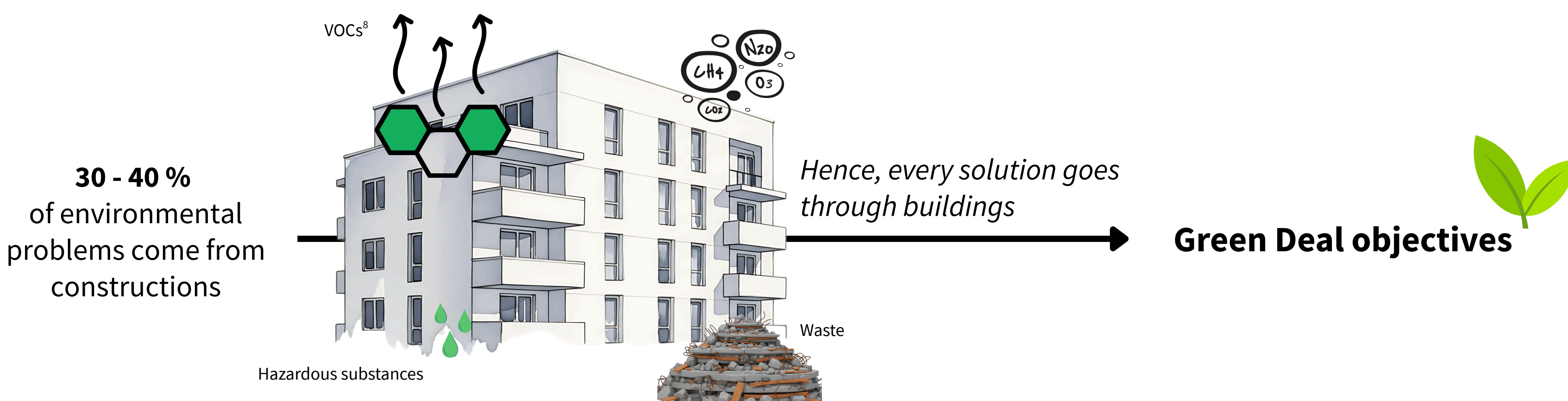


Policy Recommendation

Today's construction, tomorrow's risk or resource?

Outi Ilvonen: Outi.Ilvonen@uba.de; Anna Wieland: Anna.Wieland@uba.de



Digital tool - successful example

***BVB:** The Byggvarubedomningen® is a simple toolset that helps you choose safer and more sustainable products. It offers a searchable database with traffic-light ratings: 'recommended', 'accepted', or 'to be avoided' - based on chemical content, emissions, and circularity criteria. Projects can also use the Logbook function to record every chosen product, improving traceability for maintenance, renovation, or demolition.

3. Policy Recommendations

Make information easily available

- Comprehensive information: Digital Product Passport, EPDs³
- Evaluated information: BVB^a, EU-Ecolabel, M1⁵

EU traffic-light label for construction products

- Rating toxicity, environmental impact & circularity for all construction products (similar to BVB^a system)
- Simple and accessible to everyone



Mandatory logbooks

- Digital register of utilized products incl. chemical content (comparable to BVB^a logbooks)
- Enables chemical transparency, selective demolition & high-quality recycling

Full chemical declaration & traceability

- EU-wide product database: One harmonised system comparable to BVB^a
- Covering all construction products with detailed chemical composition

Procurement guidance (GPP⁴)

- Harmonize & mandate minimum GPP⁴ criteria: EU-wide requirements
- Provide plug-and-play support: User friendly procurement templates and guidance (e.g. 'NonHazCity3' templates & 'CCC¹' trainings for municipalities).

