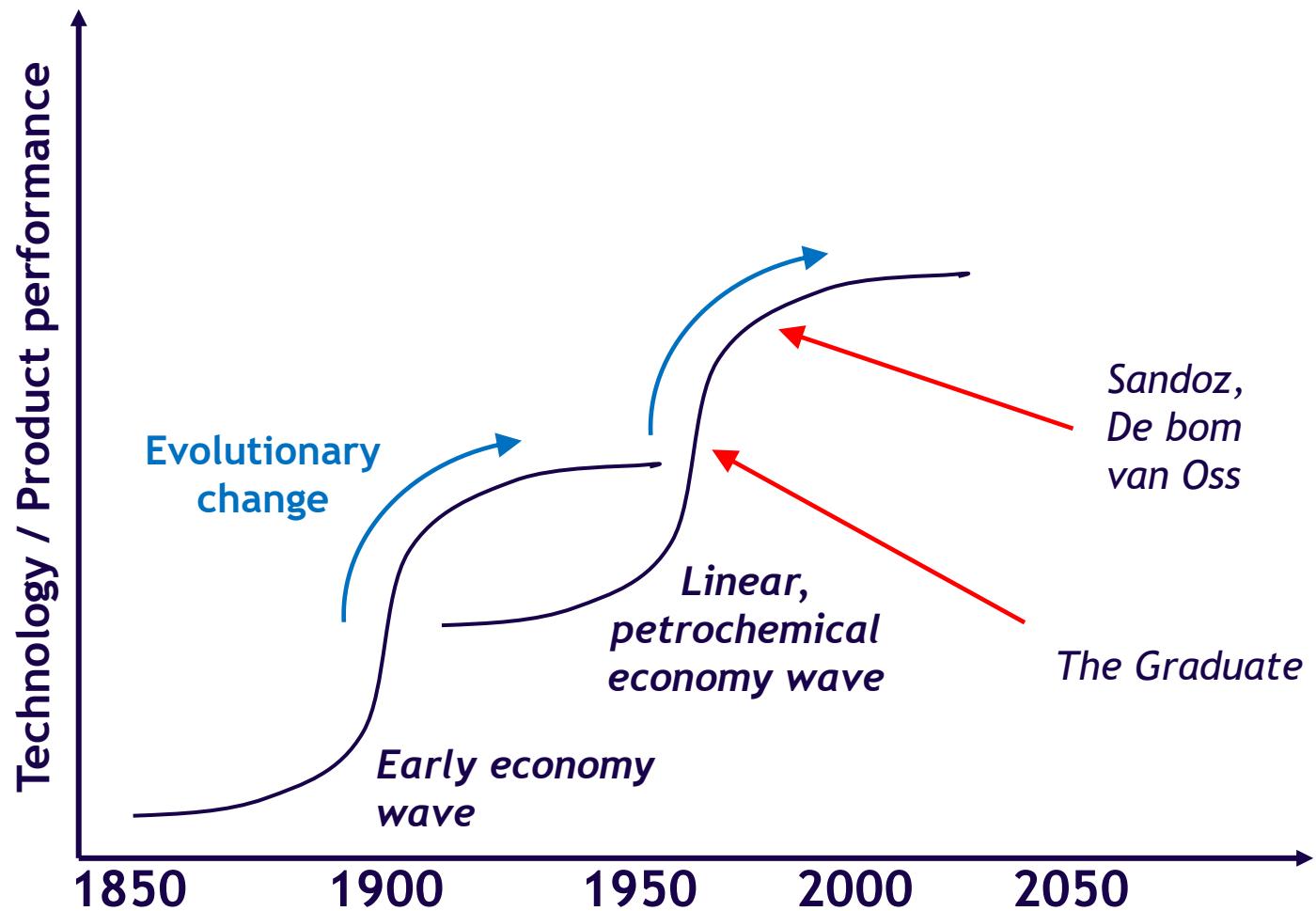


# But ...

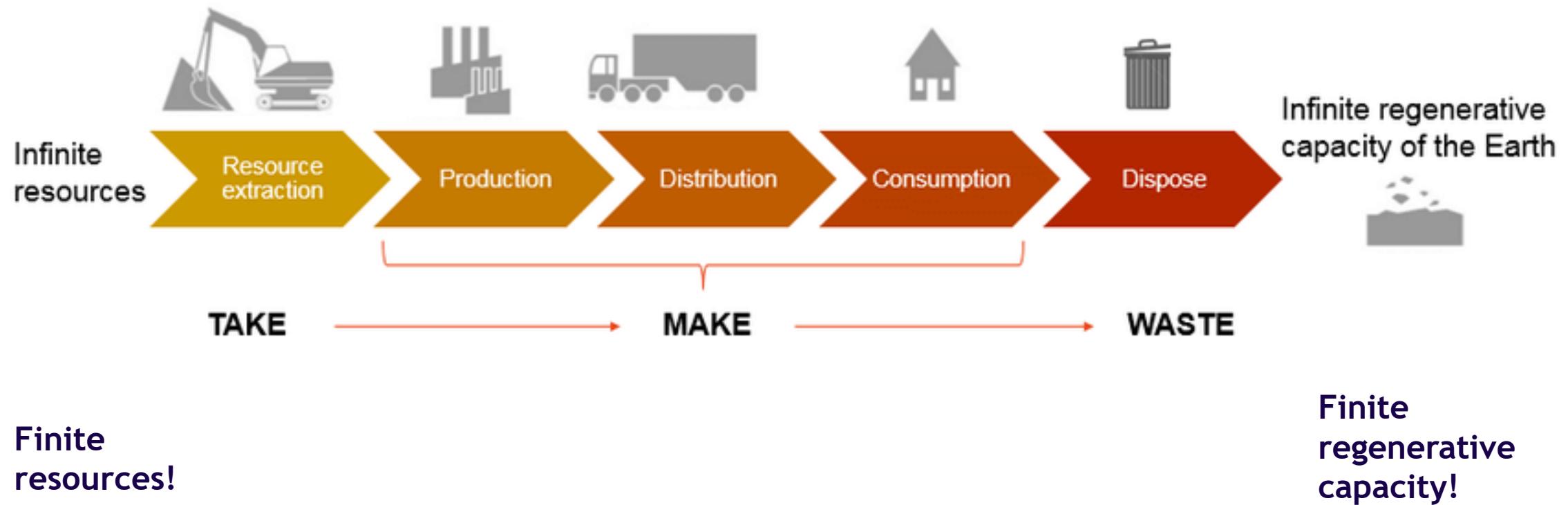
- Chemical Pollution / Harmful chemicals
- Climate change
- Plastic waste



