

Spring 2014

**EUROPE'S LOW-CARBON TRANSITION:  
UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHEMICAL SECTOR**

**PRODUCT DEEP-DIVES**

# Contents

- **Polyvinyl choride (PVC)**
- Rigid polyurethane
- Polycarbonate
- Polyalphaolefins
- Carbon fiber reinforced plastics



# Introduction to PVC

■ Used for construction ■ Partly used for construction ■ Other applications

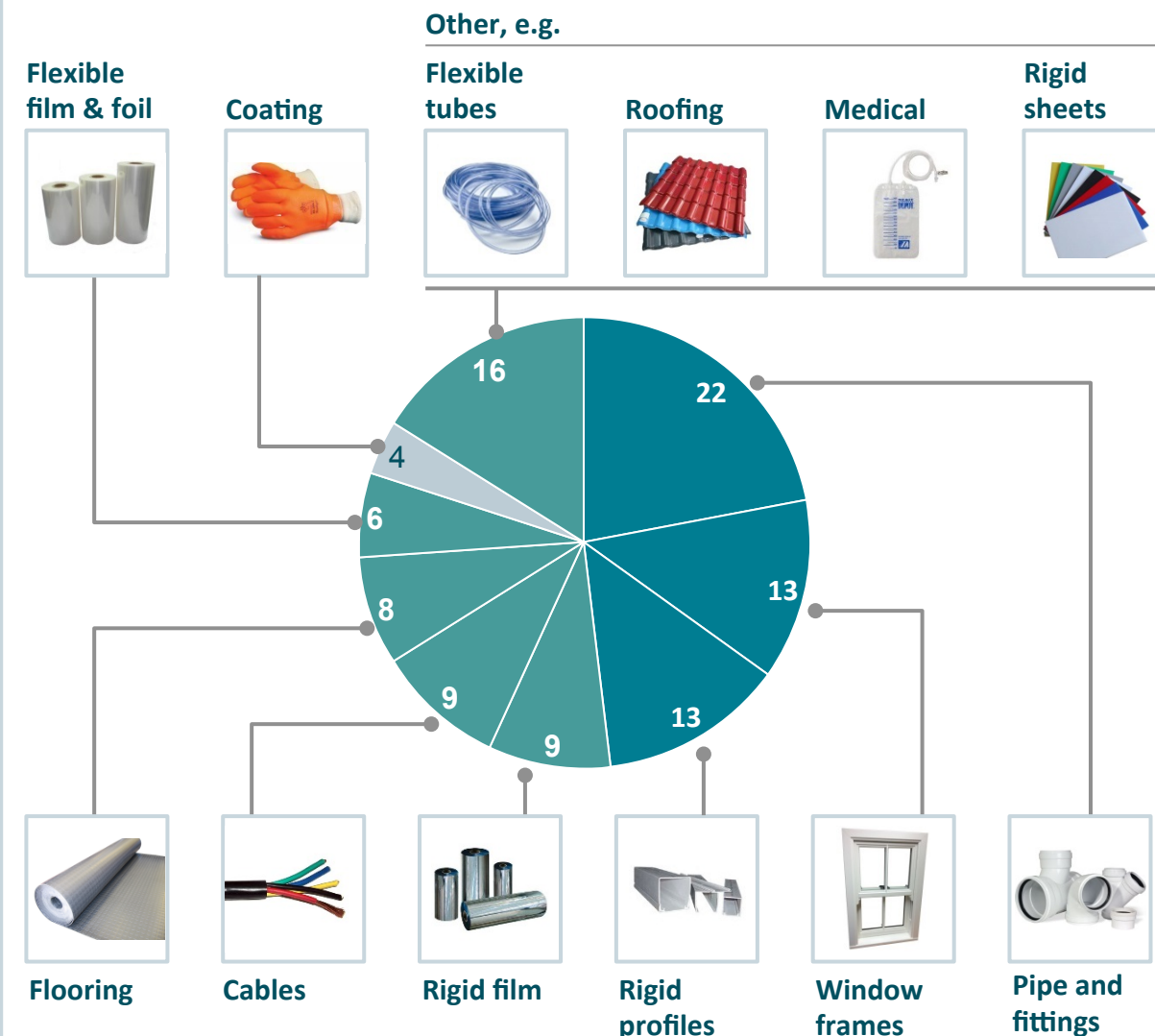
## Introduction to PVC

- PVC (polyvinyl chloride) is the **third most common plastic** in the world after polyethylene and polypropylene
- Its strength, durability and flexibility allows for a **broad range of applications**, especially for long-term use in outdoor construction
- **Cost-effective** material compared to, e.g., aluminum and wood
- Mainly produced from **ethylene** and **chlorine**

## Key facts

- **EU production of ~6 million metric tons** in 2012
- **~70% consumed by the construction sector**
- Consolidated market where the **top 6 manufacturers produce 75%** of PVC resin in Europe
- **Energy intense production of chlorine** main driver of total PVC emissions of **~12 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**
- **~360,000 tons recycled 2012** (of ~2-2.5m tons post-consumer waste)

## PVC applications, percent

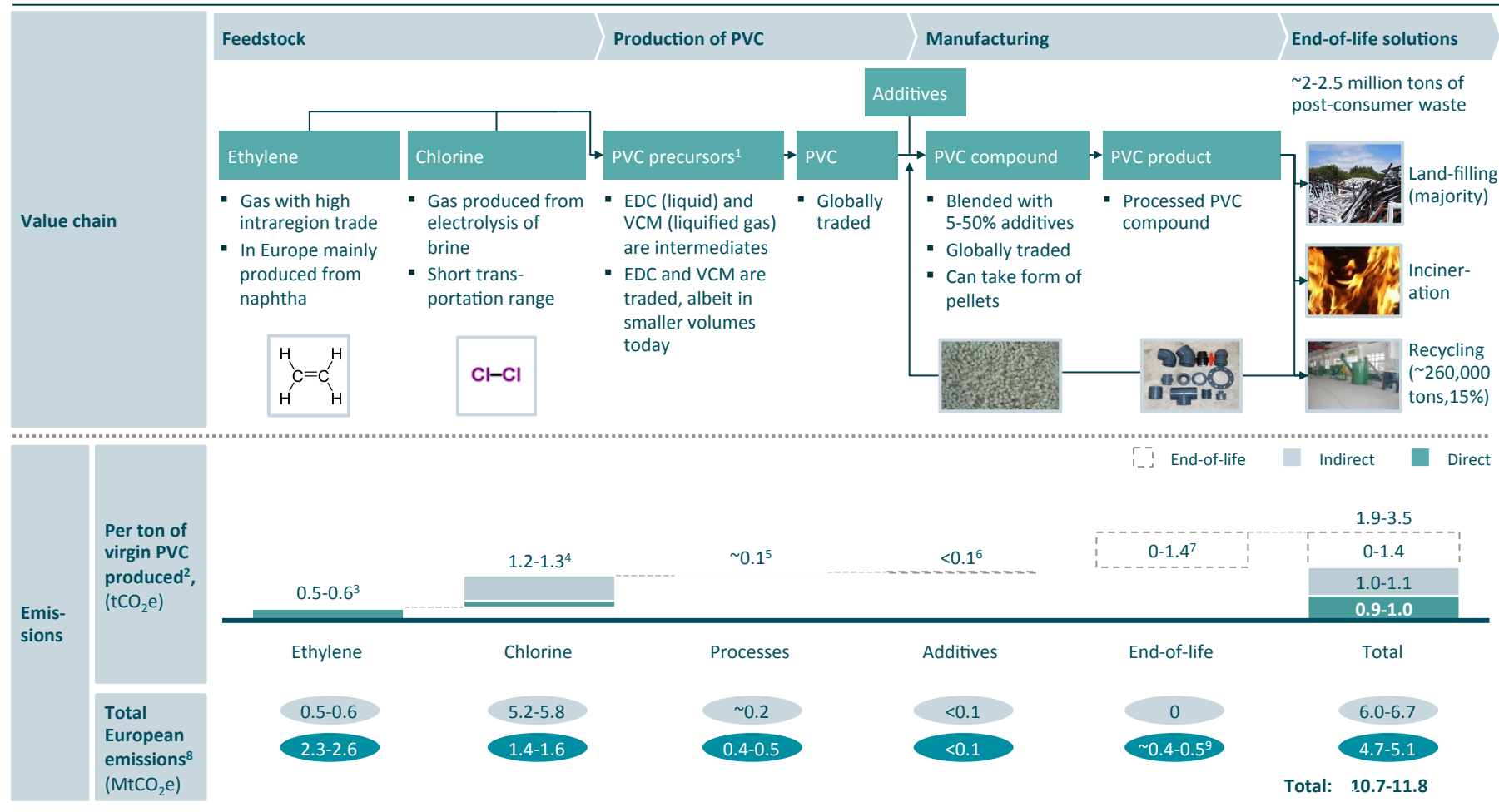


SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of value chain and associated emissions

## Overview of emissions across PVC value chain



1 Ethylene dichloride (EDC) and vinyl chloride monomers (VCM); 2 For one ton of PVC resin as amount of additives varies greatly between applications. Transportation emissions included in chain; 3 Emissions from naphtha production/ extraction and from ethylene production through conventional cracking, 0.29 ton ethylene/ ton of PVC; 4 Data for diaphragm cells, similar electricity requirements for diaphragm and membrane according to CEFIC. 0.73 ton chlorine/ ton PVC; 5 Include chlorination to EDC (53% direct chlorination and 47% oxychlorination, only ~60% of emissions accounted for- rest to HCl), EDC cracking to VCM and bulk polymerization to PVC; 6 Assumed additional 5% on weight basis, assumed average emissions from chemical industry (166m tons CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from ~400m tons produced). Excludes plasticizers; 7 Shows range from 0 (landfilling) to 1.4 (incineration) tCO<sub>2</sub>/ ton PVC; 8 Lower range presented in bubbles assuming 15% recycling, upper range assuming no recycling; 9 Assuming 15% of waste incinerated

NOTE: Analysis based on production of 6m tons 2012. Indirect emissions 75-85% lower in France, representing ~13% of EU 27 market

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Key abatement levers across the value chain

## Use bio-ethylene as feedstock



- Can technically substitute petrochemical based ethylene completely
- Bio-ethylene based on ligno-cellulosic biomass required, with uncertain feasibility in near to mid-term horizon
- Breakthrough dependent on local conditions, technology mature and economic viability

## Implement new technology in chlorine electrolysis

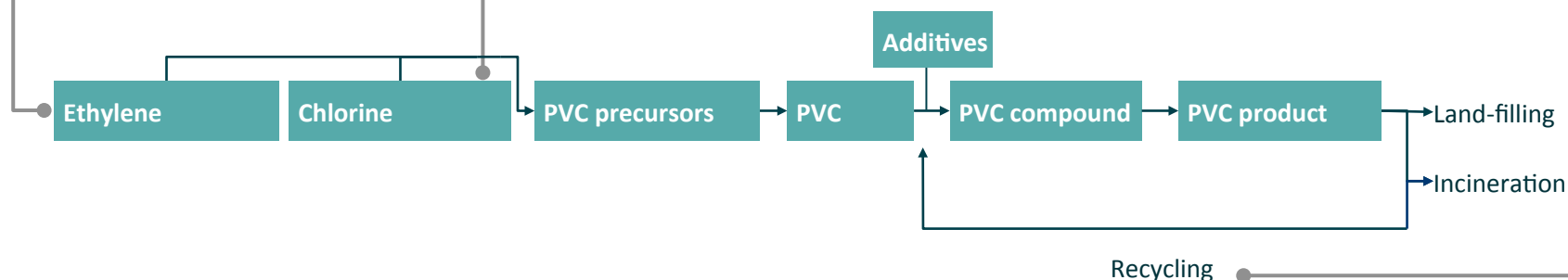


- Continue shift from mercury cell electrolysis towards more energy efficient membrane cell and ODC electrolysis
- Compared to mercury cell, membrane cell has ~25% lower emissions. In ODC technology emissions are ~40% lower than mercury cell emissions

