

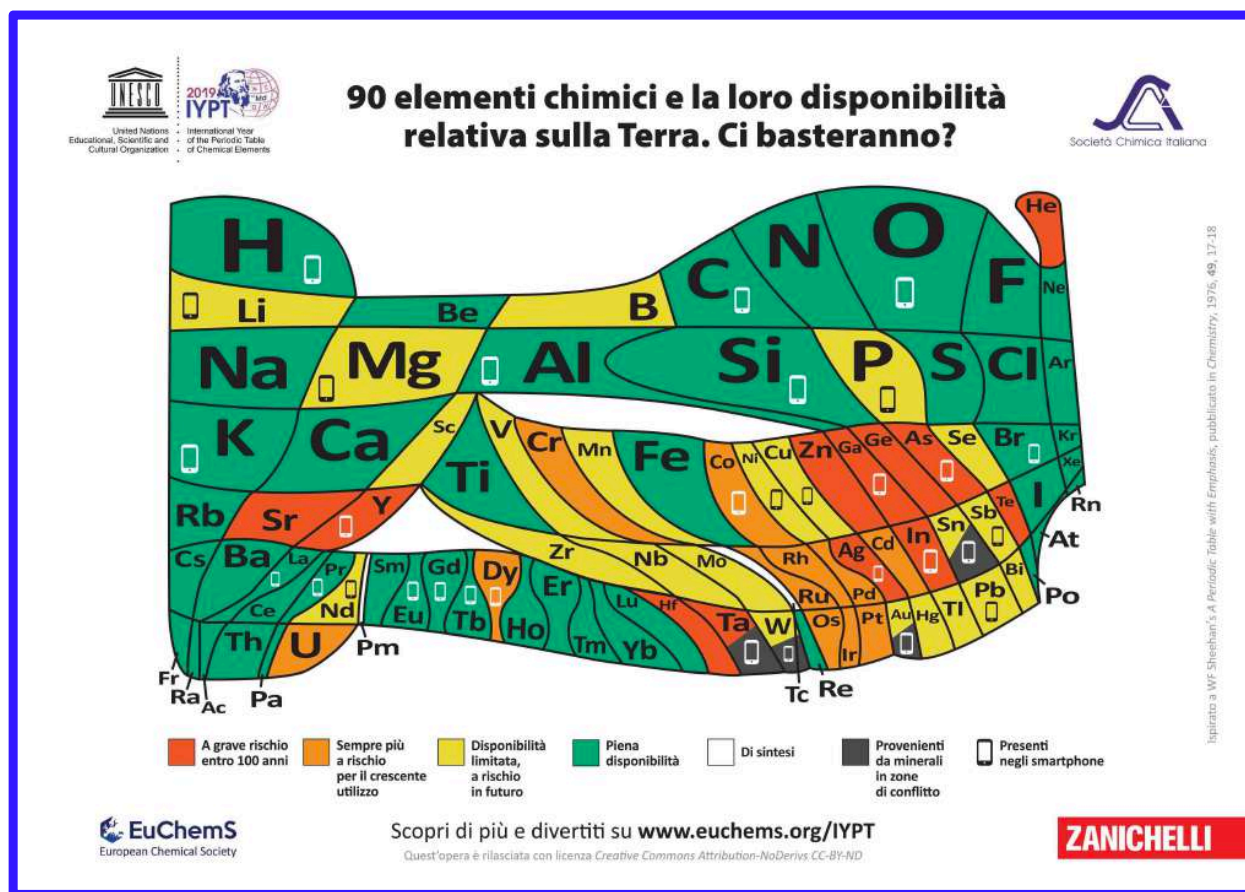
# ELEMENTI CHIMICI E CIVILTÀ TECNOLOGICA: UNA QUESTIONE MOLTO INTRICATA

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Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca, 5 Aprile 2019



## ELEMENT SCARCITY: The EuChemS Periodic Table

➡ [www.euchems.eu/euchems-periodic-table/](http://www.euchems.eu/euchems-periodic-table/)

➡ [aulascienze.scuola.zanichelli.it/2019/03/04/bastera-il-litio-chiedilo-alla-tavola-periodica/](http://aulascienze.scuola.zanichelli.it/2019/03/04/bastera-il-litio-chiedilo-alla-tavola-periodica/)

# EVOLUZIONE MATERIALE DELLA CIVILTÀ

Età del Rame (6000 a.C.) – Età del Bronzo (3000 a.C.) – Età del Ferro (1200 a.C.)