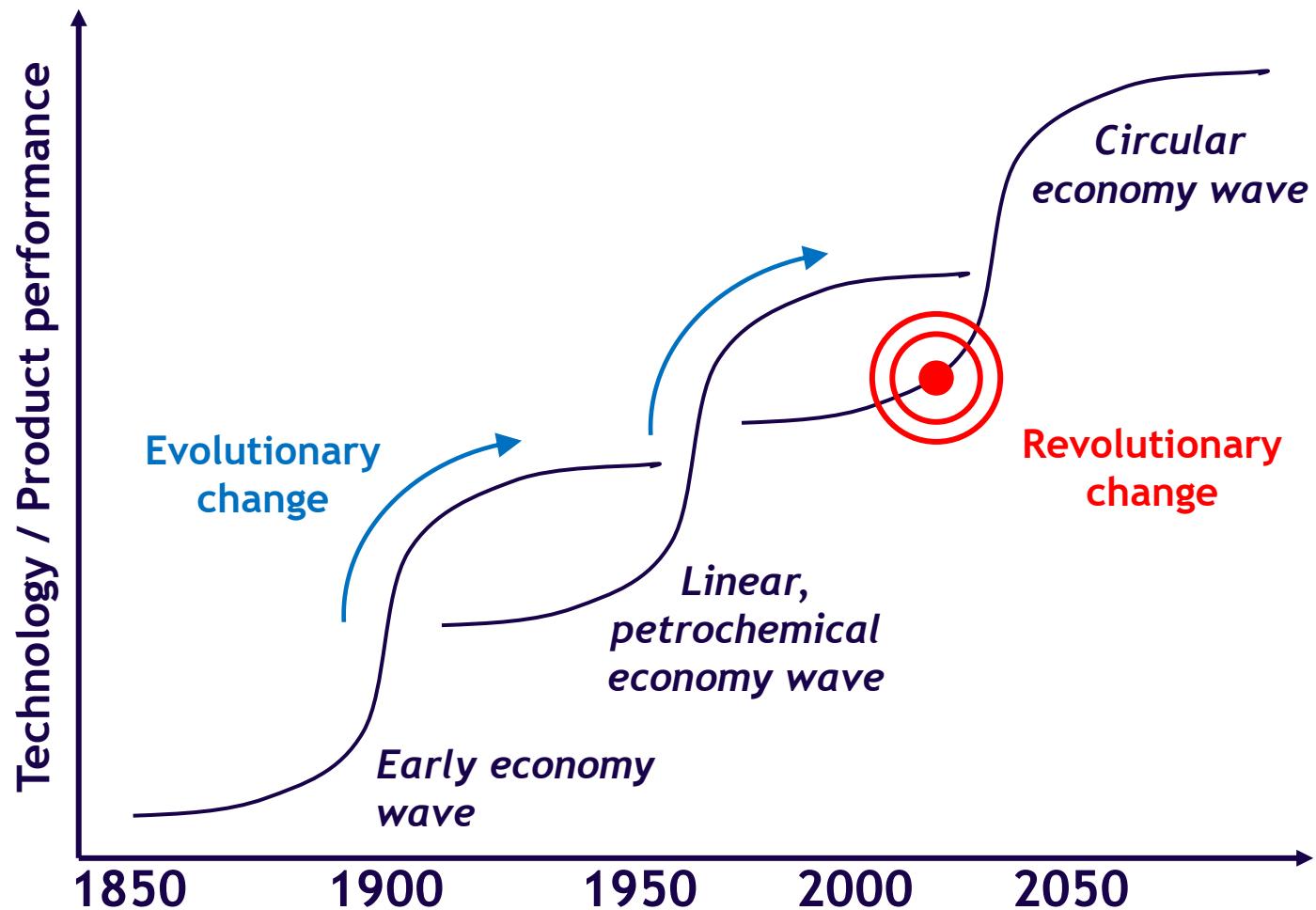
# What is happening?



