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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,  
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC  
  
**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**  
Economics section

# **Living well within the planet's limits: Swiss measures for a Green Economy**



***ERF European Resources Forum , 9./10.11.2016, Berlin***  
***Swiss FOEN, Dr. Loa Buchli, (Andreas Hauser, Rolf Gurtner)***

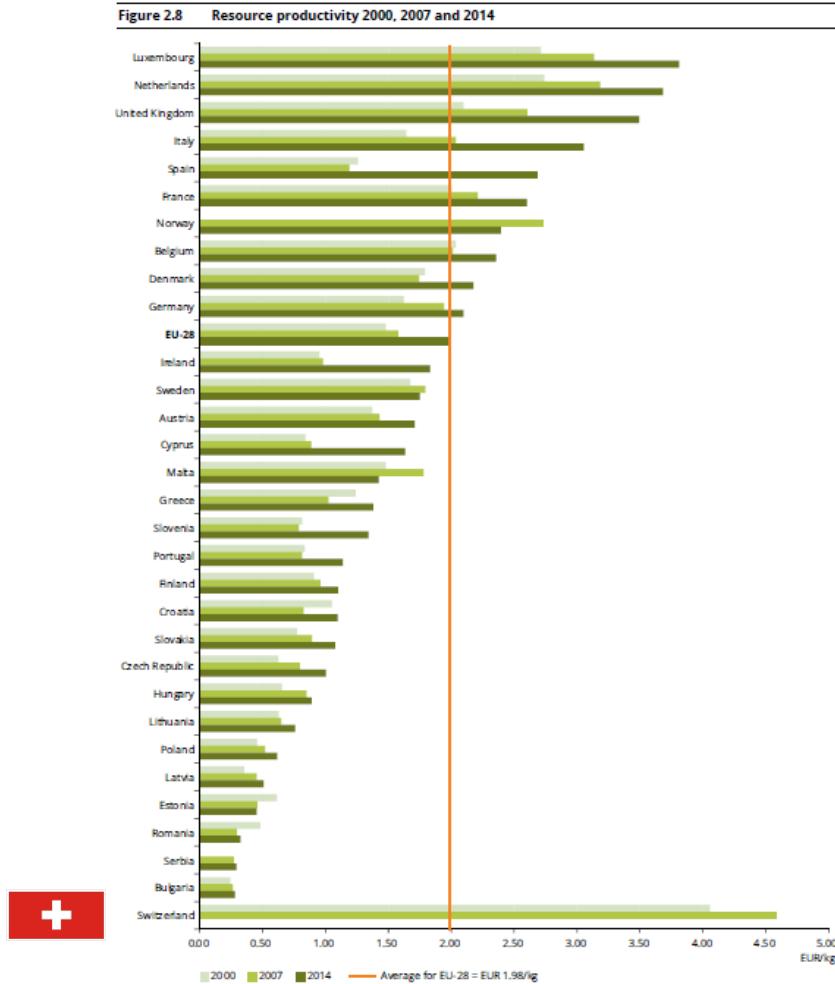


# Referendum on Green Economy in CH





# Switzerland: Efficiency leader?



... Yes if you define this is in a territorial perspective

→ Score reflects to a large extent Switzerland's high share of the third sector

GDP / DMC

EEA (2016) «More from less»



# ... But not in a footprint (consumption) perspective

Material footprint (RMC)



Switzerland:  
17 t / capita

EU-27:  
14 t / capita

Source: FSO (2016)

