

Closing loops, securing raw material supplies. Modern waste management in Germany

April 19th, 2024

BDE – Quick facts about us

- BDE is the Federation of the German Waste, Water and Circular Economy Management Industry
- with **offices in Berlin and Brussels** and more than **750 member companies**, we are largest federation of the private waste and water management industry in Europe
- from international groups to medium and small specialized companies
- our **working groups**, include more than 500 specialists from member companies
- as an **employers association**, BDE is negotiating partner for general collective agreements and wage tariffs.
- **specialist committees, ex:** Logistics, Waste treatment, Biological waste, Hazardous waste, Recycling, Water, Environmental law, Climate protection, Tax and Competition, Collective employment law



Waste (Mis-)Management: Highly emotional political issue worldwide



Source: World Bank; Plastic Waste at the Thilafushi Waste Disposal Site, Maldives; European Commission



Principle of linear economy



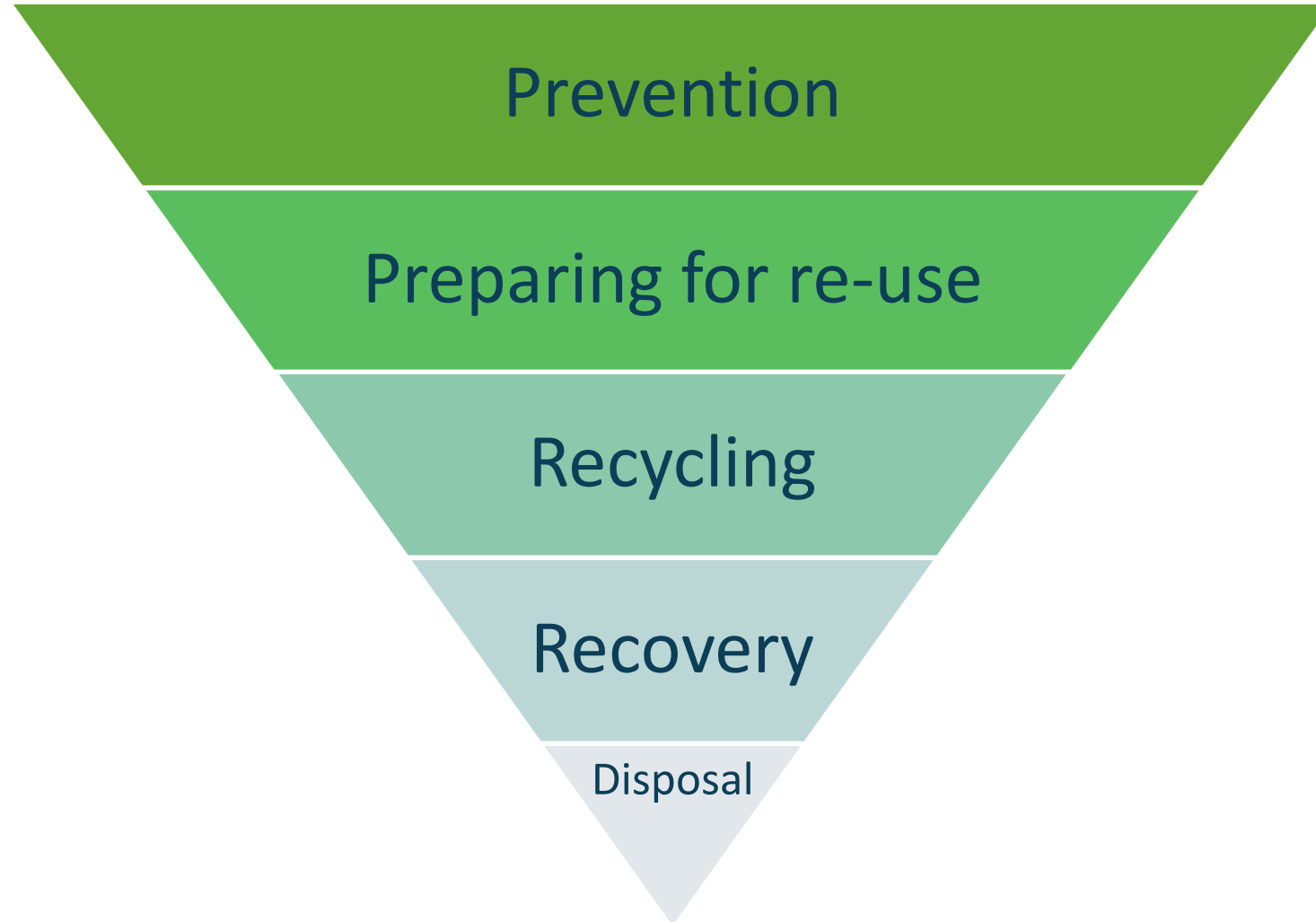
Source : *BIL*

The five step waste hierarchy



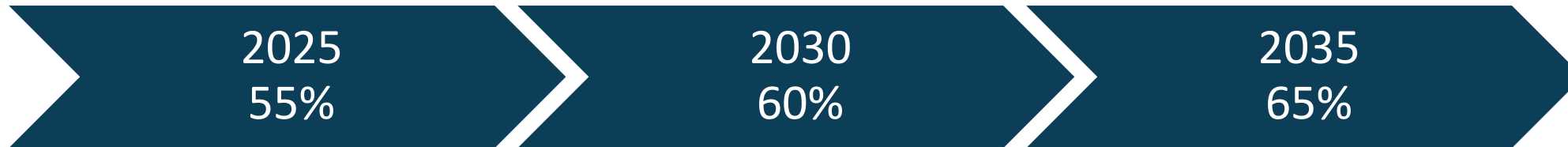
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Recycling. Economy. Future.



EU Circular Economy Package 2018 Municipal Waste

Common EU target for Recycling of municipal waste



- binding landfill target: reduce to maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2035
- Minimum requirements are established for extended producer responsibility schemes to improve their governance and cost efficiency

Separate collection obligations of specific waste-streams:



EU Circular Economy Package 2018

Packaging Waste

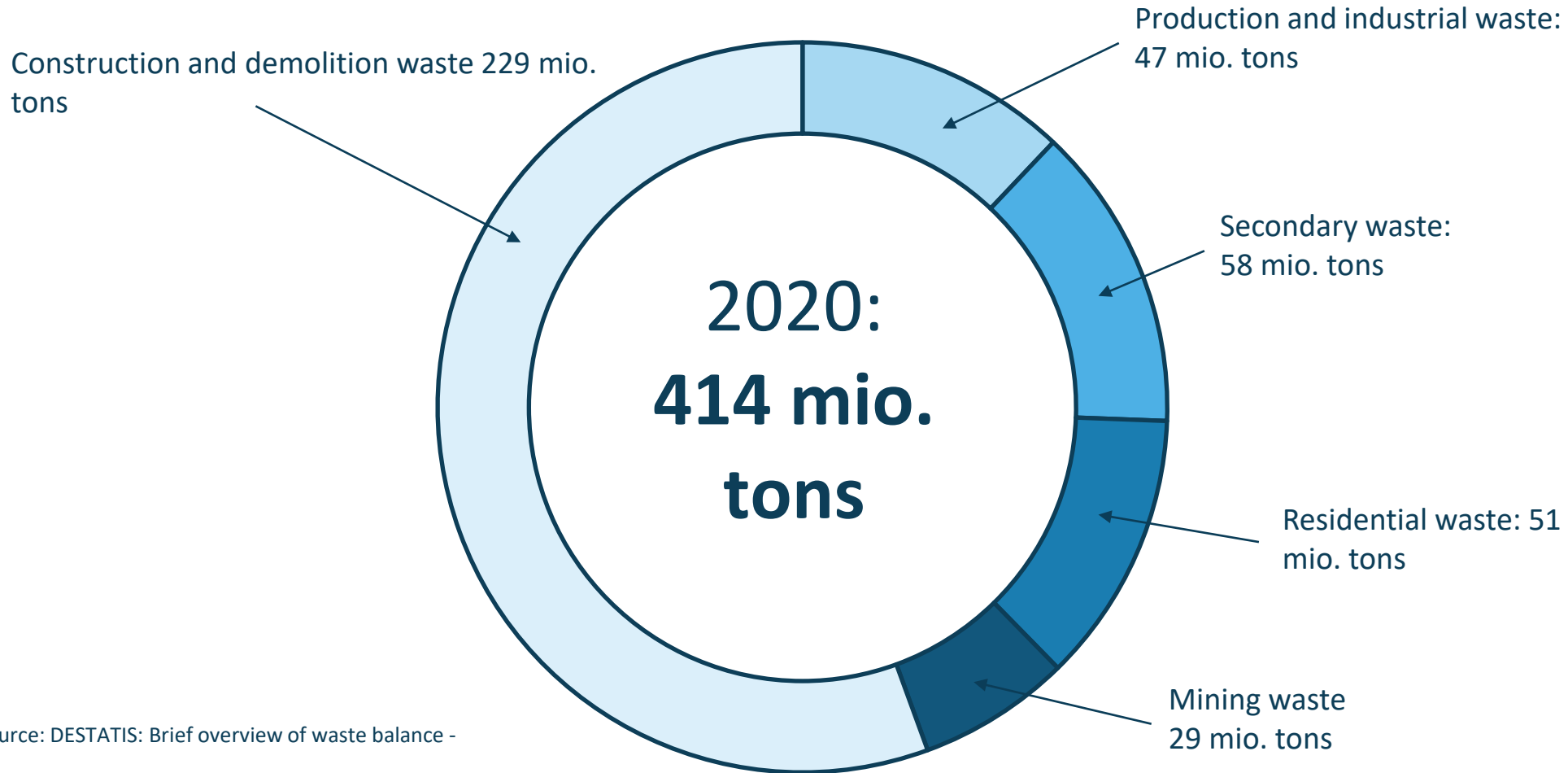
	by 2025	by 2030
Packaging Waste	65 %	70 %
Plastic	50 %	55 %
Wood	25 %	30 %
Ferrous metals	70 %	80 %
Aluminium	50 %	60 %
Glass	70 %	75 %
Paper and Cardboard	75 %	85 %