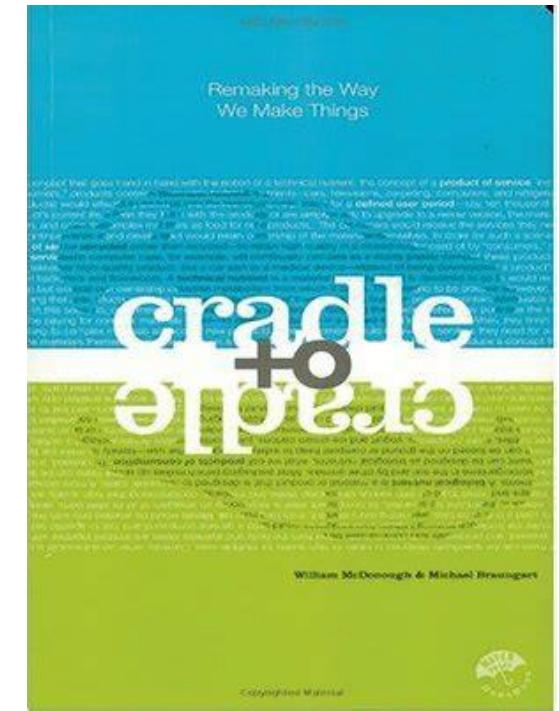
# Take – Make - Waste



# What is happening?



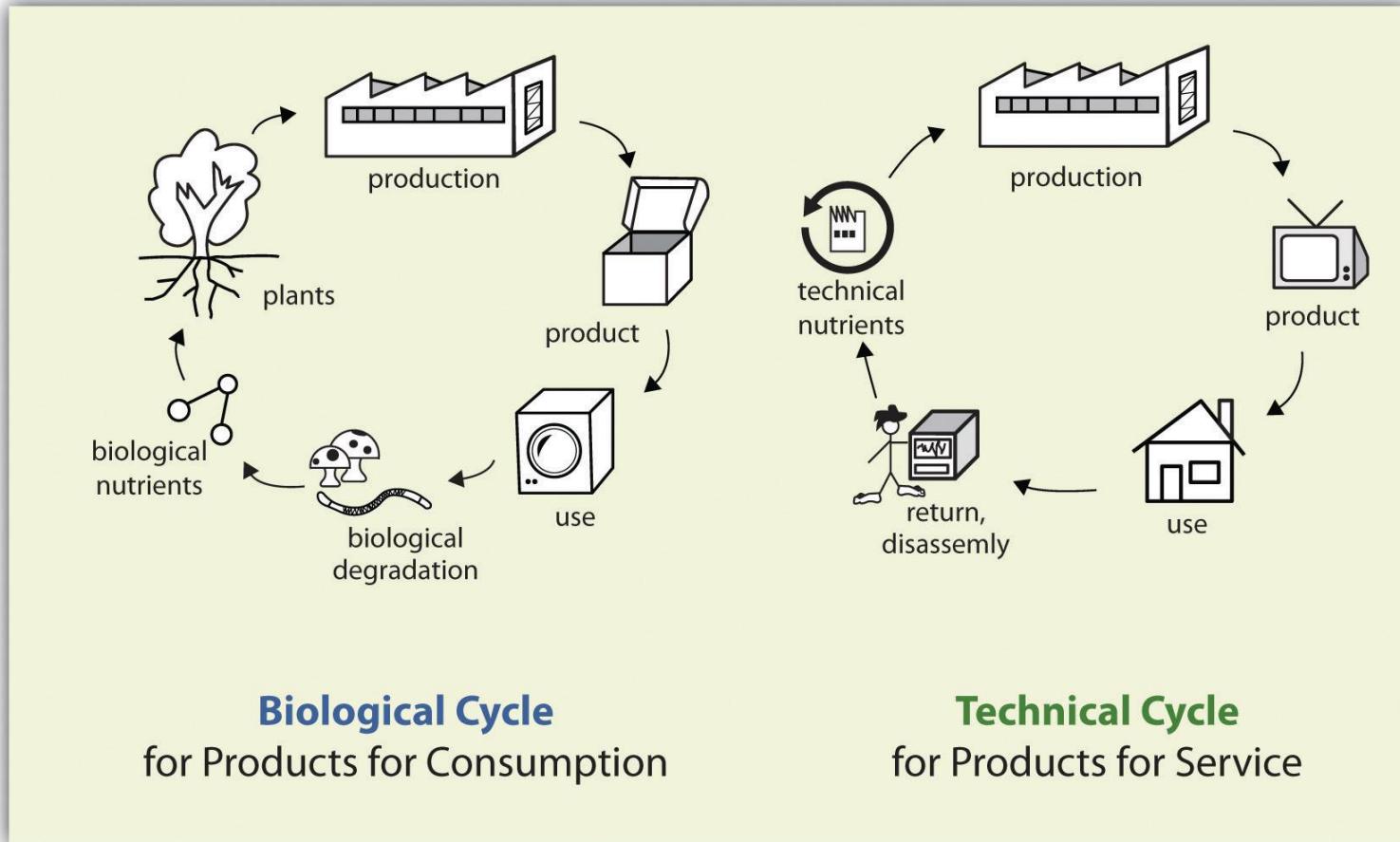
# Circular



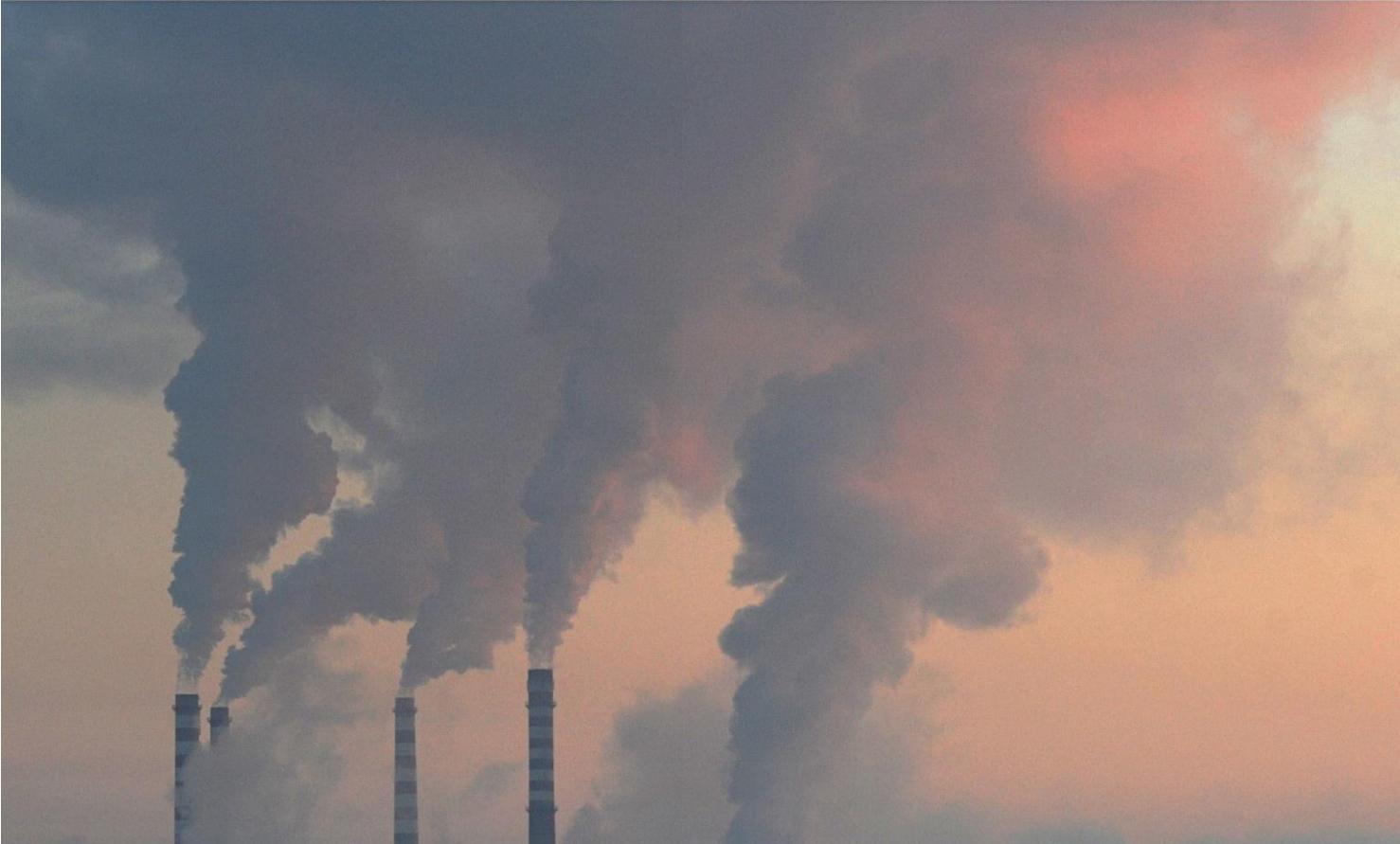
McDonough & Braungart