## Increase recycling rates with focus on pipes, fittings and window frames



- Composite structures containing at least 70% of PVC can be recycled using, e.g., the VinylLoop<sup>1</sup> process
- Availability of used PVC a short term barrier given lifetimes of up to 50 years and more
- Large potential from installed base in the coming decades from lead and cadmium free production since the 1980's



## Switch to green energy throughout the value chain



- Non-fossil energy share of total electricity production to be increased from today's 46% to ~70%<sup>2</sup>, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity generation by ~50%

## Improve process and energy efficiency



- Continuous efficiency improvements in multiple process steps leading to a 25% reduction by 2030 (~2% p.a.)
- Examples may include improved polymerization techniques and decomposition of GHGs

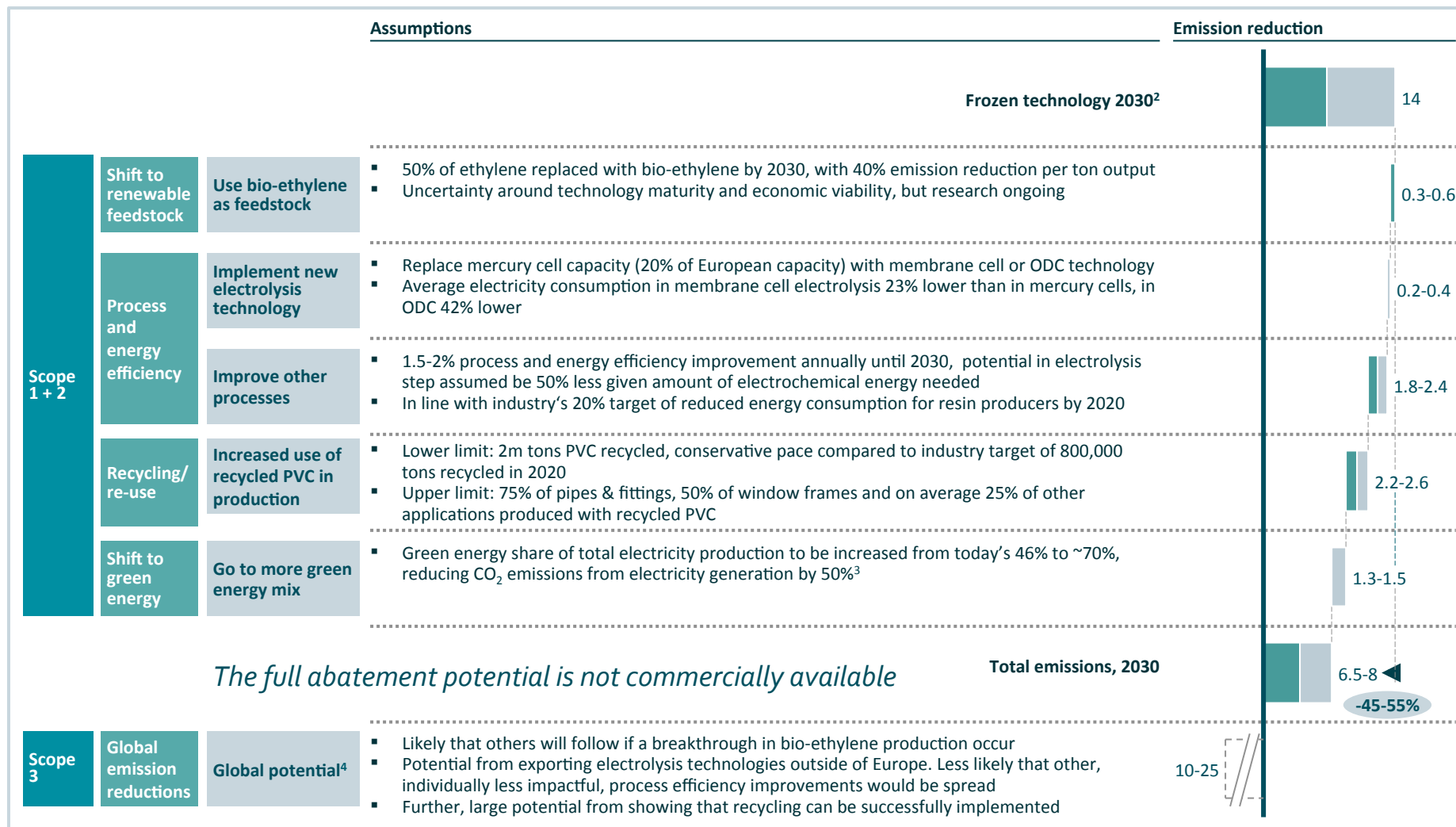
1 Partnership between Solvay and Serge Ferrari; 2 Based on Enerdata Emergence case  
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of total emission reduction opportunity by 2030

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 2030, assuming levers pursued in parallel<sup>1</sup>

■ Direct ■ Indirect



1 Individual levers have larger potential if pursued alone; 2 Assuming 1.0% production growth from 2012;

3 Potential reduced to account for in-house energy production; 4 PVC scope

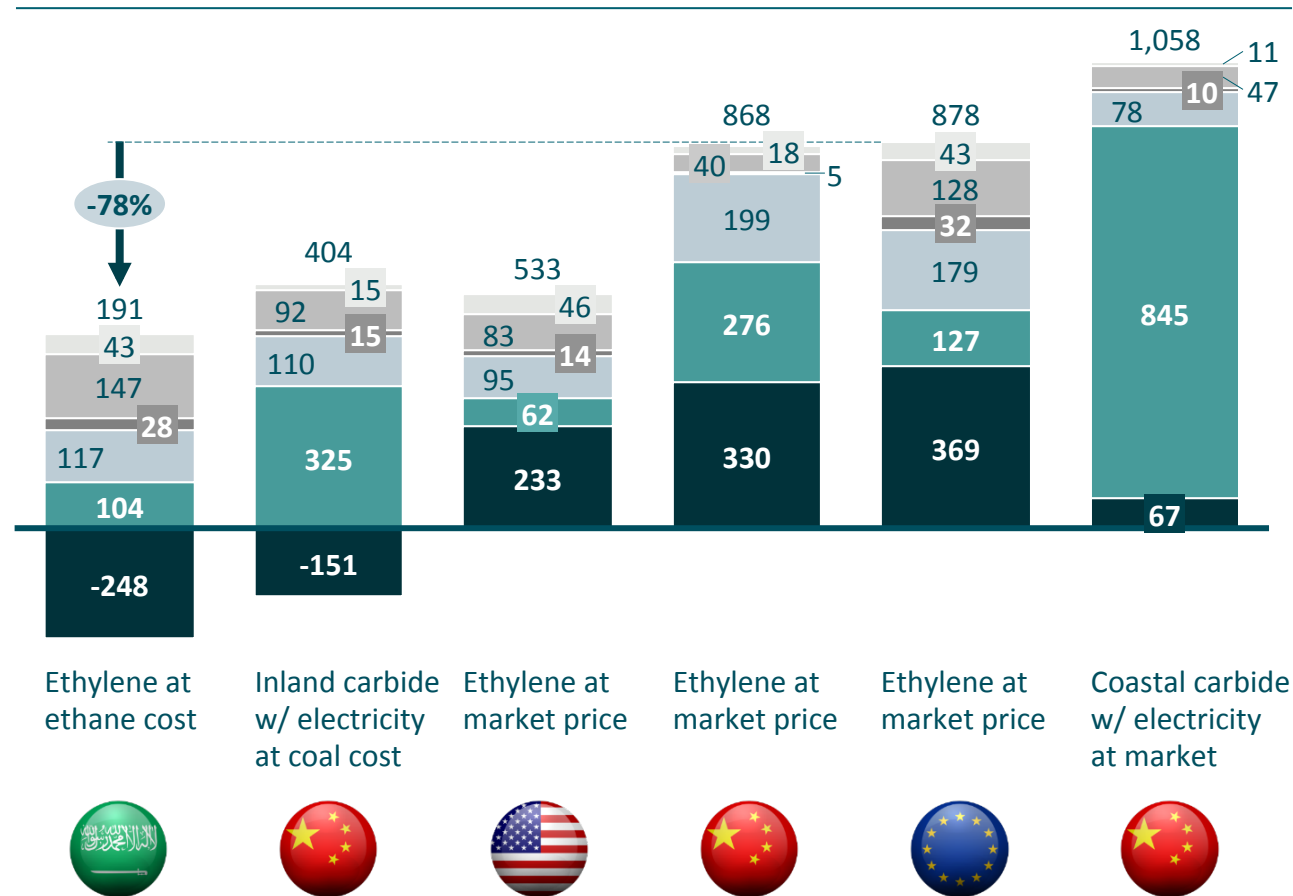
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



## PVC regional production cost

Plant gate cost for generation of PVC across different geographies<sup>1</sup>

USD/ton PVC, 2012



- Raw material costs can be negative as chlorine production generates significant byproduct revenue from caustic soda
- China carbide prices likely on scale between two extremes (inland carbide with electricity at coal cost and coastal carbide with electricity at market)

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- Polyvinyl choride (PVC)
- **Rigid polyurethane**
- Polycarbonate
- Polyalphaolefins
- Carbon fiber reinforced plastics



# Introduction to polycarbonate

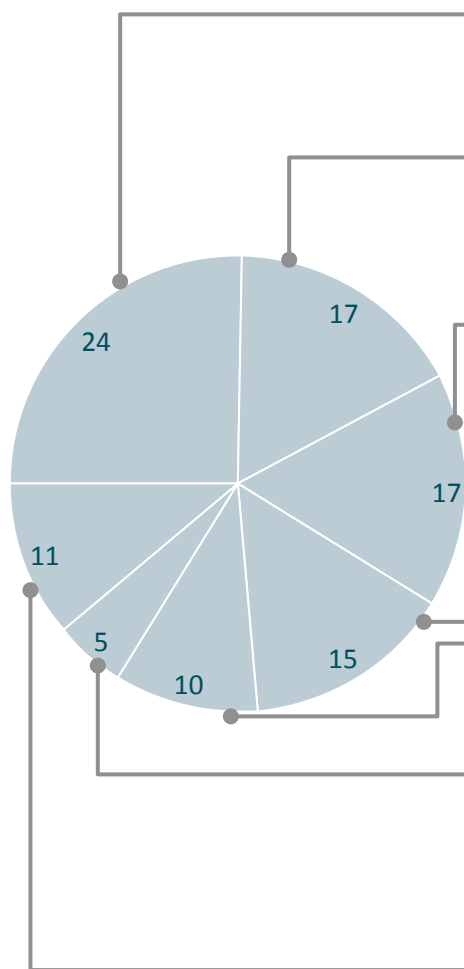
## Introduction to PC<sup>1</sup>

- Easily worked, molded and thermoformed plastic, making it useful in many applications
- Main advantage over other types of plastics is **great strength combined with light weight**
- Known under trademarked names such as Lexan, Markrolon and Markoclear
- Two largest players, Bayer and SABIC, make up 51% of world capacity and five players make up 76%

## Key facts

- **~0.8 million metric tons production in Europe per year** (comprising 21% of global production)
- **Total emissions: 4.4 – 4.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e** (3.8 – 6.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per ton PC<sup>2</sup>)
- Produced by condensation polymerization between bisphenol A and phosgene

