



## Building a Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) energy scenario

### CAN Europe/EEB technical summary of key elements

June 2020



## 2.4 Phasing out waste incineration

### Key assumptions

- Waste incineration will be phased out by 2040, assuming a 20-year lifetime of incinerators and taking into account a gradual implementation of the circular economy approach and shrinking waste volumes.

### Evolution of energy supply

Burning solid municipal waste in waste incinerators for electricity and heat production only plays a minor role in the EU’s energy mix.<sup>1</sup> In light of the implementation of the circular economy legislation in the EU, the available residual waste will decline while the biomass share of waste will partly be redirected towards biogas generation or solid biomass CHP at lower investment and operating costs. Electricity generation falls from 48 TWh and gross final heat consumption from 96 TWh in 2015 to zero in 2040. Waste as a solid fuel in industry disappears by 2040.

### Integration of members’ and experts’ feedback

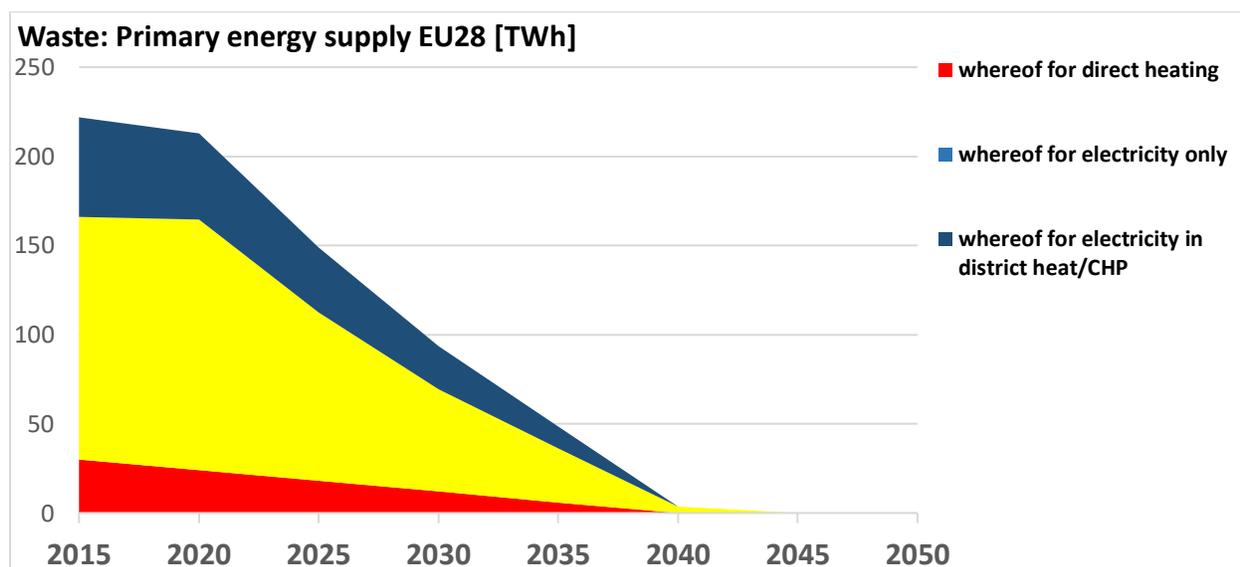
Members and participants of the scenario workshops confirmed the phase-out trajectory for waste incinerators. Keeping a continuously high level of waste demand would undermine targets for higher recycling rates.

### Sensitivities and limitations

Poor data quality of installed capacities and operating parameters of waste incinerators need to be improved.

### Key results

- The EU continues its circular economy approach, reduces waste and leaves waste incineration by 2040.



<sup>1</sup> Eurobarometer: Renewable municipal waste barometer, November 2014; ENTSO-E: Transparency platform, November 2019. Given the average biomass share in solid municipal waste, 43% of energy supplied is renewable energy.