Greenhouse gas footprint



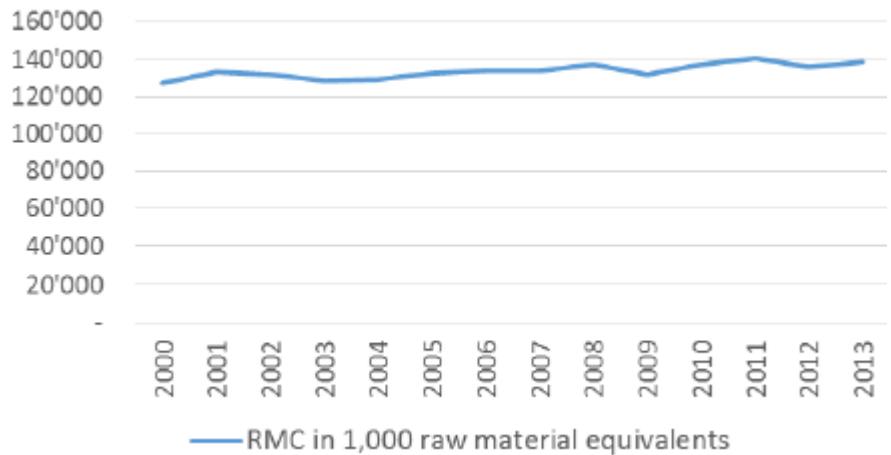
Land use footprint



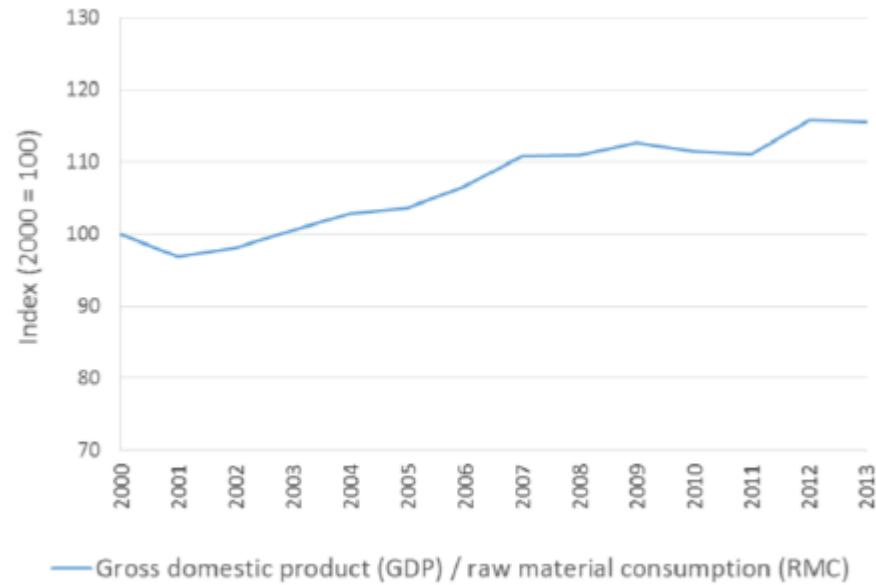


# Decoupling?

## Material Footprint (RMC)



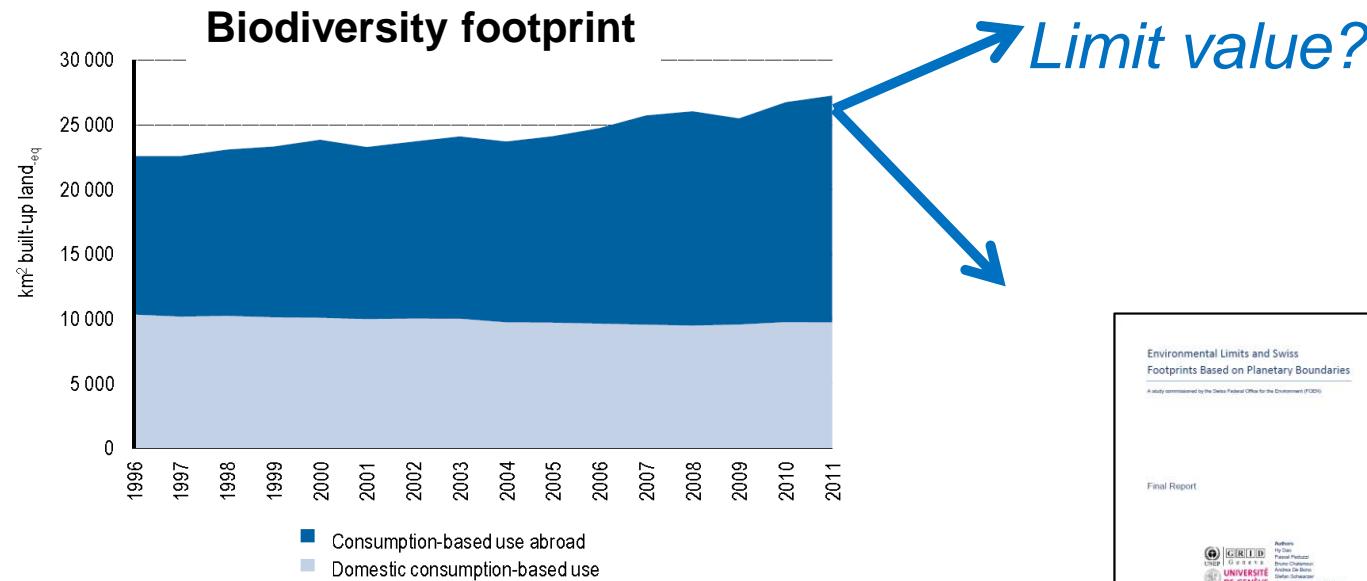
## Efficiency (GDP/RMC)



