



ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA EL DESARROLLO INDUSTRIAL

Progreso mediante la innovación



Success factors of Sustainable Industrial Zones: Lessons learned from around the globe

Lima, 25th of November 2025

Prof. Dr. Hannes Utikal

Frankfurt, Germany



Agenda



1. Introduction
2. Status Quo and Perspectives of Industry in Peru
3. Role of Sustainable Industrial Zones in Sustainable development
4. Success factors of Sustainable Industrial Zones
5. Conclusion



Prof. Dr. Hannes Utikal



- Professor for Management and Sustainability at Provdadis University of Applied Sciences
- Head of the Center for Industry and Sustainability
- Based at the industrial park Frankfurt/Höchst Germany
- Co-editor of the Journal of Business Chemistry
- 15 + years of experience with sustainable industrial park management
- National and international innovative education and consultancy projects



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Industrial Park Frankfurt Höchst

Founded 1863



Goal: economically successful and climate-neutral by 2045





Center for Industry and Sustainability (ZIN) Think and do tank for sustainable industry at Industriepark Höchst



Höchst Industrial Park

Mission:
We support the industry in its sustainable development

Transforming Industries



We are supporting the industry to become more sustainable, reduce CO₂ emissions and benefit from digitalization. Through our projects we identify options for industry defossilization and new business development.

Accelerating Sustainable Businesses



We conceptualized the EIT Climate-KIC cleantech accelerator and managed it both regionally and internationally. We offer start-ups mentorship and support with sustainable business model development. For organizations we develop business creation and matchmaking formats.

Educating Change Makers



We create learning opportunities for national and international change makers. Our formats (e.g., workshops, trainings, summer schools) focus on real-life challenges and bring latest knowledge in effect. We make knowledge work!

20+ high-impact projects on regional, national and global scale with partners from academia, industry and public authority.

Key facts since 2016



Cooperations with
50+ companies



350+ start-ups in
13 countries supported



2.500+
participants in our
education formats



Activities with a funding
of **18** million euros

Selected Projects

CO₂ -Neutrality:
Process4Sustainability
cluster



Process4Sustainability



Management of European
Cleantech Accelerator



Sustainable Industrial Area (SIA)
Management Courses with GIZ



Projects with impact in
30+ countries



- Heck, J.; Utikal, H.; Leker, J. (2024): Industrial symbiosis as enabler and barrier for defossilization: The case of Höchst Industrial Park, Environmental Technology & Innovation, 36, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eti.2024.103850>.
- Winters, B. (2023): Sustainable industrial area management: Using the materiality analysis at a multi-stakeholder industrial park to align activities, In: Journal of Business Chemistry. 20(2), June 2023, p. 129-135, DOI: 10.17879/30069520281
- Loewert, M.; Utikal, H.; Heck, J. (2023): Transform the European process industries: A multi-level perspective (extended editorial), In: Journal of Business Chemistry, 20(2), June 2023, p. 75-86, DOI: 10.17879/30069520775
- Utikal, H. et al.: Industry 4.0 in Sustainable Industrial Areas in Emerging and Developing Countries: Applicability of Technologies and the Role of the Park Management. published by GIZ 2019.



**Process⁴
Sustainability**

HESEN



Hessisches Ministerium
für Wirtschaft, Energie,
Verkehr und Wohnen



**Sustainable
Industrial Area
Management**



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Global Economy 2025



Risks

1. Escalation of trade barriers
2. Policy uncertainty and weak confidence
3. Technology and sustainability-transition stress
4. Weak momentum in advanced economies
5. Environmental / climate and extreme-weather shocks

Opportunities

1. Digital-and-technology adoption
2. Green transition and low-carbon investment
3. Emerging-market growth and diversification
4. Infrastructure and connectivity expansion
5. Global trade re-engineering / new value-chains

World Bank 2025

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/8816eb8e-c1b4-4f0b-8264-a8efd8ff7438/download>



Peru Economy Trends 2025



Risks

1. External vulnerability: trade policy uncertainty, commodity price swings
2. Domestic political and social instability
3. Productivity, institutional weakness and regional inequalities
4. Fiscal risks and public investment management
5. Climate- and environment-related vulnerabilities

Opportunities

1. Agribusiness and agro-export expansion
2. Tourism and cultural heritage economy
3. Mining / commodities in energy-transition context
4. Business-environment reforms & FDI attraction
5. Reducing territorial and productivity gaps via infrastructure investment

Peru - Country Economic Memorandum: Seizing Opportunities for Growth and Prosperity



Status Quo of Industry in Peru



Key figures (2025)

- **GDP per capita:** ~\$6,892 USD
- **Projected GDP growth:** 3.0%
- **Inflation:** Expected to remain within the 1-3% target range

- **Manufacturing:** 12-13% of GDP (mining and refining of minerals, steel, metal fabrication, and petroleum extraction and refining)

Peru's structural vulnerabilities:

- Highly dependent on commodity exports—especially mining
- Exposure to climate events such as El Niño continues to disrupt production and logistics.
- Diversification toward higher-value manufacturing and sustainable industrialization as an opportunity.
- Industrial zones on Peru with traditional models: provide basic infrastructure, utilities, and land leases, but few offer integrated environmental management or shared service systems.
- Policy momentum: The Circular Economy Roadmap for Industry 2020



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Role of Sustainable Industrial Zones in Sustainable development

Sustainable Industrial Zones

- Broad framework integrating economic, environmental, and social sustainability
- in the planning, construction, and management of industrial zones.

Eco-Industrial parks

- businesses cooperate with each other / local community to improve economic, environmental, and social performance.
- resource efficiency, circular economy, high standards of social and environmental management
- design, operation, governance

Special Economic Zones

geographic areas within a country with special regulatory, fiscal, and administrative arrangements to attract investment, promote export-oriented activities, accelerate industrial development, and test policy reforms.