# Cradle-to-cradle thinking: 2 cycles

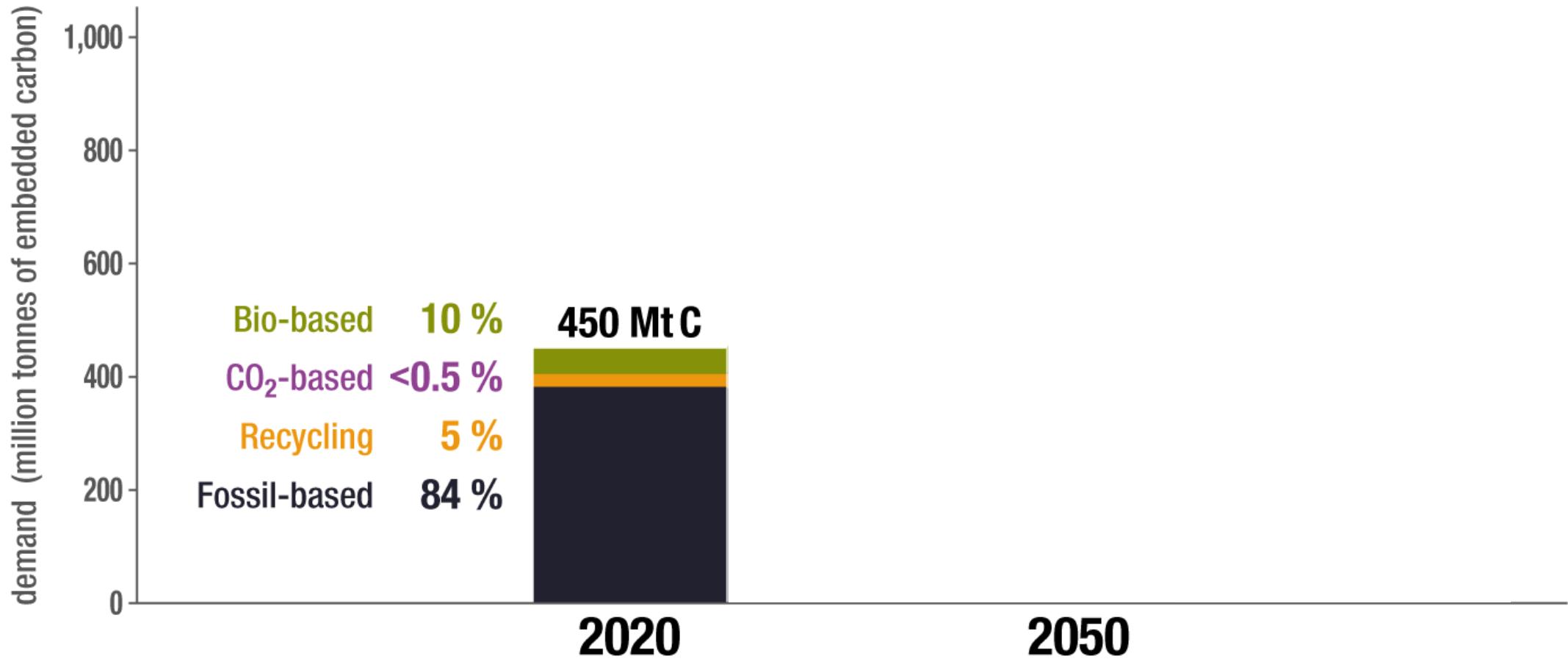


# New feedstocks



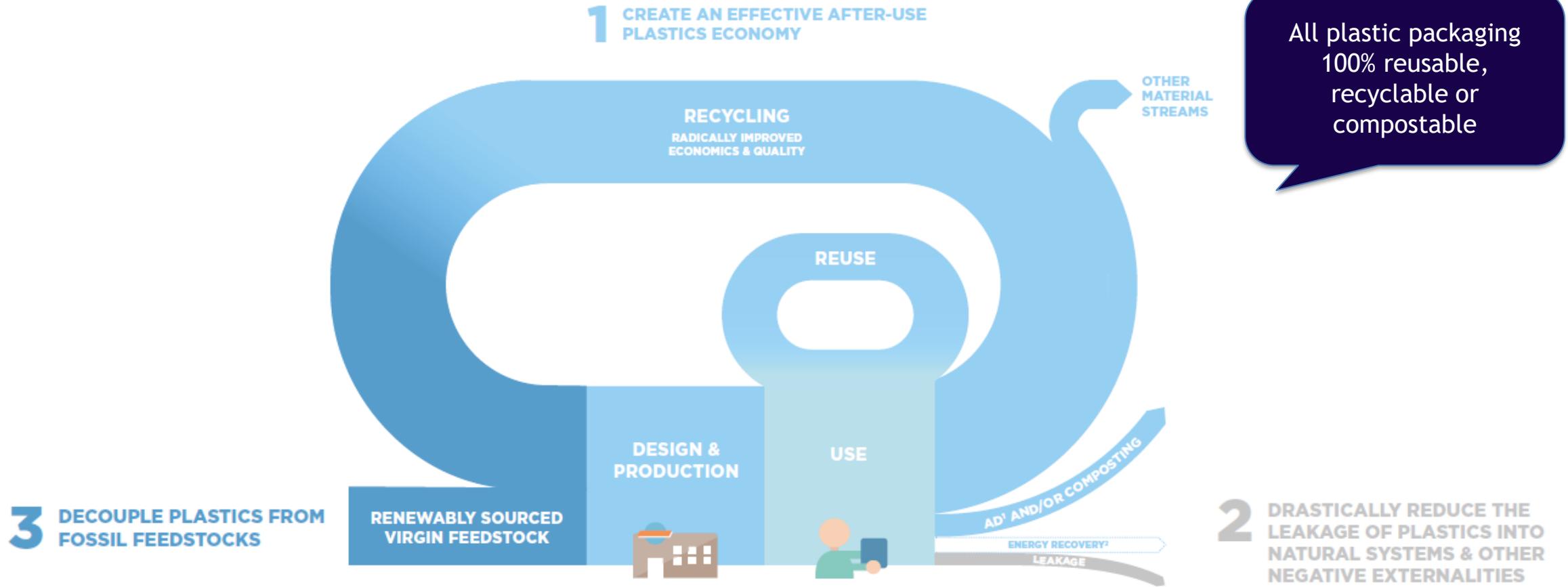
Source: Nova Institut 2022

# New feedstocks



Source: Nova Institut 2022

# Circular plastics



