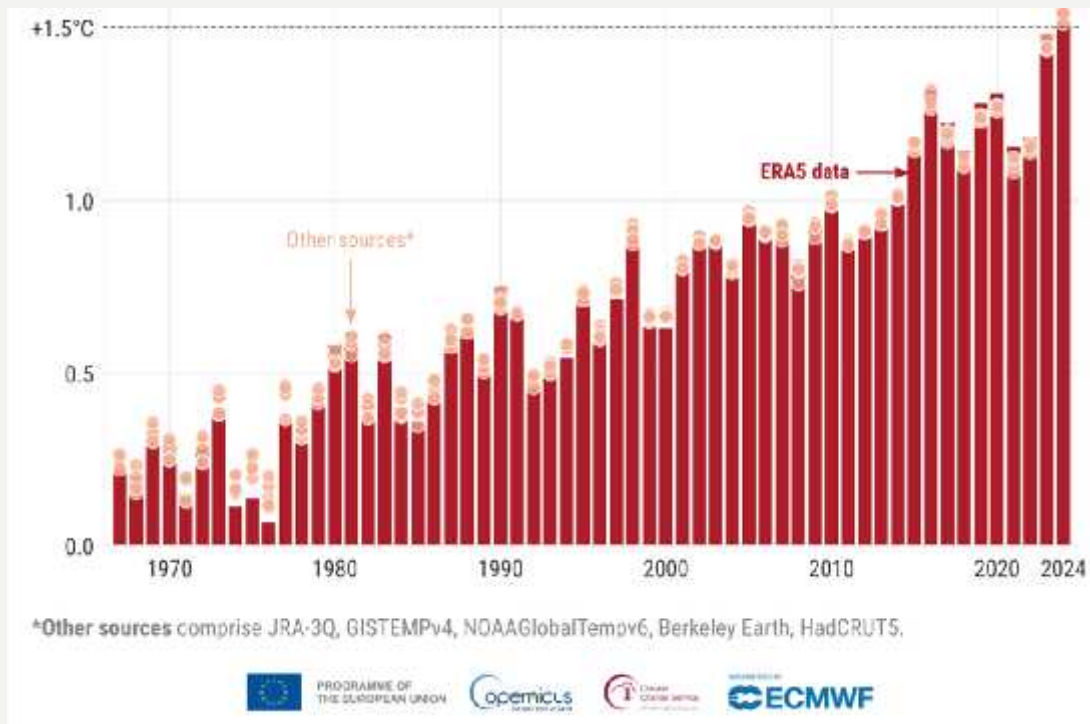




ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO
CIRCULAR ECONOMY

WASTE & CLIMATE CHANGE



Source: <https://climate.copernicus.eu/global-climate-highlights-2024>

In 2024, Earth recorded the **hottest year ever** - with a global average of **15.1°C**, breaking the 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement.

Our lifestyle choices matter. What we buy, use, and throw away contributes to climate change. A "take-make-waste" economy fuels pollution, emissions, and environmental destruction.

Extreme Weather Is Getting Worse:

- More heatwaves
- Increased floods
- More frequent droughts and storms
- Melting polar ice

Main Sources of CO₂ Emissions:

- Households (24%)
- Construction (20%)
- Energy & Gas (19%)
- Agriculture (13%)
- Transport (10%)

HOW PLASTIC TRAVELS AND ACCUMULATES

Pollution of soil and water: Plastics and chemicals from electronics, clothes, and packaging leak into the environment. They enter the food chain and affect our health.

Microplastics: Tiny plastic pieces are found in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and even in human blood (yes - scientists have found it!).

