

From Concept to Reality: The Start-up of UPM's Biorefinery in Leuna

Dr. Konrad Gebauer, IBC2025

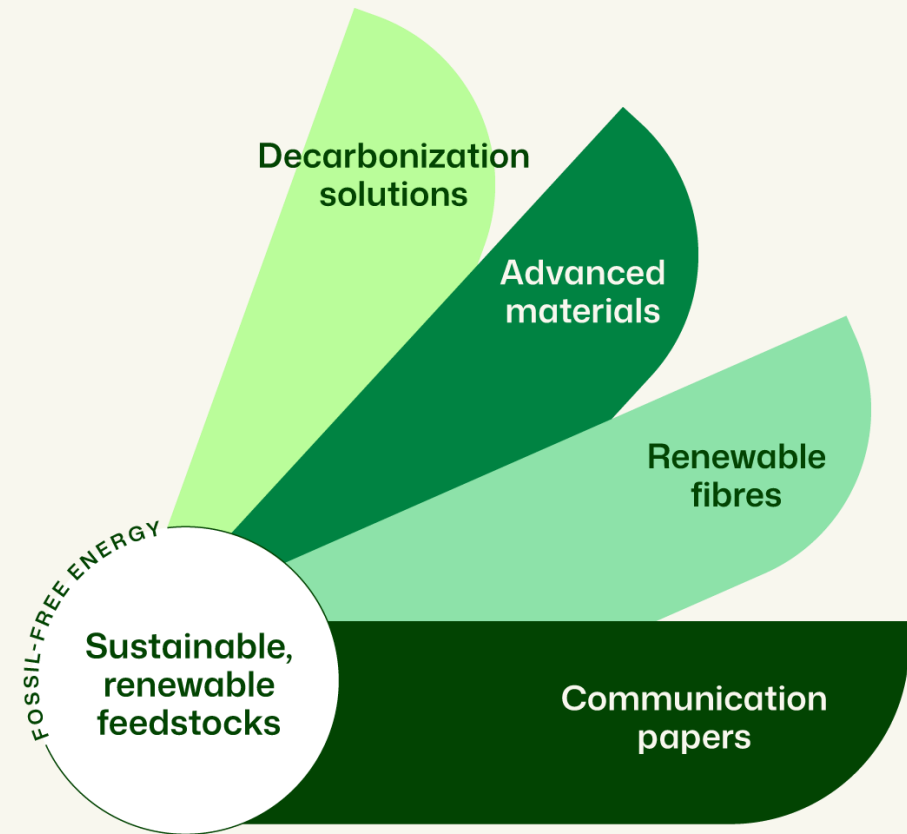
18.06.2025

We are a material solutions company



We contribute to the sustainable transformation of society with material solutions, utilizing sustainable, renewable feedstocks.

We create long-term value through our extensive portfolio of renewable fibres, advanced materials, decarbonization solutions, and communication papers.



Our businesses





UPM Biorefining consists of UPM Biochemicals and UPM Biofuels businesses.

UPM Biorefining



UPM Biorefining is **leading the transition to renewable solutions**, addressing the urgent need to reduce emissions.

We pave the way for a sustainable future with biofuels and biochemicals that lower CO₂ footprints and use sustainable raw materials.

Personnel
on Dec 31

468

Lappeenranta
biorefinery
in operation s. 2015

130k

Annual capacity
in tonnes

Leuna
biorefinery
Full capacity exp.
2027

220k

Annual capacity
in tonnes

Pioneering sustainable chemistry, transforming industries.