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation

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# Toxic free environment



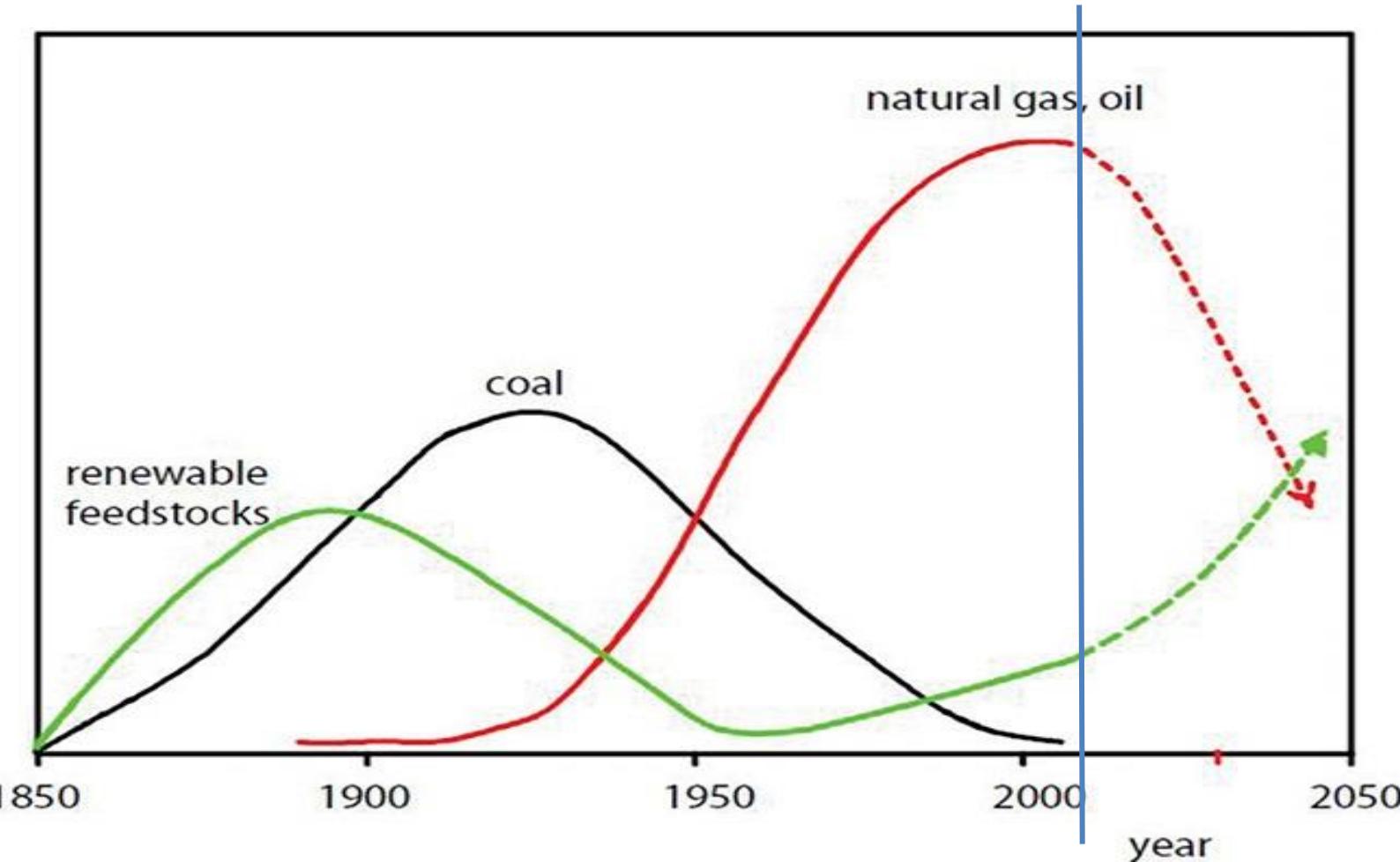
**Geen stoffen in het milieu die toxisch en/of persistent zijn**

