

# From the food in our fridge to heating our homes: How we can be part of the Clean Economy

The threat of climate change has never been greater. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that temperatures could reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as soon as 2030 – increasing risks to health, livelihoods, economic growth and more<sup>1</sup>.

By directing capital towards companies whose products and services support the energy transition or reduce global greenhouse emissions, we can play a vital role in fighting climate change – and potentially benefit from the returns generated by companies at the forefront of the clean economy. Here are ways we can be part of this vital megatrend, both as a consumer and an investor.

We are spending **90%** of our time indoors<sup>2</sup> and nearly two thirds (64%) of energy consumption by households in the European Union in 2019 went on heating homes<sup>3</sup>.

Around **a third** of the food that is produced globally is lost or wasted each year<sup>4</sup>.

Up to **50 million tonnes** of electronic and electrical waste is created every year<sup>5</sup>. As well as domestic recycling, companies like **Waste Connections** can help people to recycle their old computers, televisions and more.

Choosing to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) instead of a petrol or diesel one will help to reduce carbon emissions. By 2030, **a third** of global car sales are expected to be EVs<sup>6</sup>.

Thanks to **Alfen**, one football stadium in the Netherlands can generate its own energy from solar panels, which is then stored during the day to light the stadium at night. The energy also powers EV chargers for the cars the spectators use to travel there.

Switching to a plant-based diet is better for the environment. US food company **Beyond Meat** founds its plant-based burger generated 90% less greenhouse gas emissions than a quarter pound of beef<sup>7</sup>.

**Darling Ingredients** is a US company that collects used cooking oil from restaurants and turns it into biofuel for commercial aviation use.

Some **320 billion drinks cans** are sold globally each year<sup>8</sup>, and more than 100 million cans are recycled in the US every minute by companies like **Ball Corp**<sup>9</sup>. Aluminium is the most easily – and indefinitely – recyclable alternative to plastics.



*“Consumers are swiftly changing their consumption habits and are playing a more active role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions – from the provenance of ingredients and raw materials to the environmental impact of packaging. Meanwhile governments and corporates are increasingly committed to net zero targets, which represents an opportunity for the clean economy.”*

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Sources:  
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/> AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis — IPCC  
<sup>2</sup> Indoor Air Quality | US EPA  
<sup>3</sup> Energy consumption in households - Statistics Explained (europa.eu)  
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/flw-data>  
<sup>5</sup> UN report: Time to seize opportunity, tackle challenge of e-waste (unep.org)  
<sup>6</sup> BNEF, 2020  
<sup>7</sup> Beyond Meat's Beyond Burger Life Cycle Assessment: A detailed comparison between a plant-based and an animal-based protein source | Center for Sustainable Systems (umich.edu)  
<sup>8</sup> BofAM Climate Change, January 2020  
<sup>9</sup> 2015 Ball Sustainability Infographic US copy

**We are seeing a clear shift towards investments in clean technology, as more companies develop new solutions and respond to the need for change.**

Want to learn more?  
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