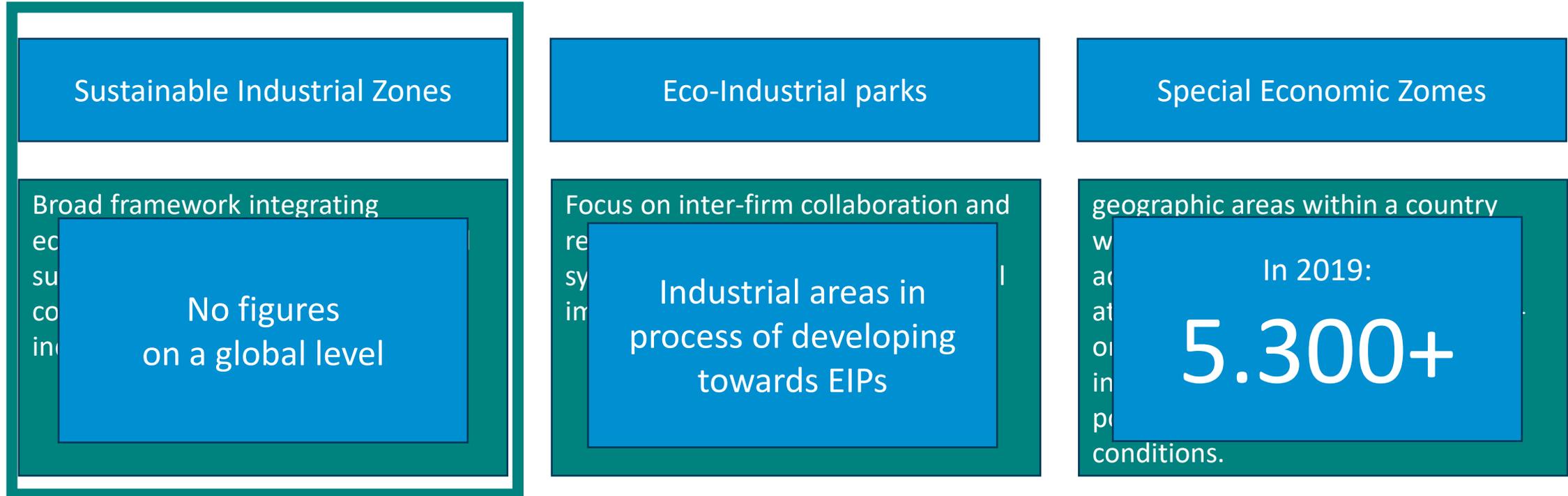
All Eco-Industrial Parks can be part of Sustainable Industrial Zones, but not all Sustainable Industrial Zones are Eco-Industrial Parks.

Sources:

GIZ (2017). *Sustainable Industrial Areas: Guidelines and Tools.*; UNIDO (2019). *International Guidelines for Industrial Parks*; UNIDO, World Bank & GIZ (2021). *An International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks v2.0.*; OECD (2020). *Eco-Innovation in Industry: Enabling Green Growth.*; World Bank (2025). *Leveraging Eco-Industrial Parks for a Sustainable Transition.*



Role of Sustainable Industrial Zones in Sustainable development



Insights from all three pillars of sustainable industrial zones will be used on the following.

Around 5,400 SEZs exist worldwide (UNCTAD 2019: <https://unctad.org/publication/world-investment-report-2019>) and about 438 eco-industrial parks were identified globally by 2020 (Aggeri 2021 via UNIDO EIP Framework: <https://www.unido.org/eip>)



Role of Sustainable Industrial Zones in Sustainable development



A Sustainable Industrial Zone is more than a collection of factories
it is a planned and managed industrial area that integrates environmental, social, and economic sustainability aspects
at every stage, from site selection and design to operation and governance



SIZ contribute directly to multiple sustainable development goals



- sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment
- decent work for all



- reduce resource needs,
- create closed loops,
- improve recycling and waste management



- resilient, inclusive, and sustainable infrastructure, industrialization,
- innovation to support economic growth and human well-being



- Reduce CO₂-emissions
- resilience to climate-related disasters,
- climate-smart water management

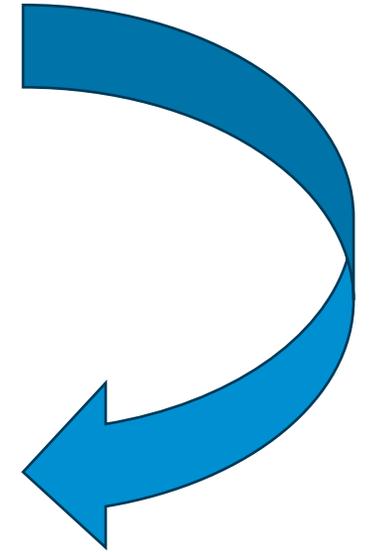
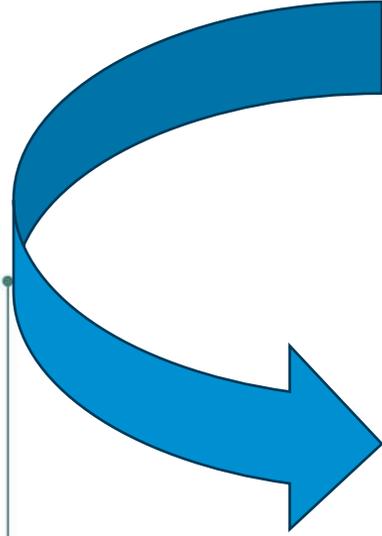


Benefits of sustainable industrial zones

Make use of the benefits of co-location:

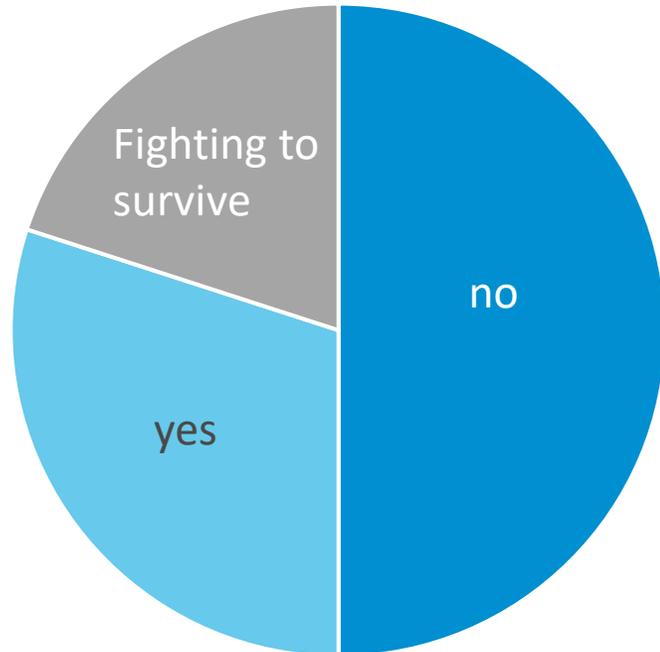
1. Shared infrastructure (energy, water, wastemanagement)
2. Optimized material flows
3. Shared services (security, medical service, fire fighter)
4. Shared public transportation and education facilities
5. Joint learning and improved innovation