Fino a ca. **1950**



**1990**

Meno di **20** elementi  
in un'intera casa



**2019**

Circa **40** elementi chimici  
sul palm di una mano

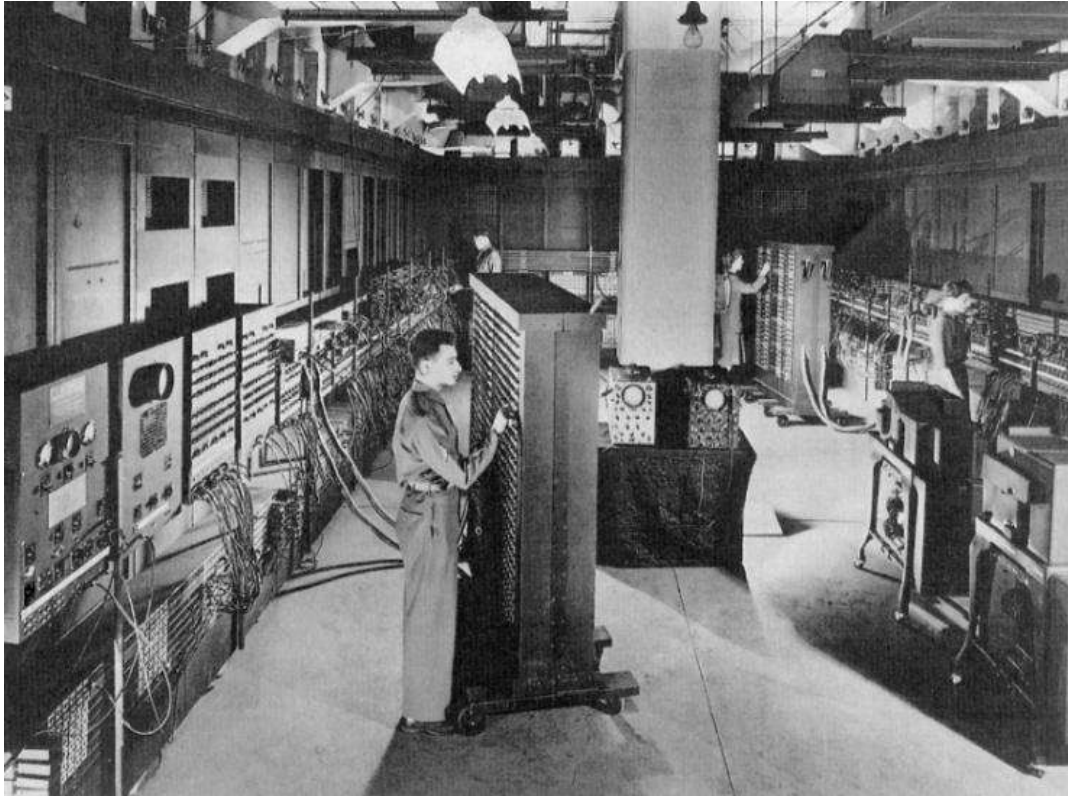


# DEMATERIALIZAZIONE

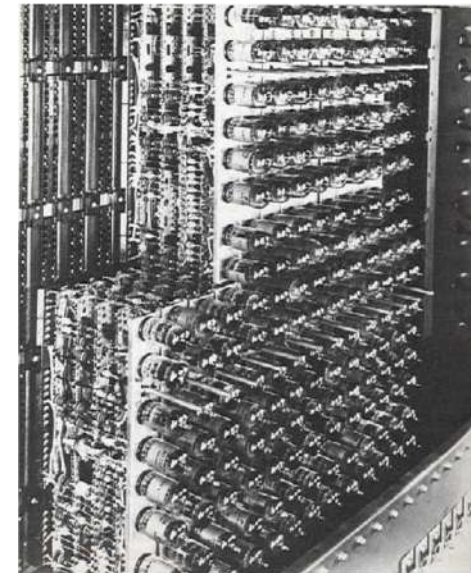




# ENIAC: il primo computer elettronico (1944)



- Peso:  $\approx 30$  ton
- Valvole: 19 000
- Consumo: 200 000 W



# QUESTO COMPUTER

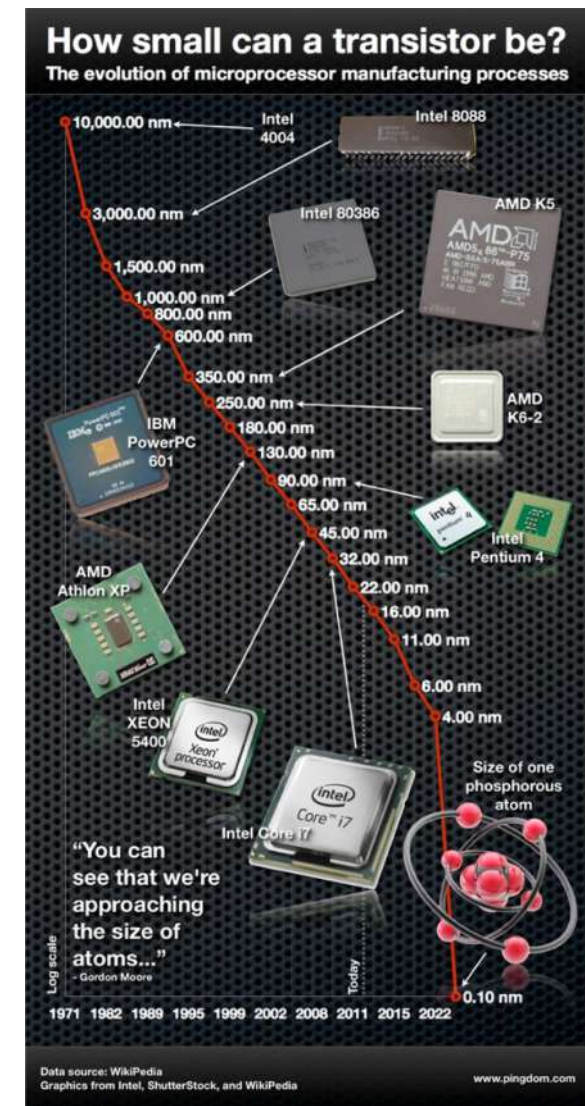


**Peso: 1.5 kg**

**Consumo: 30 W**

**1.3 miliardi di transistors**

**Dimensione media: 22 nm**



# IL CAMPIONE DELLA DEMATERIALIZZAZIONE

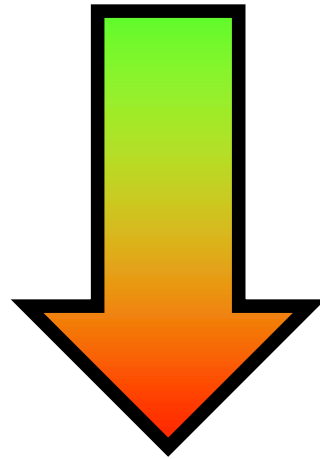


148 grammi





# DEMATERIALIZZAZIONE



# INTENSIFICAZIONE MATERIALE



# LA MINIERA: IL NOSTRO MINUSCOLO PIANETA TERRA

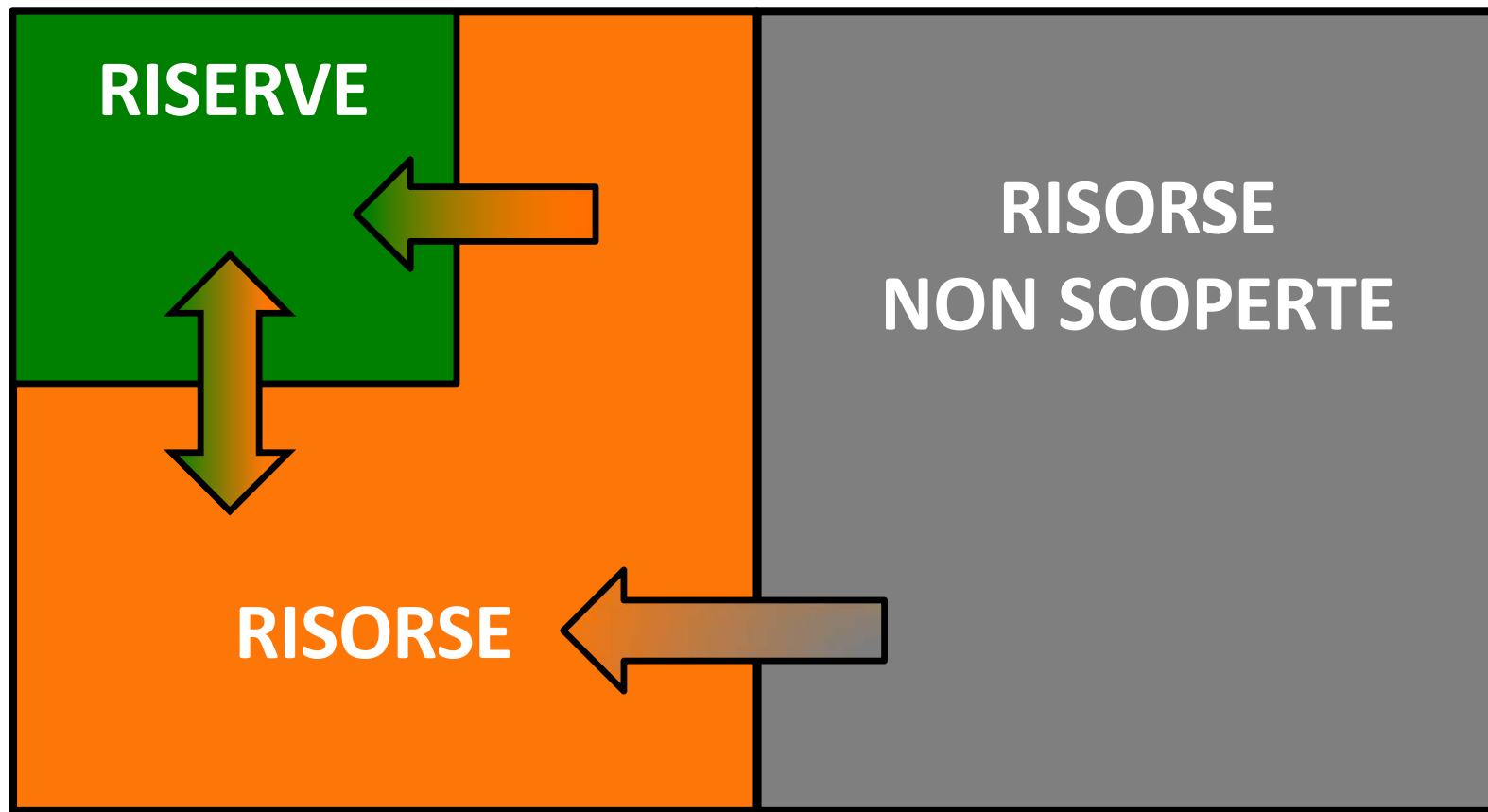


**Siamo in grado  
di estrarre  
fino a circa  
5 km**



Nicola Armaroli, CNR-ISOF – *HorizonChem 2019* – Università di Milano - Bicocca, 5 Aprile 2019