# A tall agenda ...

- Transition from fossil fuels to renewables (defossilization, not decarbonization):
  - Biomass
  - Recycling
  - CO<sub>2</sub> → Depends on green energy, H<sub>2</sub>
- Develop new molecules using the principles of green chemistry and engineering
- Reimagine product design, delivery, and consumption patterns in cooperation with supply chain partners, and closing the loop

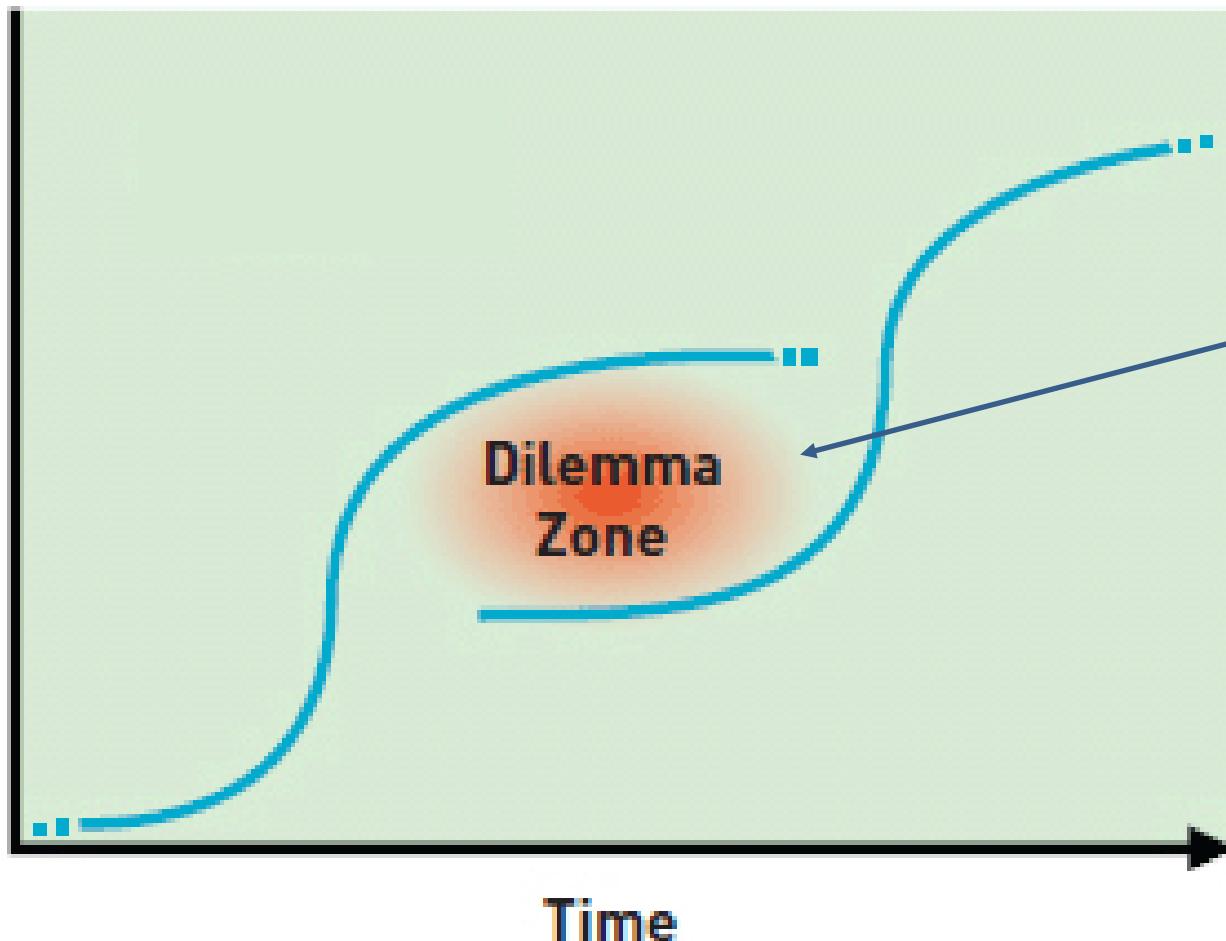


# Back to the future ....



- The chemical industry can make anything out of everything, even CO<sub>2</sub>
- Defossilization, not decarbonization

# But why is it so hard?



What to do?  
Who moves first?

# Hoping to get the best of both worlds

## Corporates

- Moving from lab to production
- Safety and operational excellence
- Global footprint



## Start-ups & Scale-ups

- Innovative ideas
- Fresh perspectives
- Passion and energy



# 3 NL startups who are creating the future

- PeelPioneers – circular ingredients
- FoamPlant – circular foams
- BioBTX – circular aromatics



## PROBLEM

In Europe we destroy potential resources.

- More than 5.000.000 tons of citrus peel are wasted by companies in Europe annually.
- Most of the peel is incinerated or landfilled, causing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and destroying resources in the peel.



