

# **54<sup>th</sup> ECCA Autumn Congress Online (23-24 November 2020)**

# Recycling of Steel

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**worldsteel**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

# worldsteel – who we are

- The World Steel Association (worldsteel) is a non-profit organisation with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. A second office in Beijing, China, opened in April 2006
- worldsteel represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes in every major steel-producing country
- Members represent around 85% of global steel production.

# worldsteel – our key focus areas

**worldsteel is active in key areas of interest to the steel industry:**



Automotive



Climate change  
and environment



Communications



Construction



Education and  
training



Life cycle  
assessment



Raw materials



Safety and  
health



Sustainability

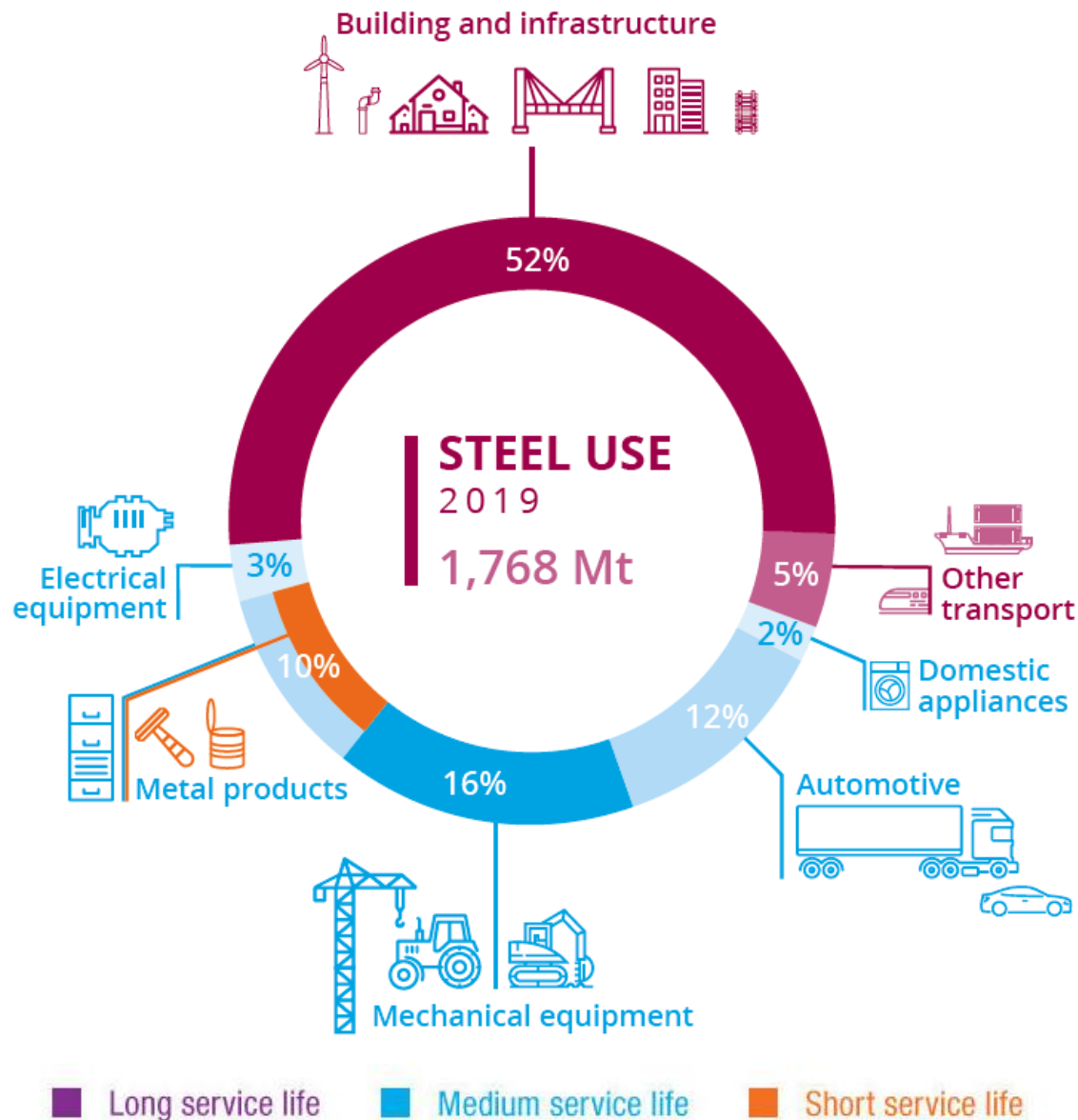


Steel market  
analysis



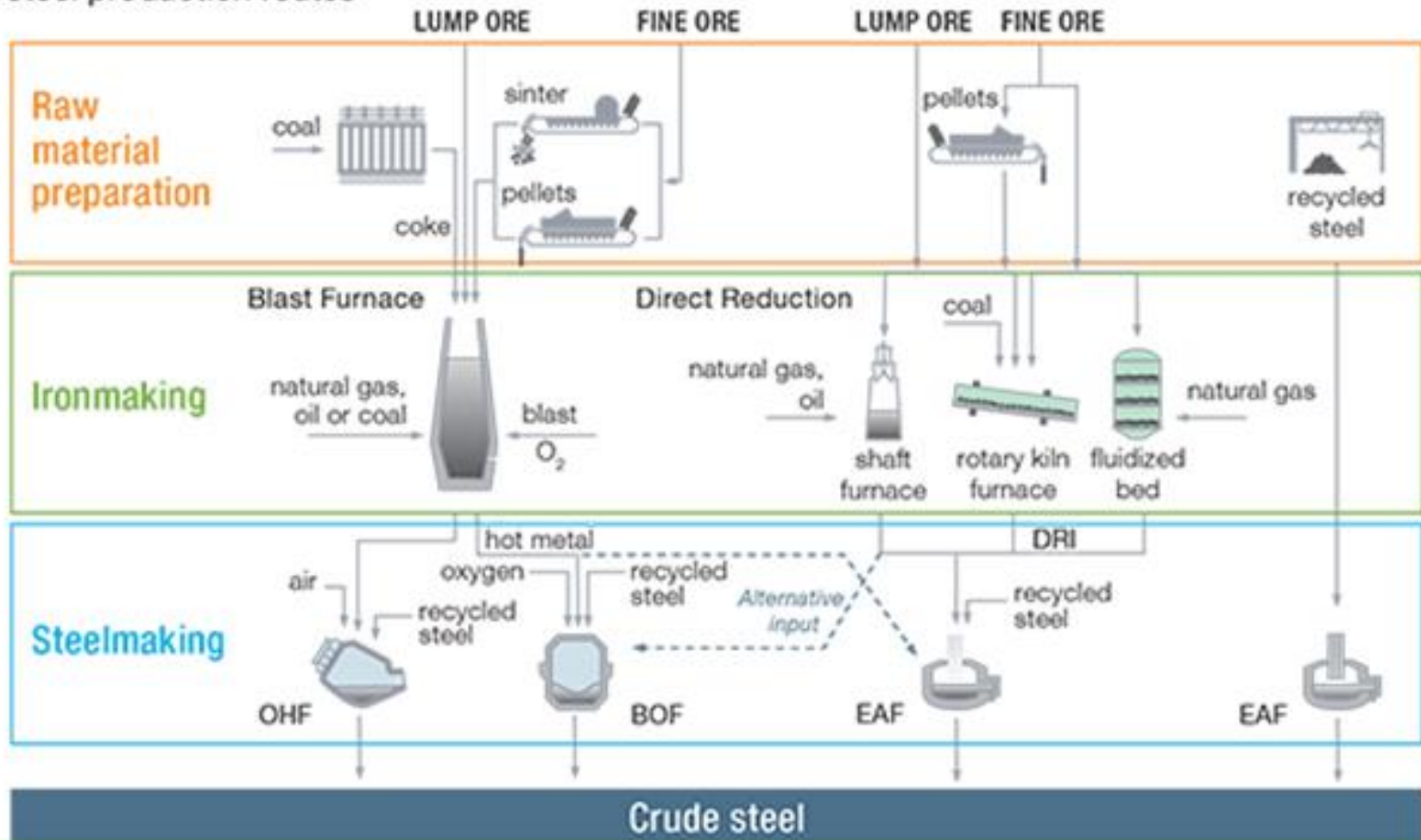
Technology

# Steel use by sector

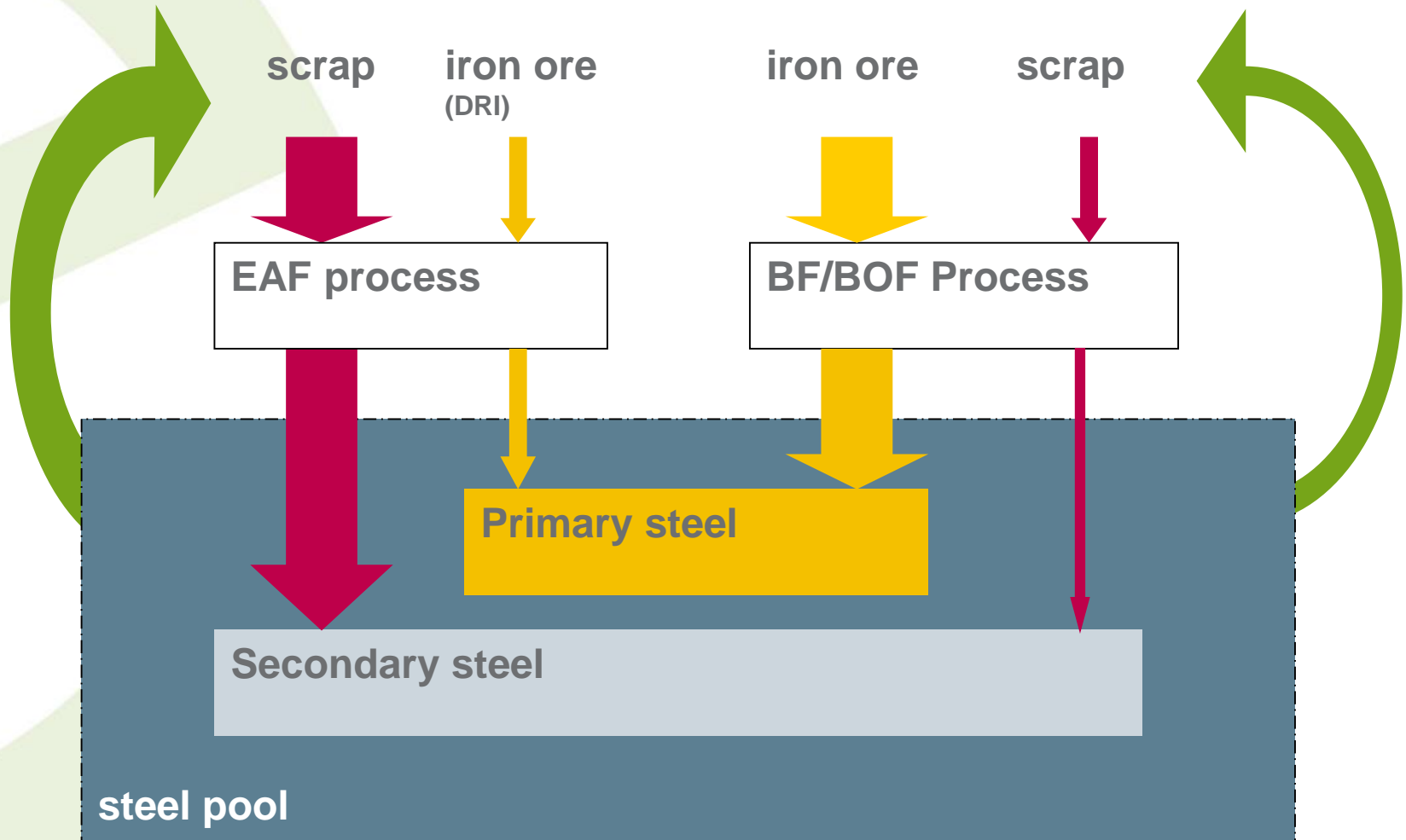


# How steel is made

## The steel production routes



# Put more simply:







## STEEL FACTS

### Steel is produced via two main routes:

The blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) route and the electric arc furnace (EAF) route.