Waste input in Germany



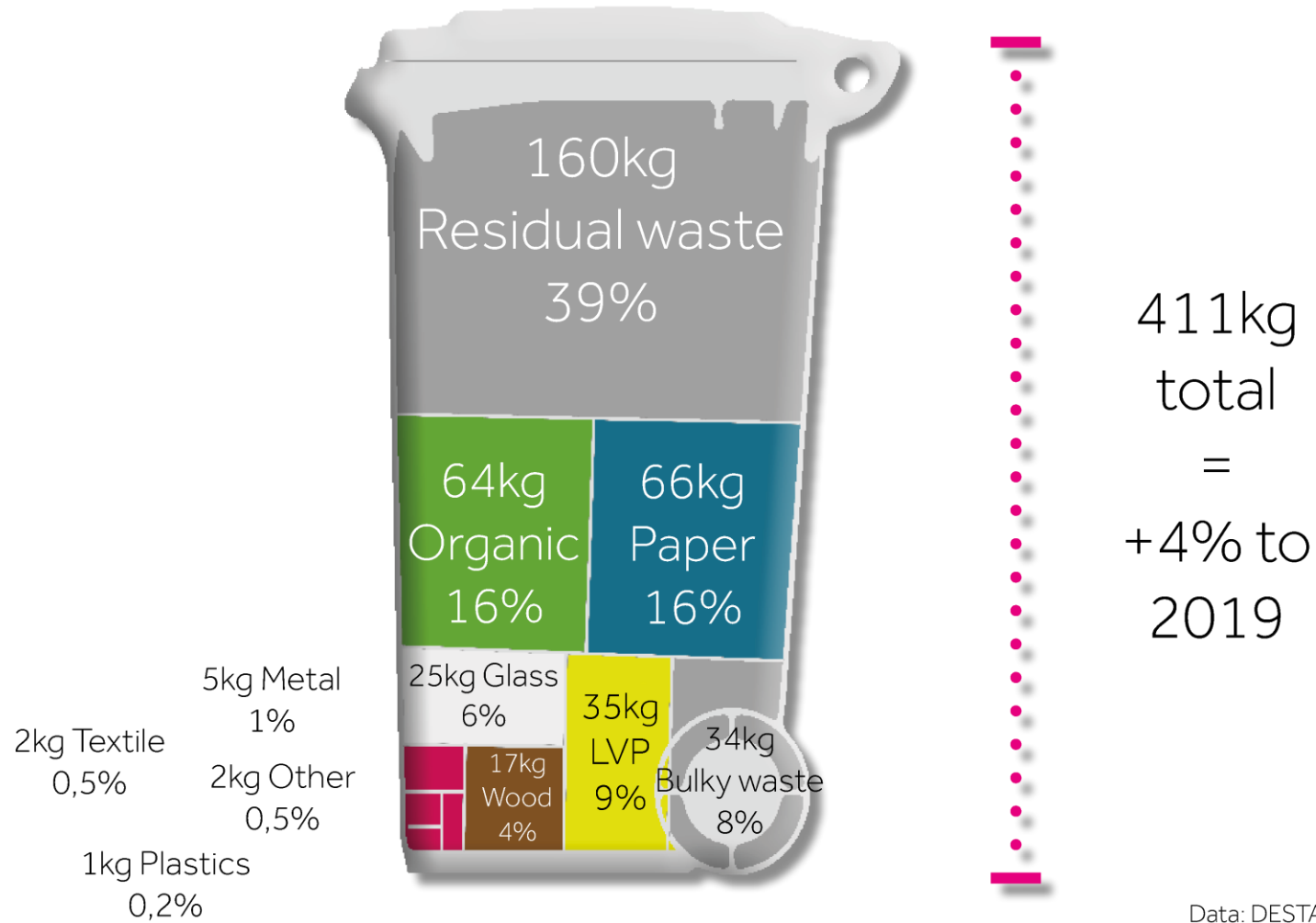
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Source: DESTATIS: Brief overview of waste balance -