UPM Leuna biorefinery



> 1,200 million €
Investment

Production volume:
220,000 T
per year

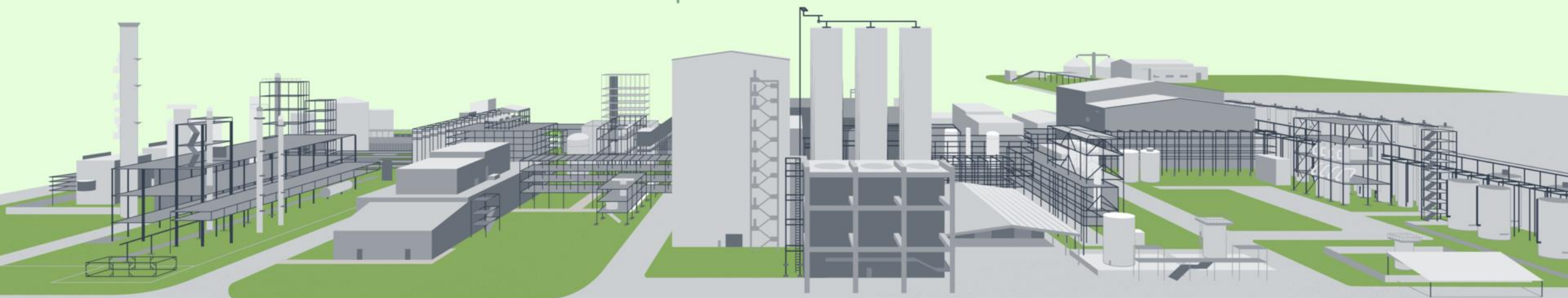
> 100
Employees
at the Leuna site

Start of construction:
January
2021

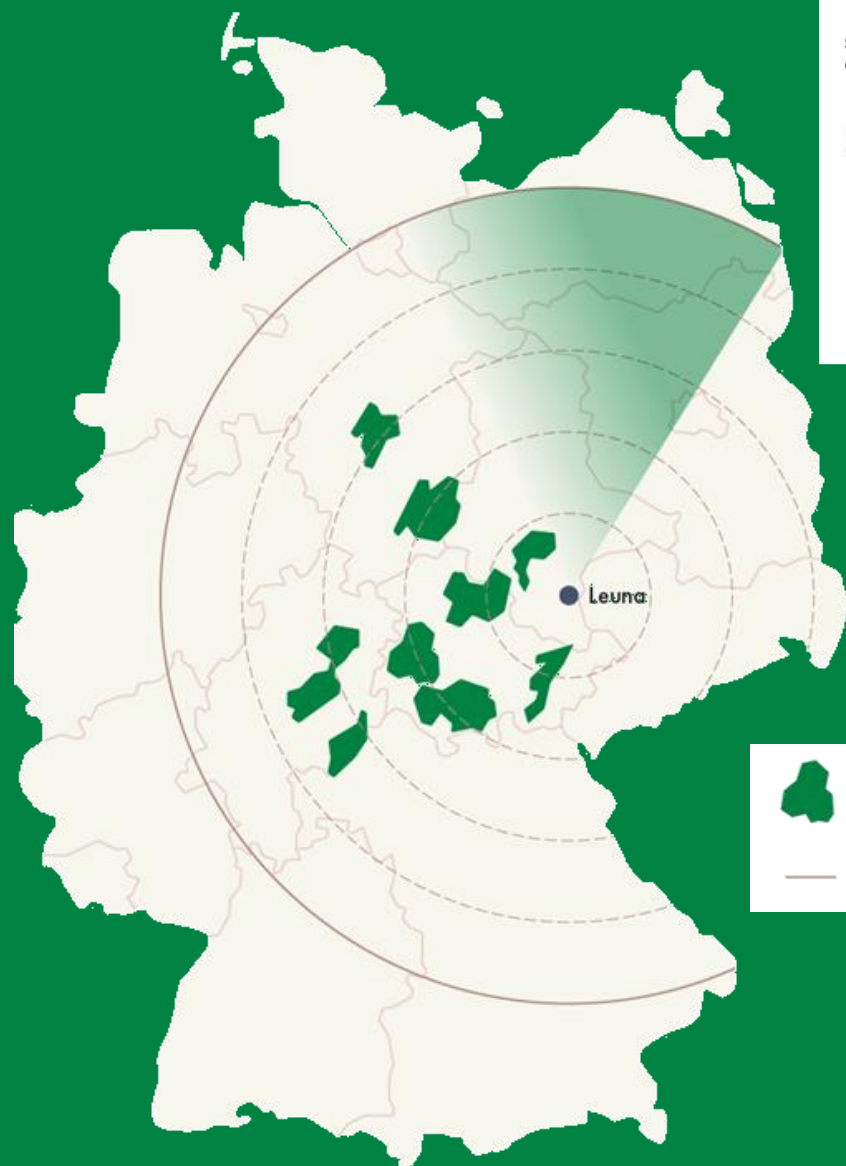
Production
ramp-up:
2025

Beechwood-based products:

- Bio-Monoethylene Glycol (BioMEG)
- Bio-Monopropylene Glycol (BioMPG)
- Renewable Functional Fillers (RFF)

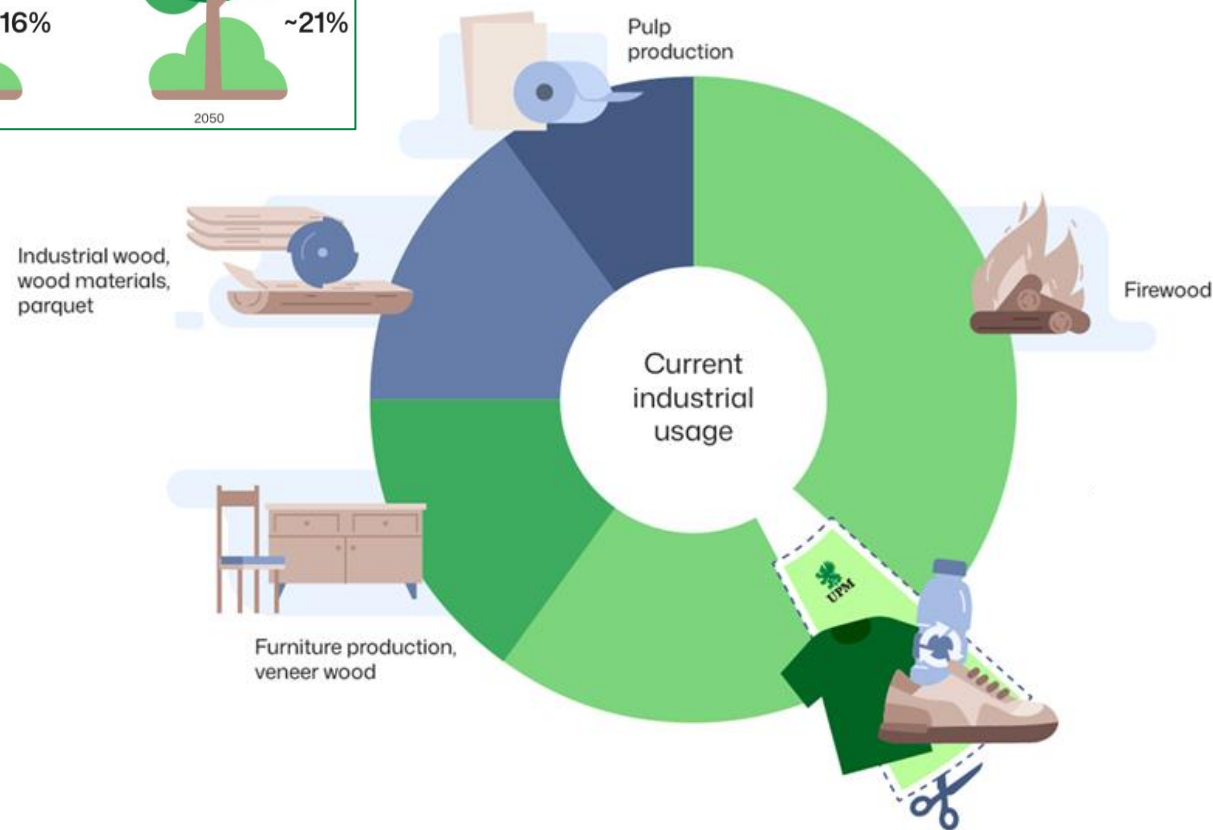
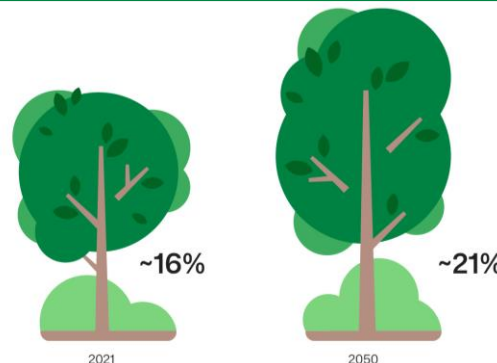