Today about

**72%** of steel is produced using the BF-BOF route.

**28%** is produced via the EAF route.

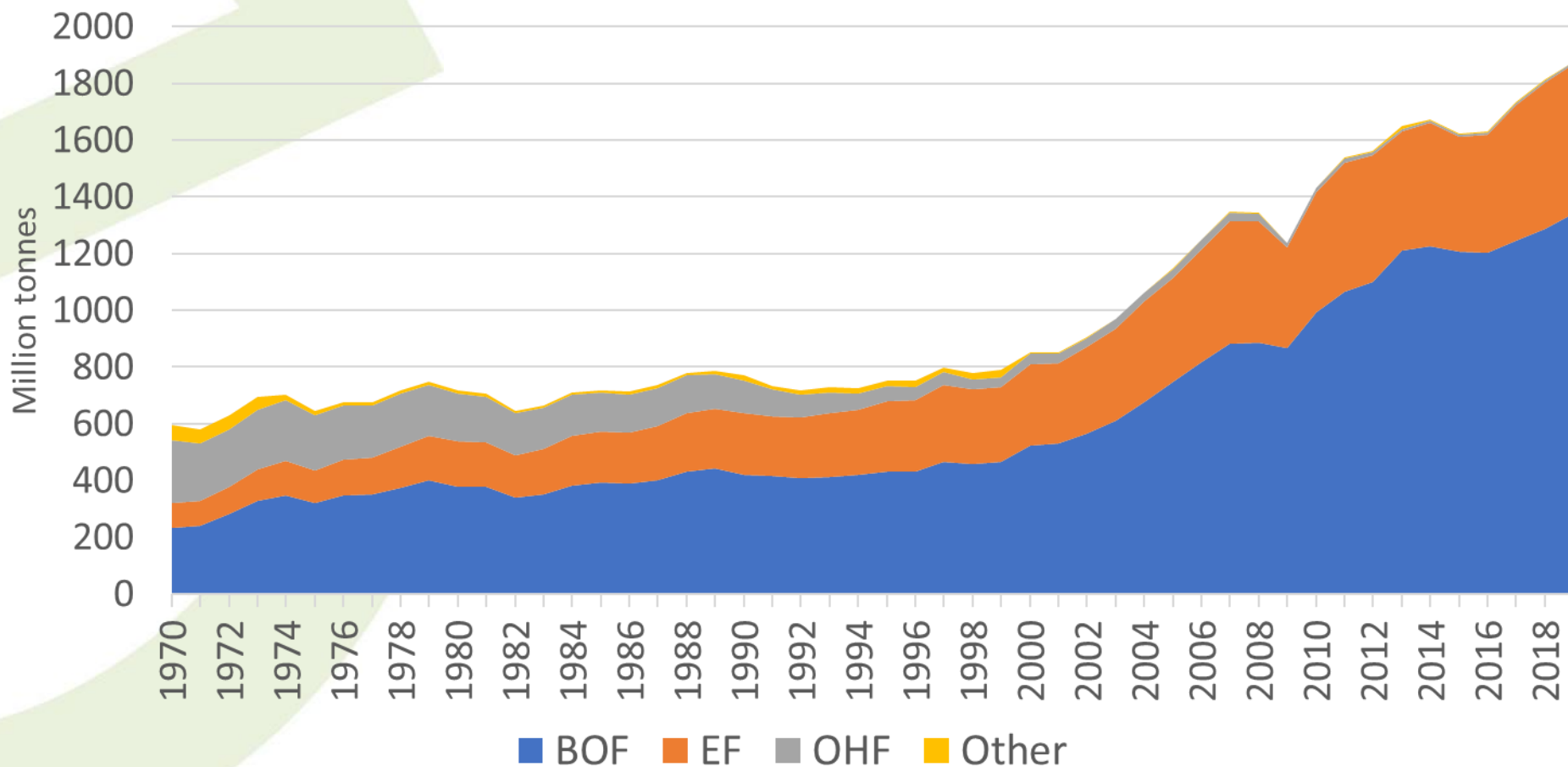
Crude steel is then rolled into finished steel products, such as coil, plate, sections or bars.