SIZs can lower infrastructure costs, ease environmental oversight and promote collaboration among firms:
=> more jobs, less negative ecological impact





Are SEZ successful? 50+% of global SEZ are not



There is no single global failure rate, but evidence from UNCTAD, World Bank and OECD studies shows

- Around 50–70% of SEZs fail to meet their stated objectives
- Only 20–30% become true success cases with measurable industrialization, exports, technology spillovers and local job creation
- The rest are “survival zones” —operating but with limited economic impact



Ranking - Most important barriers to success

Rank	
1	Governance & regulatory weaknesses
2	Infrastructure shortcomings
3	No clear value proposition
4	Weak local integration / skills
5	Financial overextension

Based on cross-analysis of World Bank, UNCTAD, OECD research and >200 zone case studies



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What drives success?



What differentiates the successful 20–30%?

- Enabling policy and regulation
- Targeted incentives
- Clear competitive value proposition
- Stable governance with true regulatory facilitation
- Professional private or PPP zone management
- High-quality services, not just infrastructure
- Anchor investors and strong investment pipeline



1. Enabling Policies and Regulation



Effective SIZ implementation depends on supportive policy frameworks.

International experience shows that countries that define clear national standards for sustainable industrial zones achieve faster results (UNIDO, 2019; GIZ, 2017).

Aspects:

- planning,
- environmental management,
- social safeguards, and
- economic performance.

You may follow the eco-industrial park guidelines, too. (Worldbank, GIZ, UNIDO)



1. Enabling Policies and Regulation - Dubai JAFZA



Scale

- 11,000 companies
- 160,000 jobs
- “nearly 75 % of Dubai’s FDI in manufacturing, trade and transport”

Competitive incentives & infrastructure

- JAFZA offers 100 % foreign ownership, zero corporate tax, full repatriation of capital, and zero import/re-export duties.
- multimodal access (sea, air, road) to global markets

Recognition:

- Financial Times’ fDi Intelligence: #1 global free zone (2024), ‘Industrial Zone of the Year’ and ‘Top Sustainable Zone’.
- Sustainability agenda: net-zero by 2050, large renewable energy installations, waste diversion targets

Success factor: Enabling Policies and Regulation



2. Targeted Incentive Mechanisms



Incentive mechanisms are crucial.

Aspects:

- Tax reduction
- performance-linked utility rebates,
- tax incentives for resource-efficient technologies,
- fast-track permitting for certified zones.

Development banks can offer green financing for shared infrastructure projects such as wastewater treatment or renewable energy systems (OECD, 2020; World Bank, 2025).



2. Incentive Mechanisms – Example Albania



Maximize your profits with
Durana Tech Park!

Durana Residents		Non-Residents
0%	VAT	20%
0%	Corporate Income Tax	15%
0%	Employment Income Tax	0-23%
8%	Tax on Dividends	8%
€95/month	Social Contribution	24.5%
3.4%	Social & Health Employee	3.4%

Success factor: Targeted Incentive Mechanisms



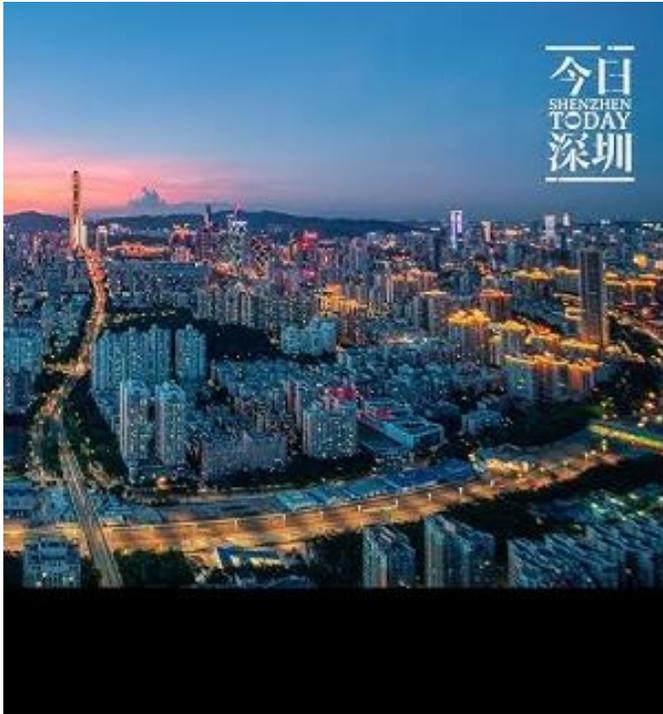
3. Clear Value Proposition



- Why should I invest in your industrial zone?
- What's in for me?
- And what can't I get somewhere else?



3. Clear Value Proposition - Shenzhen



Key facts

- Founded 1980
- Advantages: **proximity to Hong Kong (important for foreign direct investment (FDI)), technology transfer and export-oriented manufacturing.**
- Shenzhen was granted unusually broad legislative and administrative authority compared to other parts of China (allowed experimentation with market-oriented reforms)

Transition toward innovation and high-tech industries

- moved from low-cost manufacturing to higher value-added, tech and innovation industries.
- Today: reputation as an innovation hub.

