



EU Proposes 25% Recycled Plastic Target for New Cars

More than 800,000 tonnes of plastic from scrapped vehicles are disposed of each year in Europe through incineration and landfill. A proposed revision to EU vehicle recycling rules would require recycled plastic to account for at least 15% of the plastic used in new vehicles within six years, increasing to 25% within ten years. These requirements would create additional demand for recycled materials.

At least 20% of the recycled plastic used to meet these targets would have to come from scrapped vehicles. Currently, less than 2.5% of plastic from scrapped vehicles is reused in new cars, leaving a substantial gap between current recovery levels and the proposed requirements.

Trials by a coalition of chemical companies demonstrated that vehicle plastics can be recovered and recycled, although costs remain a barrier to commercial use. Expanding recycling will require vehicles designed for easier dismantling and cooperation between carmakers, recyclers and material producers to ensure a consistent supply of recycled plastic.



Timber Demand Set to Grow 37% by 2050, Adding Pressure on Forests

Global timber demand is expected to grow 37% by 2050, increasing pressure on forests already affected by agriculture, wildfires and logging. Demand could rise further if construction uses more wood to replace steel and cement, materials associated with high carbon emissions.

According to the World Resources Institute, wildfires contributed 30% of tree cover loss, while logging accounted for 25%. Although some losses may be temporary, forests can take decades to recover and may never regain their previous condition.

Progress towards the pledge to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030 remains limited. The EU's deforestation regulation is intended to strengthen scrutiny of commodity supply chains, but illegal timber could shift towards less regulated markets. Only 11% of timber companies can demonstrate that 90% of their sourcing is free from deforestation, highlighting persistent gaps in traceability.



Brazil Farmers Grow Cocoa to Restore 4,000 Hectares of Land

Brazil is promoting cocoa grown alongside native trees to restore degraded Amazon farmland and support rural incomes. A Nature Conservancy programme has helped around 650 farmers convert approximately 4,000 hectares to this farming system.

The approach supports Brazil's Inova Cacau 2030 plan to increase cocoa production. However, conservation groups warn that rising prices could encourage plantations to expand into forests, increasing pressure on the Amazon.

800,000

More than 800,000 tonnes of plastic from scrapped vehicles are burned or sent to landfill in Europe annually

37%

Global timber demand is expected to increase 37% by 2050

4,000

Approximately 4,000 hectares have been converted to cocoa agroforestry through a programme supporting around 650 farmers

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