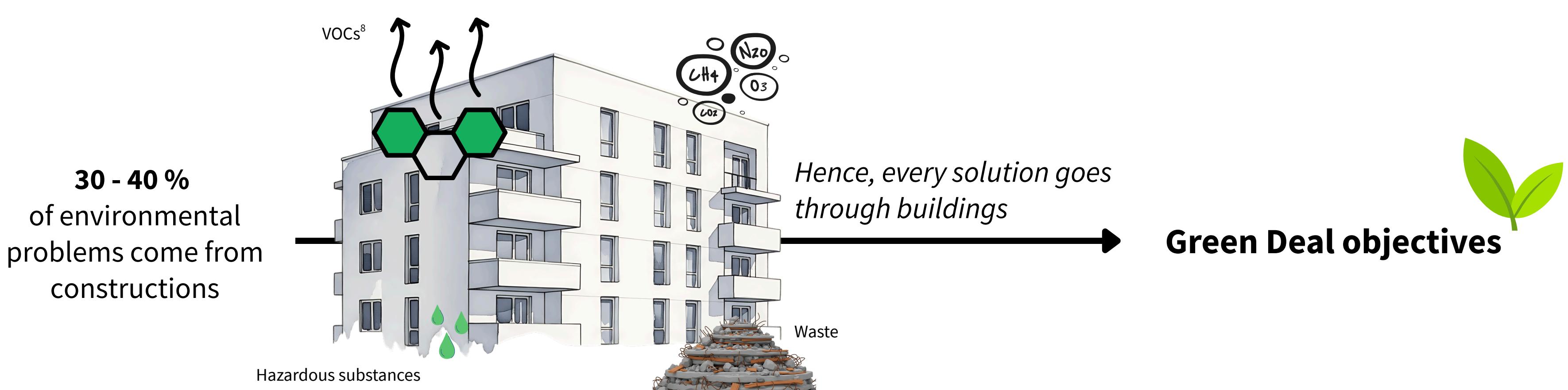


# Policy Recommendation

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

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## Digital tool - successful example

<sup>a</sup>**BVB:** The Byggvarubedömningen® 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, EPDs<sup>3</sup>
- Evaluated information: BVB<sup>a</sup>, EU-Ecolabel, M1<sup>5</sup>

### EU traffic-light label for construction products

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



### Mandatory logbooks

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

### Full chemical declaration & traceability

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

### Procurement guidance (GPP<sup>4</sup>)

- Harmonize & mandate minimum GPP<sup>4</sup> criteria: EU-wide requirements
- Provide plug-and-play support: User friendly procurement templates and guidance (e.g. 'NonHazCity3' templates & 'CCC<sup>1</sup>' trainings for municipalities).

### Stringent (mandated) minimum requirements

- Zero pollution ambition for soil and water: Exterior materials should be free of biocides and PFAS
- SVHC<sup>7</sup> in all construction materials (< 0.1 %)
- VOC<sup>8</sup> emission limits (e.g. M1<sup>5</sup> 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<sup>a</sup>)
- Ambitious energy targets:** 55kWh/m<sup>2</sup> · yr (stricter than national)

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

- Received the DGNB<sup>2</sup> Gold certification
- Selective demolition:** Required for buildings > 250 m<sup>2</sup>. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> eq/m<sup>2</sup> · yr)

- SVHC<sup>7</sup> control:** Products SVHC<sup>7</sup> free, any exception requires separate approval
- Indoor health:** Interior surface materials & fixed furniture must be M1<sup>5</sup> classified
- Exterior safety:** Cladding & coatings without SVHC<sup>7</sup> or POPs<sup>6</sup>
- 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

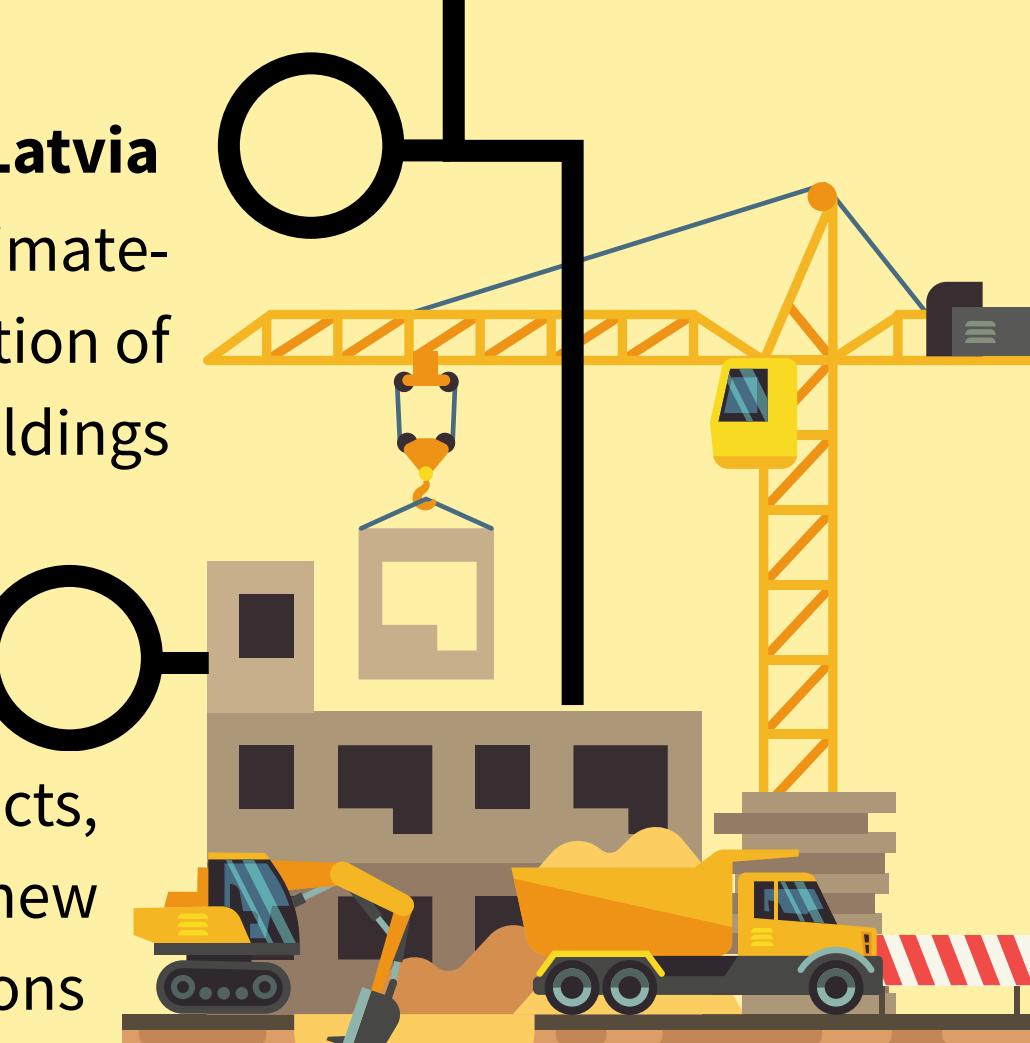
Västerås, Sweden & Tallinn, Estonia  
Tox-free, climate-friendly & sustainable kindergarten

Holbaek, Denmark

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



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