PeelPioneers



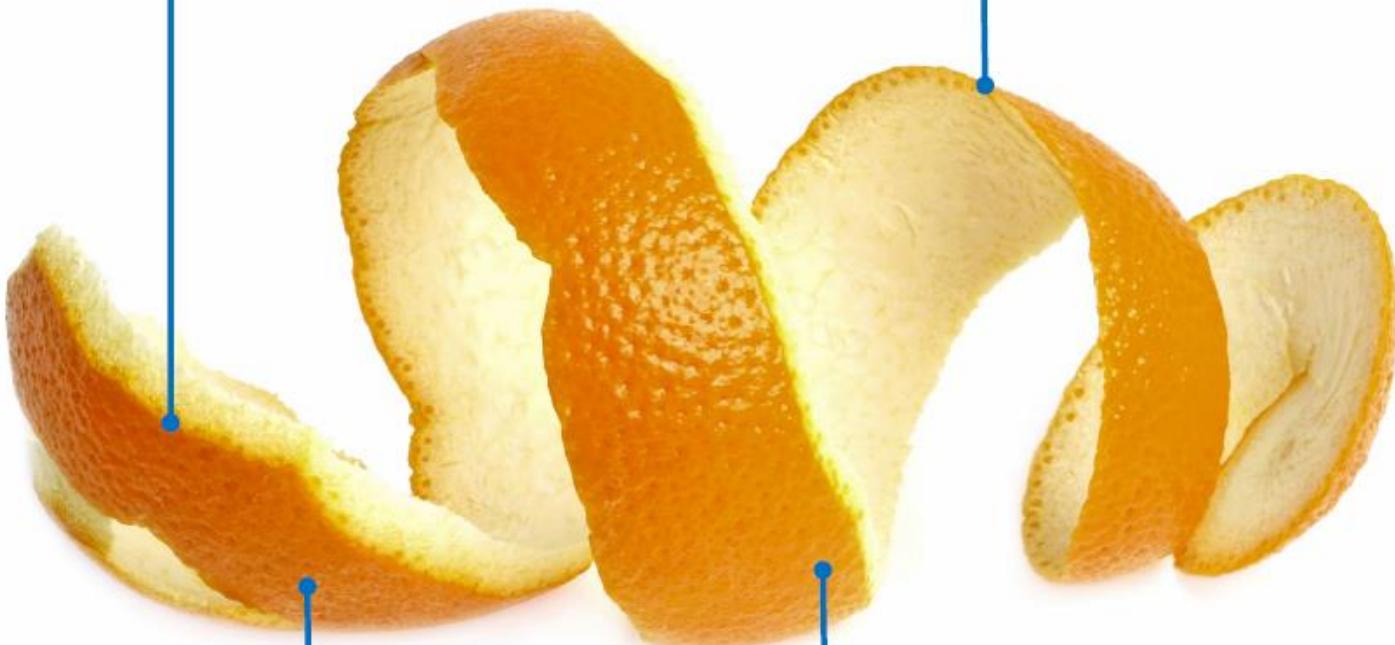
## SOLUTION

PeelPioneers offers a more sustainable and cheaper solution for orange peel recycling.

- We turn orange peel into valuable ingredients for food & cosmetics applications.
- Our products are used as functional ingredients to provide functional & sensoric properties in our consumers (food) products.



PeelPioneers



### ESSENTIAL OILS

*Ingredient for F&B, cosmetics & personal care*

### DIETARY FIBRE

*Natural waterbinding & thickening agent; emulsifying properties etc.*

### & MORE...

*Sugars, carotenoids, etc.*

### FLAVONOIDS

*Antioxidant & health ingredient*

# Product portfolio



## COLD PRESSED OIL

A 100% natural oil  
Obtained without chemicals  
Multi-useable ingredient



## FIVE FOLD OIL

Concentrated orange flavor  
Natural flavoring agent  
Usable in food and non-food



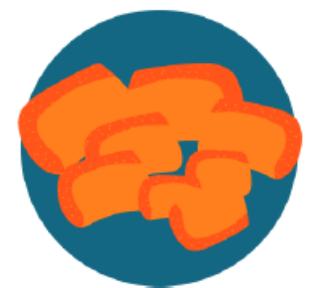
## D-LIMONENE

Essential oil  
Strong degreasing substance  
Applicable in the cleaning industry



## FINIX CITRUS FIBER

Dietary fiber that fulfills  
technical functions  
White coloured powder  
Contains no orange scent or taste  
Widely applicable in food products



## CANDIED ORANGE

Candied orange cubes  
Applicable in the bakery industry  
Tastes, smells and looks like orange

Biorefining!

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# Fiber applications



**PLANT BASED FOOD  
& MEAT**



**BEVERAGES**



**BAKERY PRODUCTS**



**FROZEN FOODS**



**DRESSINGS, SOUPS  
AND SAUCES**



**FRUIT PREPARATIONS**



**CONFECTIONARY**



**DAIRY & HEALTH  
PRODUCTS**

# Circular foam?

**foomplant**  
innovators in circular foam

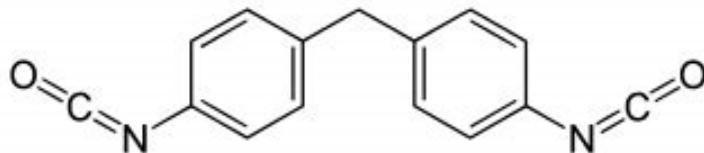
- 60% of the volume of waste plastics is foam
- Polyurethane foam is problematic:
  - Fossil based / high carbon footprint
  - Persistent / not compostable/biodegradable
  - Barely recyclable
  - Requires additives to become flame retarded



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# Hoe?