## Polycarbonate applications, percent



### Building & construction

- Sheets and films for signs, security windows and soundwalls



### Electronics/electrical

- Computers, laptops, e-book readers, smartphones



### Automotive

- Headlights, wheel covers, radiator grills



### Domestic appliances

- Coffee makers, hairdryers, microwave oven doors



### Optical media

- CDs and DVDs



### Consumer/sports

- Motorcycle helmets, glasses



### Other

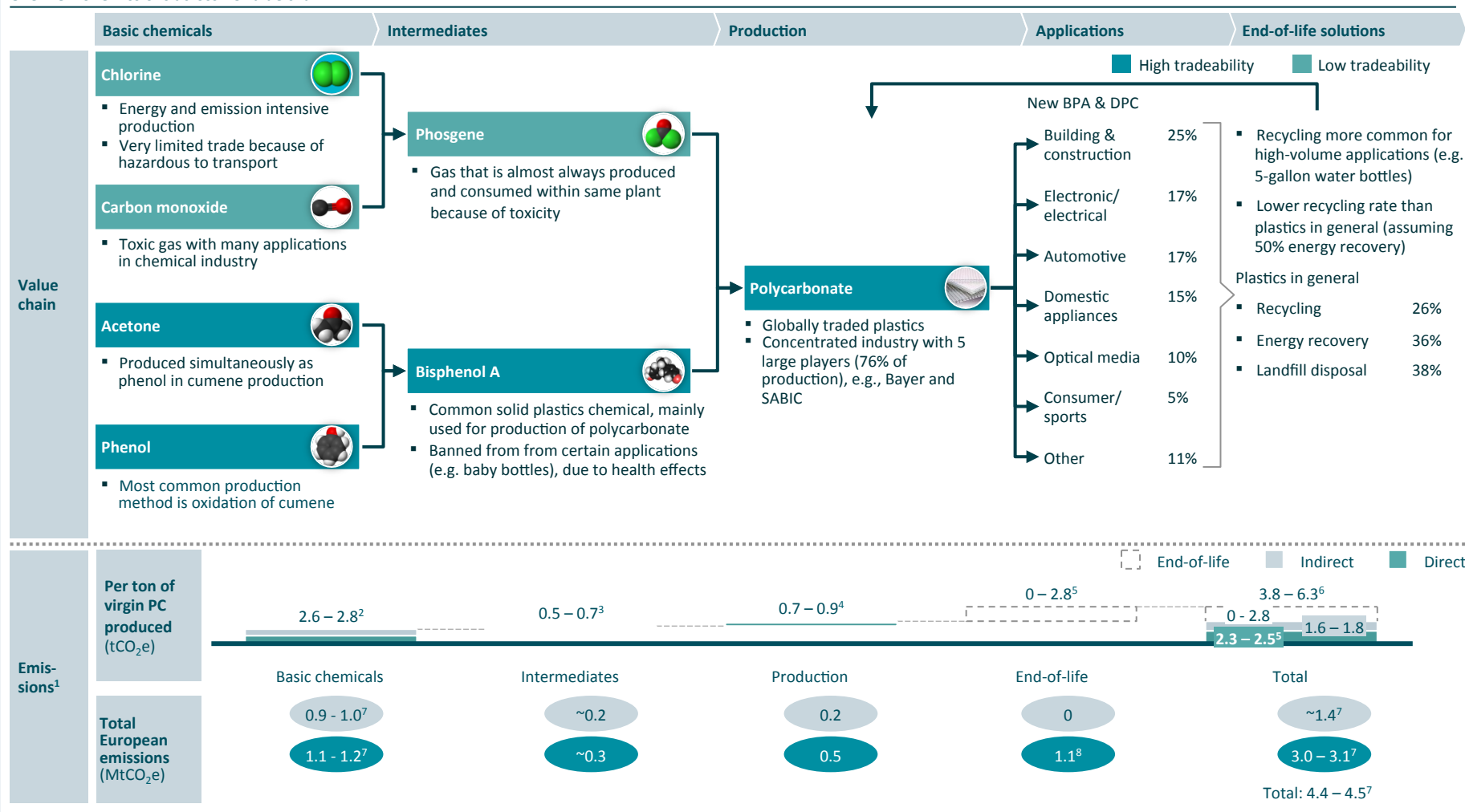
- Packaging, medical appliances

<sup>1</sup> Polycarbonate; <sup>2</sup> Upper range assuming no recycling, lower range assuming 5% recycling and reuse  
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of value chain and associated emissions

## Overview of emissions across PC value chain

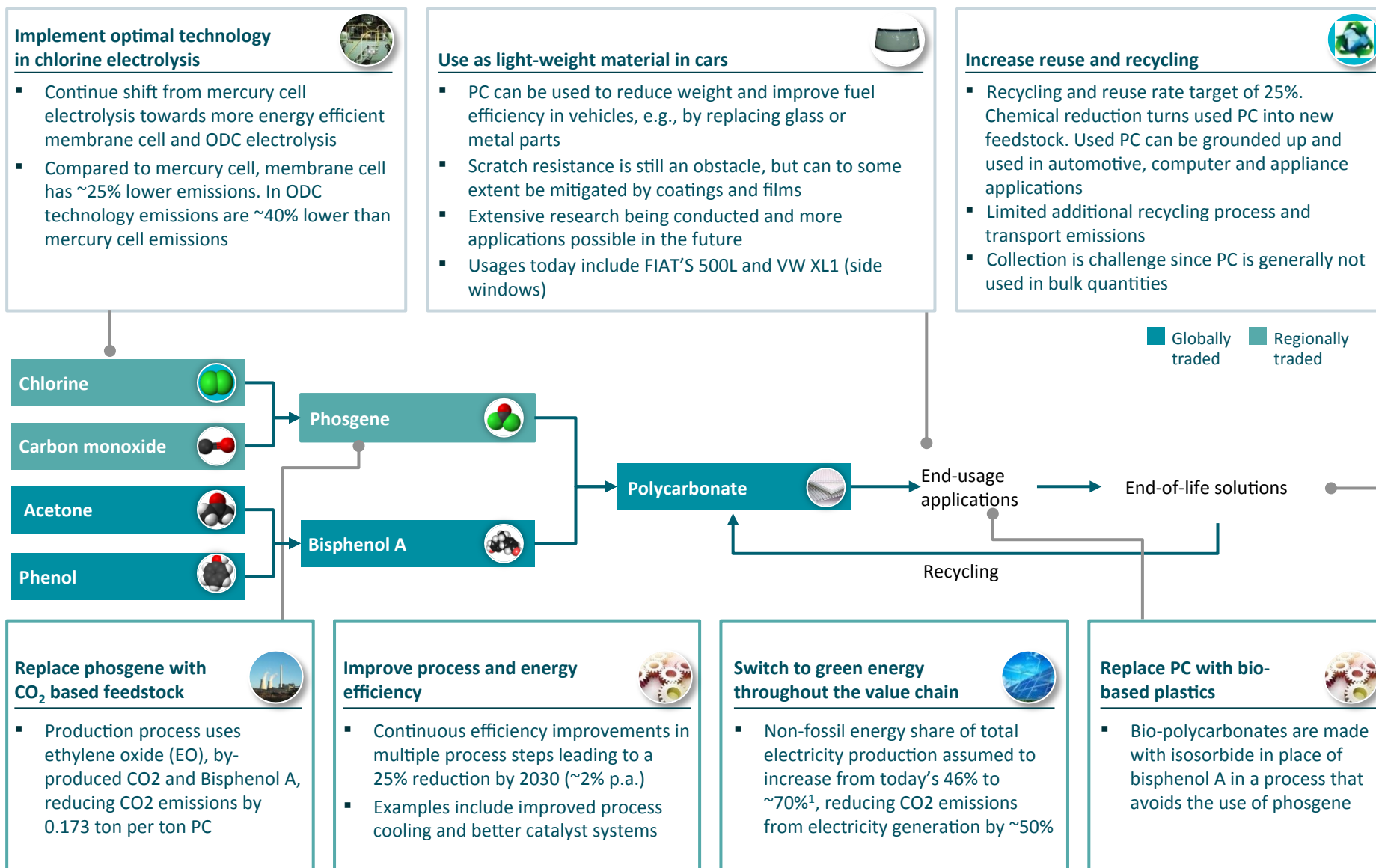


1 Transport emissions account for less than 1% of total emissions and are therefore excluded; 2 Residual from Plastics Europe PC Eco-profile when excluding BPA and phosgene emissions. Split between direct and indirect emissions assumed to be 50:50; 3 BPA data from Eco-profile, phosgene data from input figures in PC Eco-profile; 4 Data from PC Eco-profiles; 5 Depending on end-of-life solution. Energy recovery emissions amount to 2.7-2.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e / ton PC; 6 Cradle-to-gate figures based on figures from Plastic Europe eco-profiles. Cradle-to-grave given by adding end-of-life solution; 7 Upper range assuming no recycling, lower range assuming 5% recycling and reuse of today's waste stream (50% of production); 8 Assuming energy recovery is used as disposal method for 50% of all PC

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Key abatement levers across the value chain



<sup>1</sup> Based on Enerdata Emergence Case

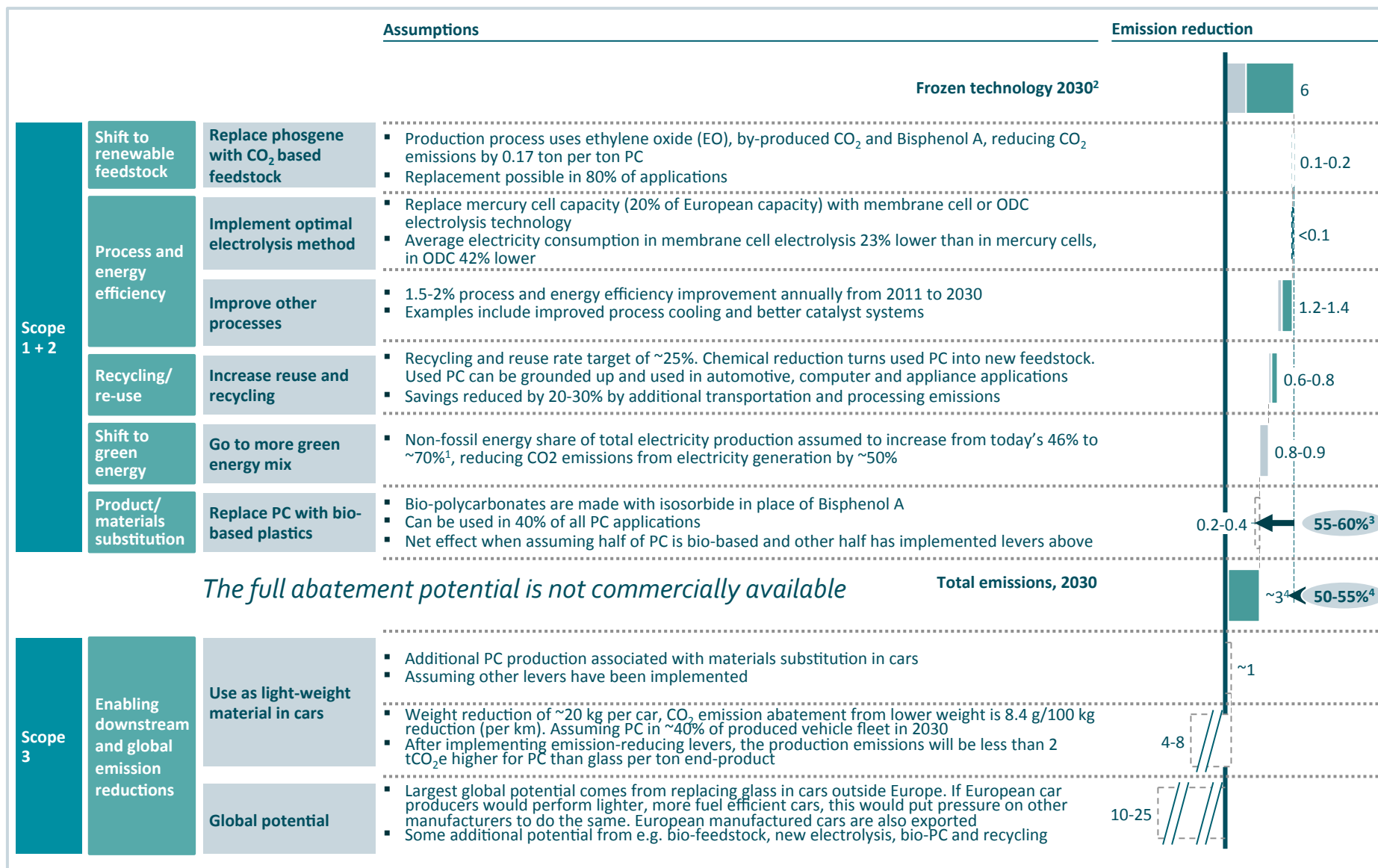
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of total emission reduction opportunity by 2030

