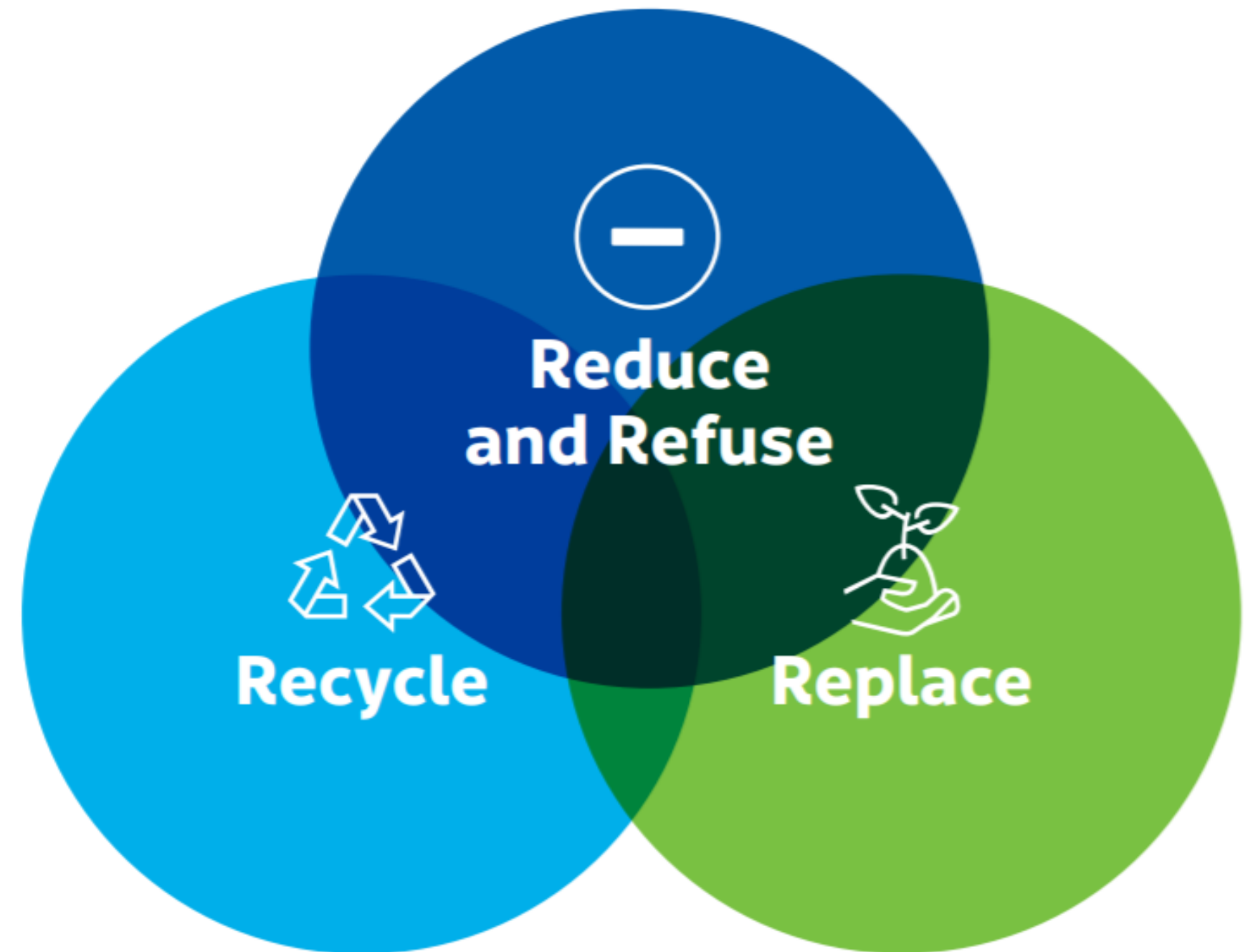




**GENERALLY  
ABOUT  
PLASTICS &  
HOW IT'S  
TREATED IN  
FINLAND**

# "Plastics are necessary but their use must be sustainable"

*A plastics roadmap for Finland*



# 01

## History

Plastics is an innovative and important material that has good and important qualities, for example, affordability, adaptability and flexibility, and durability. It has plenty of function that can help to tackle challenges facing our society. For instance, the material is useful for the logistics sector, since the protective food packaging improve storage life and prevent food loss and excess waste, what also represents the benefits for the environment.

Nevertheless, in the past 50 years, the global use of plastics has grown 20-fold, and it has been estimated to at least double in the following 20 years. However, too often the way plastics are currently produced, used and discarded fails to capture environmental and economical benefits of more sustainable approach. The environmental impacts of the plastics production chain are well known. Many countries have already reacted to the harm caused by plastics.

# Finland and plastics

- Finland has strong competence in biomaterials and raw materials that offer promising opportunities to replace plastics
- It is estimated that 40–60 per cent of plastic waste ends up being incinerated in Finland due to the technical limitations of mechanical recycling
- Of all plastic packaging, 27% is now recycled in Finland, but the objective for 2025 is 50%
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- Within the EU most of the plastic waste comes from packaging materials. Disposable plastics are a burden to waste management systems, and they also end up in nature

# Plastics and EU

- A European Strategy for plastics in a circular economy presents key commitments that lay in the foundation of a new plastic economy, where the design and production of plastics and plastic products fully respect reuse, repair and recycling needs and more sustainable materials are developed and promoted.
- Around 25.8 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated in Europe every year
- Almost 40% of plastics produced in 2015 was demanded in packaging sector. It is followed by building and construction. In the EU, the plastics sector employs 1.5 million people and generated a turnover of EUR 340 billion in 2015.
- In the EU, the potential for recycling plastic waste remains largely unexploited. Reuse and recycling of end-of-life plastics remains very low.

# Links

- <https://muovitiekartta.fi/in-brief/>
- <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy-brochure.pdf>
- <https://www.goodnewsfinland.com/finland-develops-sustainable-plastic-recycling-technology/>
- <https://www.lt.fi/en/media/bulletins/finland-cutting-edge-of-modern-plastic-recycling>
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