



ecos

# Make PPE more sustainable

Valeria Botta | 18 March 2021



# ECOS: Environmental Coalition On Standards

We take part in the **development of standards and technical specifications for products, services and processes** to ensure that they contribute to a clean, low-carbon and circular economy, while supporting environmental laws and policies most effectively.

We specialise in **improving criteria and requirements** shaping the way products and services are made available.



# PPE environmental impacts - raising

- In times of crisis, cost and speed take precedence over the environmental impacts of essential items like PPE.
- From community masks and health workers' kits, to hospital gowns, drapes and wraps, PPE is playing a critical role in the battle against COVID-19 infections and some become everyday items.
- There is a **mountain of disposable PPE** that's creating a whole new set of problems.
- Demand for PPE is expected to stay at an elevated level, **plastic wave continues to raise.**

# We need more sustainable PPE

- We need to rethink our dependency on single-use items & work towards more sustainable solutions.
- Circular economy principles (reducing, longer lifetimes, reusing, and recycling resources) should guide policy development for PPE management during & after the current pandemic.
- Sustainability and material efficiency aspects must be included in PPE legislation and standardisation & be a key selection factor in public procurement,

# ECOS approach to products

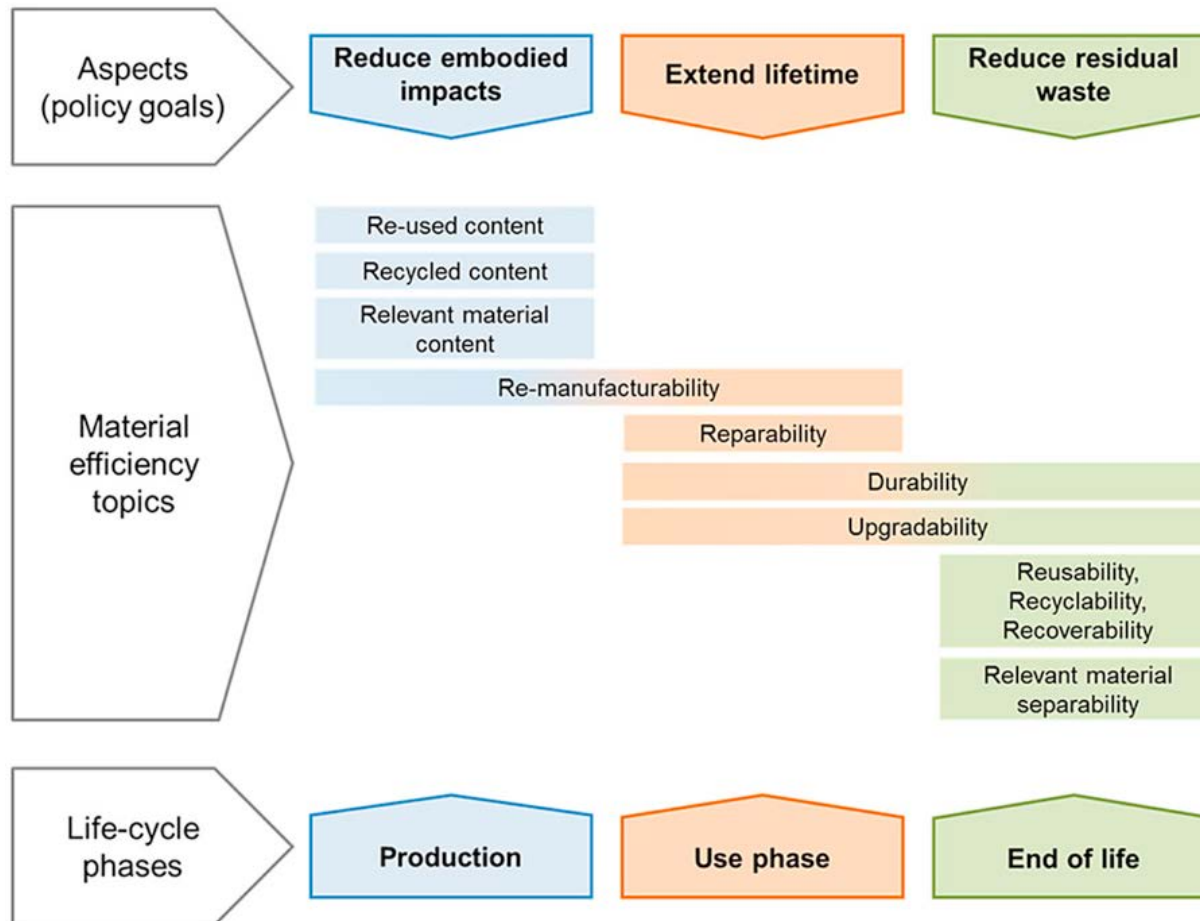
... anecodesign approach:

- **Minimum requirements** to improve environmental performance
- Improvements **from the start**

How?

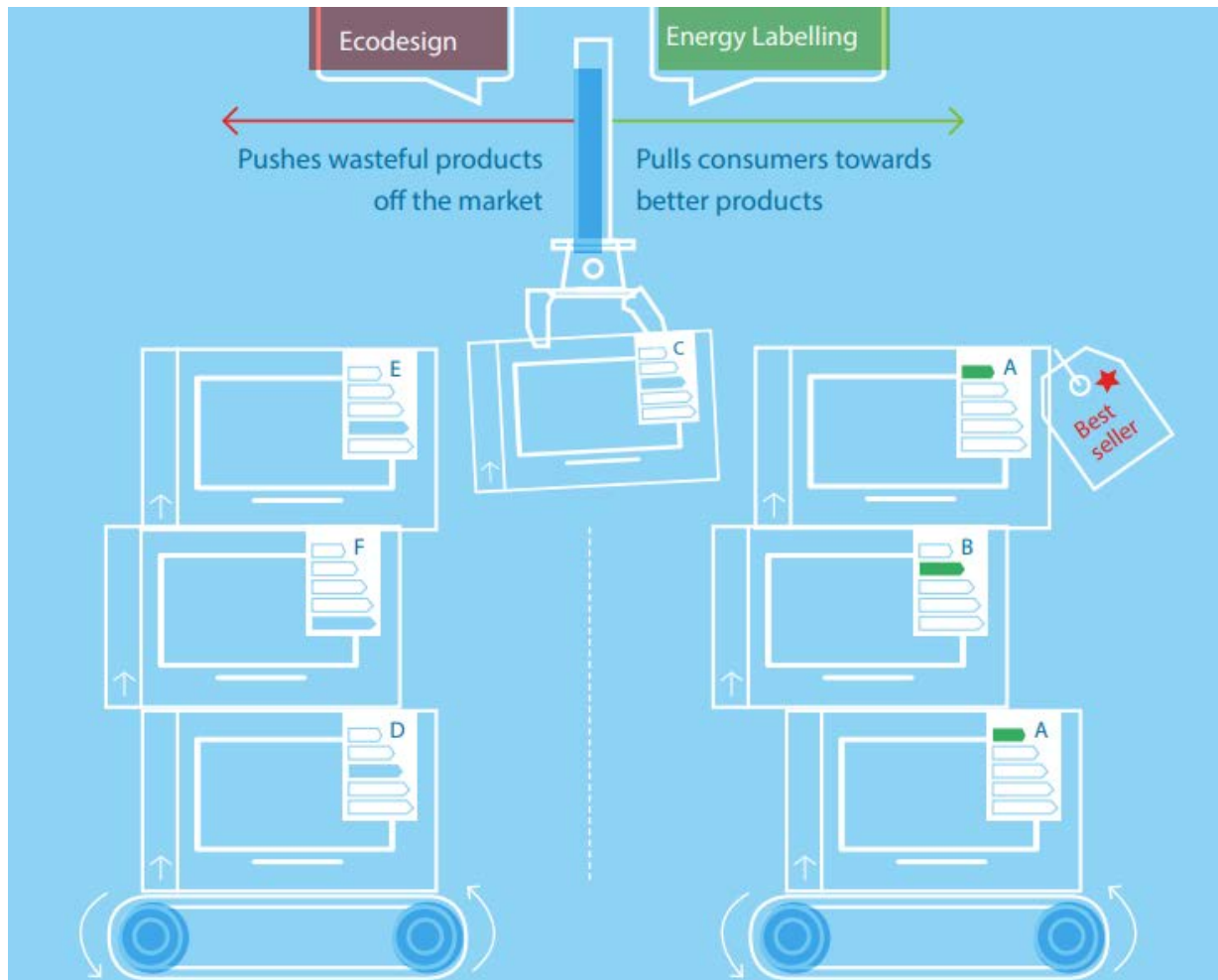
- Design **systems** (services & experiences)
- Design **for long useful lifetimes** (re-use, repair, remanufacture)
- Ensure essential parts are easily **replaceable, repairable & upgradable**
- Make products easier to **recycling**
- **Eliminate unnecessary or harmful** material & substances
- Design for **easy end-of-life** (simplify materials, product formulations)