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 2030, assuming levers pursued in parallel<sup>1</sup>

Indirect Direct



<sup>1</sup> Individual levers have larger potential if pursued alone;

<sup>3</sup> Including shift to bio-based plastics;

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews

<sup>2</sup> Assuming same carbon footprint as today with 1.3% production growth rate per year (historical growth rate 2000-11);

<sup>4</sup> Excluding shift to bio-based plastics

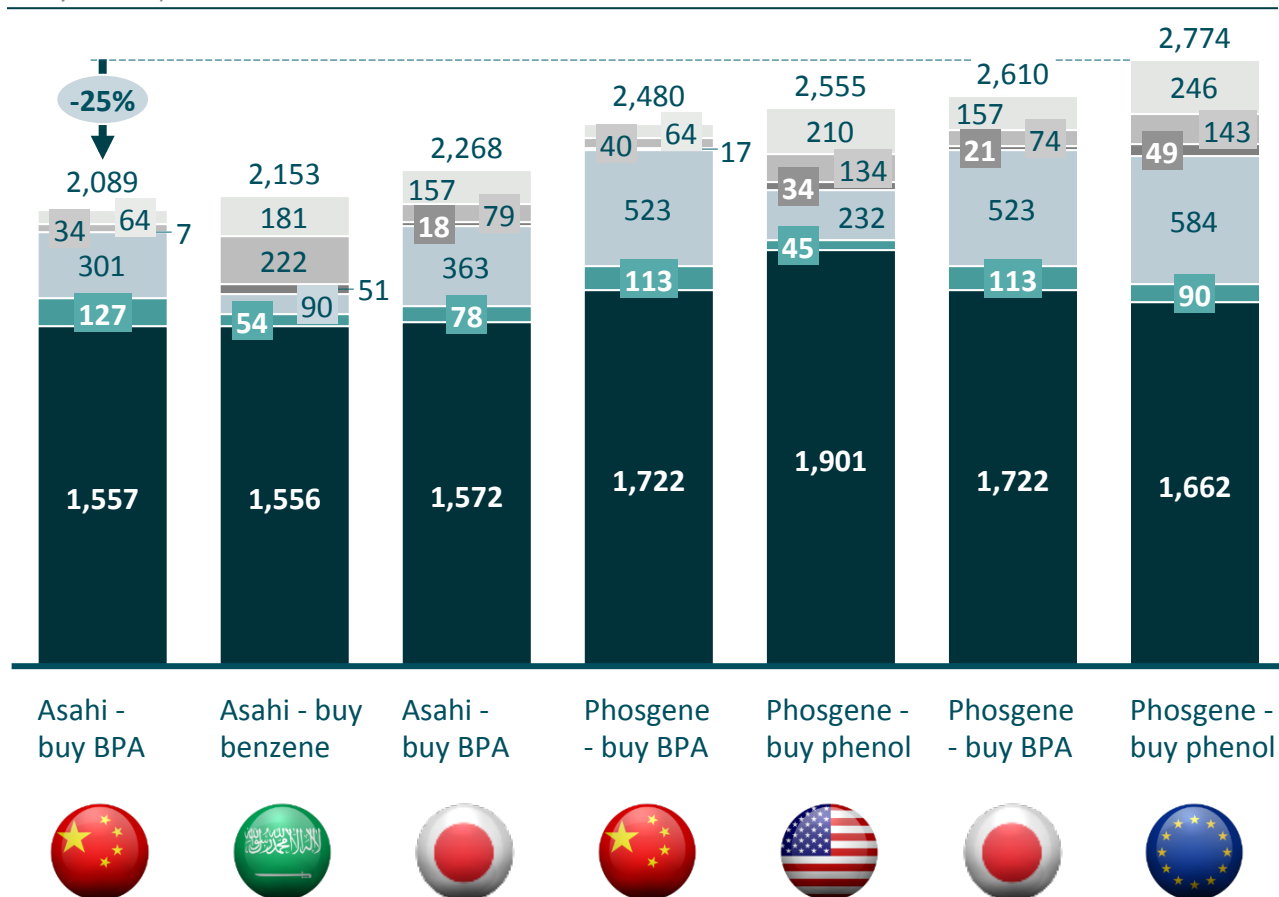


# Polycarbonate regional production cost

SG&A Maintenance and plant overhead Labor Other variable cost Electricity Raw materials

## Plant gate cost for generation of PC across different geographies<sup>1</sup>

USD/ton PC, 2012



- New Asahi technology consistently lower cost than conventional phosgene technology
- US cost advantaged vs. WE due to energy costs, despite raw material disadvantage (higher phenol cost)
- WE highest cost producer, largely due to high fixed costs and old technology
- WE and US producers largely integrated into BPA, Asia producers buy BPA on spot market

<sup>1</sup> 250 kta conventional PC plant with integrated phosgene production, or 250 kta Asahi PC plant with integrated EO. Saudi plant integrated with BPA/phenol  
SOURCE: McKinsey margin models

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# Introduction to rigid polyurethane

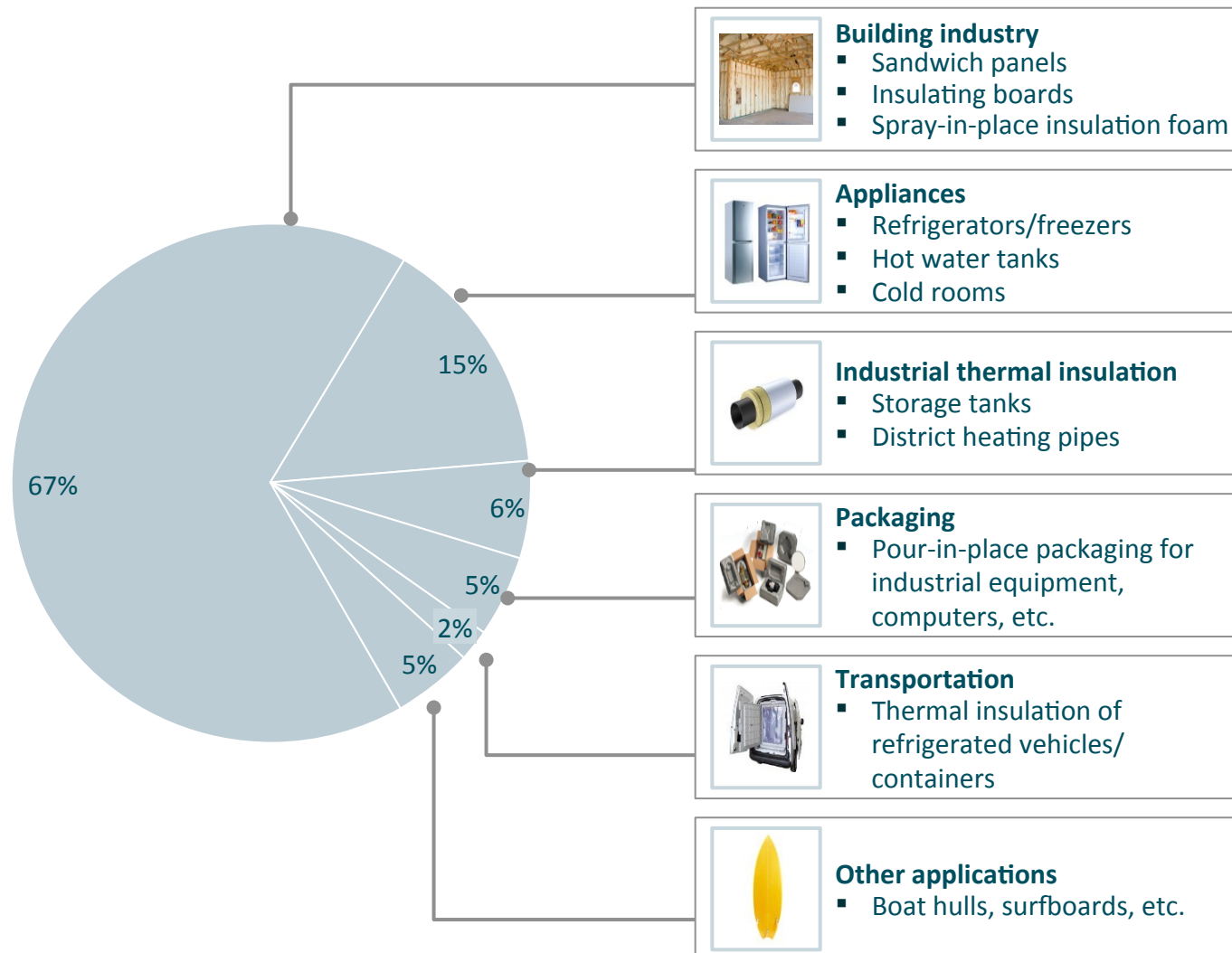
## Introduction to rigid PU<sup>1</sup>

- Polymer used as **insulation material**
- One of the **most effective insulation materials** in terms of insulation value
- Comprises **10-15% of total insulation market**
- Regional product since low density makes it **expensive to ship**, however, intermediates and components are traded
- End-user applications include, e.g., **construction and appliances**

## Key facts

- **~1.3 million metric tons production in Europe** (comprising ~25% of global production)
- **Total emissions: 6.2 – 6.6 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (4.1 – 5.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per ton PU)**
- Produced by reacting an isocyanate (often MDI) with a polyol