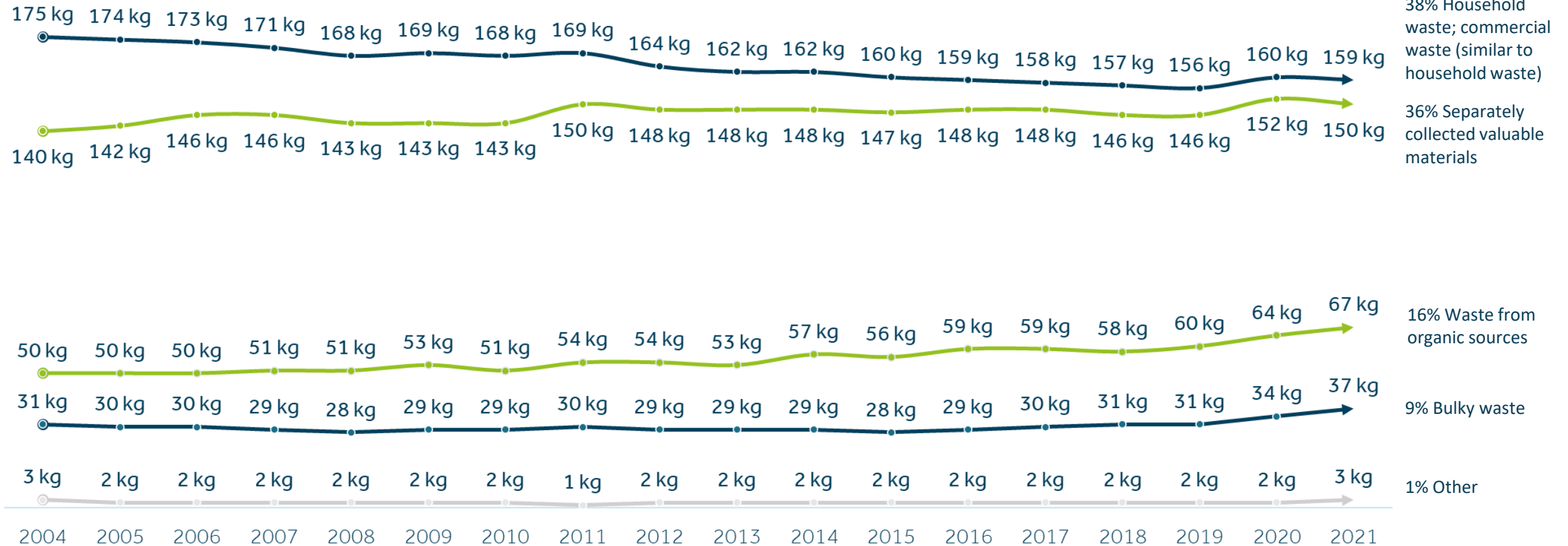
Household-related waste per capita 2020



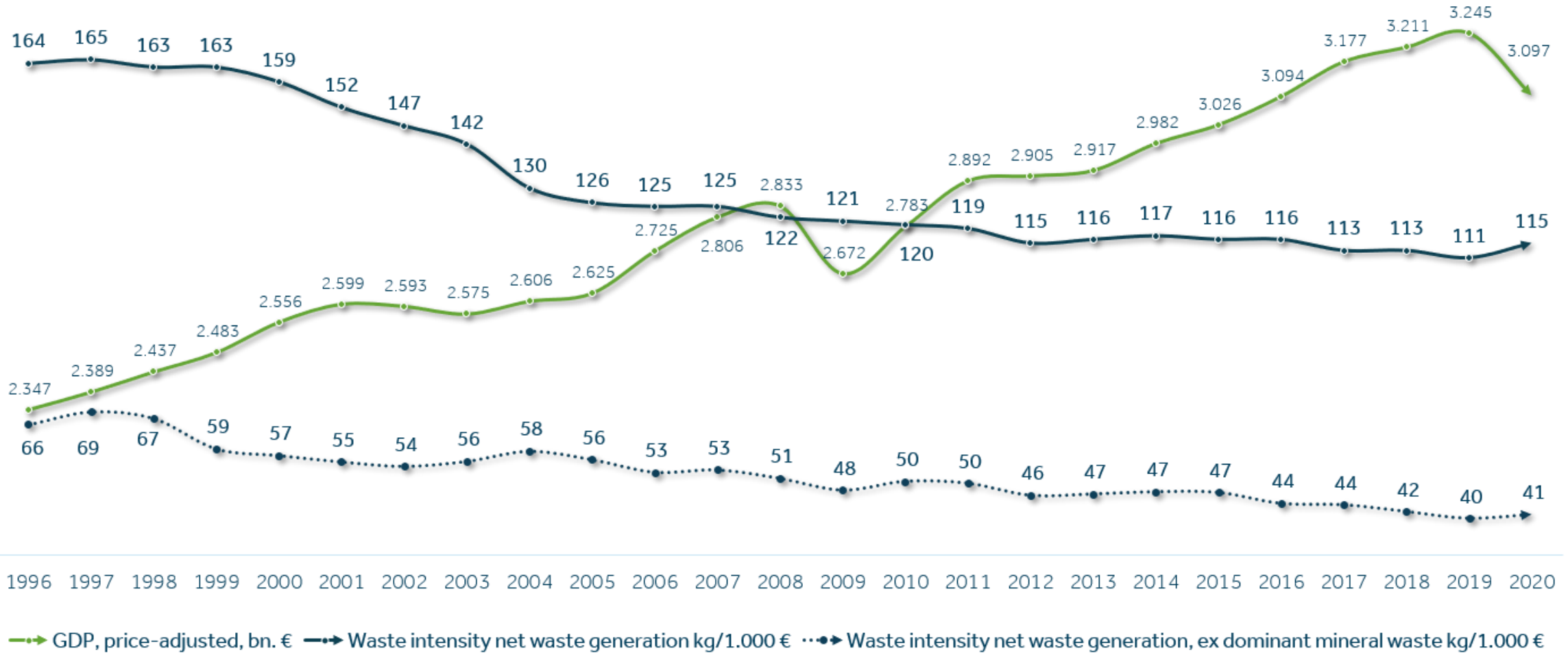
Data: DESTATIS



Household-related waste per capita 2004-2021



Waste Intensity Net-Waste/GDP



The three pillars of Germany's raw material supply



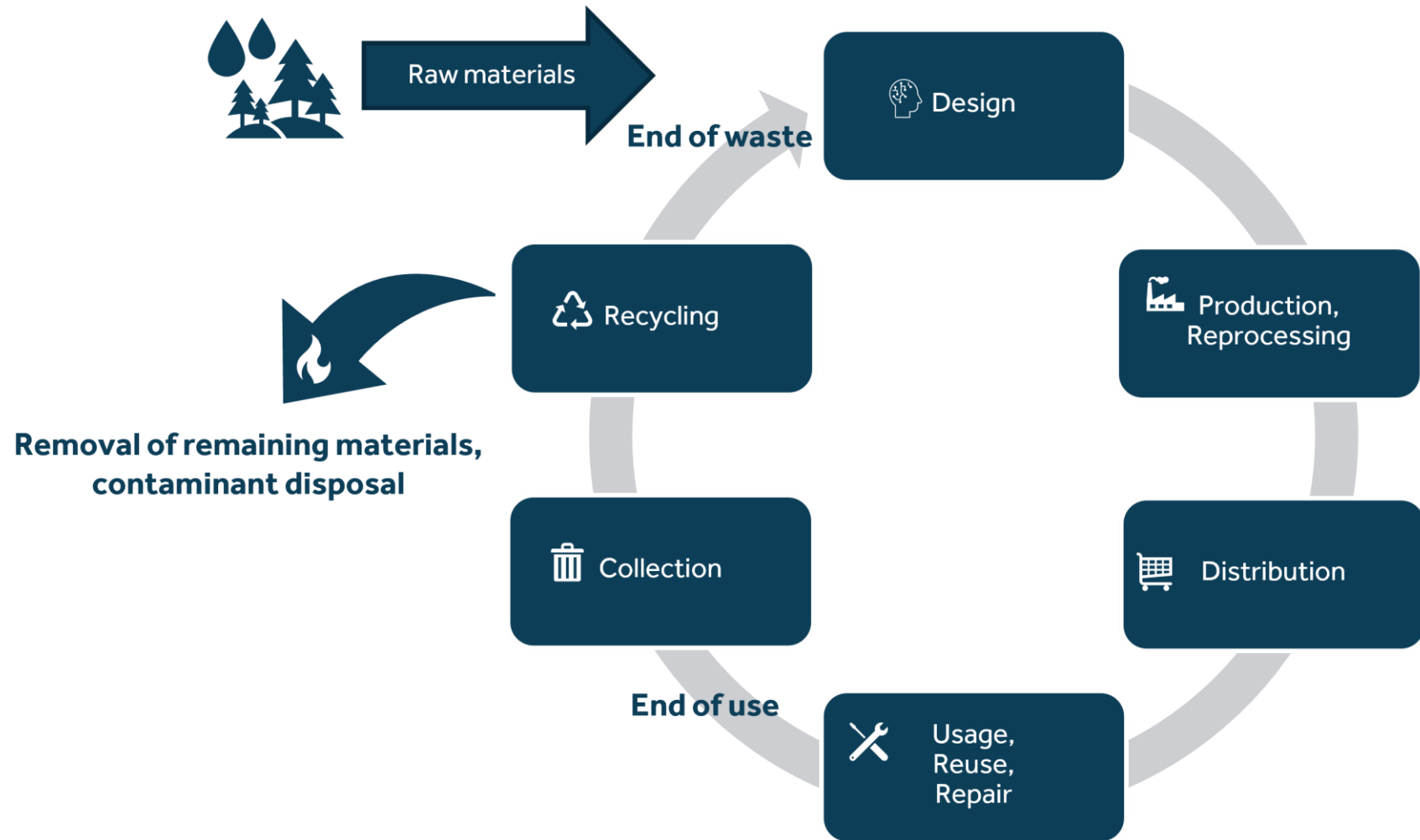
Energetic and non-energetic raw materials

**Mining of
natural raw
materials
from
domestic
sources**

**Import of raw
materials
from other
countries**

**Obtaining
recycled raw
materials**

Circular economy



Today's economic value of waste in Germany

- **310.000** employees
- **85 billion €** sales volume
- **28 billion €** value added
- **14.600** facilities
- **11.000** companies
- **5.1 billion €** of technology exports

Ways to deal with waste

1. Landfill

➡ Problem: bad for the environment, „waste“ of space and resources

2. Waste incineration

➡ Problem: Emits CO₂ and is only efficient if waste could not be treated in better ways

