Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060

Economic drivers and environmental consequences

Ruben Bibas With Martin Benkovic, Jean Chateau, Rob Dellink, Elisa Lanzi U.S. EPA Sustainable Materials Management Web Academy Webinar, 23 May 2019







- The economic drivers of materials use
- Materials use projections to 2060
- Environmental consequences
- Conclusions and policy implications



- Global assessment (disaggregated to 12 large economies + 13 regions)
- 2060 time horizon





....but global growth slows down





- United States - China - Sub-Saharan Africa



Structural change shifts activity away from material intensive sectors







Growth in material use differs widely across materials



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.... but remains a small share of the economy

Greenhouse gas emissions related to materials management will more than double



12% of total GHG emissions 12% of total GHG 50Gt CO2 eq emissions associated with 7 key metals emissions associated with concrete associated with materials cycle

Environmental impacts from extraction and processing will more than double, but vary widely by material



Primary materials cause much more environmental damage



Per kg environmental impacts (highest impact normalised to 1) for 2015

The Outlook also covers projections of ...







Primary Secondary





- Conflicting socio-economic trends will drive materials use. Despite structural and technological change, **global materials use will double** between now and 2060, translating into a **relative decoupling**.
- This exacerbates a **wide range of environmental impacts**, and is on a collision course with meeting the objectives of the Paris Climate Accord.
- While **recycling** becomes more competitive over time it is not sufficient to shift the balance between primary and secondary materials use.
- Given the stark differences between materials we need greater **granularity for resource efficiency policies**, motivated by environmental concerns.
- Greater **coherence** is needed between resource management and climate policies, as well as other policies, such as trade and innovation.

Thank you for your attention!



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Find the report, highlights and explore the data at: oe.cd/materials-outlook

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