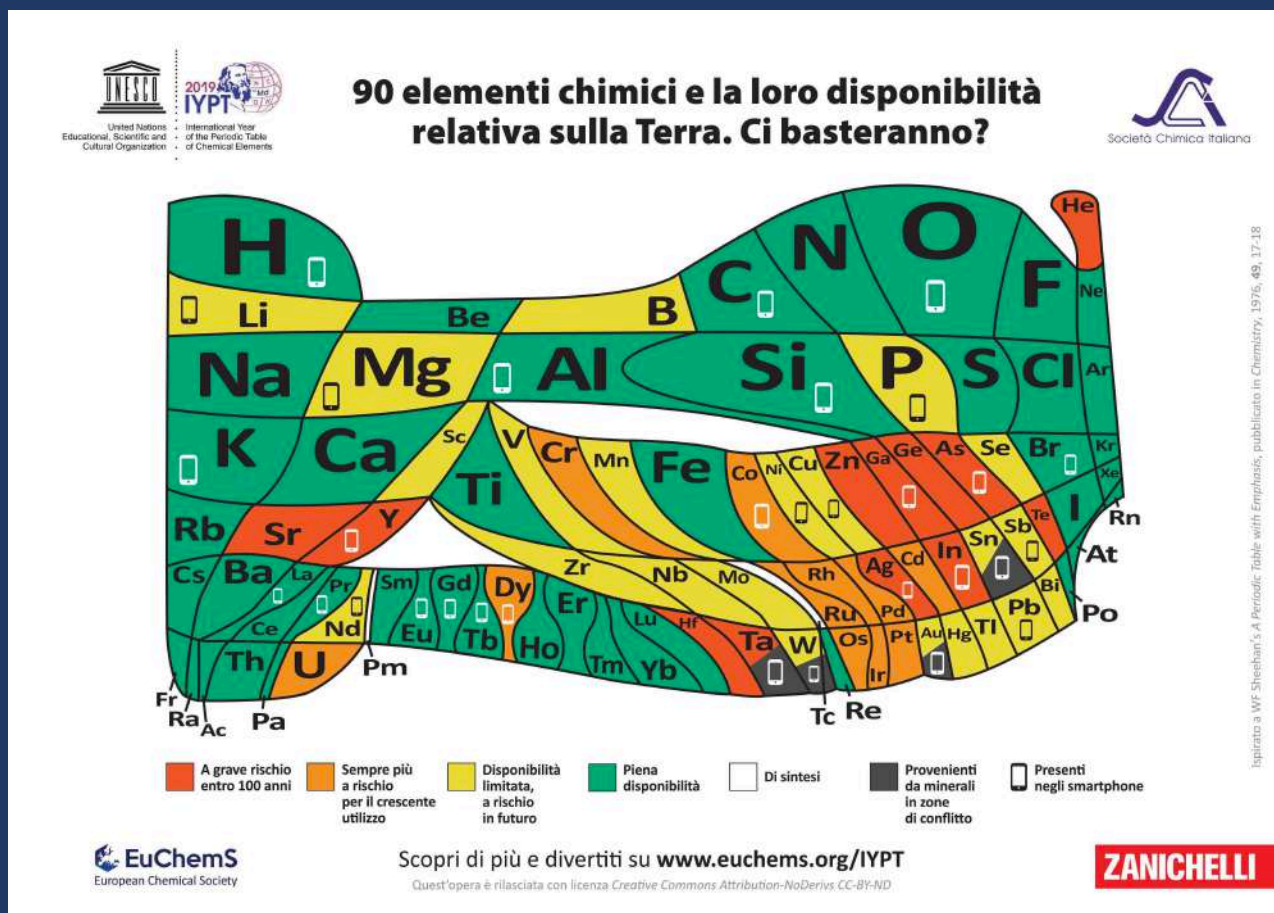
# “RISORSE” E “RISERVE” MINERALI



*Critical Raw Materials for the EU*, The European Commission, **2010**

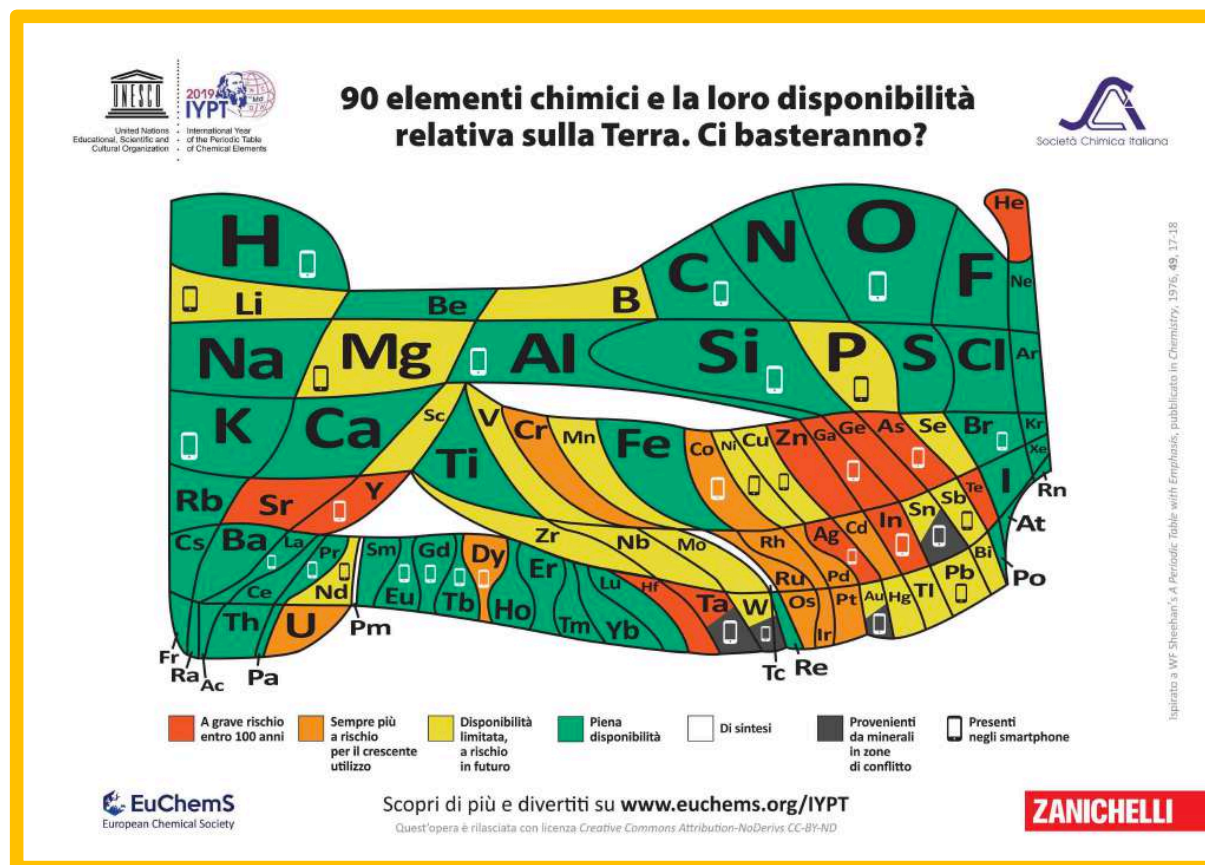
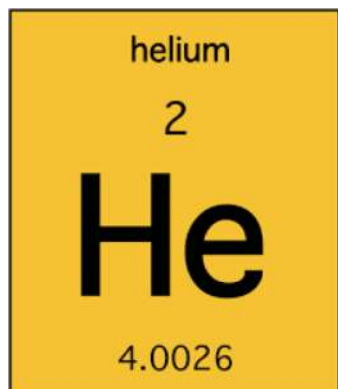


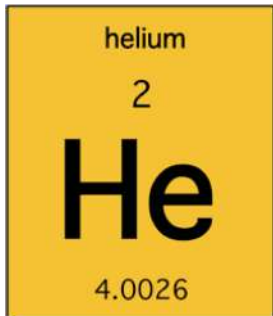
# FOCUS SU ALCUNI ELEMENTI





# ELIO

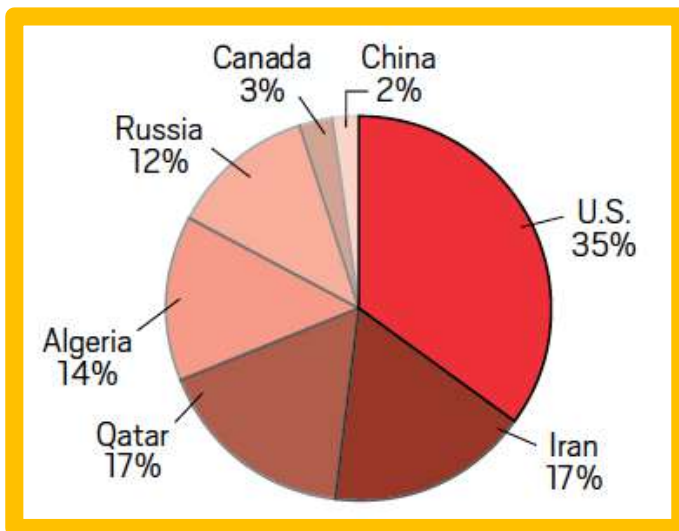




**GAS** – 2° elemento più abbondante dell'Universo  
Molto raro sulla Terra, si perde nello spazio  
(0.0005% del volume dell' atmosfera)

**Origine: giacimenti di gas (fino al 7% in volume)**

Risorse mondiali: 59 Gm<sup>3</sup>

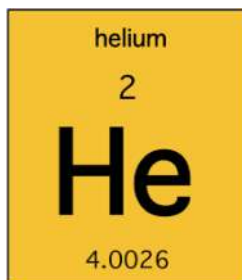


*C&EN 2017, July 24, 22*

**USA: da sempre primo detentore mondiale di riserve, grazie alla Federal Helium Reserve in Texas (in vendita ...)**

Consumo annuale: 180 Mm<sup>3</sup>

# ELIO: PROPRIETÀ FISICHE UNICHE



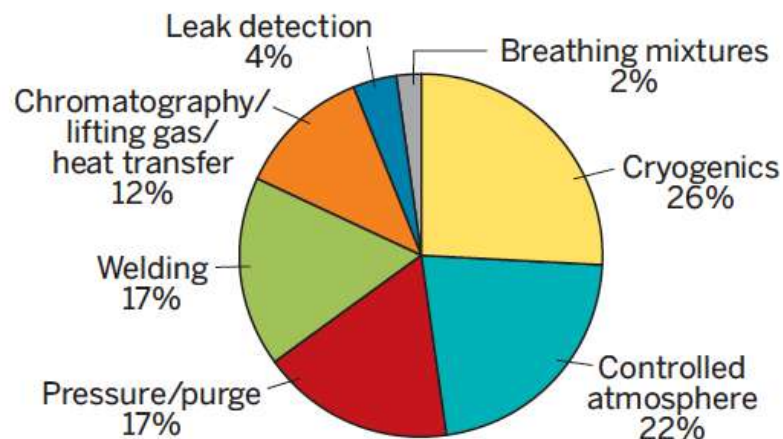
**Punto di ebollizione:  $-268,93^{\circ}\text{C}$  (4.22 K)**

**Punto di fusione:  $-272,20^{\circ}\text{C}$  (0.94 K)**

Sotto 4K diventa un "superfluido" senza viscosità apparente e con una straordinaria conducibilità termica.

Perfetto per utilizzi criogenici "estremi" (NMR)

## UTILIZZI

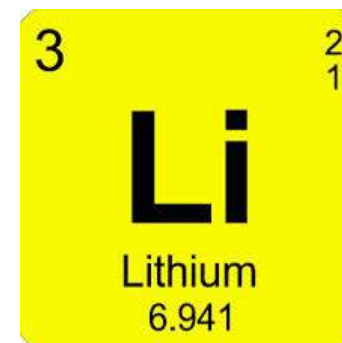
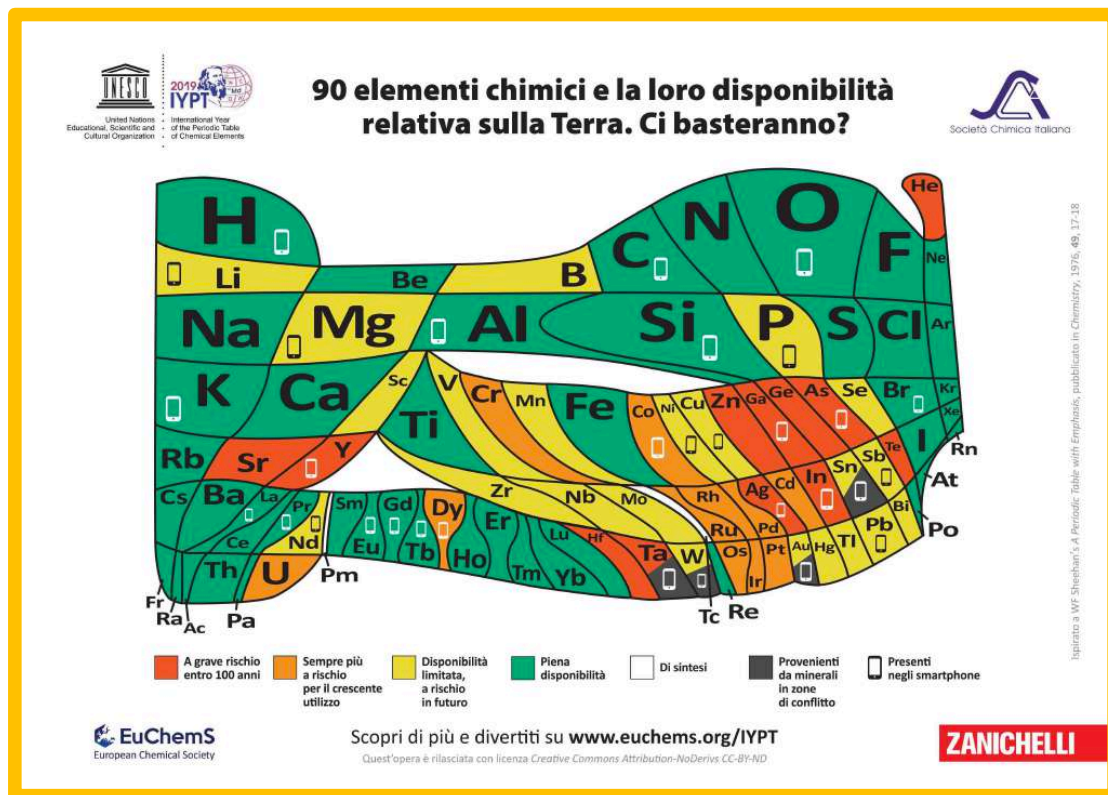