Our raw material: Beechwood



Share of beech in German forests

Beech as core tree species of climate-stable forests



Laying the Foundation: The Woodyard Comes First



04/2021



05/2022



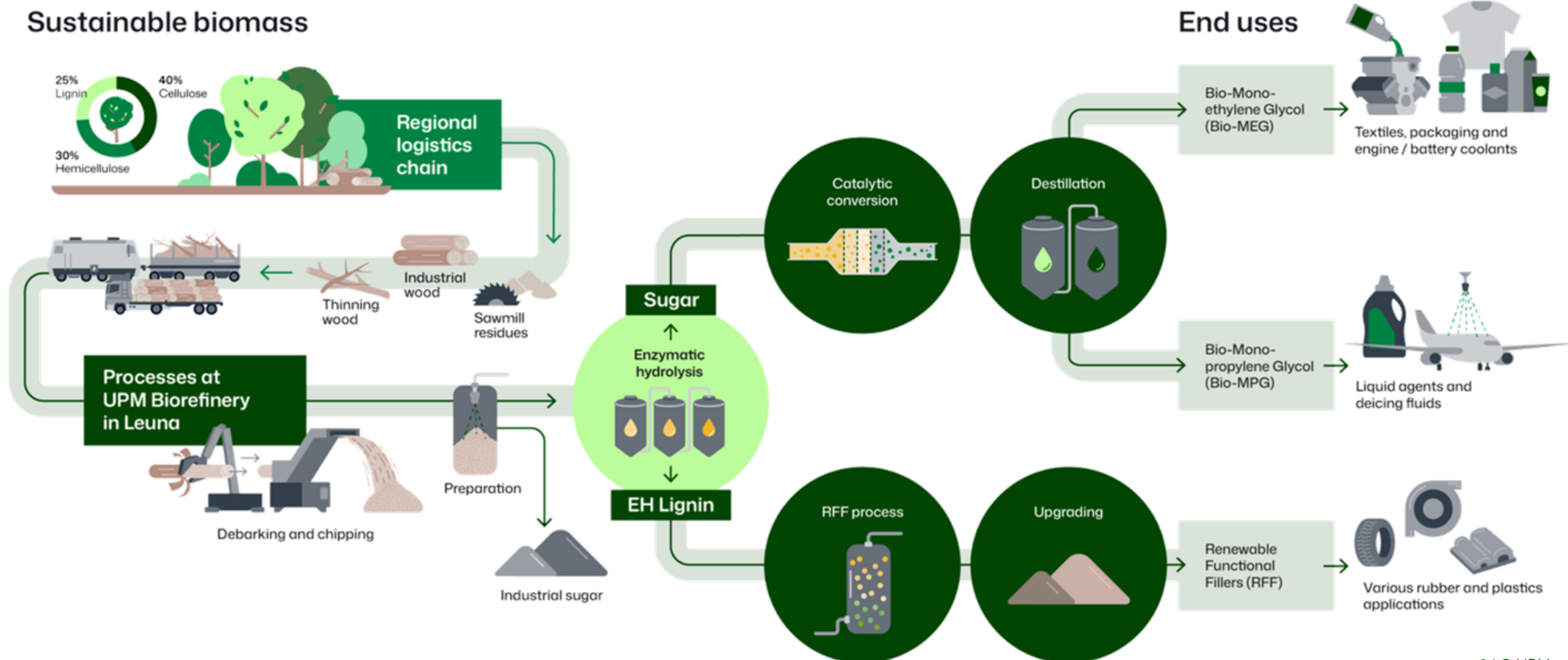
06/2023

06/2024

05/2025



UPM's biorefinery complexity calls for a sequenced start-up



The main area spans the equivalent of 20 soccer fields



04/2021



05/2022



06/2023

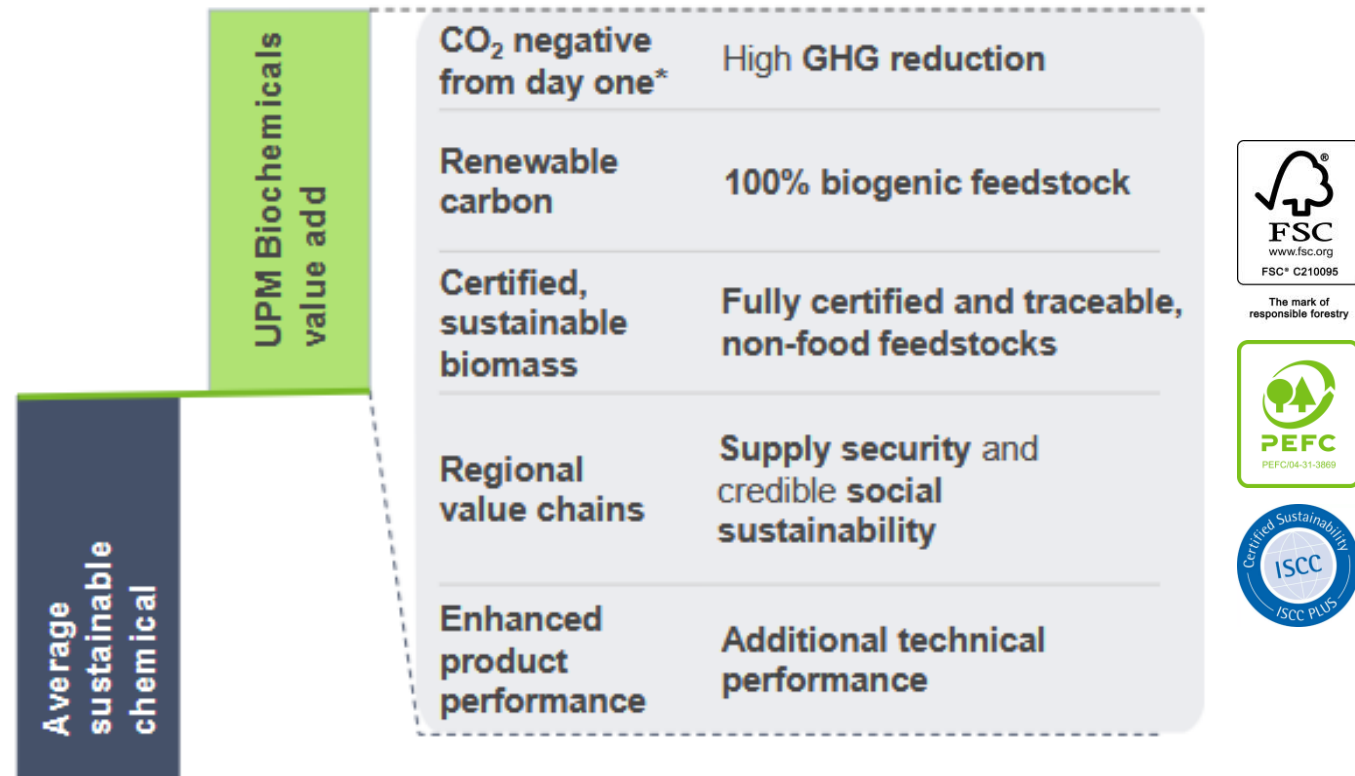
06/2024

05/2025





UPM Biochemicals is a frontrunner in sustainable chemicals offering a distinct product value add



* from cradle to gate based on revised and third-party validated LCA according to ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 considering biogenic carbon from our feedstock and purchasing green electricity
 #with unlimited use quantity in the final product

UPM BioPrimo™ Lignin and UPM BioMotion™ RFF: perfect application areas for each kind of material

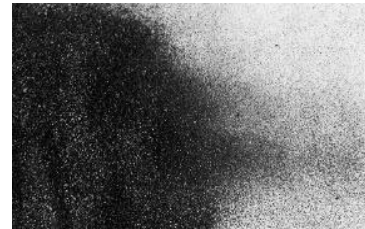


UPM BioPrimo™ Lignin

BioSource for
Carbon Materials



Bio-based
XPS Insulation Boards



Biodegradable Plastics
(e.g., mulch films)