3. Treatment in form of recycling

➡ Problem: Infrastructure is not advanced enough to solve all waste problems

➡ **But:** With the right incentives, said infrastructure can be build up and the save reuse of most resources can be ensured

Waste management in Germany

In 2020, there was a total **input of 414 mio. tons of waste** in Germany.

1. Recycling: 290.2 mio. tons

➡ Resources are treated to be used in new products

2. Waste incineration for energy production: 48.3 mio. tons

➡ Burning waste instead of using fossils like oil or gas

3. Landfill: 67.5 mio. tons

➡ Mostly hazardous and mineral waste

4. Elimination: 8.2 mio. tons

➡ Treatment and incineration of otherways unusable waste

82% of waste is used to substitute primary material!

18% of waste leaves the supply chain.

Requirements for good waste management

Treatment of waste beyond incineration and landfill is key for good waste management.

- Sorting of waste into **clear waste streams**, that are easy to treat
- Government incentives that make **investments** in the industry **more profitable**
- Regulations that do **not hinder** harmless **waste shipment**
- **Landfill** must be **highly regulated** and **prevented** for most waste streams

Let's talk about waste as a resource!

There are only three ways to get resources:

1. From abroad through classical import

➡ Problem: Increases dependency on foreign powers and stable conditions, which can change any time and are therefore unreliable

2. Out of the ground by mining resources

➡ Problem: People, environment and climate suffer regularly

3. From waste by recycling

➡ Problem: Infrastructure is not advanced enough to solve all resource problems

➡ **But:** With the right incentives, said infrastructure can be built up and the reuse of most resources can be ensured

Thank you for your attention!