*Chem. Eng. News* **2015**, July 27

La domanda sale, l'offerta  
(e il prezzo) oscillano

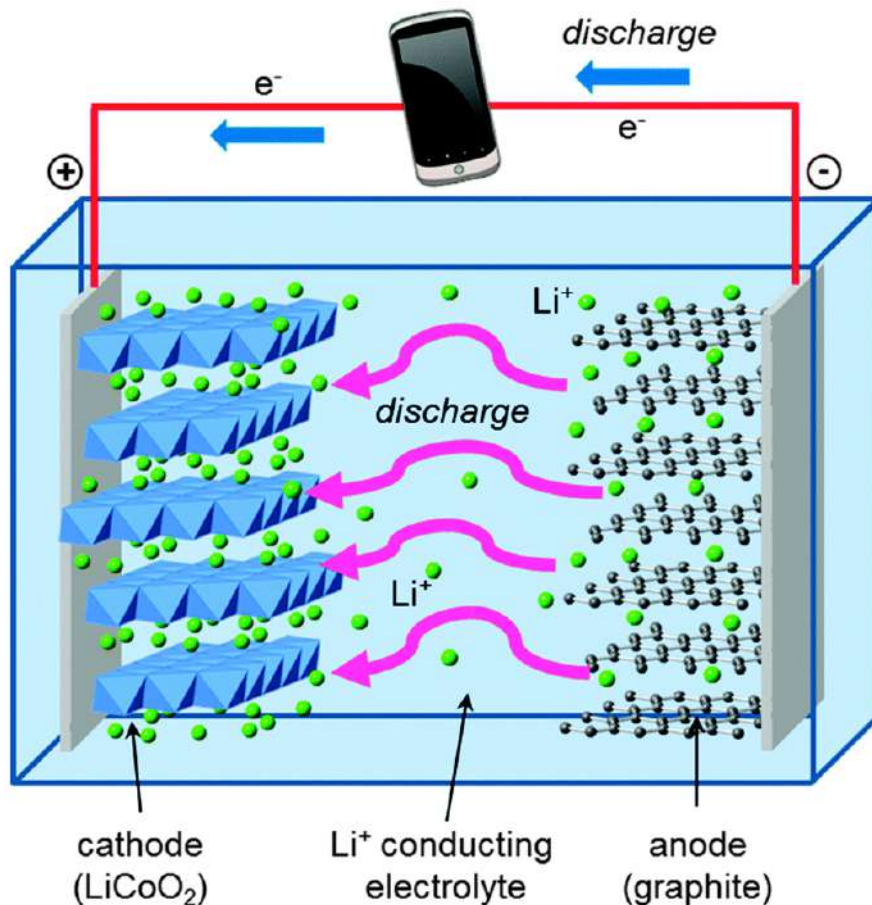
**GRANDE problema nei  
laboratori di ricerca e negli  
impianti tecnologici**

# LITIO





# BATTERIE AGLI IONI DI LITIO



**Il metallo solido più leggero e più piccolo e con uno dei più elevati potenziali elettrochimici**

**Elevata densità di energia  
Elevata velocità di carica  
Lunga durata**

**IDEALE PER LE BATTERIE**

# LITIO

**METALLO** – Molto instabile in aria e acqua.

Maggiori produttori attuali: **Australia, Cile, Argentina**

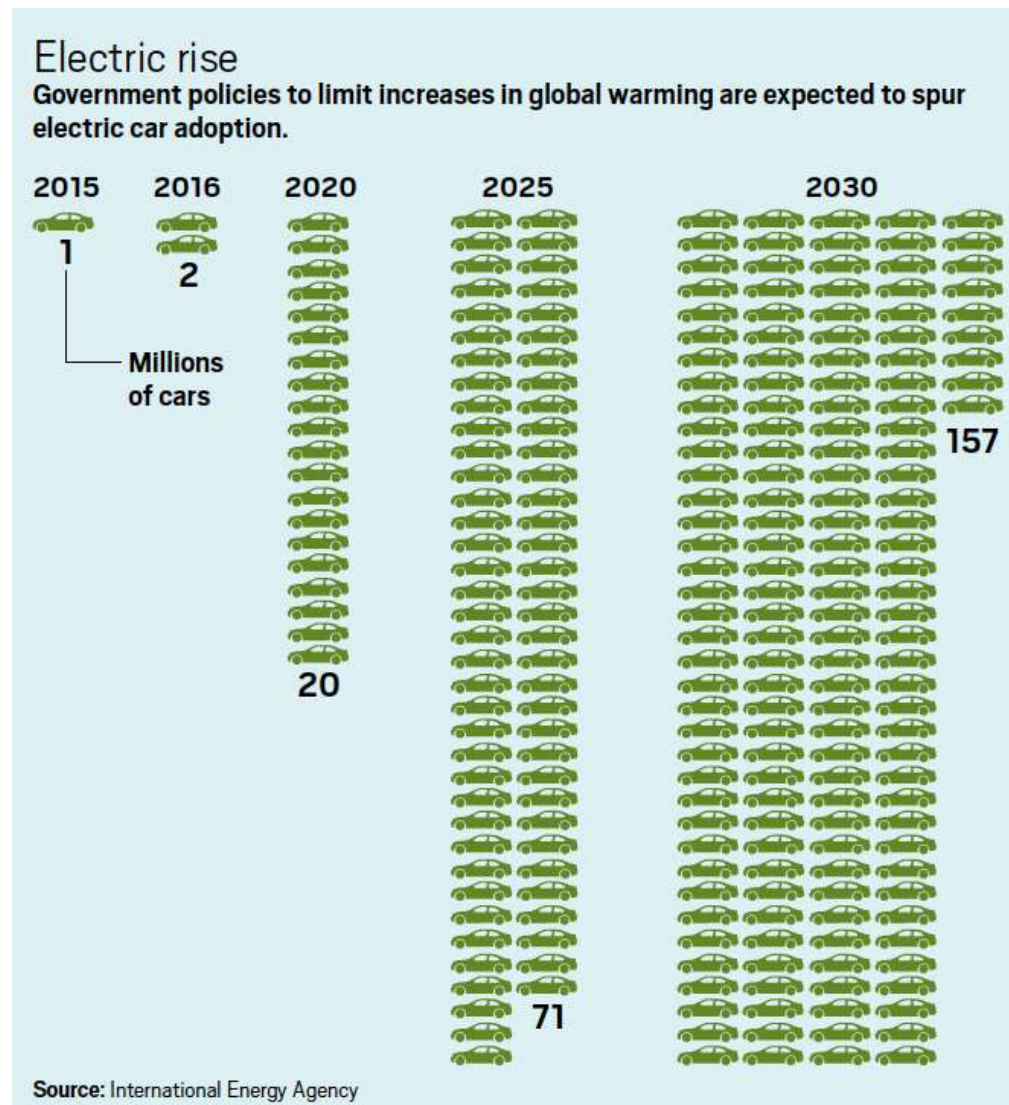
**RISERVE** stimate: 16.0 Mton; **RISORSE** > 53 Mton

**La più grande risorsa mondiale:  
Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia - 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>**



# PREVISIONI DI CRESCITA AUTO ELETTRICA

*Chem. Eng. News* **2017**, Sept 18



# BASTERÀ IL LITIO?



Auto vendute annualmente nel mondo: **80 milioni**

Se elettriche:  $\approx$  **800 000 ton/a** di Litio (10 kg/auto)

Attuale produzione mondiale di Litio:

**43 000 ton/anno** (USGS, 2017)

Il litio non serve solo per le batterie delle auto:  
Dispositivi portatili, lubrificanti, leghe, ...  
**TRIZIO** (fusione nucleare)