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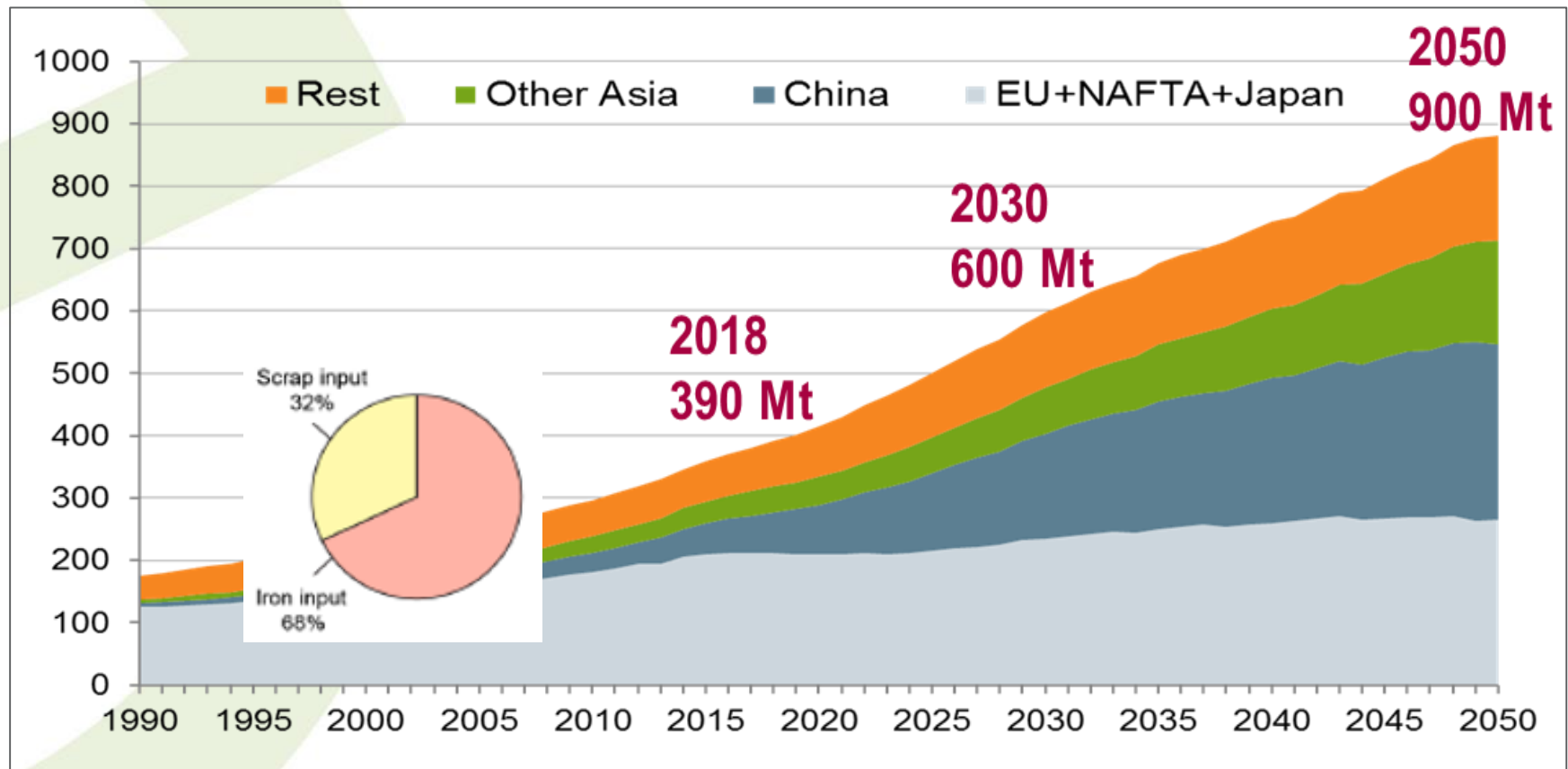


# Steel production per process route

## Crude steel production



# End-of-life scrap availability



Increased scrap use in either EAF or BF route will lower specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the industry as a whole

# Steel is the most recycled material in the world





# All steel needs scrap

## BOF process: up to 30% scrap



**STEEL FACTS**

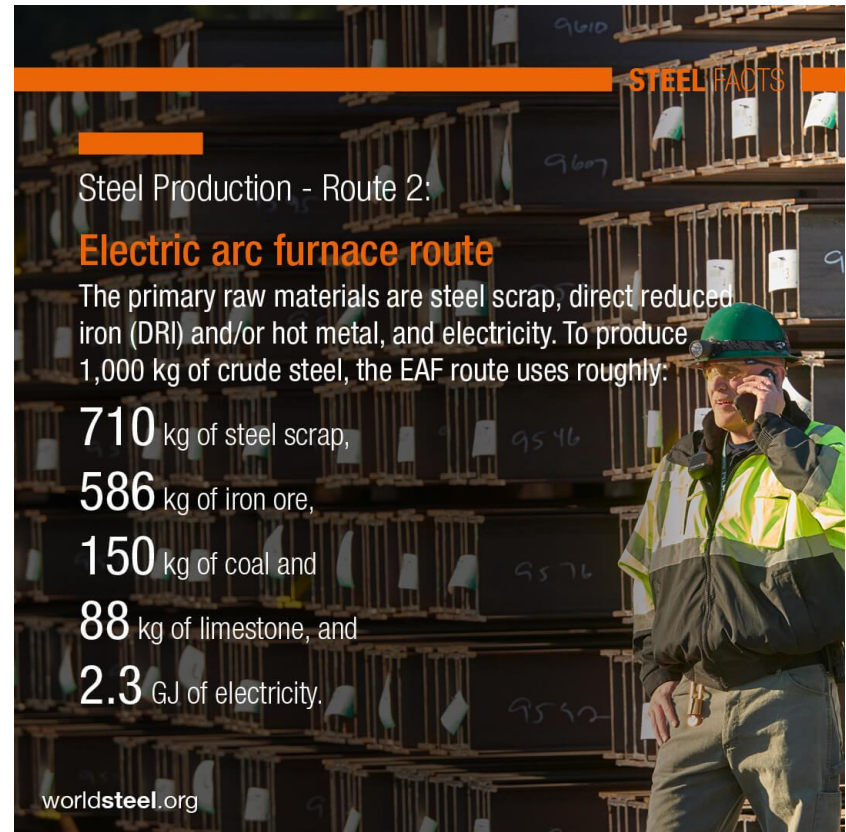
Steel Production - Route 1:  
**Blast furnace or integrated route**

To produce 1,000 kg of crude steel, the main inputs are roughly:

- 1,370** kg of iron ore,
- 780** kg of coal,
- 270** kg of limestone, and
- 125** kg of steel scrap.

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## EAF process: up to 100% scrap



**STEEL FACTS**

Steel Production - Route 2:  
**Electric arc furnace route**

The primary raw materials are steel scrap, direct reduced iron (DRI) and/or hot metal, and electricity. To produce 1,000 kg of crude steel, the EAF route uses roughly:

- 710** kg of steel scrap,
- 586** kg of iron ore,
- 150** kg of coal and
- 88** kg of limestone, and
- 2.3** GJ of electricity.

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# All products therefore contain scrap



**STEEL FACTS**

On average,  
new steel  
products contain  
**30%** recycled  
steel.

Today's steel products will  
become tomorrow's cans,  
trains, bridges, or buildings.

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# Quality

Steel scrap can be converted into higher value steels.



STEEL FACTS


Steel is a permanent material that can be infinitely recycled and is

# 100%

recyclable without loss of quality.

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This infographic features a dark blue background with a large orange bar at the top. The text is white and orange. The background image shows a pile of steel scrap being lifted by a crane.



STEEL FACTS

## Steel closes the material loop

without being confined to a single application.

**ALL** types of steel can be recycled back into new steel of various grades, keeping their inherent material properties.

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This infographic features a dark blue background with a large orange bar at the top. The text is white and orange. The background image shows a modern building with a glass dome.