Success factor: Clear Value Proposition

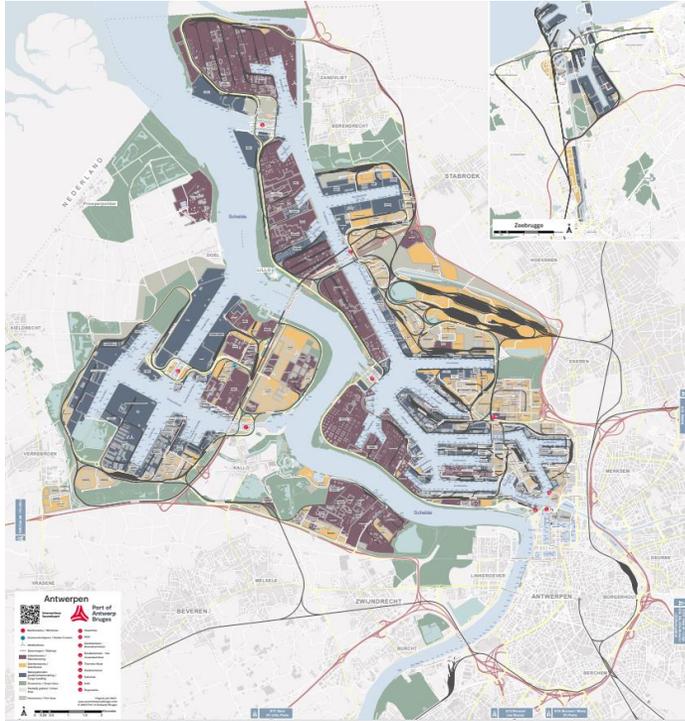


4. Effective Governance



- Clear reporting lines: The responsibilities for the industrial zone developments have to be clear. The zone managers should report to one single authority (e.g. one ministry) to ensure consistency in its development.
- Professional Zone Management: Each zone requires a dedicated management authority with clear mandates for planning, monitoring, and service delivery.
- Strong collaboration between business and government.
 - Co-designing standards and incentives encourages compliance and innovation.
 - Governments can provide streamlined permitting and infrastructure, while firms contribute investment and operational expertise.

4. Effective Governance – Port of Antwerp and Bruges



Key aspects

- 1) Among the largest ports in Europe
- 2) Logistics, energy, and raw material supply
- 3) Creation of H₂ and CO₂ networks for Northern Europe (CCUS)

Implications :

- Governance handles operational complexity (large ships, many terminals, high throughput).
- Need to align public/regional policy (e.g., sustainability, land use) with commercial competitiveness (terminal throughput, cost efficiency).
- Port authority acts as enabler/coordinator

Governance

- Landlord-type governance model; publicly-owned port authority,
- Board/Executive structure, responsible for infrastructure and strategic policy, private-operator models for terminal operations
- Strong emphasis on stakeholder networks, hinterland integration, and sustainability.

Success factor: Effective Governance and Professional Zone Management

4. Professional Zone Management



Traditional management skills „get things done“ plus

- Understanding of systems
- Networking
- Creating cooperations
- Cross-industry, cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Perseverance
- Monitoring & Learning

Success factor: Professional Zone Management



5. High quality services – not just infrastructure



Sustainable Industrial areas can support tenants in their economic success by a variety of value added-services

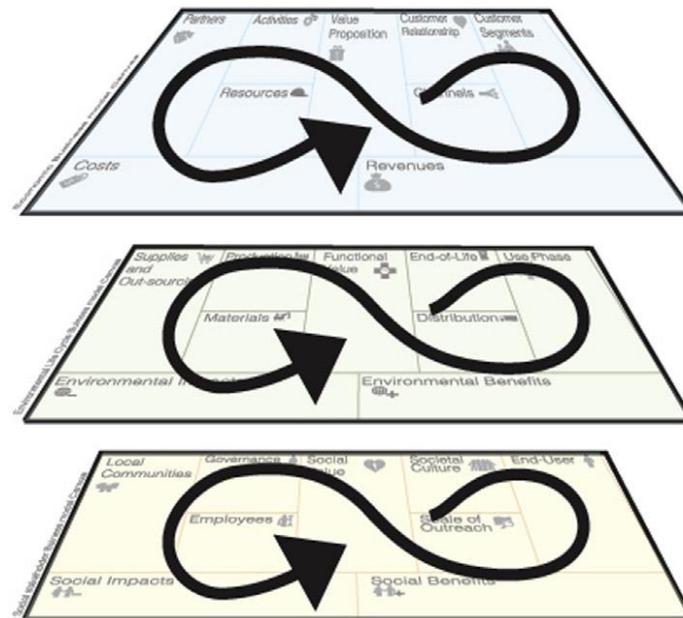
1. Infrastructure: labs, utility services, waste management, conference & event facilities, food & catering options, fitness / wellness facilities, retail services
2. Digital infrastructure: eg cloud hosting, cybersecurity services, homepage)
3. Community & governance services: digital platform, member directory, community forums,)
4. Coordinating services: One-Stop-services, central reception & information desk, administrative & regulator liaison,
5. Business support, visitor & partner services, company formation
6. Innovation, incubation & acceleration services
7. Cluster & community development
8. Internationalization and market access support
9. Smart management, eg ESG dashboards
10. Events, training & capacity building



6. Innovative business models



Horizontal Coherence

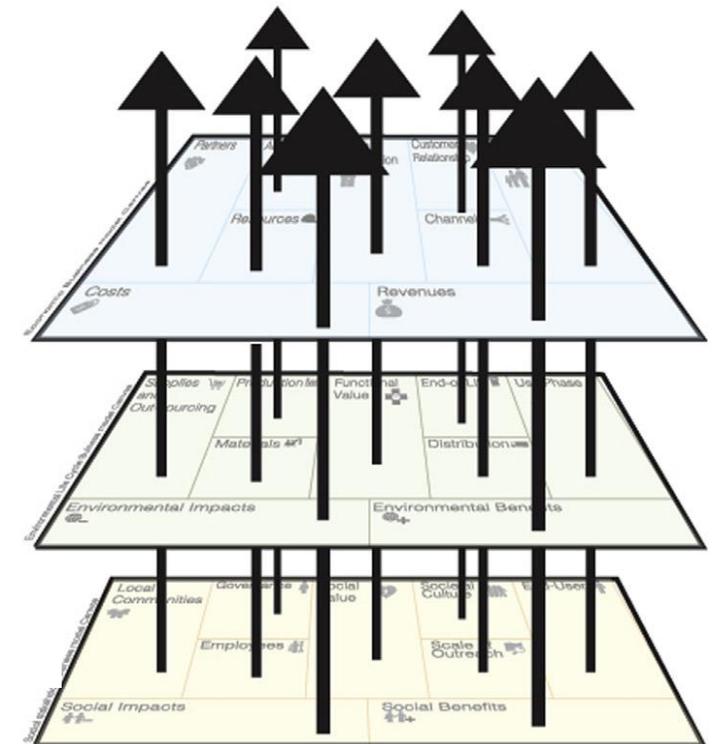


economic layer

environmental layer

social layer

Vertical Coherence



Source: Joyce, A. and Paquin R.L., (2016): The triple layered business model canvas: A tool to design more sustainable business models, Journal of Cleaner Production, 135, 1474- 1486.