## RICICLARE, RICICLARE, RICICLARE

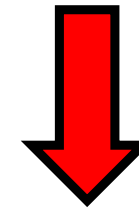


# MOLTO LITIO MA ... POCO PETROLIO



BATTERIA CARICA AL 100%

**40 kWh**



Equivalenti a

**4 LITRI DI BENZINA**

**Autonomia : 300 km**

**"L'AUTO DA 75 km/l" ESISTE GIÀ ...**

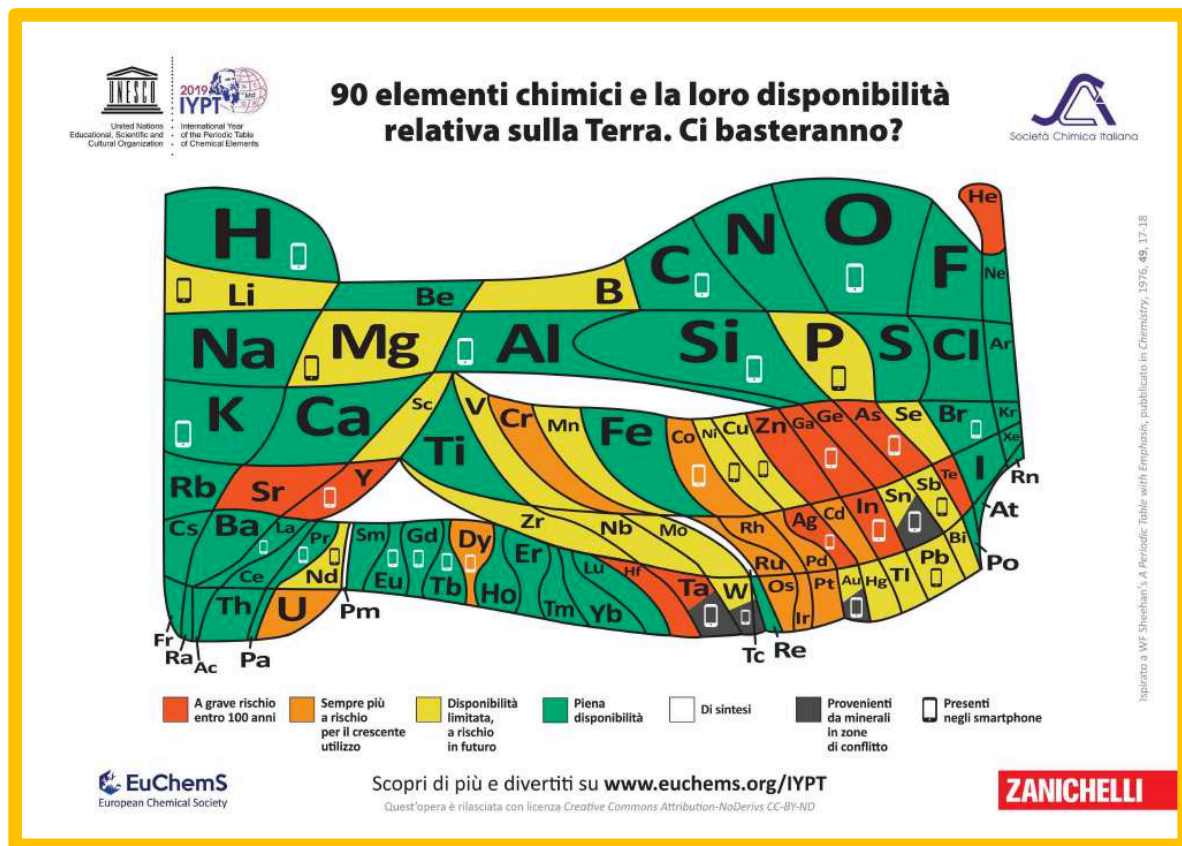
**VECCHIA AUTO**

**11 ton gasolio**

**> 7 volte il suo peso**

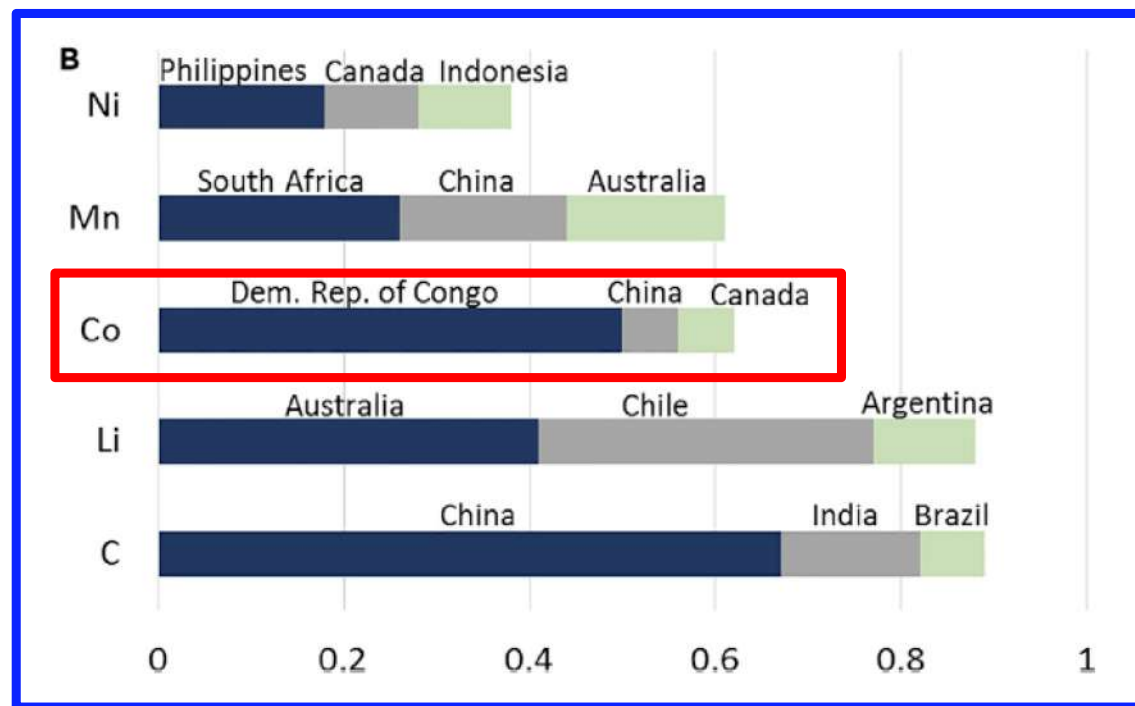
**> 21 volte il suo peso in CO<sub>2</sub>**

# COBALTO



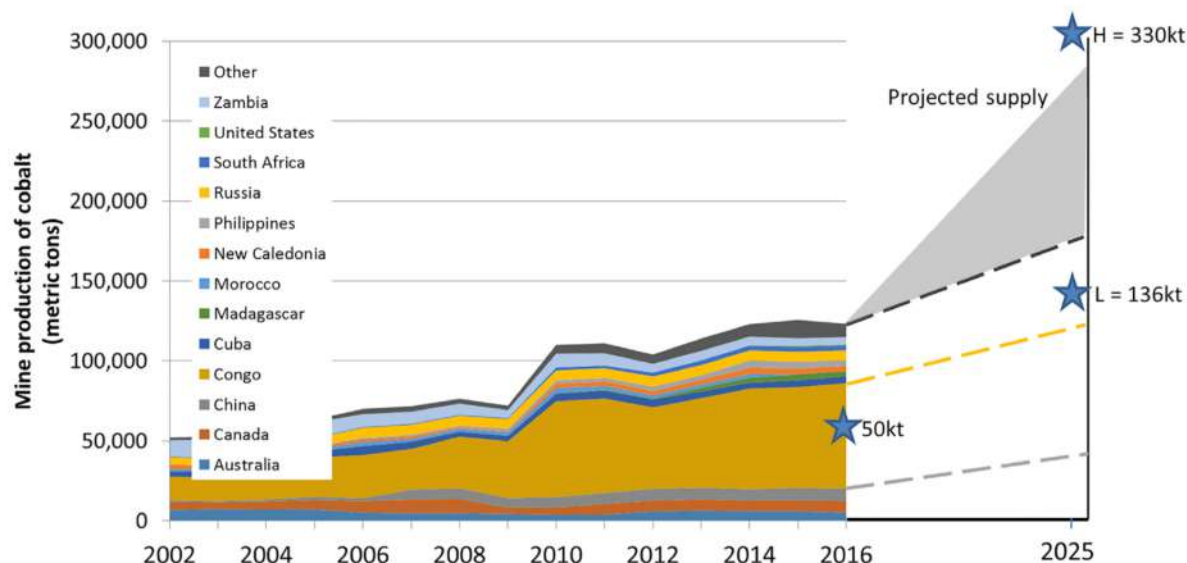
Catodo delle batterie al Litio

# PROVENIENZA DEGLI ELEMENTI CHIMICI NECESSARI NELLE BATTERIE AL LITIO



*Joule* **2017**, 1, 229

# COBALTO: DOMANDA OGGI E DOMANI



“While the supply of materials for LIBs will likely meet the demand for the near future, **there are potential risks associated with the supply of Co.**”