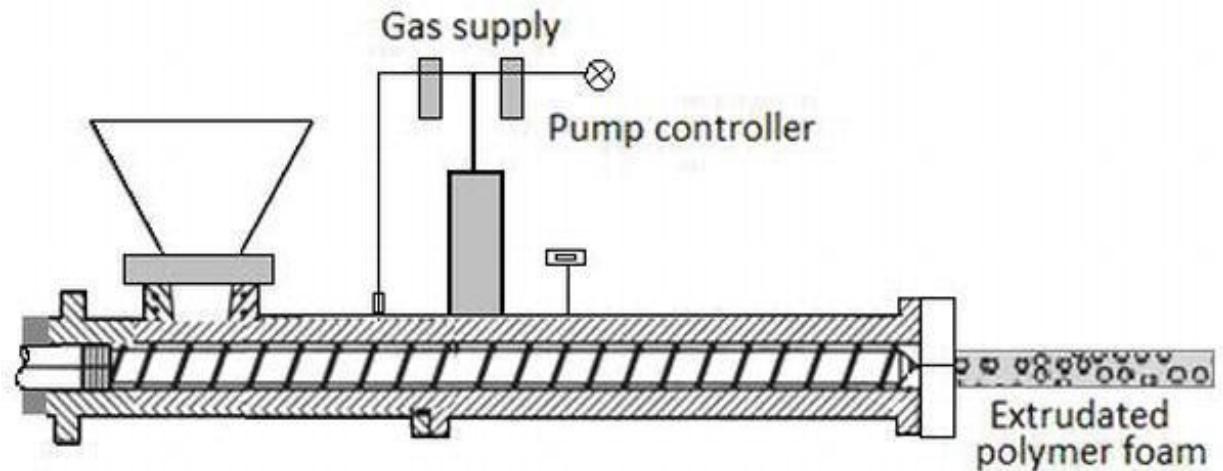
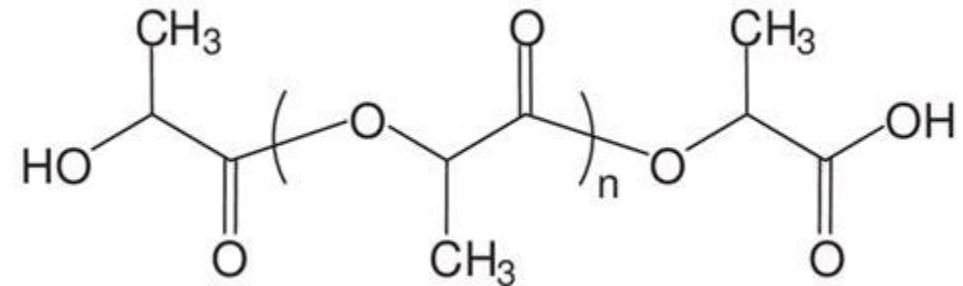
- Biobased polyesters  
zoals PLA en PBS\*
- Geen isocyanaten!



- Polymeer extrusie,  
zoals voor polystyreen

\*PolyLactic Acid / PolyButylene Succinate, made from sugars

**foomplant**  
innovators in circular foam



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Inherent brandwerend

# Opportunity

- Huge market with no obvious “green” alternative
- Low Capex in manufacturing
- High safety, no isocyanates
- Biobased feedstock
- Lower carbon footprint
- Recyclable, compostable
- Inherently flame retarded – No FR needed

**foomplant**  
innovators in circular foam

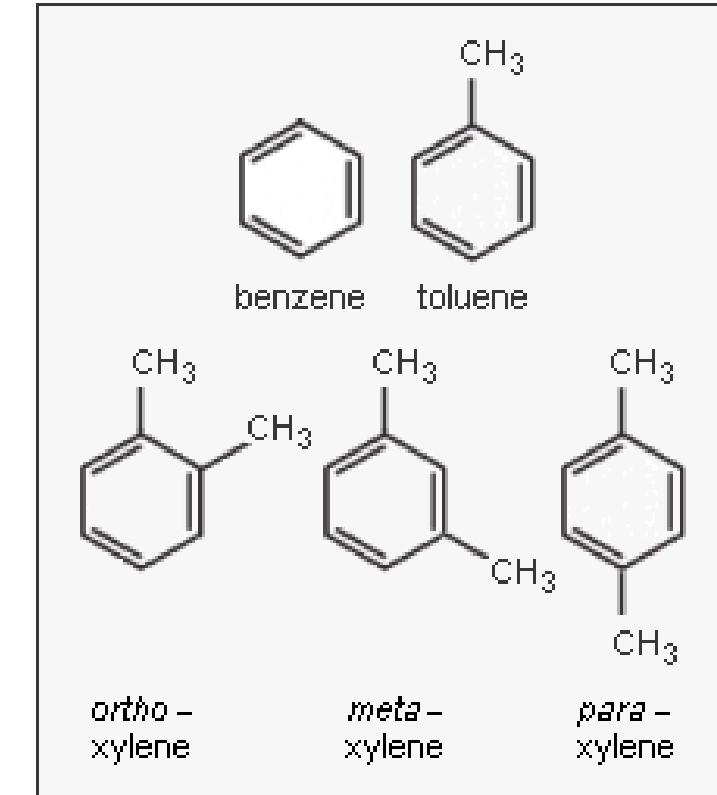
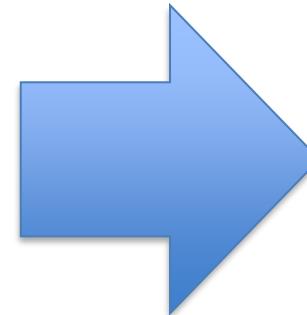


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# BioBTX: Recycled Aromatics



# Hoe?

1. Pyrolysis to produce volatile aliphatics and aromatics (and py gas)
2. Catalyzed conversion into aromatics
  - Using the py gas to power the unit



# Opportunity!



## Business proposition

- Huge market of >\$200 Bn, commodities used in countless chemical products
- Almost uniquely made by oil refineries, very hard to replace

## Product sustainability benefits

- Circular product, and lower carbon footprint than from oil
- Can be made from biomass → biorefinery
- Can be made from (hard to recycle) plastic waste
- Defossilization ...

# One word: Circular

- Het Steenen Tijdperk is niet geeindigd door een tekort aan stenen
- Het Olietijdperk eindigt niet vanwege een tekort aan olie ...



# One word: Circular

- Circulair is gewoon beter
  - Afval, biomassa, CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>/hernieuwbare energie
- De chemische industrie kan alles maken uit elke grondstof
  - We zijn niet veroordeeld tot fossiele grondstoffen en Chemicals of Concern
- De mensen die jullie nu onderwijzen, gaan de wereld van 2050 inrichten – circulair!





# Thank you



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including:**



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