6. Innovative business models – Industrial park Höchst

**Managed by
Infraserv Höchst**

**2.400 Employees
1.2 bn Euro revenue**

profitable

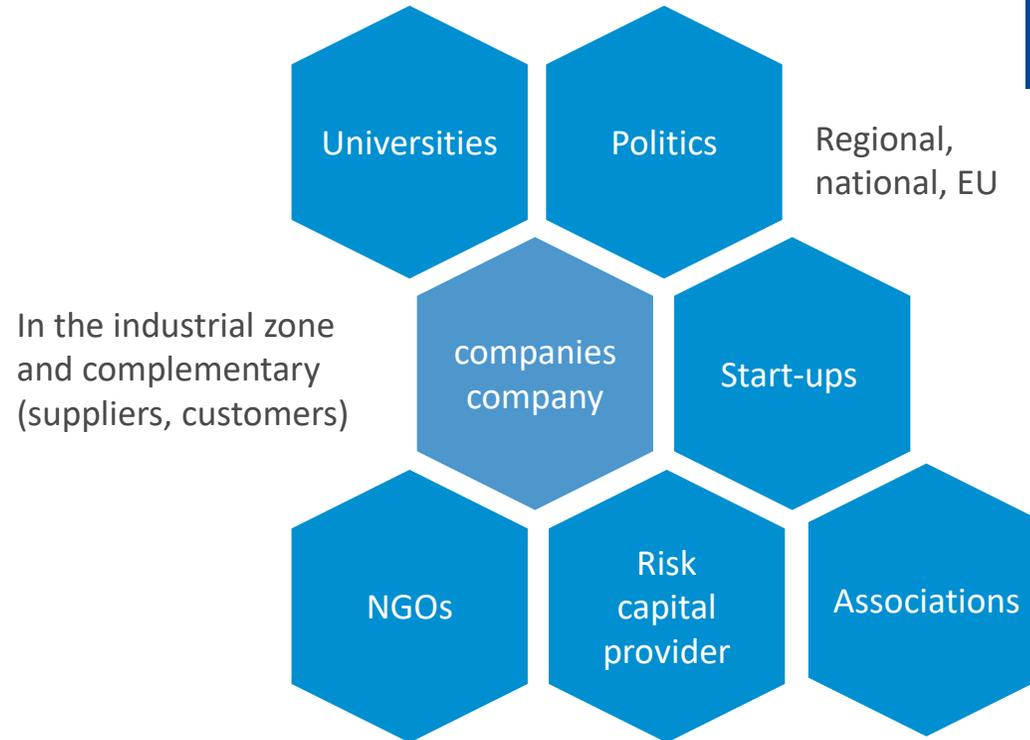
**Broad service portfolio:
Energy and waste management, facility
management, education (TVET; further
education, university of applied
sciences), management of public
authorities and others**



7. Collaboration and innovation



Manage the innovation ecosystem!



Value creation in the system: 1. Realize new ideas, 2. Access to know-how, 3. Access to finance

Three examples of the design of innovative ecosystems

Goals, content, financing and governance

**Industriepark Höchst
and the Process4Susta
cluster**



**Industrial park
Geelen, NL**



TEDA, China



Selected project	Process4Sustainability.eu, Cluster for a climate-neutral process industry in Hesse	Brightlands Circular Space	TEDA, Park Management and Center for Sustainability
Volume	250 thousand euros per year (office) plus projects	100 million euros invested in Innovation Space and Demonstrator	Not specified
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint illumination of transformation paths ▪ Project acquisition ▪ Public Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of an innovation ecosystem on the topic of "Circular Plastic" ▪ New product development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industrial symbiosis ▪ Central specifications and establishment of complementary companies