*Joule* **2017**, 1, 229

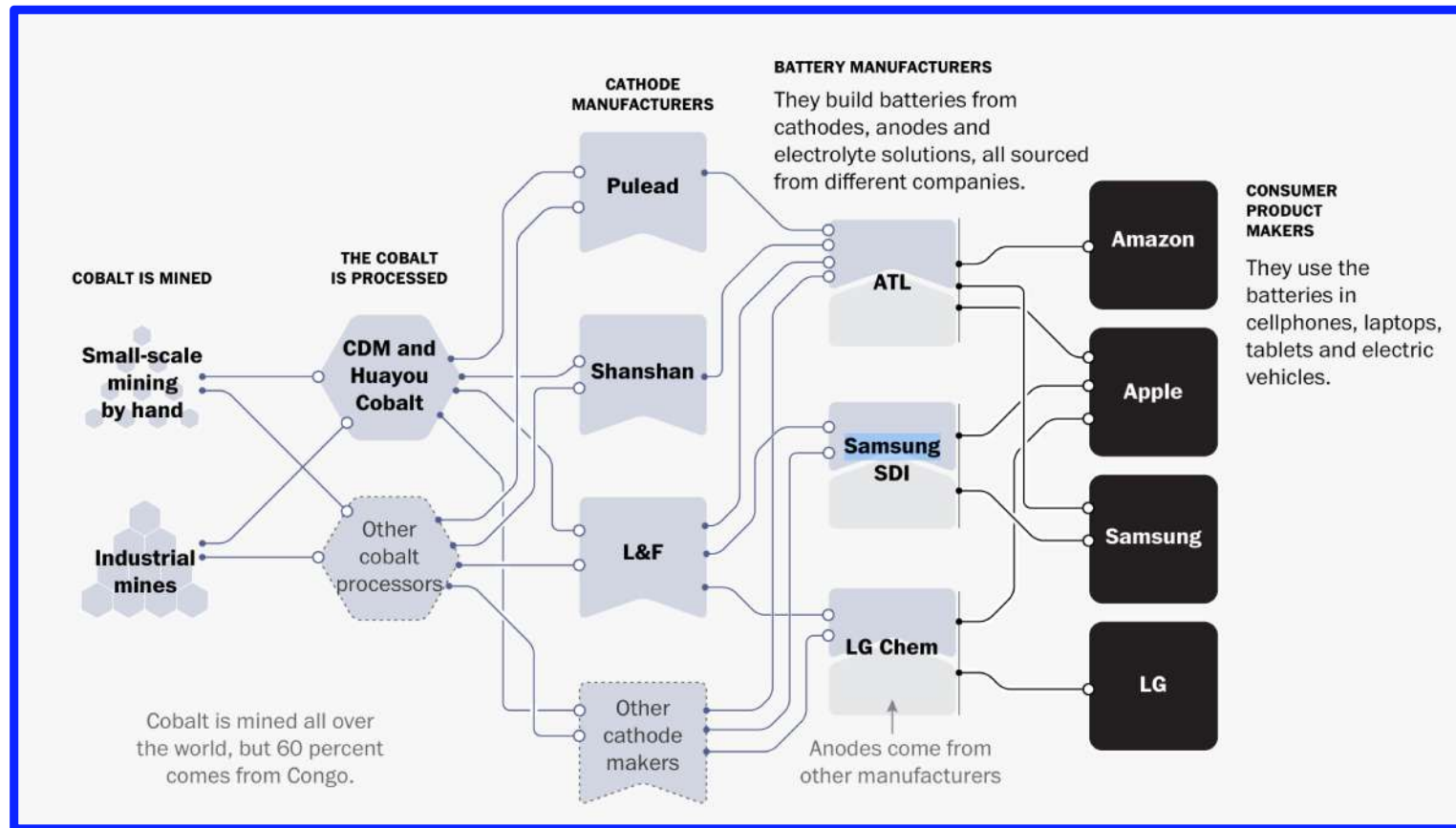


# MINIERE DI COBALTO IN R.D. CONGO



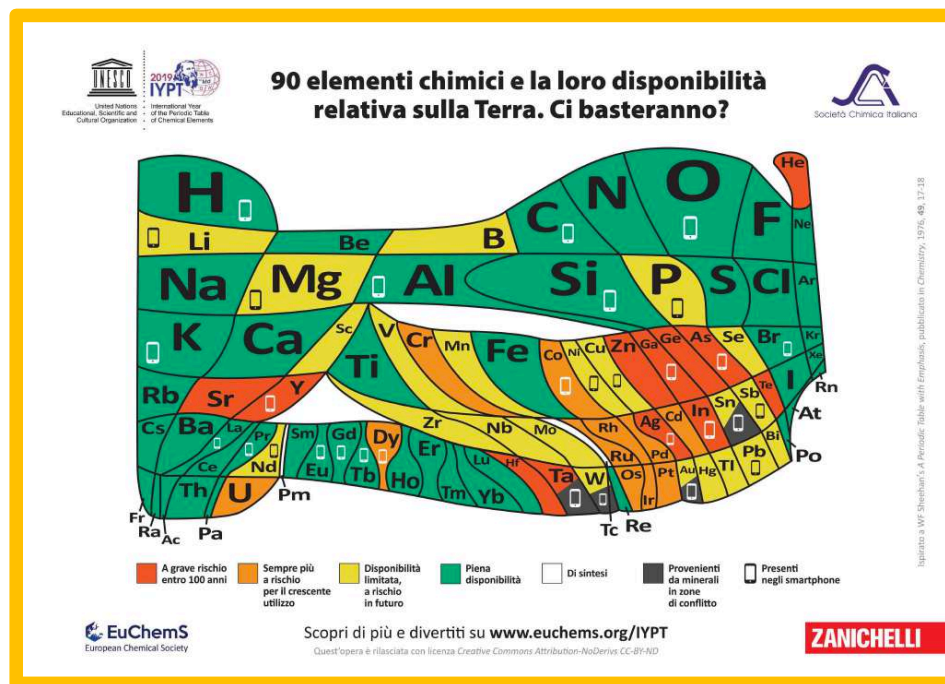
"The Cobalt Pipeline", *Washington Post*, 30 Settembre 2016

# COBALTO DENTRO (E DIETRO) AI NOSTRI DISPOSITIVI



"The Cobalt Pipeline", *Washington Post*, 30 Settembre 2016

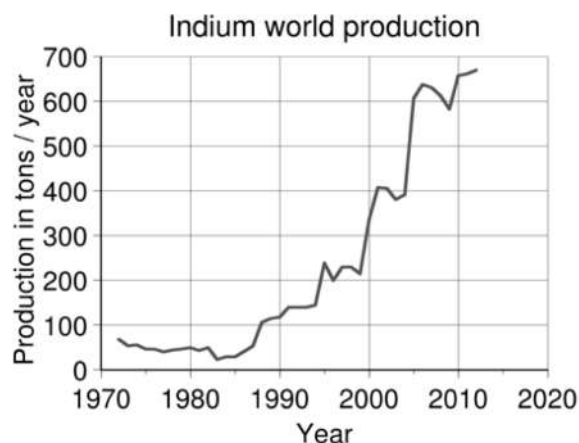
# INDIO



# INDIO

**METALLO** – Tenero, stabile in aria e acqua. Principali produttori: Cina, Corea del Sud, Giappone. Riserve stimate: ignote (USGS, 2019)

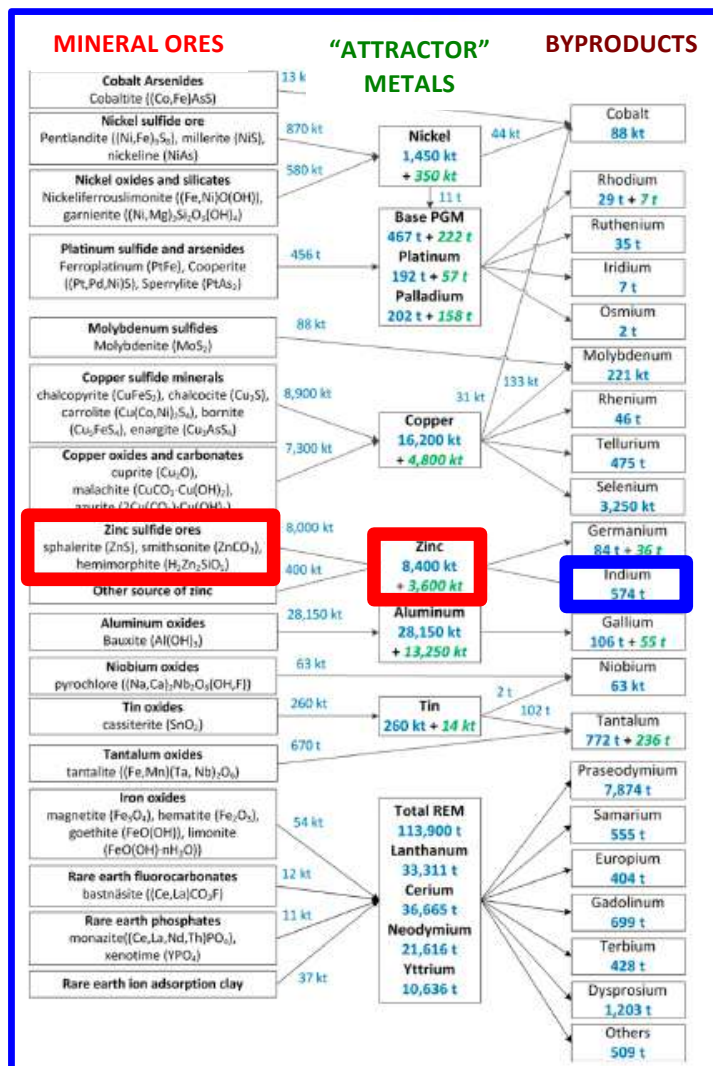
Praticamente inutile fino a 30 anni fa, poi ...



## Indium Tin Oxide (ITO)

Trasparente, conduttore, si lega molto bene al vetro



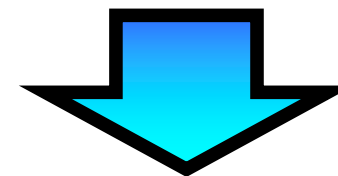


Environ. Sci. Technol. 2013, 47, 2939

# L'INDIO NON È PRODOTTO DIRETTAMENTE

## METALLI "ATTRATTORI" (Pt, Pd, Cu, Zn, Al, Sn, La, Ce, Nd, Y)

## "AUTOSTOPPISTI" (Co, Rh, Ru, Ir, Os, Mo, Re, Te, Se, Ge, In, Ga, Nb, Ta, terre rare pesanti)



## Volatilità dei prezzi, rischio di interruzione incontrollata delle forniture

# TERRE RARE (REE)

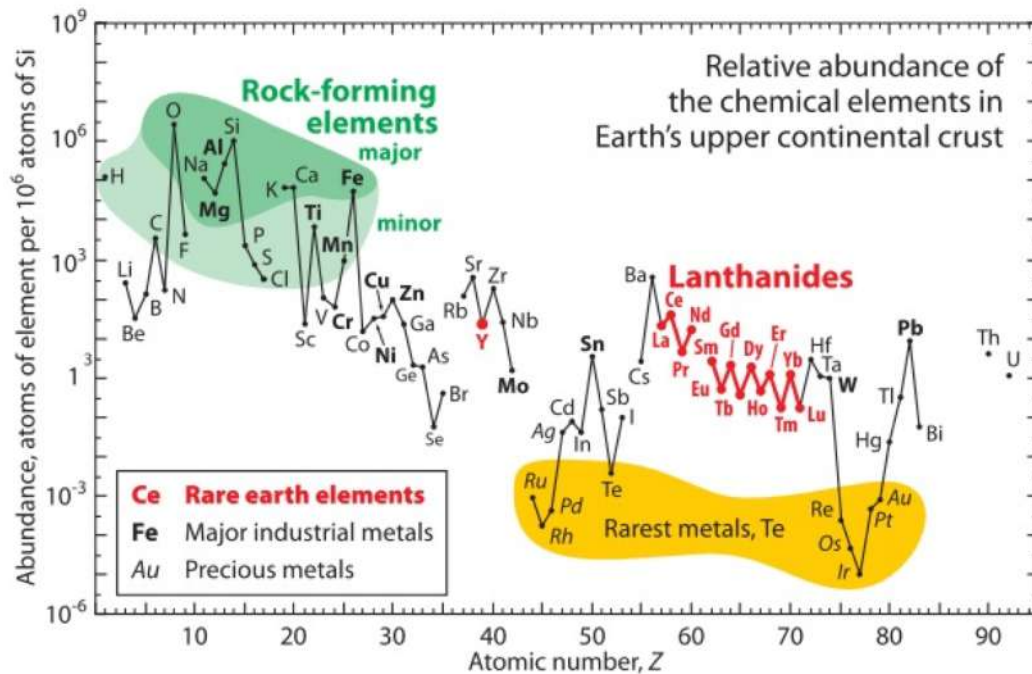
Rare Earth Elements																	
H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	**	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo
		*	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
		**	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr
			Light Rare Earth Element							Heavy Rare Earth Element							

Comportamento chimico  
molto simile:  
oltre un secolo per  
individuare tutti!