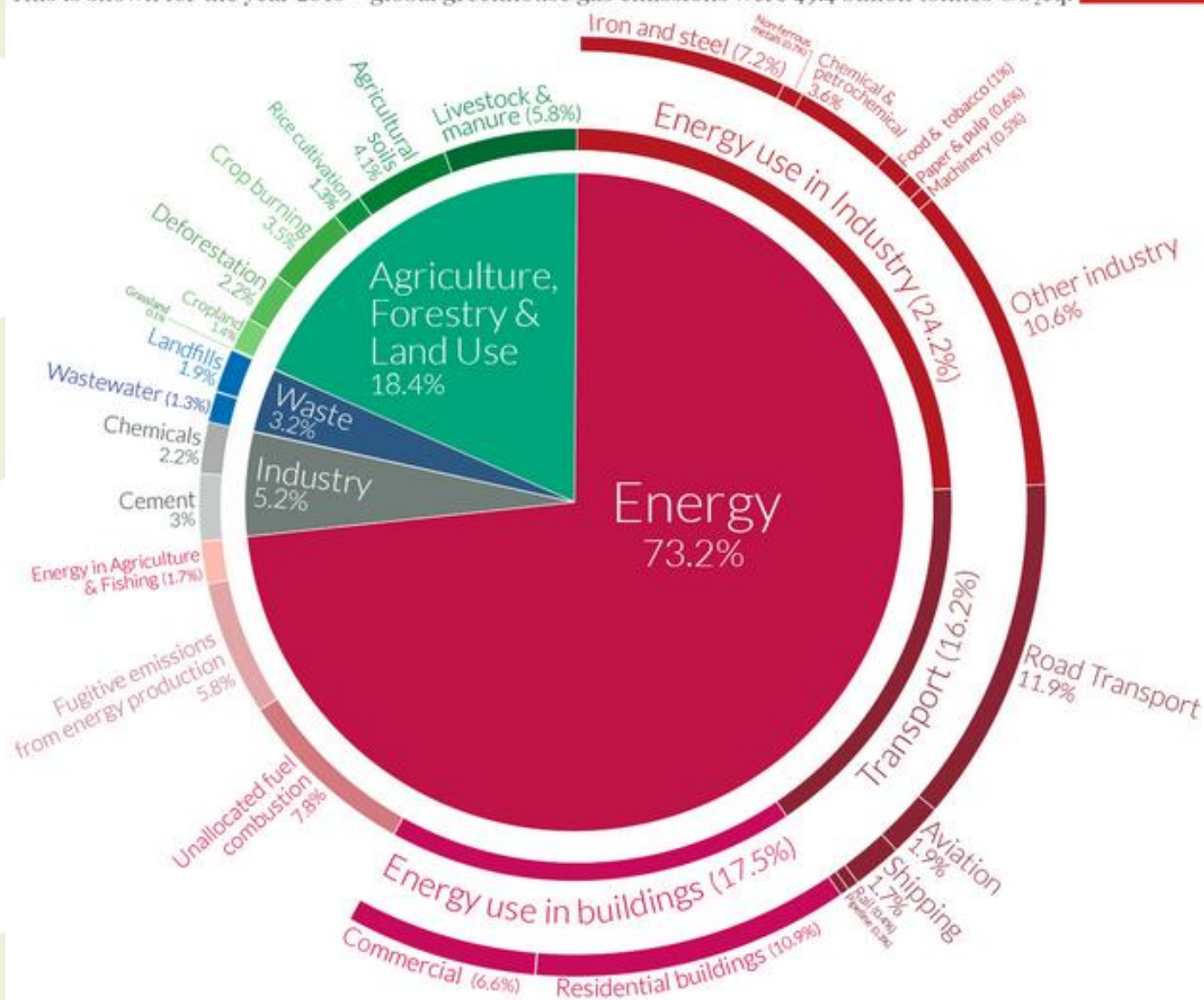
# Scrap recycling

- Waste products: often shredded or incinerated
- Steel is magnetic – easiest material to separate from the waste stream
- Scrap is selected based on a ‘recipe’
- Coated and Galvanised steel scrap
  - Pre-consumer scrap from our customers is ‘cleanest’
  - Scrap is melted
  - De-zincing / de-tinning processes
  - Zinc in EAF dust
  - Emissions from coatings are captured in the flue gases



# Global greenhouse gas emissions by sector

This is shown for the year 2016 – global greenhouse gas emissions were 49.4 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq.