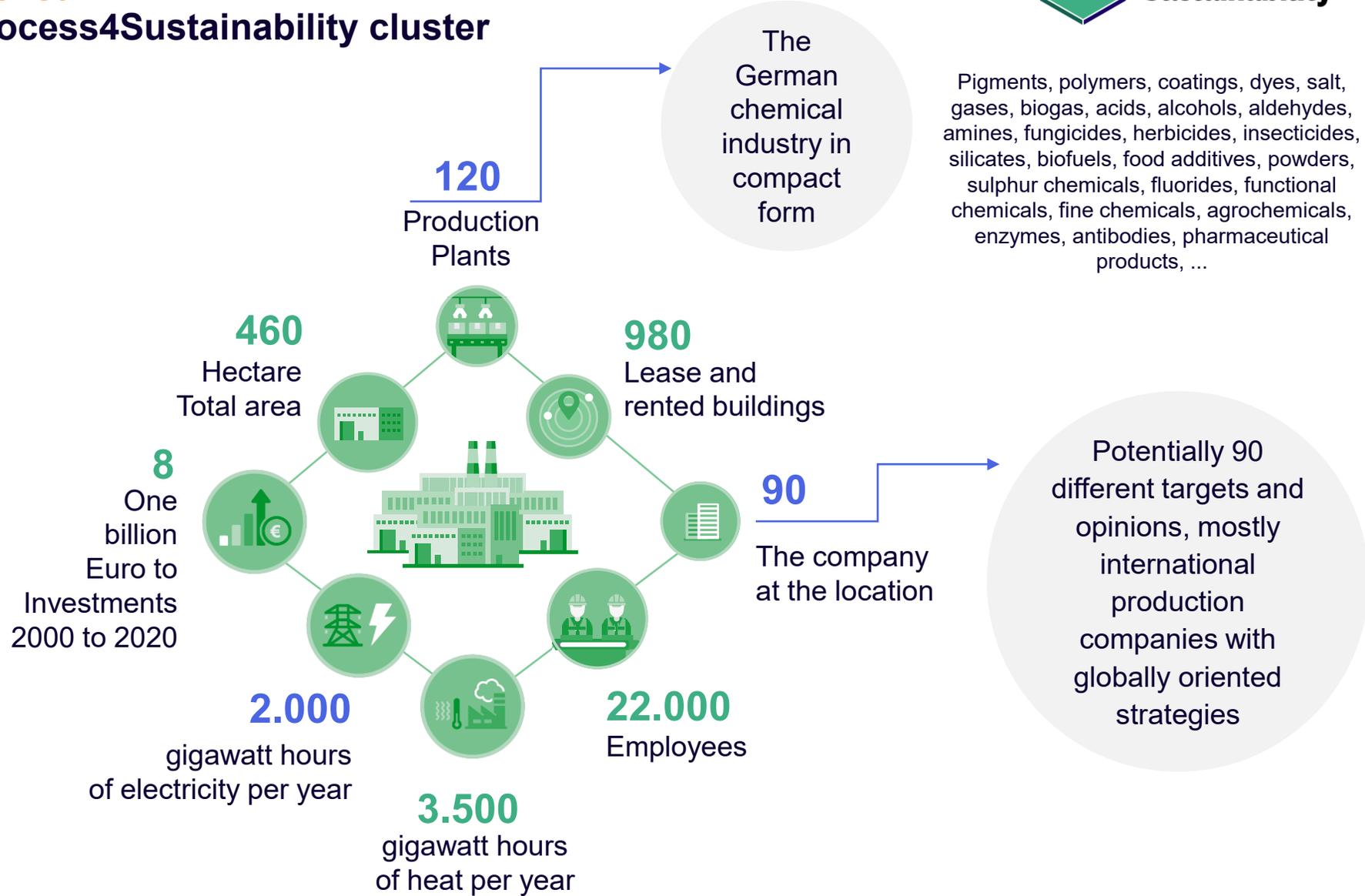


Industriepark Höchst

Mission of the Process4Sustainability cluster



Mission:
We want the transformation to be economically successful. succeed.





Process4Sustainability cluster

Shaping an economically successful transformation



The challenge

Europe wants to become CO₂ -neutral - as soon as possible, but by 2050 at the latest. The process industry and its partners are key to the success of this change: **together**, we can open up **new markets**, **save energy** and **raw materials**, **replace fossil** CO₂ sources and increasingly **use CO₂ as a resource** through **innovative solutions**.

Approach

Establishment and **management** of a **cluster**. We translate the goal of CO₂ neutrality for individual companies and the **specific local conditions** and offer our partners practical knowledge about the **levers** of CO₂ neutrality, new **markets** and innovative **business models**. We **create future markets** by connecting solution providers with the demand side.

Process4Sustainability is a platform for the Alliance of the Willing.

Industry partner



Innovation and solution partner





- Strong foundation: In the new funding period, the cluster will continue its previous work towards an economically successful transformation path.
- Multi-optionality: The transformation path must be able to flexibly accommodate changes in the external framework conditions (grid expansion, financing, geopolitics).

2024-2026

Stabilization phase

- Annual update of the transformation model
- Technology radar: Observing the 12 levers
- Update on the development of the infrastructural and regulatory framework for Industriepark Höchst (H₂, green electricity, CO₂ regulation (CCUS))
- Benchmarking the transformation of other EU locations (technology and business models)
- Cluster growth (in the industrial park plus external solution providers)
- Positioning in networks
- Funding acquisition and demonstration projects

2022-2023

Build-up phase

- CO₂ footprint determined
- Levers identified
- Transformation model developed
- Positioned in networks
- First funding acquired

2021

Initiation phase

Common understanding developed

UN Sustainable Development Goals for the Industrial park translated





Presentation Industrial Park Geleen, Netherlands



Chemelot Industrial Park

- 800 hectares of land
- 60 companies, large "site users": SABIC, OCI Nitrogen, DSM, LANXESS Elastomers, LVM-INEOS Chlorvinyls, Sekisui S-Lec, Borealis, Polyscope Polymers, QCP and EdeA
- 8,000 employees

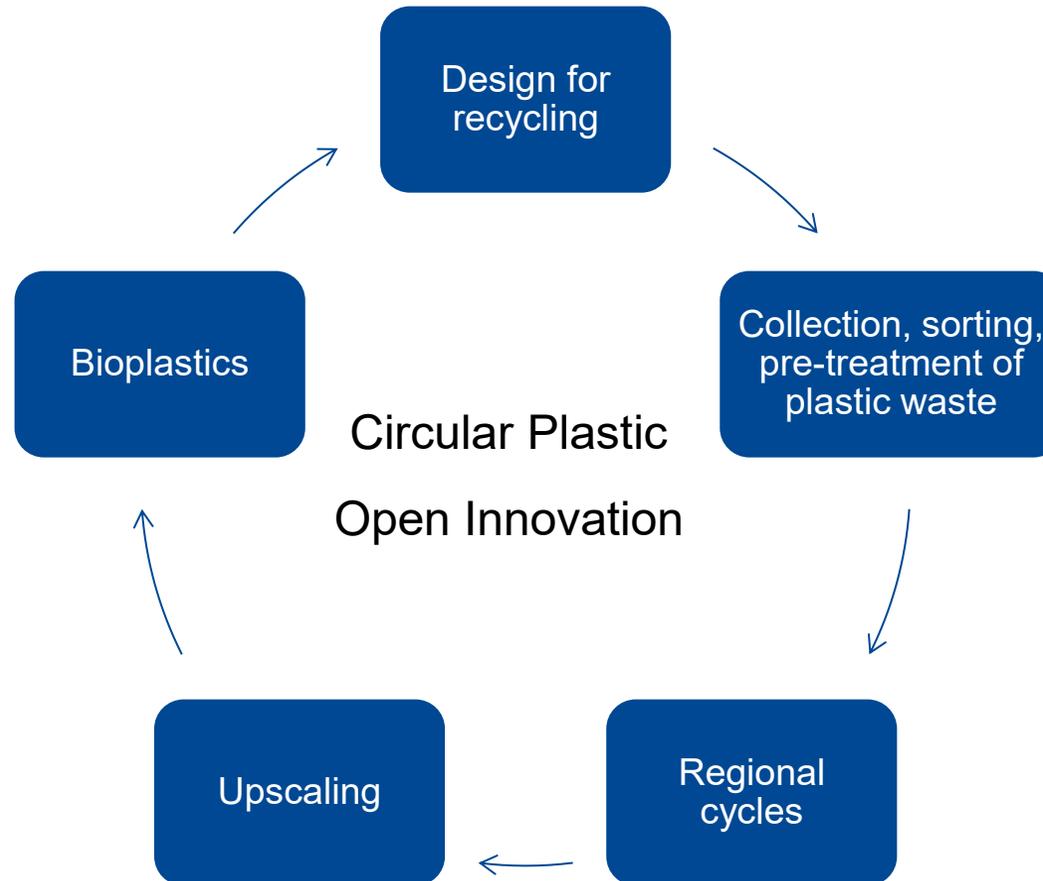
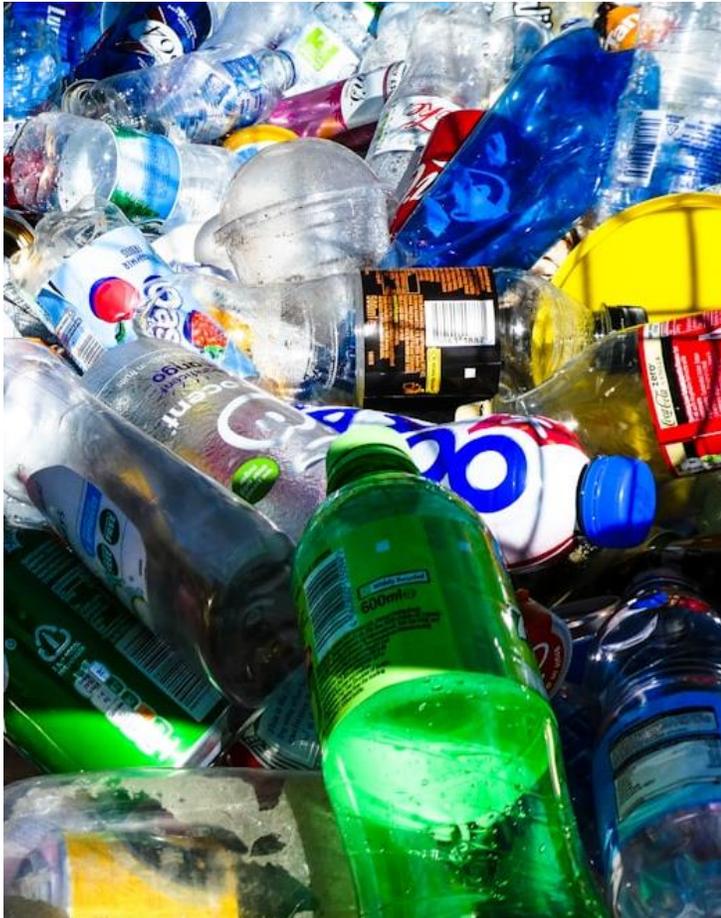
Brightlands Chemelot Campus