## Rigid polyurethane applications, percent



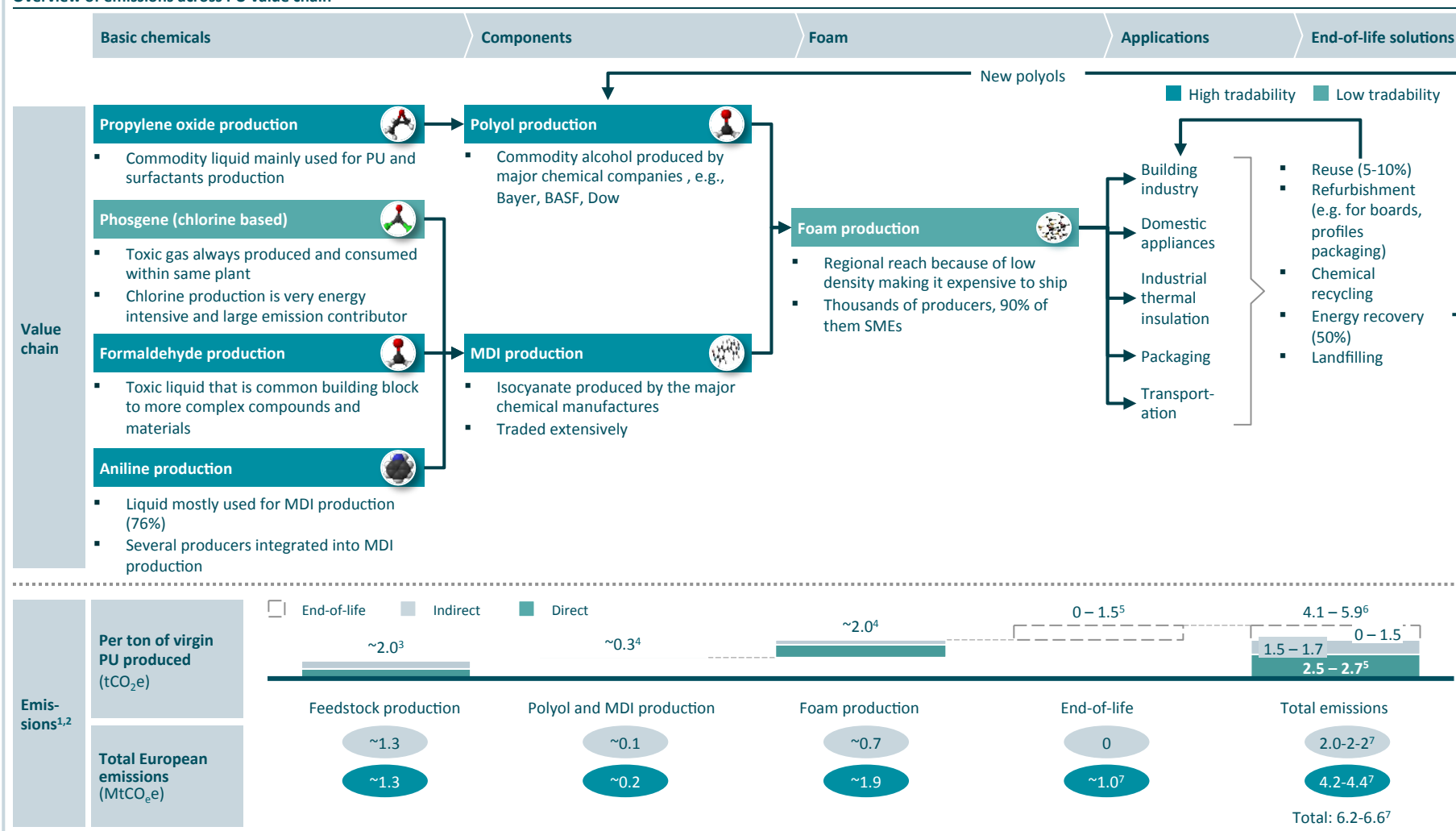
<sup>1</sup> Polyurethane

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of value chain and associated emissions

## Overview of emissions across PU value chain

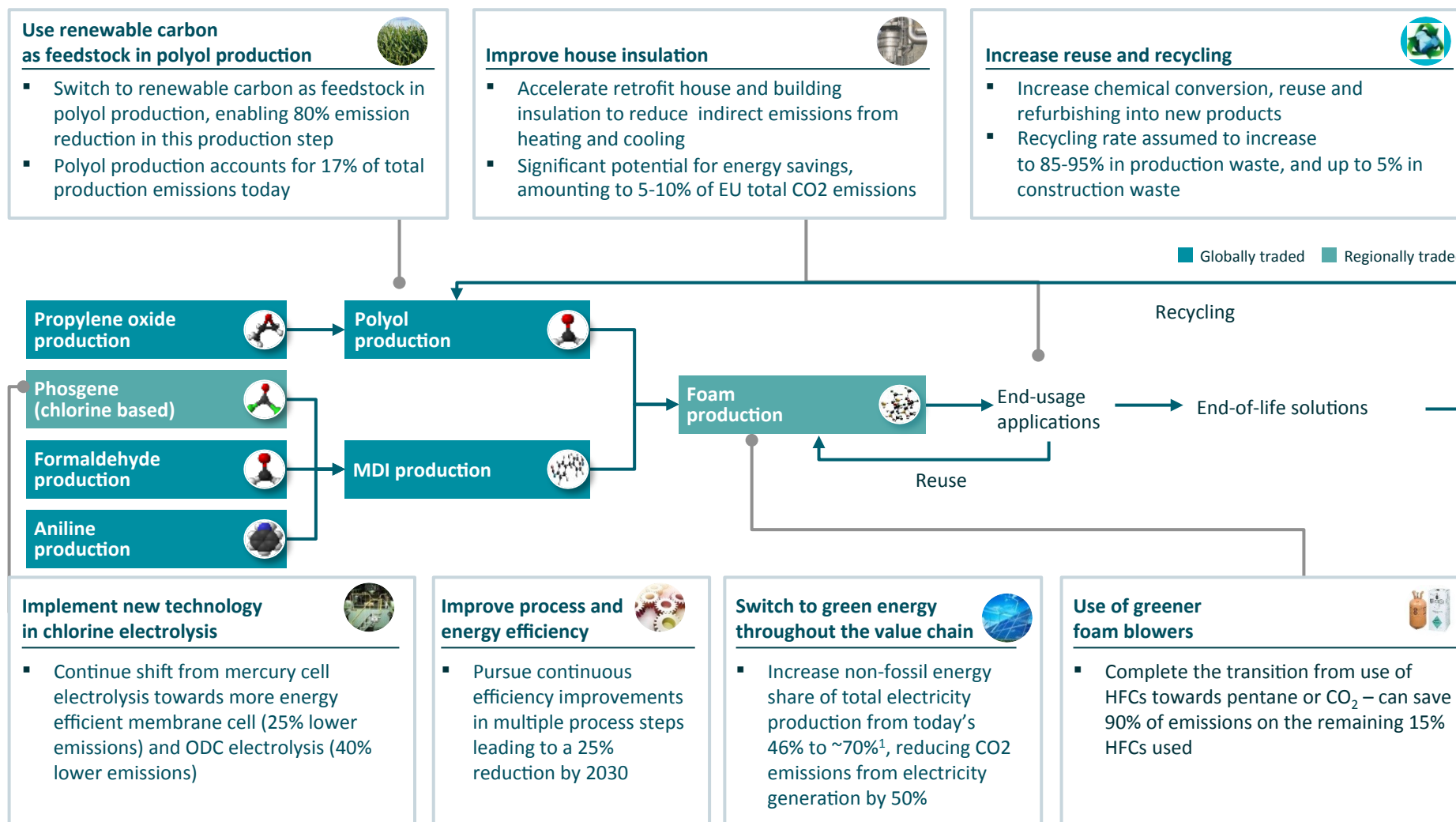


1 Includes transport emissions; 2 No reuse or recycling assumed because of low waste generation today; 3 Residual from Plastics Europe PU Eco-profile when excluding MDI and polyol emissions. Split between direct and indirect emissions assumed to be 50:50; 4 Data from PU, MDI and polyol Eco-profiles; 5 Depending on end-of-life solution. Energy recovery emissions amount to ~1.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e / ton PU; 6 Cradle-to-gate figures based on figures from Eco-profiles. Cradle-to-grave given by adding end-of-life solution; 7 Assuming energy recovery is used as disposal method for 50% of all PU

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Key abatement levers across the value chain



<sup>1</sup> Based on Enerdata Emergence Case

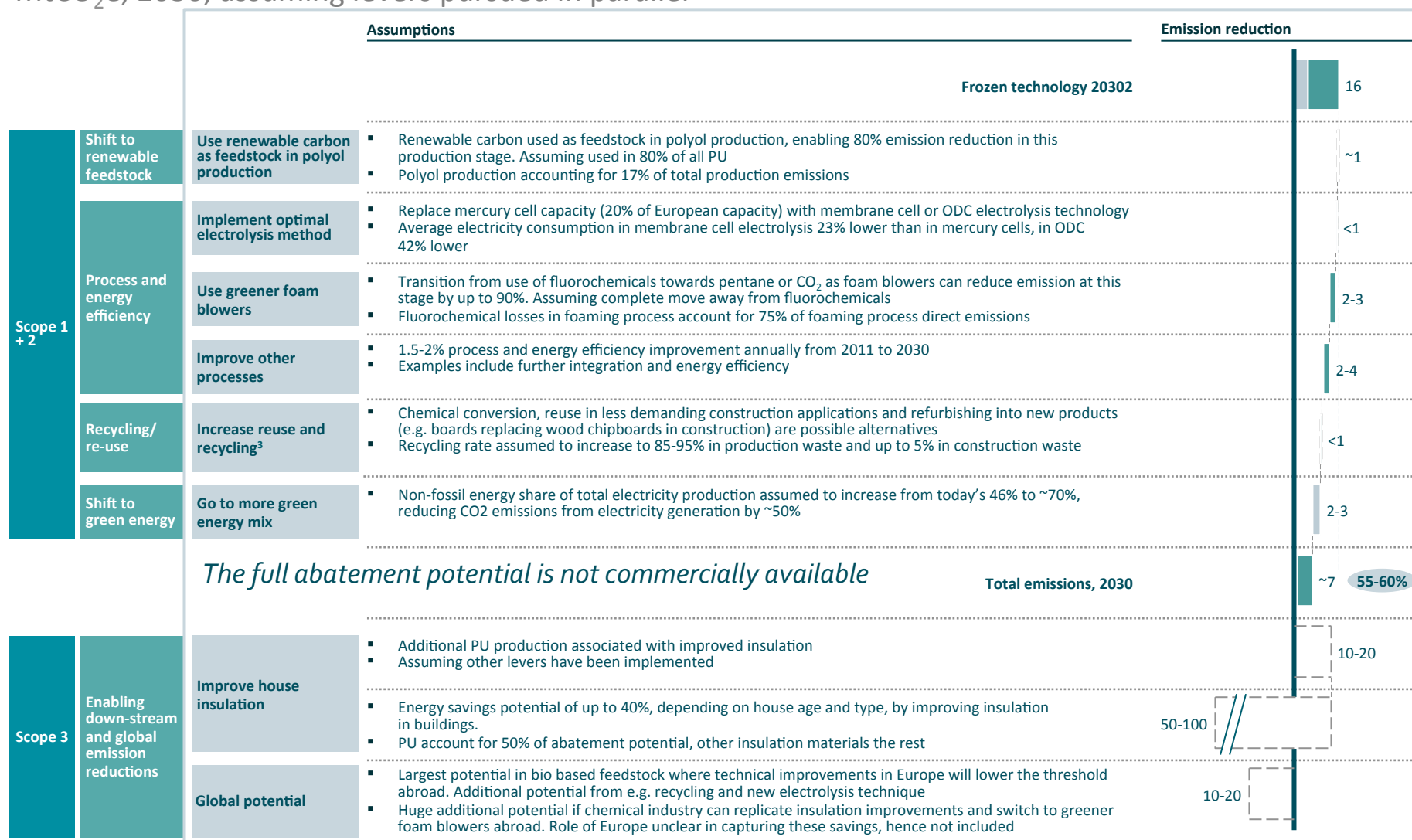
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of total emission reduction opportunity by 2030

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 2030, assuming levers pursued in parallel<sup>1</sup>

