



2050: A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL

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#EUGreenDeal



"For the health of our citizens, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a zero-pollution ambition. My Commission will put forward a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution."

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

The Zero Pollution Action Plan – Targets by 2030

- ➔ **Air:** reduce by more than **55%** premature deaths caused by air pollution;
- ➔ **Water:** reduce waste, plastic litter at sea by **50%** and microplastics released into the environment by **30%**;
- ➔ **Soil:** reduce nutrient losses and chemical pesticides' use by **50%**;
- ➔ **Biodiversity:** reduce by **25%** the EU ecosystems where air pollution threatens biodiversity;
- ➔ **Noise:** reduce by **30%** the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise;
- ➔ **Waste:** reduce significantly total waste generation and by **50%** residual municipal waste.

The zero pollution vision for 2050:

Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to levels **no longer harmful to health and natural ecosystems** thus creating a toxic free environment.

Why do we need a Zero Pollution Action Plan?

- ➔ In the EU, every year, pollution causes **1 in 8 deaths**.
- ➔ Pollution can cause **cancer, coronary heart disease, obstructive pulmonary disease, mental and neurological conditions, diabetes and more**.
 - ➔ The most **vulnerable groups** are hit the hardest, creating further inequalities.
 - ➔ Pollution is **1 of the 5 main drivers of biodiversity loss**
 - ➔ Pollution is **threatening** the survival of **more than 1 million of the planet's estimated 8 million plant and animal species**.

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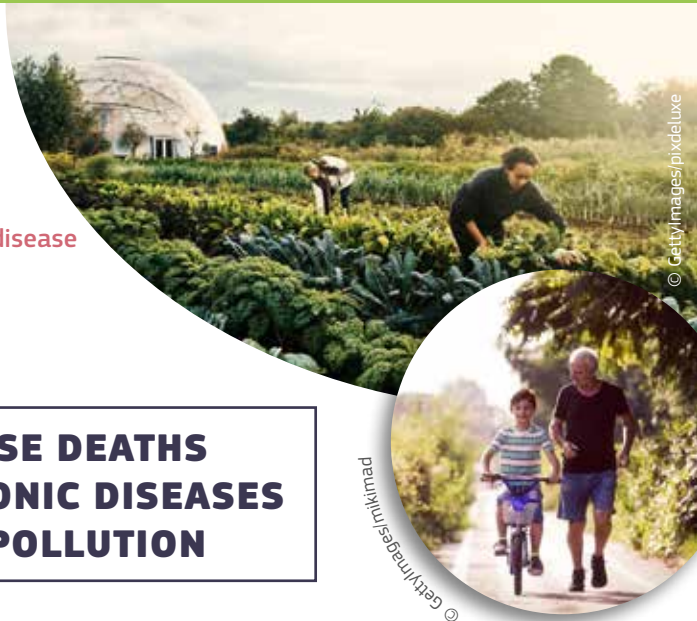
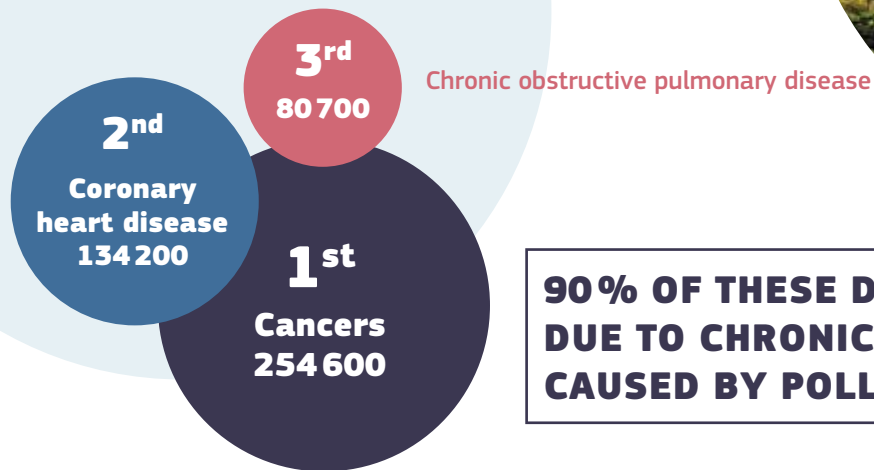
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Environment

FIGURE 1: TOP 3 NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CAUSING DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

(Source: EEA – Healthy environment, healthy lives, 2018 based on WHO (2016))



Key actions in the Zero Pollution Action Plan

➔ Improve human health:

- ✓ Reduce air and noise pollution
- ✓ Reduce health inequalities
- ✓ Support urban zero pollution action

➔ Boost change across society:

- ✓ Showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings
- ✓ Create living labs for green digital solutions
- ✓ Promote collective action and collective change

➔ Protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity:

- ✓ Reduce water and soil pollution
- ✓ Promote zero pollution across regions

➔ Reduce pollution from production and consumption:

- ✓ Reduce pollution from industrial installations
- ✓ Reduce pollution from agriculture
- ✓ Encourage the least polluting options for consumers

➔ Implement and enforce pollution laws more strictly

➔ Minimise the EU's external pollution footprint and promote change globally

➔ Promote digital solutions for zero pollution

➔ Stimulate knowledge and innovation



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