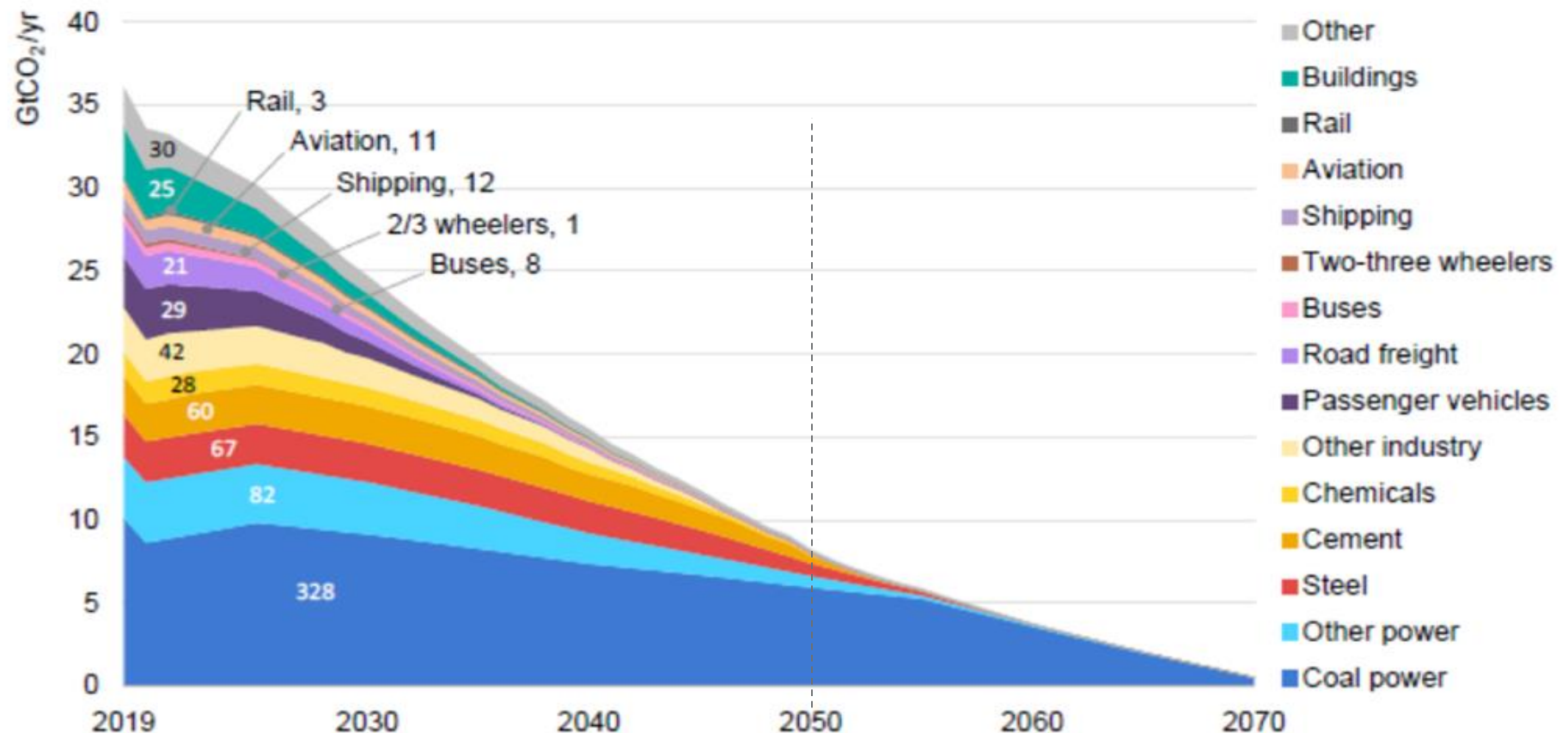
# Who is interested in steel's business?

## THE CLIMATE GROUP



# IEA: industry CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Figure 1.11 Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from existing energy infrastructure by sub-sector, 2019-70



# worldsteel step up programme

step<sup>up</sup>



## Efficiency improvement – the step up programme

Efficiency review process that supports improvements in plant operations to efficiency levels corresponding with the steel industry's top performers

4 key levers: raw material quality, energy efficiency, process reliability and process yield

Optimised operations leads to lower CO<sub>2</sub> intensity in steelmaking

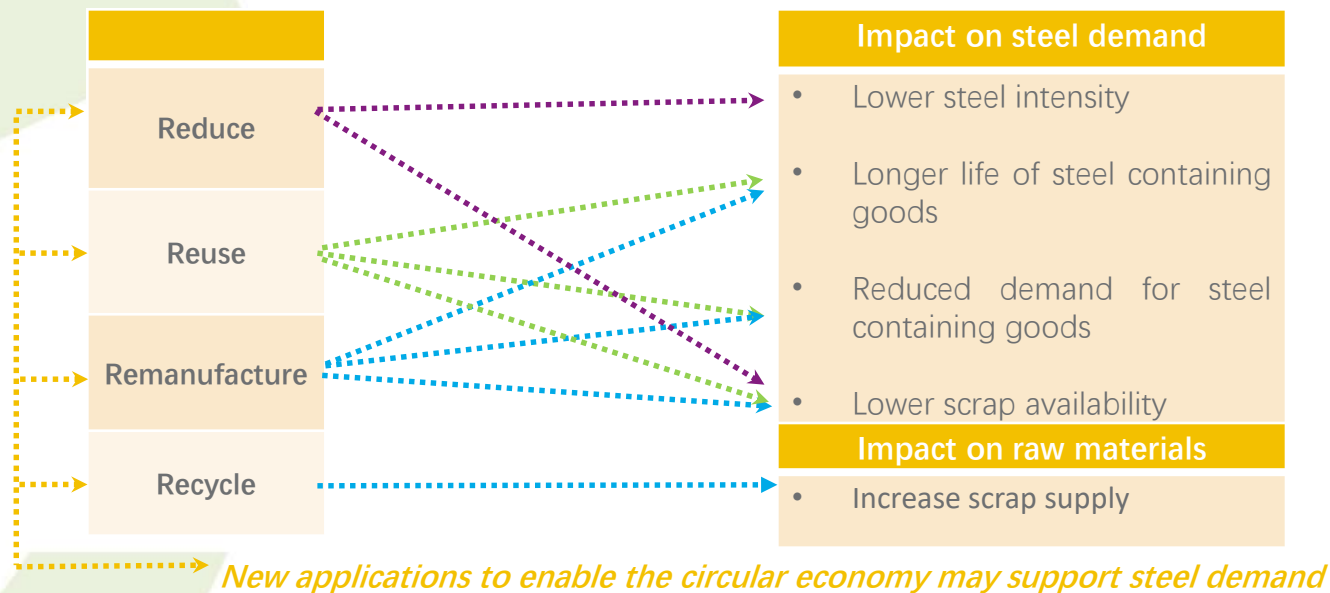
Raw materials and Energy are the two most important cost factors in steelmaking



# Circular economy



# Circular economy concept will have impact on steel demand via multiple channels



*Reuse and remanufacturing extend a service life of steel applications*

# The road to decarbonisation

- Move to a more circular economy
  - While recycling is key for steel, this is the ‘last resort’ for a circular economy
  - Design for reduced consumption, waste
  - Design for dismantling, reuse and remanufacture
  - Recover more scrap for recycling
- Recycling steel scrap saves 1.6 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (GHG emissions) per tonne scrap



# Recycling



## Steel attributes — Benefits of steel recycling



Infinite recycling  
without loss  
of properties



Permanent  
material



Easy magnetic  
separation  
and recovery

Raw materials  
conservation



One tonne of steel  
recycled saves  
on average :  
1,400 kg iron ore  
740 kg coal  
120 kg limestone