Indirect Direct



1 Individual levers have larger potential if pursued alone; 2 Assuming same carbon footprint as today with 5% production growth rate per year; 3 Including additional transportation and process emissions (10% reduction of abatement)

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews

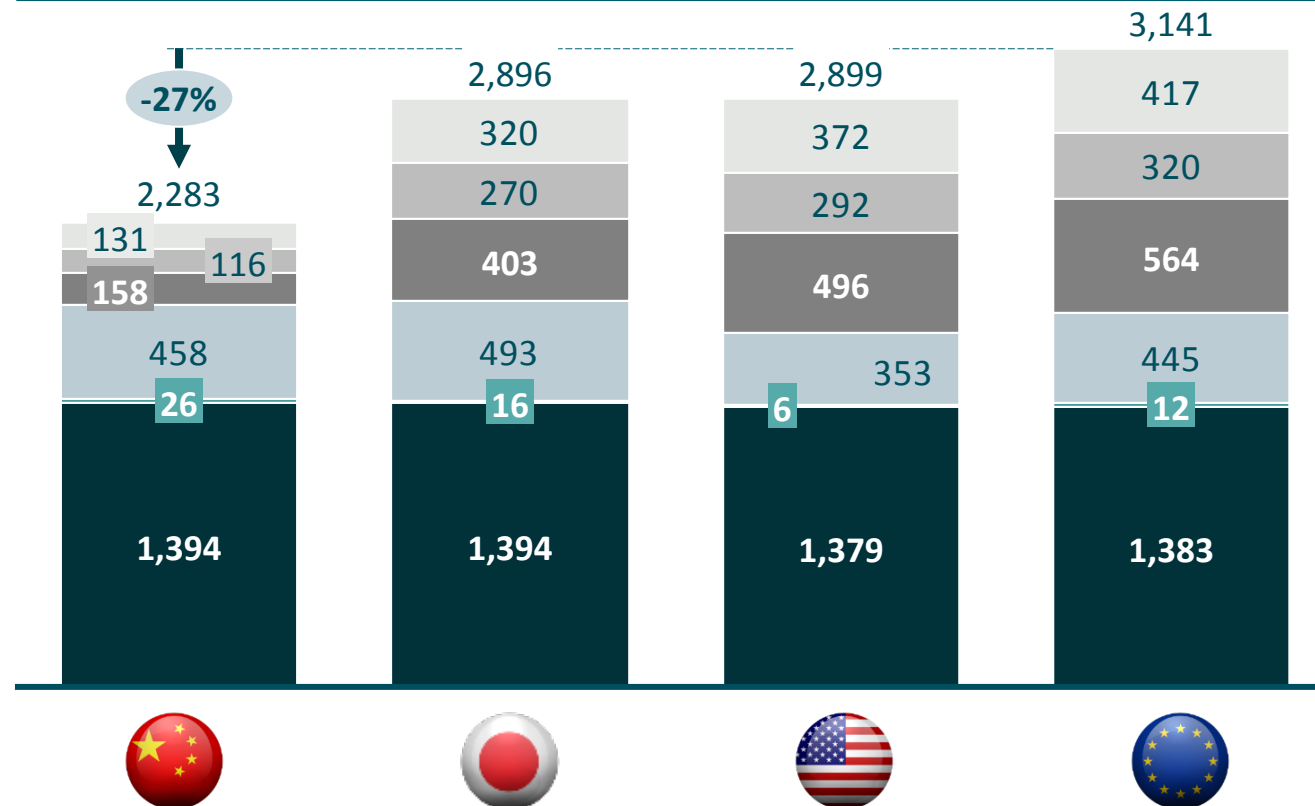
# REGIONAL PRODUCTS/PROCESSING: RIGID POLYURETHANE

## Polyurethane regional production cost

SG&A Direct labor Electricity  
Maintenance and plant overhead Other variable cost Raw materials

### Plant gate cost for generation of base PU (without additives<sup>1</sup>) across different geographies<sup>2</sup>

USD/ton PU, 2012



- Raw material and other variable costs are largely similar across regions
- Labor-related costs make a large difference in production costs
  - In WE, almost half the cost of PU is labor, maintenance, overhead and SG&A
  - In China, they only make up ~20%

1 Additives add 30-50% cost to PU

2 5 kta PU plant using purchased TDI, integrated PO and polyether polyols

SOURCE: McKinsey margin models

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# Introduction to polyalphaolefins<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction to PAO<sup>2</sup>

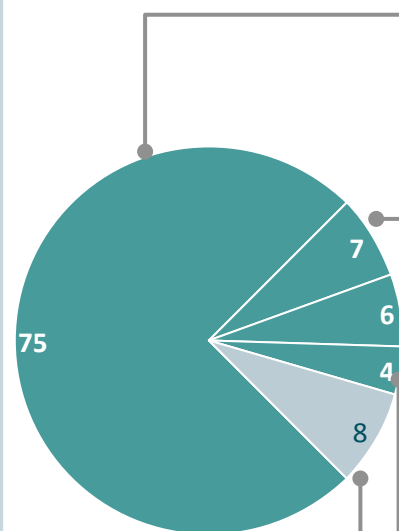
- **PAOs used mainly as base fluid for lubricating oils**
  - **PAO** as base fluid (Group IV classification) **with ~50% share** in synthetic lubricant base fluid segment
  - **5% share of total lubricant market**
- **High-performance lubricant properties** (e.g., viscosity, low temperature resistance, low pour point)
- **Replaces mineral-oil-based base fluids** (Group I-III) in selected applications due to higher purity/performance and despite its higher costs
- Produced by integrated oil companies or chemical companies, e.g., ExxonMobil and Dow
- Close collaboration, e.g. through EOM certification, making it a customer/ service intensive product

## Key facts

- **Total European production: 213 thousand metric tons**
- **Total emissions: 0.8-1.4<sup>3</sup> MtCO<sub>2</sub>e** (4.5-6.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per ton PAO)
- Produced through the polymerization of an alpha-olefin

## PAO applications, percent

- Lubricant applications
- Non-lubricant applications



### Automotive engine oils

- Component in high-performance engine oils, both for gasoline (largest part) and diesel engines



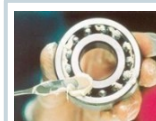
### Automotive gear oils

- Increased gear train operating temperatures and trend towards sealed-for-life gearboxes has increased demand for fully synthetic gear lubricants



### Industrial applications

- Stationary diesel engines, paper machines and wind turbine gear boxes



### Other lubricant applications

- Automotive hydraulic fluids in fill-for-life applications
- Bearing lubrications, particularly in miniature and instrument ball bearing industry



### Non-lubricant application

- Heat transfer, dielectric and insulation fluids

<sup>1</sup> Polyalphaolefins used in synthetic lubricants, i.e., not polyethylene or other polyolefins

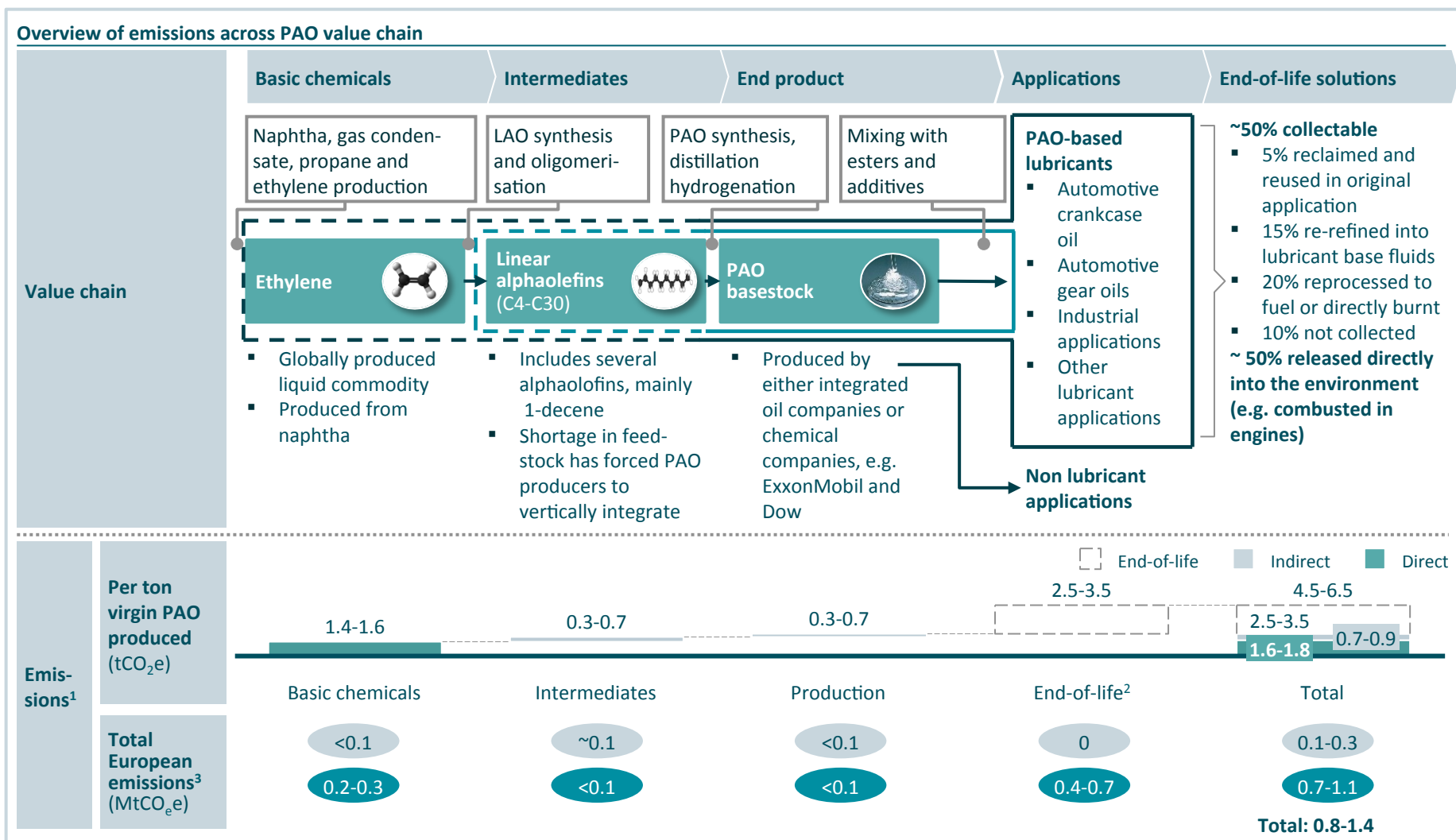
<sup>2</sup> Polyalphaolefins

<sup>3</sup> Lower range assuming 20% recycling/reuse, upper range assuming no recycling/reuse

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of value chain and associated emissions

 Integrated oil companies Chemical companies

1 Assuming same emissions as HDPE-production (given similarity in production method), one extra polymerization step is added to account for PAO synthesis. Polymerization steps also scaled up by up to 30% to represent higher complexity and lower scale in PAO production; 2 Assuming incineration is final end-of-life solution; 3 Lower range assuming 20% recycling/reuse rate, upper range assuming no recycling/reuse  
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Key abatement levers across the value chain

## Switch to bio-ethylene as feedstock



- Up to 50% of ethylene replaced with bio-ethylene by 2030, with 40% emission reduction per ton ethylene
- Possibility of using bio-ethylene varies, depending on lubricant characteristics and plant configurations

## Increase collection rate



- Through technological advancements and legislation, share of lubricants that is collectable assumed to increase from 50% to 60%
- Share of collectable lubricants that is collected assumed to go from 80% to 95%
- Collection more viable within large applications (e.g ships)

