



# Blue carbon in EU climate policy

**Maris Stulgis, DG MARE unit A1. Maritime innovation,  
investments and knowledge**

# Policies

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**Climate strategies & targets**

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**Land-based emissions**

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**Protection of the ozone layer**

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**International action on climate change**

**EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)**

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**Transport emissions**

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**Fluorinated greenhouse gases**

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**Funding for climate action**

**Effort sharing: Member States' emission targets**

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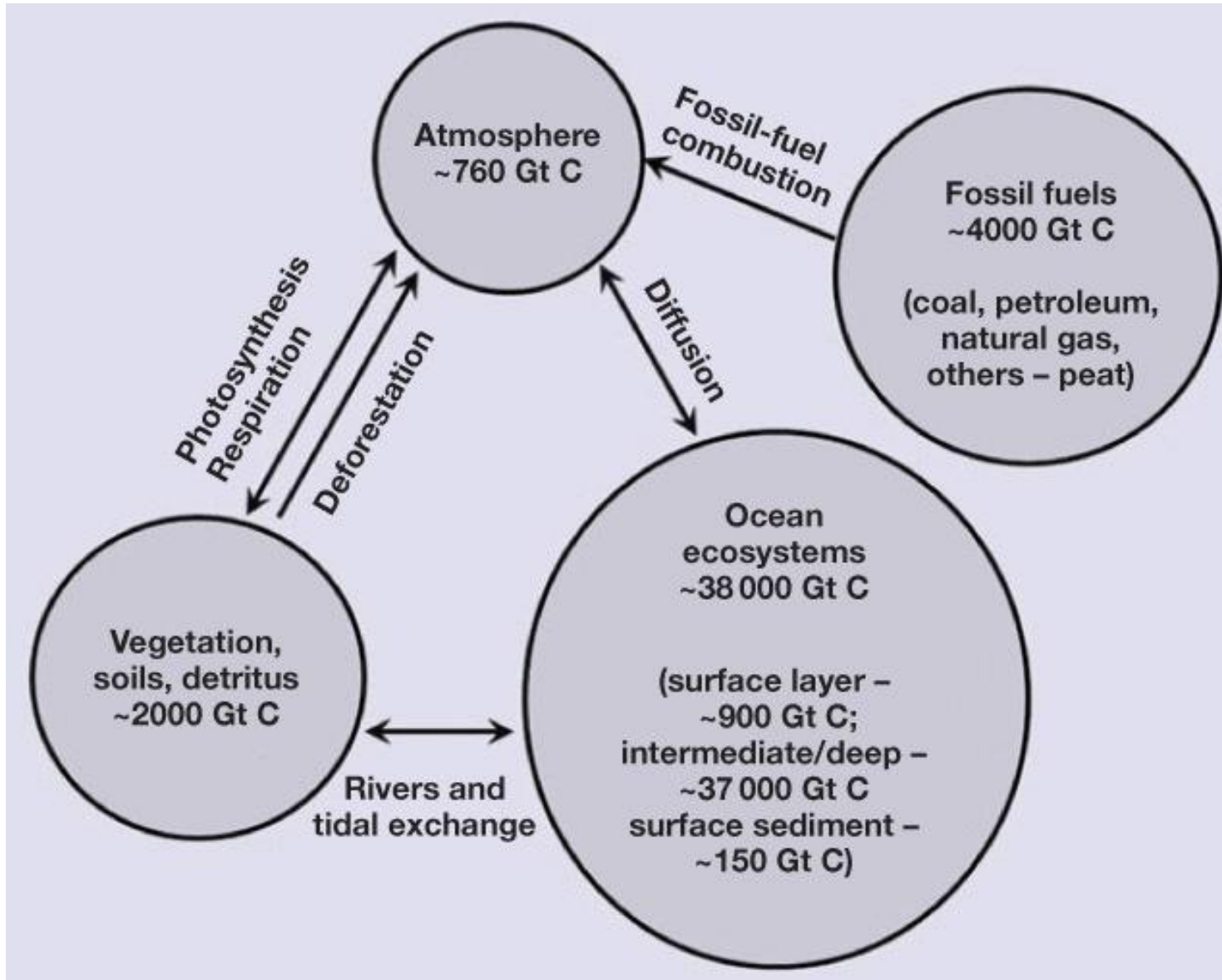
**Low carbon innovation**

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**Adaptation to climate change**