- Open Innovation Campus
- 21 companies and institutes (training, research, development and production)
- Ambitious development program
- 200 new patents per year
- 1,500 knowledge workers

Source: Presentation by Lia Voermans, President Steering Group
Brightlands Circular Space on 29.11.2023 in Geleen (Brightlands Circular Space: Making dreams come true)



Brightlands Chemelot Campus: Current project, focus on "Circular Plastic"



1. Infrastructure and R&D
2. New business models
3. New partnerships
4. City Lab: collaboration with end users

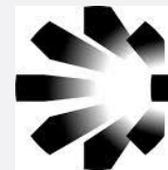
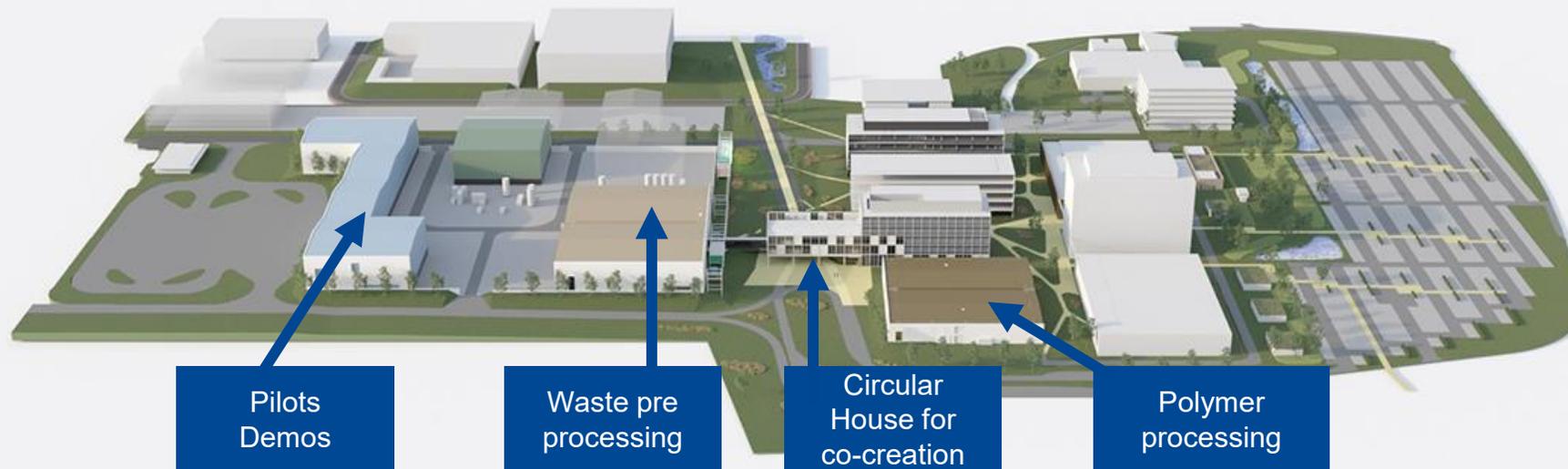
Source: Presentation by Lia Voermans, President Steering Group
Brightlands Circular Space on 29.11.2023 in Geleen (Brightlands Circular Space: Making dreams come true)



Brightlands Chemelot Campus: Focus on "Circular Plastic"

Start-ups and university directly in the industrial park

One of the world's first fully circular open space demonstrators



**Brightlands
Circular
Space**

Public private
partnership

Brightlands, Maastricht
University, TNO
+
Corporate investors
+
EU, national, regional

Investments:
2023-2026
100 million euros
in laboratories, offices,
production

Source: Presentation by Lia Voermans, President Steering Group
Brightlands Circular Space on 29.11.2023 in Geleen (Brightlands Circular Space: Making dreams come true)



Tianjin Industrial Zone China

1984



The **Tianjin Economic and Technological Development Area (TEDA)** is one of more than 220 national economic development zones in China
Its center is located in the Binhai district (port, commercial areas, residential areas)

Founded in 1984, today more than 3,000 international companies on site (including Novo Nordisk, Nestlé, Volkswagen)

Sectors: Manufacturing, information technology, renewable energy, chemicals and healthcare



2024



From 2009-2014 area developed for environmental technologies ("middle area")
Focus on the energy-saving and environmental protection sector, renewable energies, composite materials, electronics and information technology