70%  
Energy saving



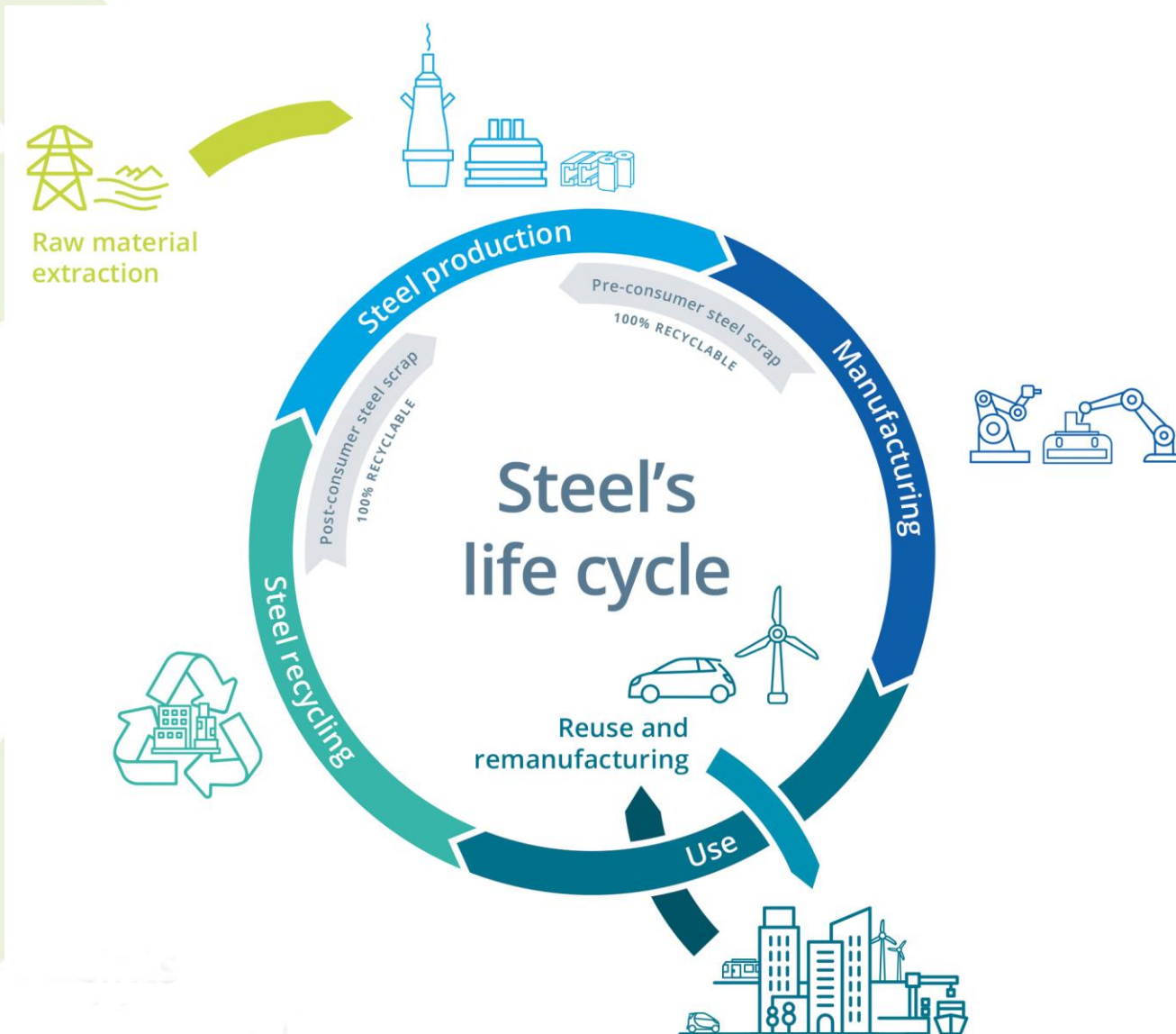
Recycling a single  
steel can saves :  
1 laundry load, or  
1 hour TV, or  
24 hours of a  
10 watt LED bulb

Job creation



Jobs required  
for scrap collection,  
separation and  
recycling

# The life cycle of steel



The LCI data quantifies 'cradle to gate' inputs (resources, energy) and outputs (environmental emissions) of steel production from:



the extraction of resources and use of recycled materials,



production of steel products to the steelworks' gate,



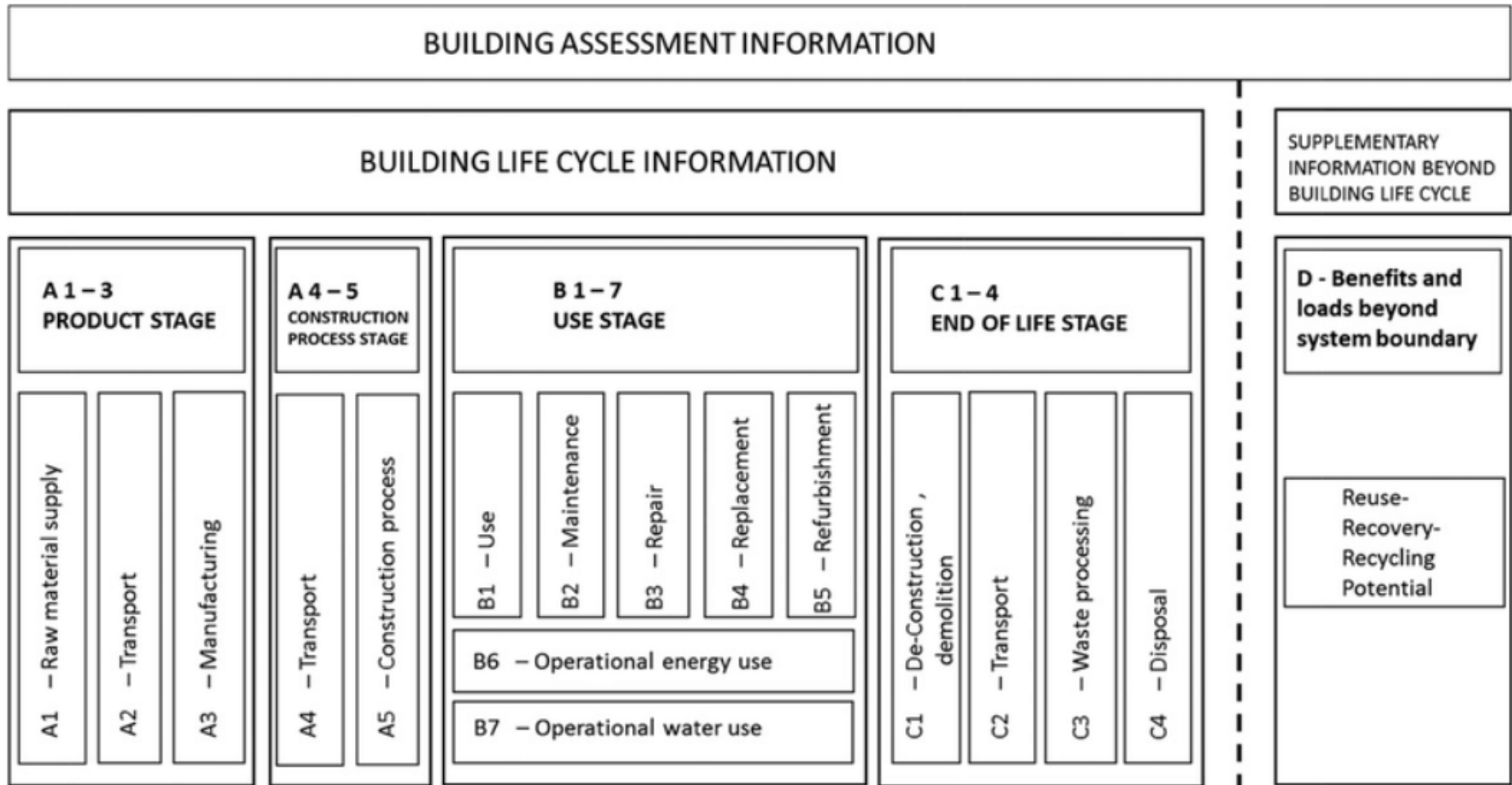
reuse and remanufacturing, and



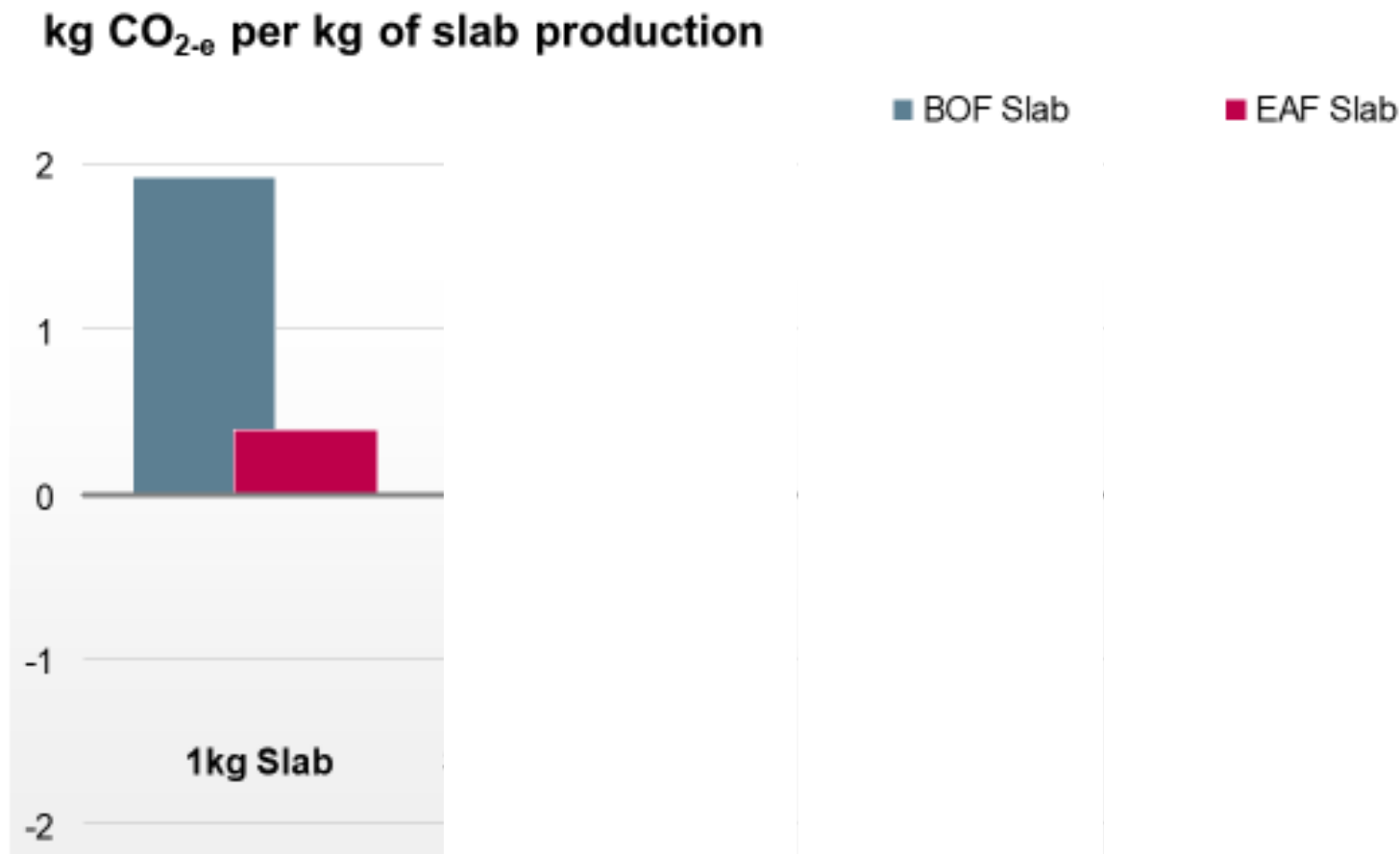
end-of-life recovery and recycling of steel.



# Reporting of impacts



# GWP for slab production



For a product's life cycle, recycled content is irrelevant in terms of environmental impact

Thank you for your attention.  
Any questions?



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