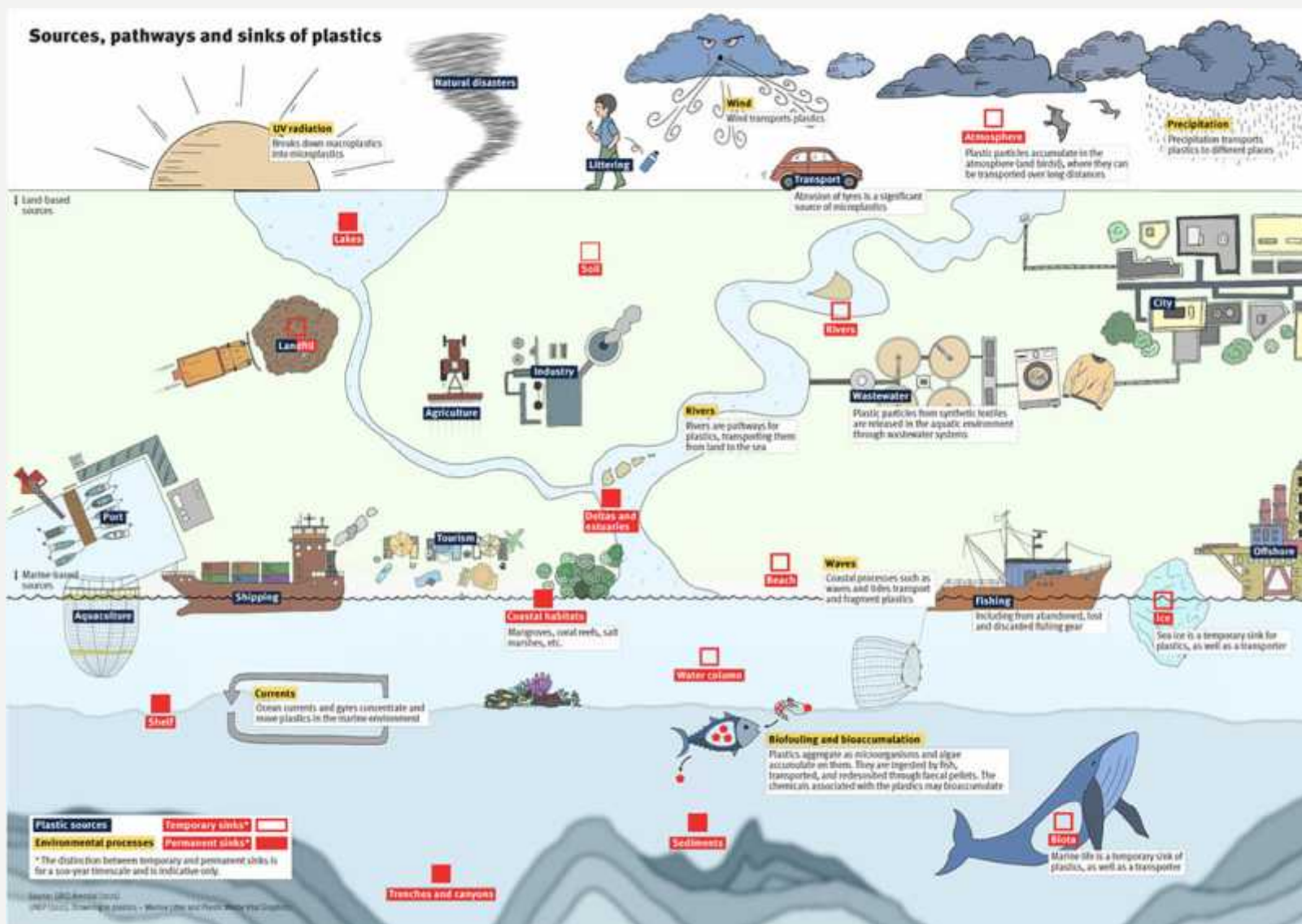
Animals eat waste: Sea turtles eat plastic bags thinking they're jellyfish. Birds feed waste to their chicks. Fish and shellfish can contain plastic — and we eat them.

Real Numbers That Matter:

- 11 million tones of plastic enter the oceans every year. That's like 1 garbage truck per minute dumping into the sea.
- Plastic packaging makes up 80% of all marine litter.
- In Europe, 3 out of 4 beaches show signs of plastic pollution.

The pollution crisis affects low-income communities the most - areas where waste systems don't work properly or where cheap products create more trash.

Uncontrolled waste is expensive to clean up, and dangerous to live near.



Source: <https://www.grida.no/resources/14896>

HOW THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUPPORTS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were adopted by all United Nations member states to guide global efforts to build a better, fairer, and more sustainable world by **2030**.

They include **17 goals** that address the world's biggest challenges — such as ending poverty, improving health and education, promoting gender equality, and tackling climate change. The SDGs remind us that protecting our planet means:

- Using natural resources wisely
 - Reducing pollution and carbon emissions
 - Choosing sustainable ways to live and work
- Even with many obstacles, **real change is happening** - thanks to innovation, technology, youth activism and bold ideas.
- You don't need to be a politician or a scientist to take part. **Your everyday choices already make an impact.**

Circular Economy supports these goals