**Swiss Material footprint increased by around 9% between 2000 and 2013 despite improved efficiency.**



# What size of a footprint can be sustained by our planet?



2015: Environmental Limits and Swiss Footprints Based on Planetary Boundaries

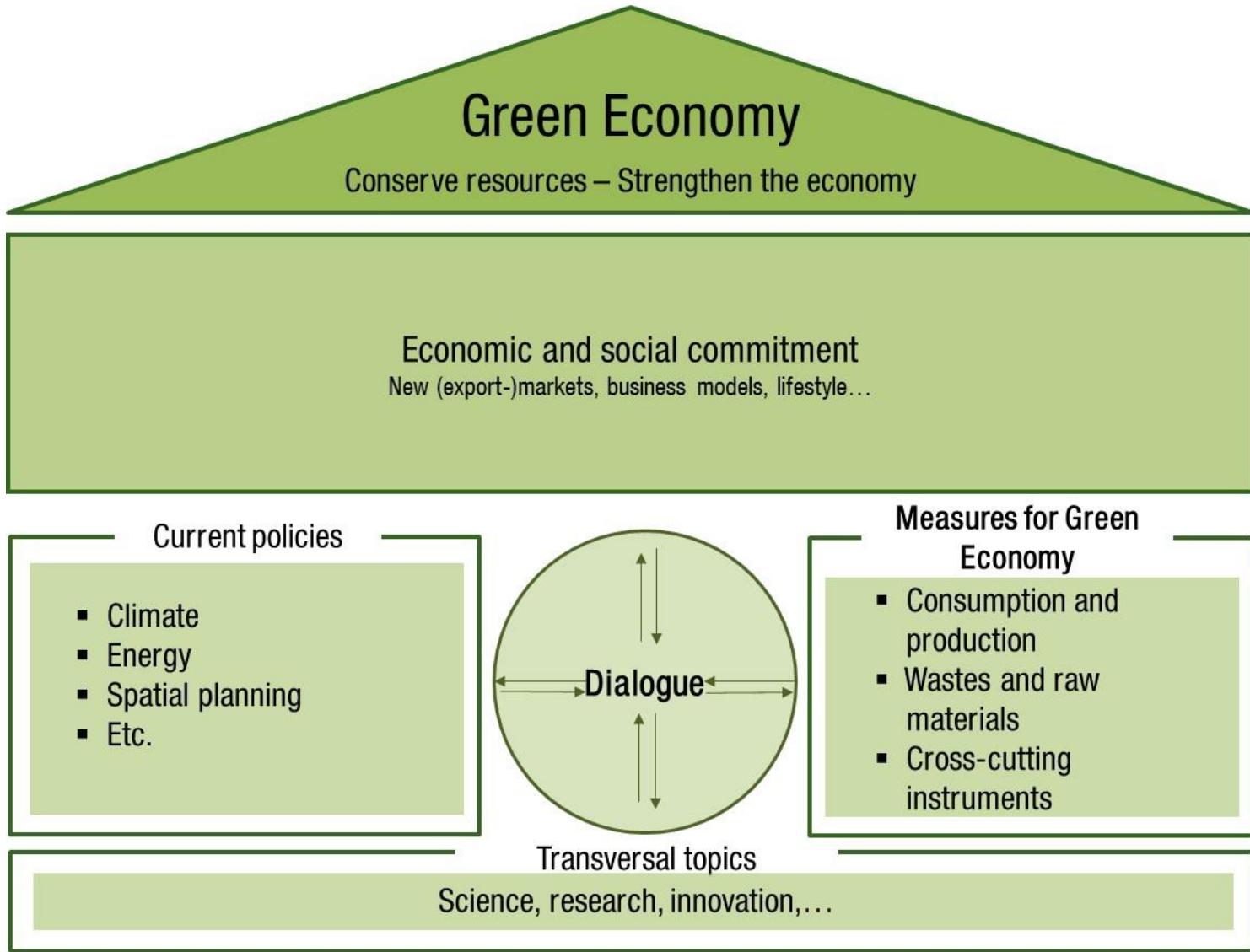


# Critical footprints, relevant areas

Clearly unsafe	Climate Change	Ocean Acidification	Biodiversity Loss	Nitrogen Losses
Relevant areas of consumption	Nutrition Housing Mobility	Housing Mobility (Nutrition)	Nutrition (Housing)	Nutrition (incl. animal feed)
Relevant economic sectors	<b>Construction services, Chemical products, Wholesale and retail trade, Energy sector</b>		<b>Agriculture and food industry</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
	Cross: information technology, financial services, commodity trading			
Relevant product groups	Imported electricity		Animal food, coffee, cocoa, buildings, palm oil, etc.	Animal foods, hotels, restaurants



# Green economy in Switzerland





# Green Economy – 23 Federal measures in 9 priority areas for 2016-2019

Core areas	Priority areas
<b>Consumption and production</b>	1 Environmentally-friendly consumer behavior (education and communication) 2 Transparency and standards relating to ecologically important raw materials and products 3 Product and process optimization (including ecodesign)
<b>Waste and raw materials</b>	4 Waste prevention 5 Close material cycles
<b>Cross-cutting instruments</b>	6 Sector-specific approaches to enhance efficiency 7 International engagement 8 Incentives and strengthening the knowledge base 9 Goals, dialogue und reporting



# Practical measures (1): Reffnet

Advisory Service for SME's in order to save materials, energy – and costs!

- So far (in two years) 42 companies have decided to implement measures, saving them at least 100 Mio. CHF / a.