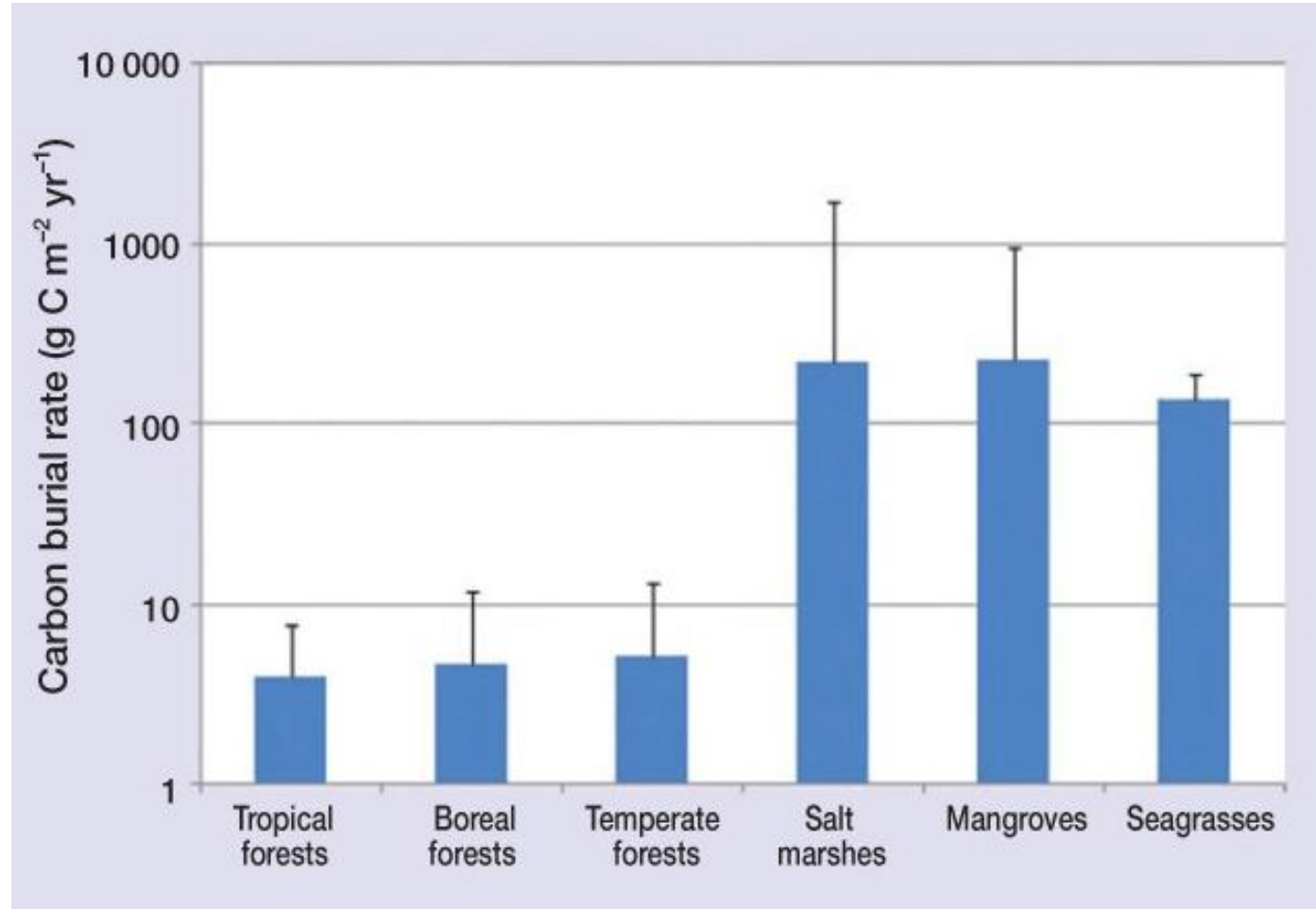
## Recent policy developments

- \*IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*
- \* Clean Energy for All Europeans package (13/11):*
- \* ENER and CLIMA are working on the Decarbonization strategy 2050 expected to be approved 28/11*
- \*Expected end 2019: IPCC Special Report on oceans and cryosphere*



**A simplified diagram of the global C cycle, showing major C pools (gigatons [Gt] C) and fluxes (data from IPCC 2007)**

# Blue carbon potential in Europe



**Mean long-term rates of C sequestration (g C m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) in soils in terrestrial forests and sediments in vegetated coastal ecosystems**

## Global Distribution of Blue Carbon Ecosystems



*1. 28 National Determined Contributions (out of 197 UNFCCC parties) include a reference to coastal wetlands, in terms of mitigation, but not in Europe*

## **2. Conservation and restoration of coastal habitats, Blue carbon ecosystems**

- Marine protected areas
- Building with nature
- Maritime spatial planning

## **3. International ocean governance**

*MARE works with EU and international political actors to agree on joint actions to protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems*

*For example, restoration of damaged coastal and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean (EMFF - EUR 1.5 million) and in South East Asia (PI - EUR 7 million)*

**4. Countries, organizations, citizens could look at their **carbon footprint** and contribute to **carbon offset** projects linked to Blue economy e.g. offshore windfarms, seagrass restoration etc (UNFCCC for Climate neutral now e.g.)**

5. *Negative carbon emissions projects/businesses could be considered as priority for Blue economy investments*
  
6. *Ocean literacy, blue skills, blue schools. Experiential learning methods could help to raise passion, inspiration (Blue carbon game)*
  
7. *Biological sequestration options*



## *8. Best practices sharing*

- a. Blue belt initiative from Ocean and climate initiatives alliance - 8000 ha in Morocco - absorbing 300 000t of CO<sub>2</sub> - 150000 t of O<sub>2</sub> per year - de-acidify 9 Bio t of seawater a year. Produced microalgae - fish farming, will save 450000 t of pelagic fish per year.*
- b. Restoration of seagrass fields.*
- c. LIFE project Algae Service for LIFE Harvesting algal blooms to make biofuel, bioplastics, fertilisers and other useful things*

*9. Boosting blue biotechnology to deliver lower food chain products and considering CO2 reduction potential*

*10. Reliable and real time data on CO2 entering and leaving oceans  
Atlas of the seas – chlorophyll, microalgae, MSP maps  
EMODNET – habitat maps (poseidonia seagrass), marine biodiversity*



*Thank you!*