Stringent (mandated) minimum requirements

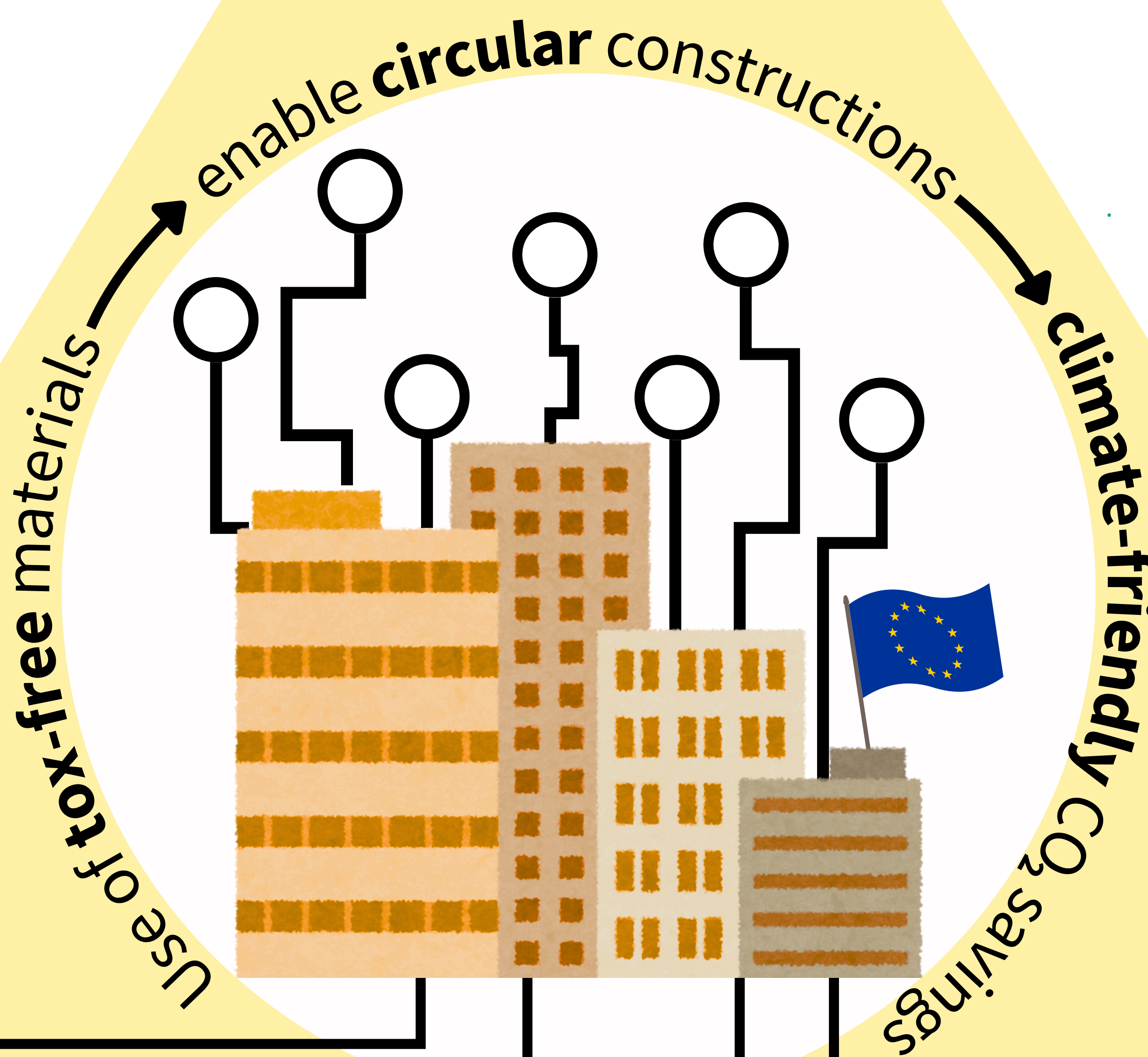
- Zero pollution ambition for soil and water: Exterior materials should be free of biocides and PFAS
- SVHC⁷ in all construction materials (< 0.1 %)
- VOC⁸ emission limits (e.g. M1⁵ certified)

Pre-demolition audits

- Catalogue of hazardous substances and reusable components
- Ensures that only non-toxic materials re-enter the economy

Recycling/re-use quotas

- Define end-of-waste criteria for pollutant content in recycled building materials
- Declare recycled content in building products



2. Best Practice Examples

- Healthy and circular:** Usage of tox-free materials and reuse of resources
- Checked products only:** unwanted materials < 3 % (undocumented / substances of concern)
- Substance transparency:** Indoor materials recorded in digital logbook (BVB^a)
- Ambitious energy targets:** 55kWh/m² · yr (stricter than national)

- Maximize reuse:** Prioritize pre-used products wherever feasible
- Full traceability:** All products logged in logbook (BVB^a)
- Material selection criteria:** Target 20 % rated as 'Recommended', < 5% 'To be avoided' (need acceptance before installation) (BVB^a category)

- Received the DGNB² Gold certification
- Selective demolition:** Required for buildings > 250 m². Requiring material to be sorted and documented
- Design for future reuse:** Build for disassembly to allow product reuse
- Climate impact calculation:** Following EN15978:2012 (kg CO₂ eq/m² · yr)

- SVHC⁷ control:** Products SVHC⁷ free, any exception requires separate approval
- Indoor health:** Interior surface materials & fixed furniture must be M1⁵ classified
- Exterior safety:** Cladding & coatings without SVHC⁷ or POPs⁶
- Prefer Type I ecolabel:** Third party certified
- Build capability:** Training for staff in planning, procurement, and construction management

1. Pilot Studies

Stockholm, Sweden

87 apartments with improved indoor air quality

Västerås, Sweden & Tallinn, Estonia

Tox-free, climate-friendly & sustainable kindergarten

Holbaek, Denmark

Tox-free, circular & climate-friendly renovation of apartment buildings

Riga, Latvia

Tox-free, circular & climate-friendly renovation of apartment buildings

Helsinki, Finland

Update the instructions for architects, engineers, and contractors covering new buildings and renovations



¹CCC: ChemClimCircle (Interreg Project)
²DGNB: Certification system from German Sustainable Building Council
³EPD: Environmental Product Declaration
⁴GPP: Green Public Procurement
⁵M1: Certified emission class for building materials
⁶POP: Persistent Organic Pollutants
⁷SVHC: Substances of very high concern
⁸VOC: Volatile organic compounds



NONHAZCITY