# Material Efficiency



Policy on ways to make products more repairable & reusable only expected to intensify

# Ecodesign and Energy Labelling



# Consumer, scores and label

THE ENERGY LABEL SHOULD GO **CIRCULAR** AND HELP EUROPEANS PICK **PRODUCTS** WHICH...



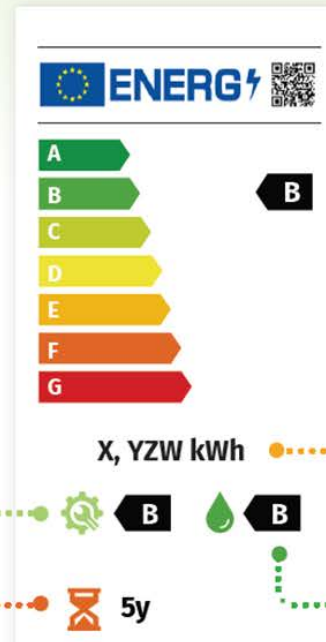
### Durability indicator

- ✓ Software updates
- ✓ Expected duration of product or its part
- ✓ Years of warranty



### Repairability score

- ✓ Availability of spare parts
- ✓ Repair instructions



### Energy performance

- ✓ Energy efficiency
- ✓ Energy consumption



### Environmental parameters

- for example:
- Water
  - Noise
  - Greenhouse gases
  - Toxicity



# EN 45554: assessment of repairability, reusability & upgradeability - ecodesign products

## Design-related criteria

- Disassembly depth
- Fasteners & connectors (by type)
- Tools
- Working environment
- Skill level

## Service-related criteria

- Diagnostic support & interface
- Availability of spare parts (target group, duration, interface)
- Types & availability of information (target group, comprehensiveness)
- Return models
- Data management
- Password & factory reset for reuse

# Make PPE more circular

## **PPE laws and standards to include requirements on:**

- Longevity
- Reusability
- Repairability
- Recyclability

## **Circularity taken onboard in PPE -related laws and standards:**

- Apply ecodesign principles to PPE for circularity & longer use
- Keep them in the cycle for as long as possible (research & protocol on safe reprocessing & reuse of PPE marked as SU)
- Repair PPE
- Shift to reusable PPE

## **Public Procurement as levy**

- Include sustainability, circular economy
- Purchase products which are more durable in use and ensure a longer protective function and they are repairable
- Include reusable PPE and servitisation in public procurement
- Sustainable procurement should be the default choice, to be monitored & checked

# Thank you

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