- Expected reduction in environmental impacts is estimated at 240 billion Eco-Points, which equals the environmental footprint of 12'000 Swiss residents.





# Practical measures (2): Construction

Swiss FOEN is founding partner of the Sustainable Construction Network (NNBS.ch)

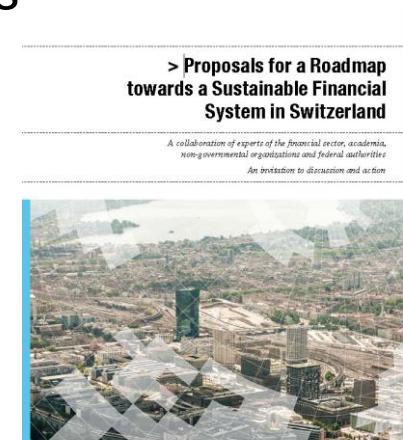
- Holistic approach: Energy and beyond, incl. re-usability of building materials, considerations of spatial planning etc.
- Working closely with stakeholders
- Certification of buildings launched in August 2016





# Practical measures (3): Dialogue for a sustainable financial system

- ✓ Successful dialogue brings momentum to sustainable finance
  - Since 2014 experts from the financial sector, science, non-governmental organizations and federal authorities **work together** on how the Swiss financial system could help the transition to a green economy
  - **20 voluntary measures** in asset and wealth management, for institutional investors, in credit business, capital markets & research and education
- ✓ **Policy coherence is key** to mainstreaming sustainable finance:
  - Federal Council highlighted ecological dimension of sustainability as integral part of financial market policy
  - Sustainable Finance an innovation driver for financial market strategy





# Practical measures (4): National Research Programme

National Research Programme (NRP) on ways of achieving a sustainable economy

The Programme will run for five years and is budgeted at CHF 20 million.



Further information:  
<http://www.snf.ch>



# The power of visions



Source: Solar Impulse/EPLF



Source: Global handprint network



Research building «NEST» near Zurich  
Itself a visionary example of sustainable building



Thank you for your attention!