## Increase reuse and re-refining rate



- Today only 13% of collected synthetic lubricants are reused in similar applications, in addition 38% are re-refined into new base oils
- Total reuse-and re-refining rate assumed to increase to 75% of collected lubricants
- Separating PAO from other lubricants in collection face is a challenge

Ethylene



Linear  
alphaolefins  
(C4-C30)



PAO  
basestock



PAO-based  
lubricants

Non lubricant  
applications

End-of-life solutions

## Move towards bio-based base oils



- Metathesis technology and BBOs2 are possible bio-based alternatives, with up to 80% lower GHG emissions than PAO
- Replaceability of PAO remains challenge. In 2030, up to 50% could be possible

## Improve process and energy efficiency



- Continuous efficiency improvements in multiple process steps leading to a 25% reduction by 2030
- In line with historical emission and energy reductions

## Switch to green energy throughout the value chain



- Non-fossil energy share of total electricity production assumed to increase from today's 46% to ~70%<sup>1</sup>, reducing CO2 emissions from electricity generation by ~50%

## Switch group I-III lubricants for PAO



- More effective synthetic lubricants can reduce fuel consumption by 1-3%. This is applicable on 50% of the vehicle fleet
- PAO is used as base in 50% of more effective lubricants

<sup>1</sup> Based on Enerdata Emergence Case; <sup>2</sup> Biosynthetic base oils

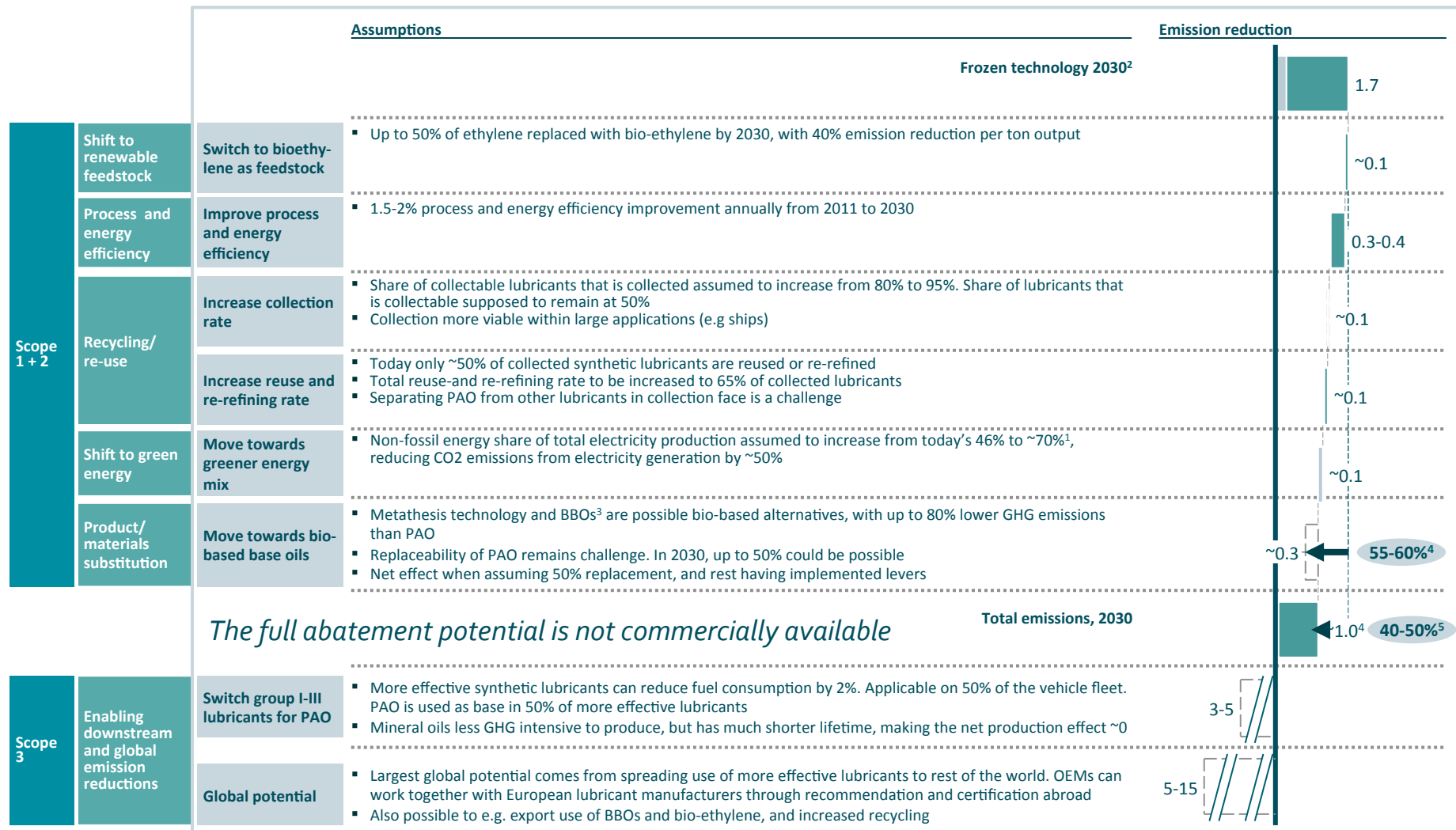
SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of total emission reduction opportunity by 2030

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 2030, assuming levers pursued in parallel<sup>1</sup>

Indirect Direct



1 Individual levers have larger potential if pursued alone; 2 Assuming same carbon footprint as today with 2% production growth rate per year (European consumption growth prediction); 3 Biosynthetic base oils; 4 Including shift to bio-based base oils; 5 Excluding shift to bio-based base oils

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



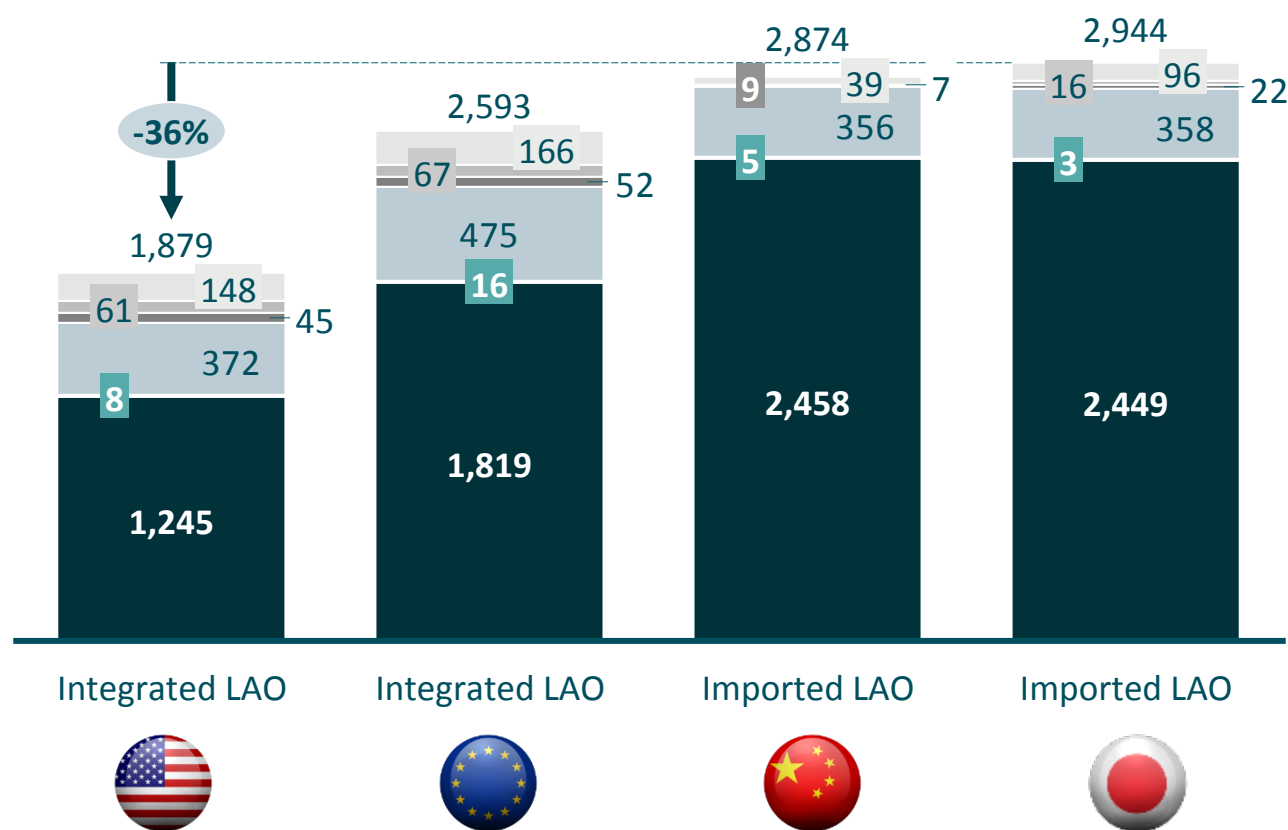
CUSTOMER/ SERVICE INTENSIVE PRODUCTS: POLYALPHAOLEFINS

## Polyalphaolefins regional production cost



### Plant gate cost for generation of polyalphaolefins across different geographies<sup>1</sup>

USD/ton PAO, 2012



- NA and WE cost significantly lower than China/NEA cost, primarily due to raw material costs
  - Asia requires LAO imports from Europe
  - NA ethylene lower cost than WE

1 65 kta PAO plant. US and WE plants integrated with LAO plant, NEA and China purchasing imported LAO from WE

SOURCE: McKinsey margin models

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- Polyvinyl choride (PVC)
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- **Carbon fiber reinforced plastics**



# Introduction to carbon fiber reinforced plastic

## Introduction to CFRP

- CFRP (carbon fiber reinforced plastic) is made of carbon fiber and a resin (a matrix material)
  - Carbon fiber is a **long, thin strand of material** consisting of ~95% carbon
  - Most common resin is **epoxy**, another example is polyester
- Key properties of CFRP include **high stiffness, strength and durability**
- Widely used in **aerospace, automotive and wind energy sectors**
- Highly expensive material**, which is the main barrier for broader use today, significant research ongoing

## Key facts

- Production of ~15 thousand metric tons** in EU 2012
- Total emissions: 300-400 thousand metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e** ( ~25-28 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per ton CFRP)
- Demand growth of **~15% between 2009 and 2012**, mainly driven by increased usage in production of aircraft
- Concentrated market where **few players control majority of the world's capacity**, e.g. Toray and Toho Tenax
- Different precursors can be used although **PAN precursor constitutes ~90% of production**

## CFRP applications

### Strong demand growth in many markets

- CFRP sees strong growth potential in all major markets from different drivers



#### Automotive

- Fuel efficiency trends increase need for lightweight constructions



#### Wind energy

- Regulations and incentives to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increase wind power
- Large diameter turbines off-shore



#### Aviation

- Increased use in aircrafts, replacing metal parts
- Growing aircraft deliveries



#### Engineering

- Growing demand in infrastructure repair and replacement market
- Applications include, e.g., bridges



#### Sporting goods

- Growth largely dependent on discretionary spending and shift of material



#### Other

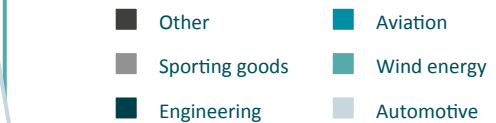
- Growth areas include e.g. pressure vessels in natural gas vehicles and high-speed ferries