Innovative:

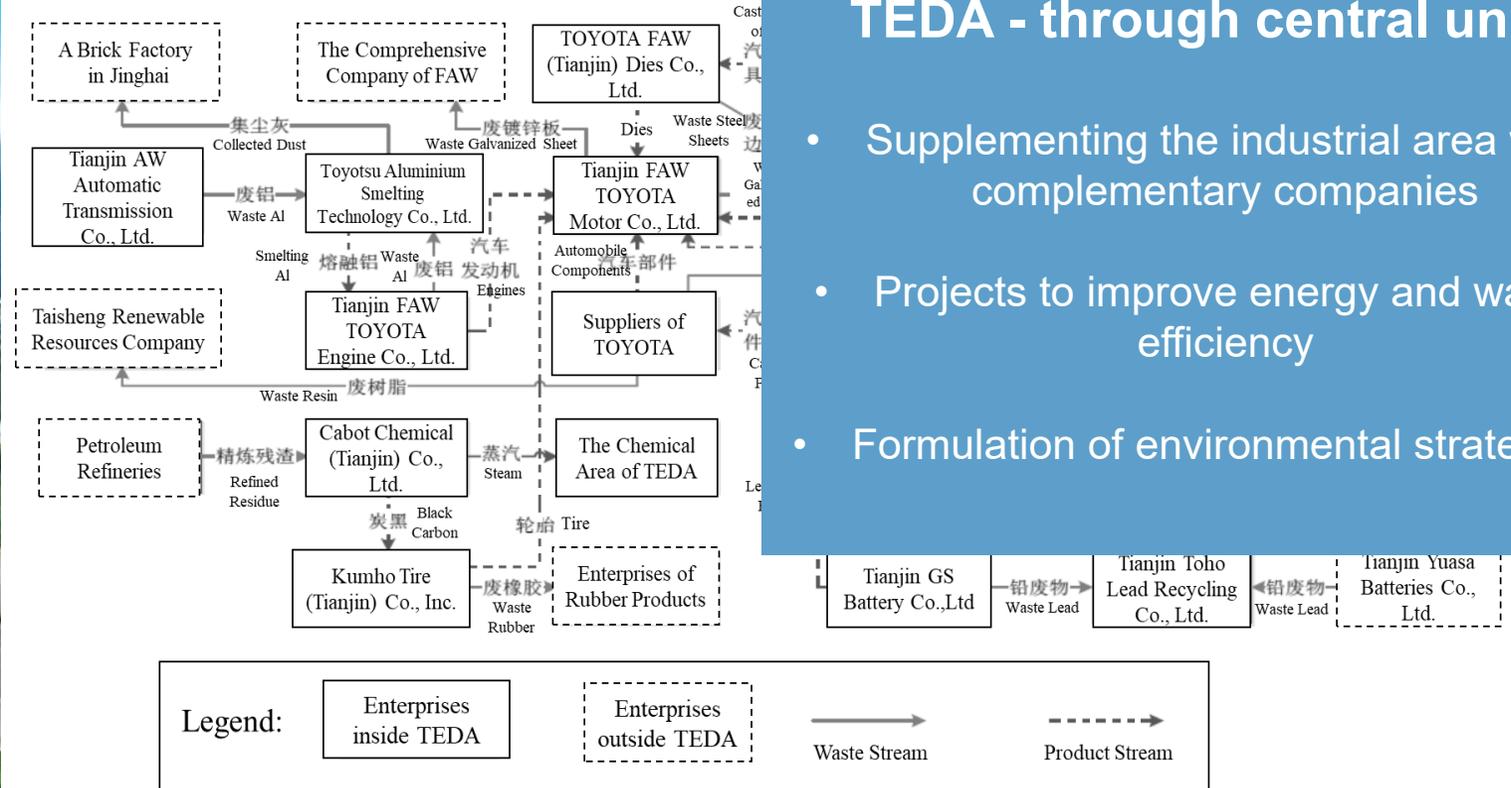
- Resource recycling projects for metals and industrial waste
- Research on CCUS
- Energy: electrification, photovoltaics, onshore wind power and geothermal energy

Source: [Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area \(teda.gov.cn\)](http://teda.gov.cn)



Tianjin Industrial Park, China

Industrial symbiosis in the industrial park and the region (2015)



TEDA - through central unit

- Supplementing the industrial area with complementary companies
- Projects to improve energy and water efficiency
- Formulation of environmental strategies



7. Collaboration and innovation



1. SEZ are platforms for the future: Industrial zones can use existing infrastructures as innovation hubs to attract new business and scale up innovative technologies.
2. They must actively build and manage topic-specific innovation ecosystems - and also work together with players from other sectors.
3. The respective approach to managing the innovation ecosystem is context-specific (objectives, content: financing, governance):
 -  Höchst: Focus on jointly analyzing transformation paths, funding programs and public advocacy
 -  Geleen: Open Innovation in the field of "Circular Plastics" - Investment in innovation infrastructures
 -  Tianjin: centrally managed further development of the innovation ecosystem (complementary industries and companies, environmental strategies)
4. Commonality: Innovative ecosystems focus on (regional) integration in order to strengthen themselves in the global competition between production locations.



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Conclusion



- Sustainable Industrial Zones represent a **practical pathway** for Peru to align industrial competitiveness with sustainability.
- By adopting international best practices—particularly in governance, collaboration, and innovation —Peru can build a **new generation of industrial infrastructure** that supports both economic growth and environmental protection
- The recommended actions are clear: establish a national SIZ standard and KPI framework (or use the one from Worldbank); select pilot zones; install professional management, launch performance-linked incentives; develop a transparent monitoring and reporting platform.
- With **coordinated leadership and partnership across sectors**, Peru can become a regional model for sustainable industrialization.



Why work with the Center for Industry and Sustainability?



Think and
Do Tank at
the industry
park Höchst

Benefit

- Consulting and industry know-how: 15+ years of experience in national and international industrial park management projects
- Located at one of the largest industrial parks in Europe and close cooperation with the decision-makers at the industrial park
- Didactic know-how: 15+ years of experience in the development of continuing education and study programs
- Network management experts: 15+ years of experience in managing transnational multi-stakeholder networks
- Professionalism: Affiliation with one of Germany's leading training providers for the chemical industry with expertise in e-technology solutions, vocational training, further education and accredited degree programs.



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Co-editor of the Journal of Business Chemistry

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