Bio-based Asphalt (replacing
fossil bitumen)

UPM BioMotion™ RFF

Tires



Mechanical
Rubber Goods
(e.g., profiles, hoses)



NIR-sortable
Black Pigment



Bio-Based
Light-Weight Filler
for Plastics



UPM BioPura™ MEG – Partnering for Sustainable Solutions



Renewable carbon content: 30 %

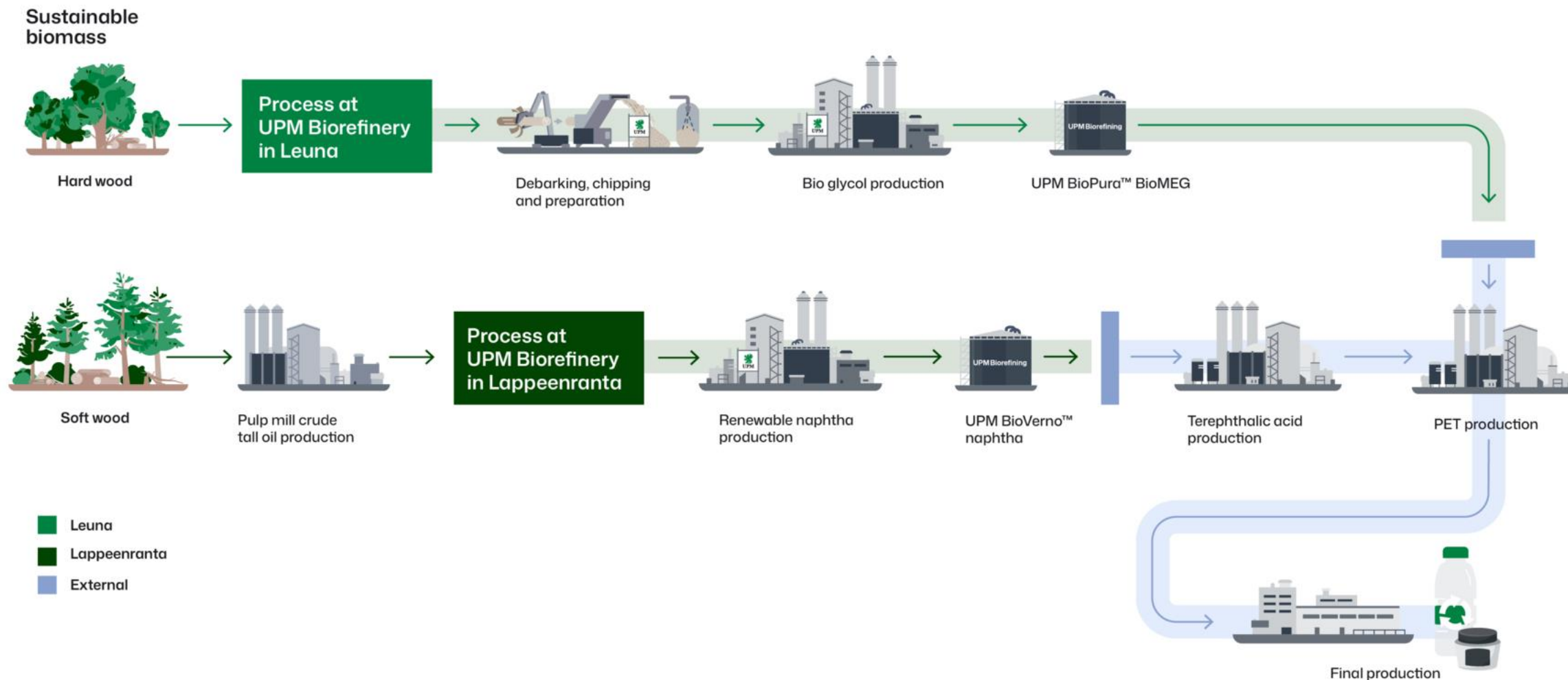


Renewable carbon content: 30 %

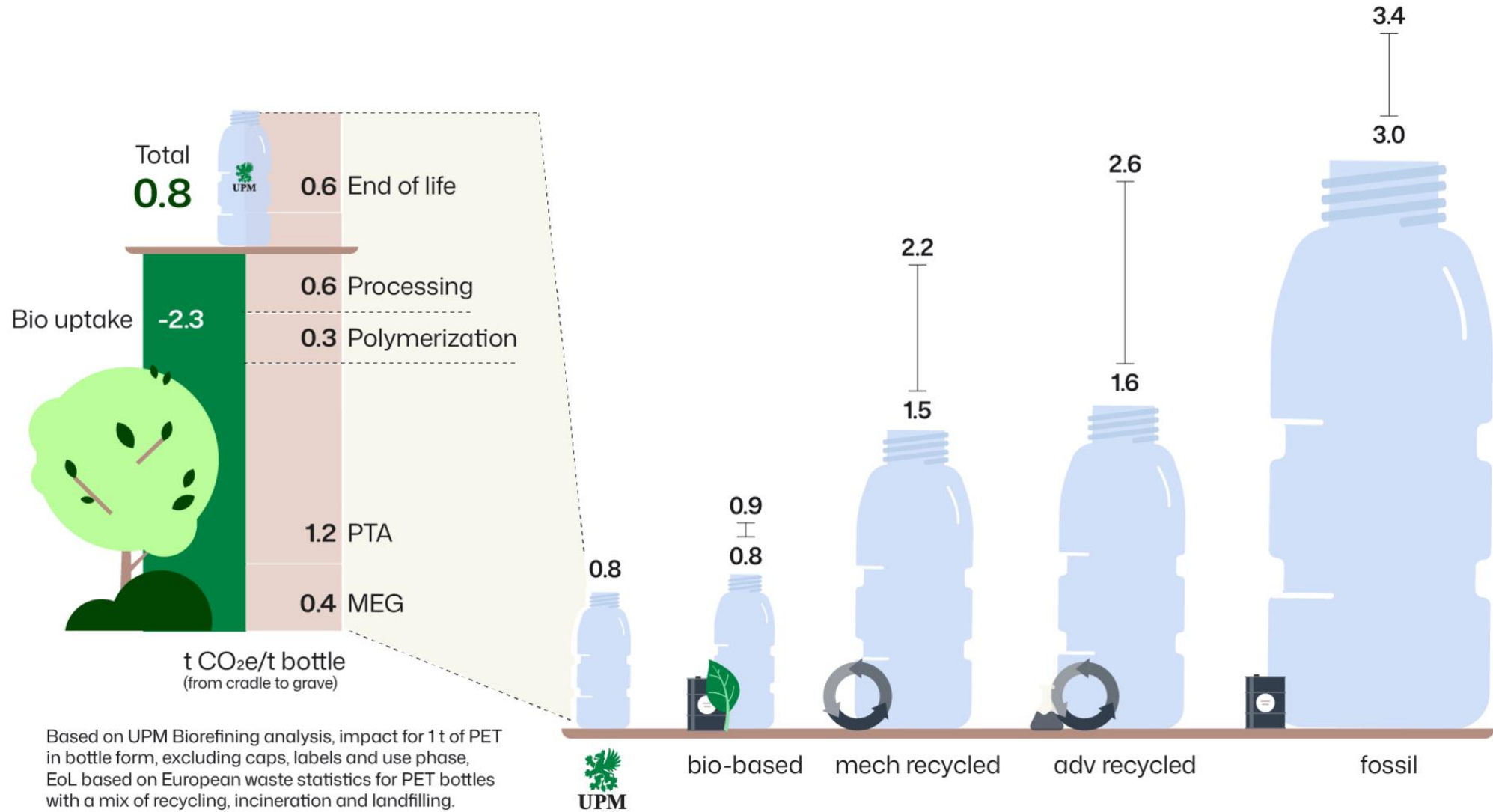


Renewable carbon content: 99 %

UPM is working on 100% BioPET – available in 2025



The use of 100% BioPET presents a strong opportunity for reducing GHG emissions beyond what recycling can offer





The Journey Continues: What Lies Ahead?



- production ramp up H2/2025
- full capacity expected to be reached in 2027
- continuous process improvements
- valorization of industrial sugar stream in own production processes
- the next biorefinery



UPM