### Estimated production growth

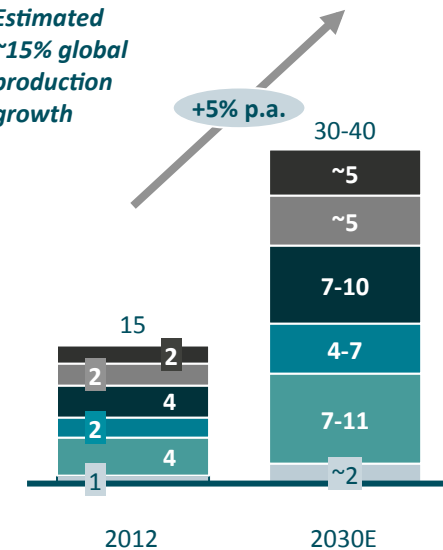
- Due to high labor and energy costs, growing demand in Europe will likely be met by increased imports to large extent
- Expected EU27 capacity growth of 0-5% p.a.- yet, significant upside

#### Production

EU27, thousand tons



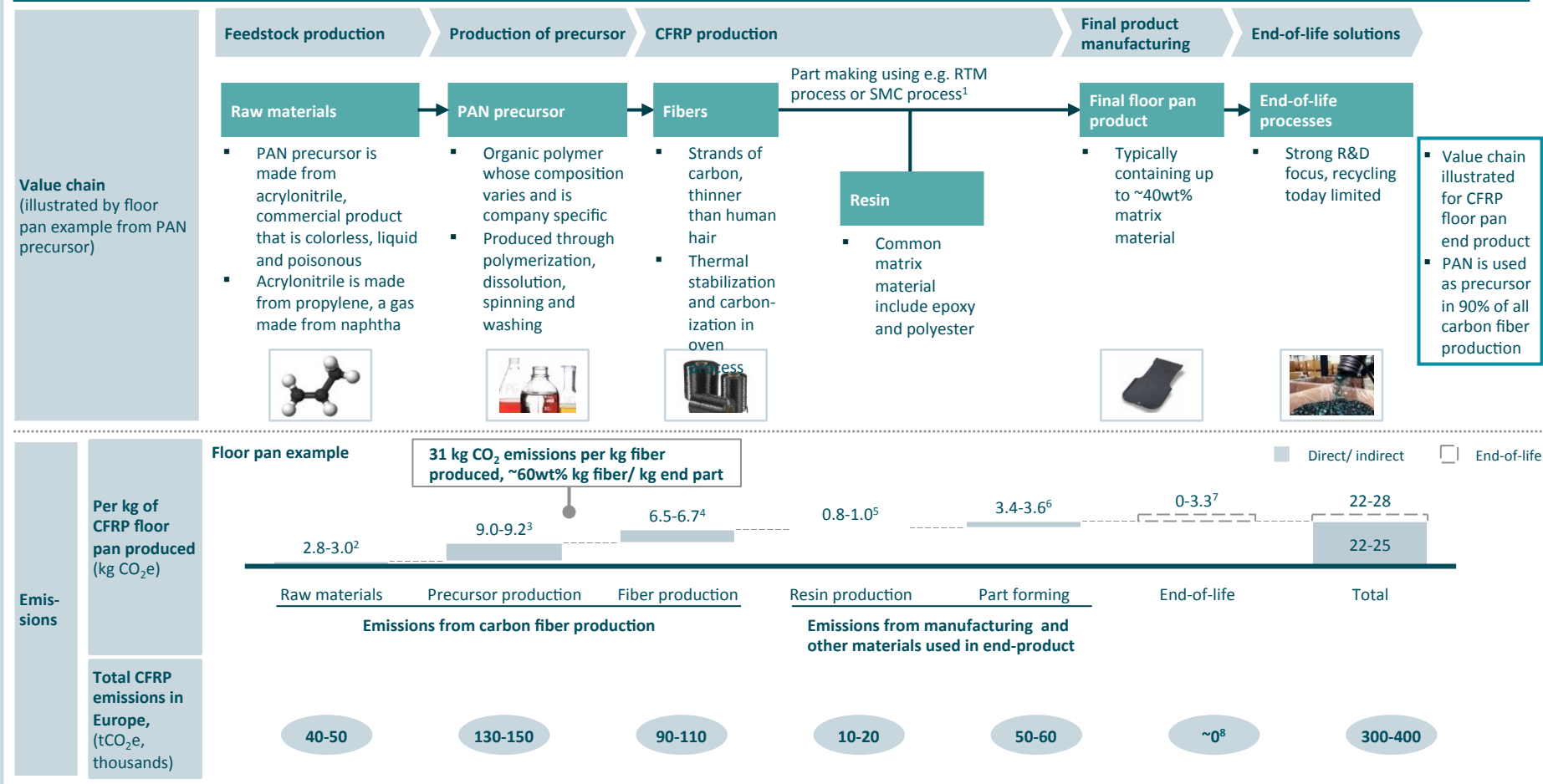
*Estimated  
~15% global  
production  
growth*





# Overview of value chain and associated emissions

## Overview of emissions across CFRP value chain



Note: Based on total European production of 15 thousand metric tons 2012

1 RTM (resin transfer molding) used for high-volume production and SMC (sheet molding compound) used for low volume production, the fiber and resin can be combined through e.g. forming prepreg or preform; 2 Include production/extraction of naphtha, propylene production from naphtha and acrylonitrile production from propylene; 3 Energy intensive step from spinning; 4 Include heating up to 1,500°C; 5 Assuming production emissions of 2.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/ ton polyester resin, 40wt% polyester/ kg CFRP; 6 Here illustrated by SMC; 7 Incineration most CO<sub>2</sub> intensive choice of end-of-life solutions with ~3.3 ton CO<sub>2</sub>/ ton CFRP; 8 Currently little CFRP going EOL

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Key abatement levers across the value chain

## Shift to alternative precursors in carbon fiber production



- 20% emission reductions in carbon fiber production if lignin can be industrialized compared to PAN-precursor based fibers
  - Still technical advancements required, research ongoing
- Shift to oil-based polyethylene
  - Less potential than lignin but more feasible

## Increase use of recycled carbon fiber in production



- Currently only certain types of carbon fiber can be recycled
- Boeing has identified potential to reduce production costs with ~70% and energy use requirements with >98%

## Replace steel used in cars with CFRP



- Replacing steel with CFRP in body structure can reduce weight of standard car by ~200kg
- Emission reduction of 8.4g/ 100kg weight reduction (standard car) per km
- Main barrier for large scale use is current cost, which is expected to decrease rapidly



## Switch to green energy



- Non-fossil energy share of total electricity production to be increased from today's 46% to ~70%<sup>1</sup>, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity generation by ~50%

## Improve process and energy efficiency



- Potential improvement of >50% in energy efficiency
- Energy efficiency not in focus today as stable processes are still deemed most important
- Areas of improvement include precursor production<sup>2</sup>, precursor processing<sup>3</sup>, and part making<sup>4</sup>

1 Based on Enerdata Emergence case

2 E.g., using melt-spinning rather than solution spinning

3 E.g., substitute for oven based process for fiber stabilization and oxidation

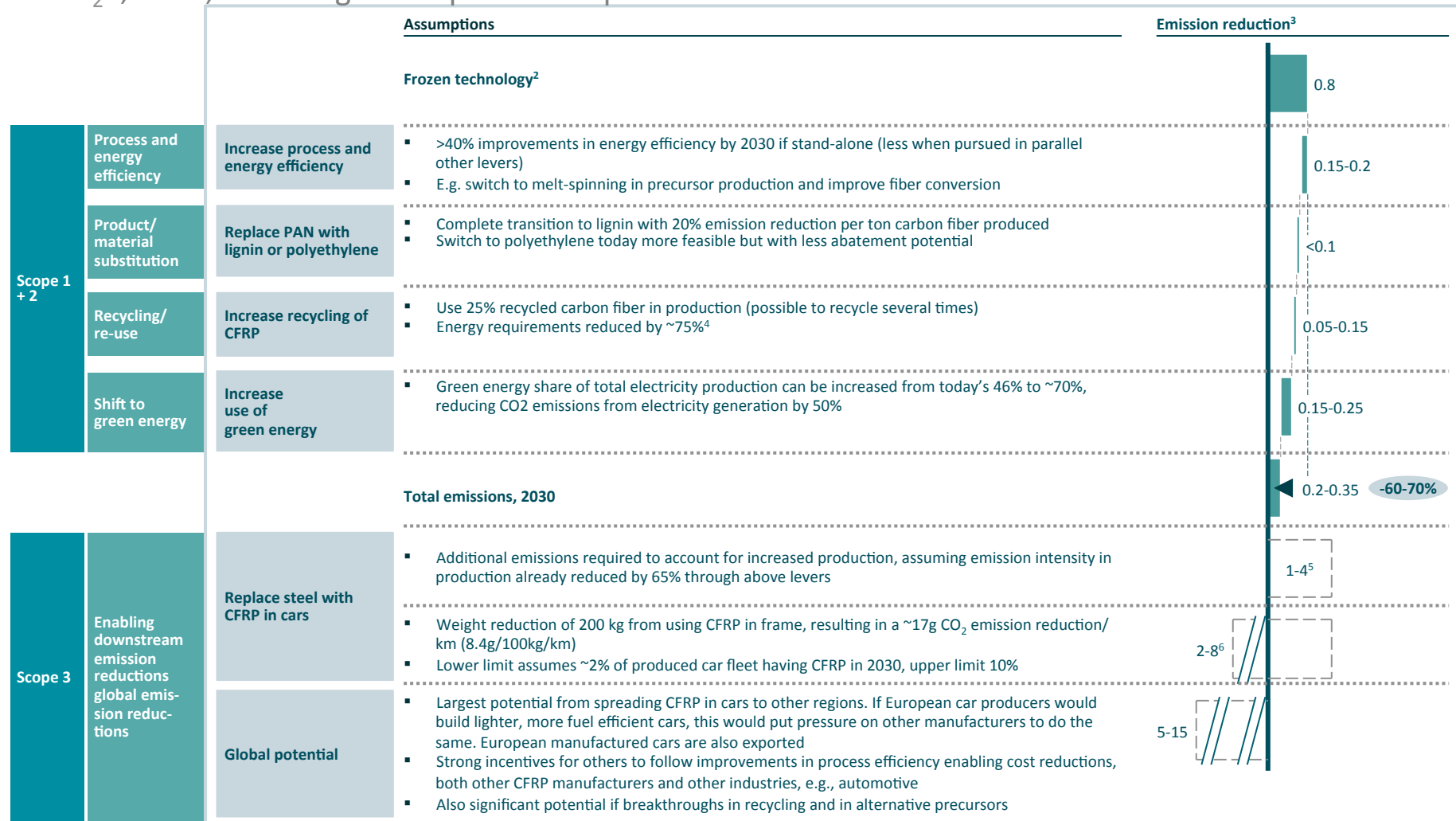
4 E.g., reducing cycle times by adapting faster curing resins

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews



# Overview of total emission reduction by 2030

MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, 2030, assuming levers pursued in parallel<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Individual levers have larger potential if pursued alone

<sup>2</sup> Assuming 5% production growth from 2012

<sup>3</sup> Split direct/ indirect estimated based on target steps of levers

<sup>4</sup> Conservative vs. Boeing's estimates

<sup>5</sup> Additional production emissions (not likely from production within EU) required to reach CFRP penetration of 2-10% in automotive, split on assumed car life time of 13 years

<sup>6</sup> Annual emission reductions in the automotive industry

SOURCE: Analysis based on industry reports and interviews

*The full abatement potential is not commercially available*