**Proprietà**  
**MAGNETICHE**  
**LUMINESCENTI**  
**OTTICHE**  
**CATALITICHE**

**14 “LANTANIDI” (no Pm) + Sc and Y**

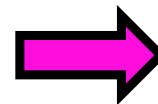
# CONCENTRAZIONE RELATIVA DEGLI ELEMENTI (crosta continentale superiore)



REE NON SONO COSÌ RARI,  
MA SONO RARAMENTE  
CONCENTRATI AD UN LIVELLO  
CHE NE PERMETTA UNO  
SFRUTTAMENTO  
ECONOMICAMENTE  
CONVENIENTE

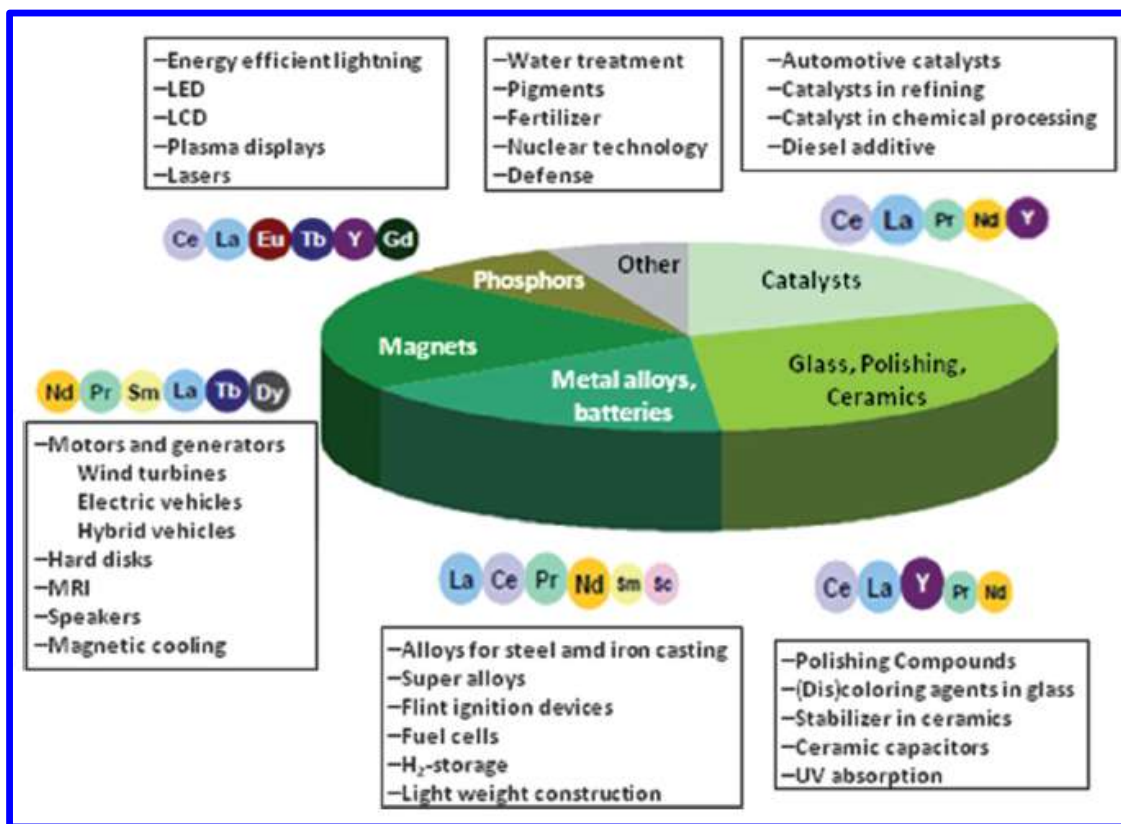
**Leggeri** : Sc, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu

**Pesanti** : Y, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu



Tipicamente più rari

# REE: ESSENZIALI PER TANTISSIME APPLICAZIONI TECNOLOGICHE



## REE NEGLI SMARTPHONE

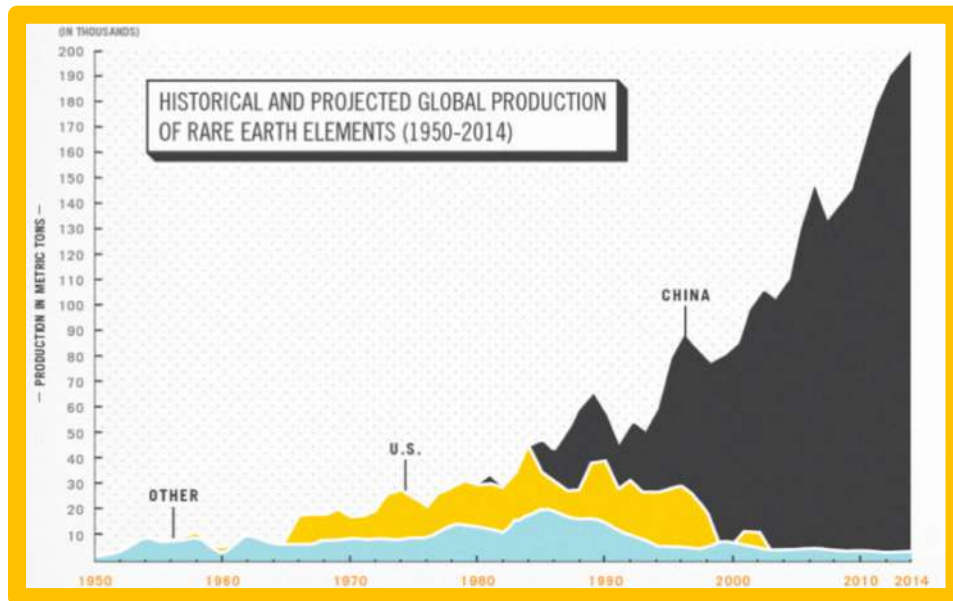


*ChemSusChem* **2013**, 6, 2045

<http://www.rareelementresources.com>

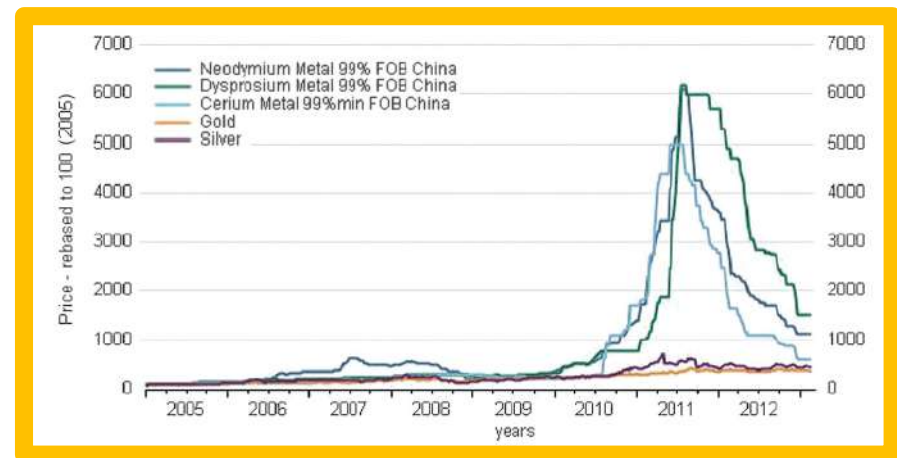


# REE: PRODUZIONE MONDIALE DOMINATA DALLA CINA

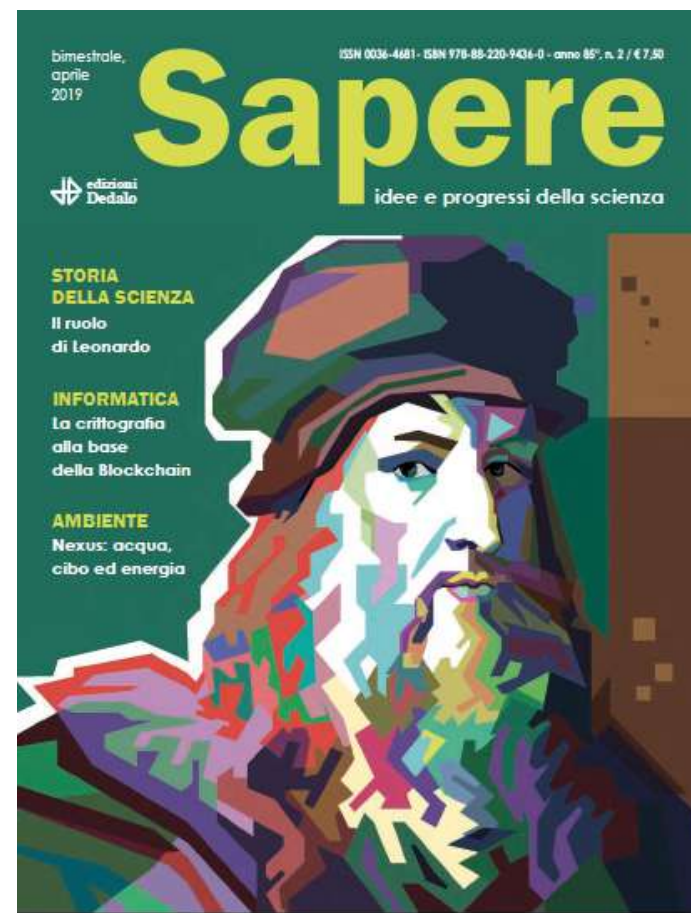
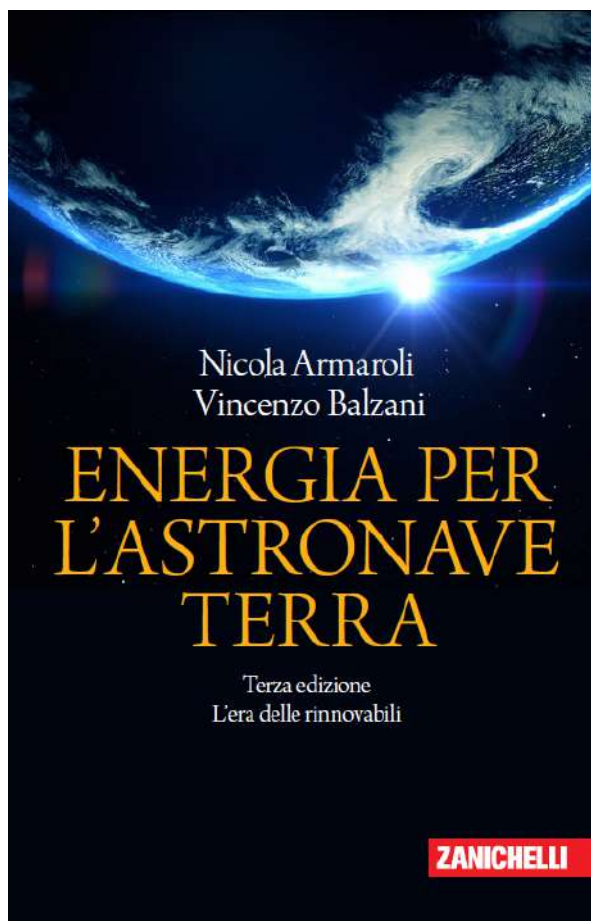
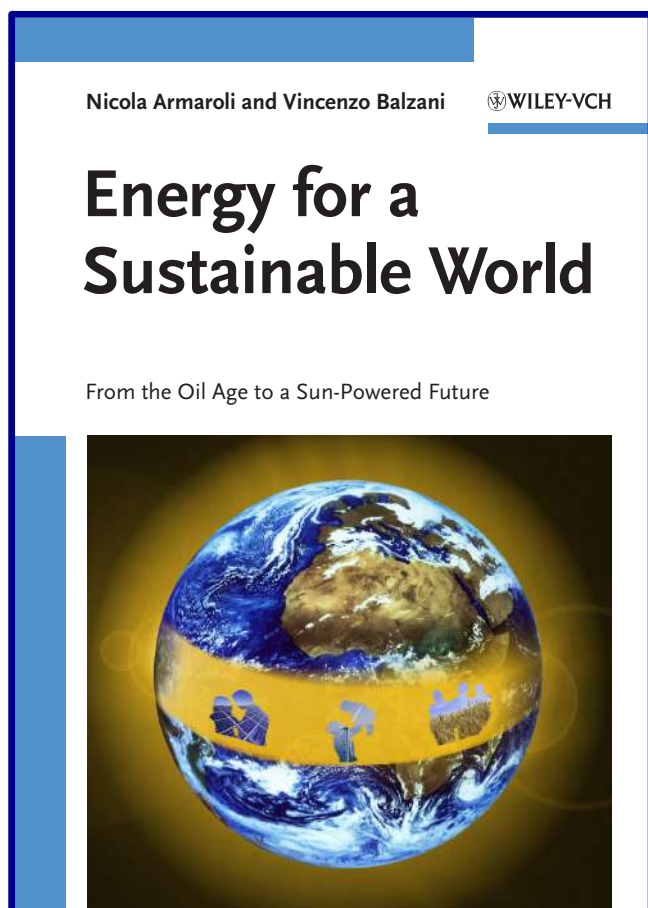


[https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/rare\\_earths/](https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/rare_earths/)

La crisi del 2010-2011  
(ora superata)



# ELEMENTI CHIMICI IN PERICOLO E LA TRANSIZIONE ENERGETICA



# LE TECNOLOGIE RINNOVABILI SONO AD ELEVATA "INTENSITÀ MATERIALE"



**ENERGIA SOLARE**  
Input "extraterrestre"  
largamente superiore  
al nostro fabbisogno

Occorrono CONVERTITORI E  
ACCUMULATORI DI ENERGIA SOLARE:  
fatti di materiali "terrestri", quindi  
disponibili in modo limitato



# ELEMENTI CHIMICI NELLE TECNOLOGIE ENERGETICHE, EFFICIENTI E DIGITALI



Nd, Pr, Dy



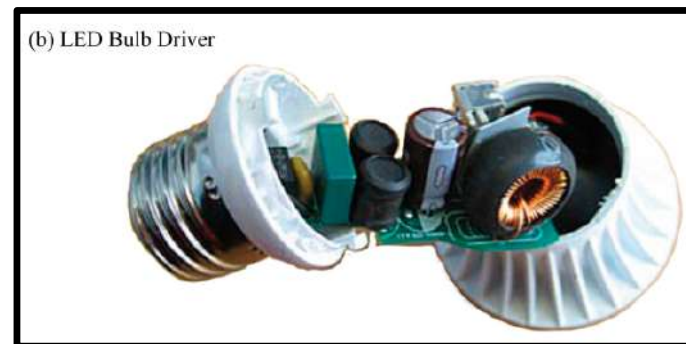
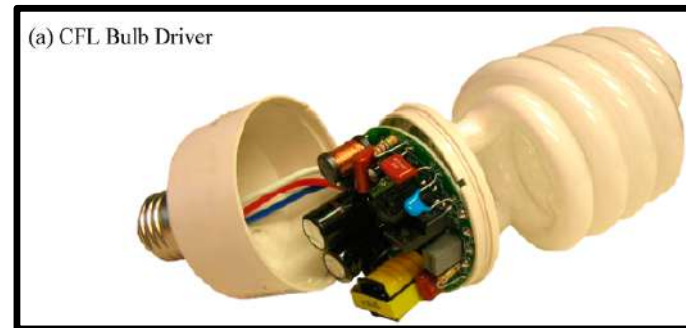
Nd, Pr, Dy, La, Ce; Li, Co



CIRCA  
40  
ELEMENTI!



# EFFICIENZA NELL'ILLUMINAZIONE: COSTO MATERIALE



**CONTENUTO DI METALLI**

*Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2013**, 47, 1040

# L'ESTRAZIONE DI MINERALI PRODUCE RIFIUTI

## Prelievi minerari e produzione di scarti (Mton/y)

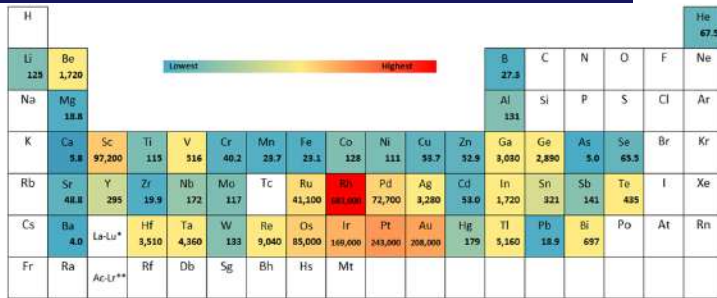
(estrazione totale: > 50 miliardi ton/anno)

Mining activity	Total	Refined product	Waste
Coal	18,444	3,787	14,657
Building stone	14,186	10,430	3,756
Lignite	9,024	930	8,094
Copper	4,190	9.3	4,181
Petroleum	3,489	3,065	424
Iron	3,138	604	2,534
Gold	2,138	0.002	2,138
Phosphate	477	119	358
Nickel	403	0.72	402
Aluminum	302	101	201

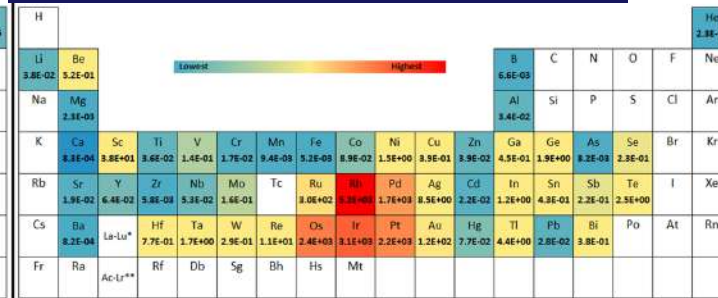
*Annu Rev. Environ. Resour.* **2010**, 35, 109

# LA TAVOLA PERIODICA DELL'IMPATTO AMBIENTALE

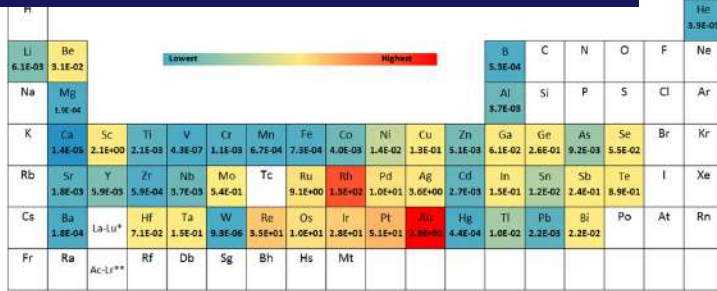
**Cumulative energy demand (Mj-eq/kg)**



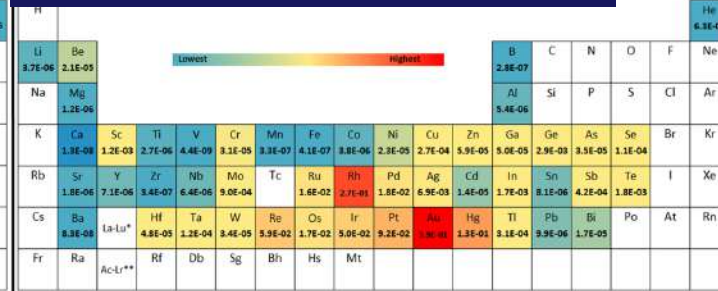
**Terrestrial acidification (kg SO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kg)**



**Freshwater Eutrophication (kg P-eq/kg)**



**Overall Human Toxicity (CTUh/kg)**



*PLOS One* 2014, 9, e101298

# SOSTITUZIONE? SPESSO NON (ANCORA) POSSIBILE

# THE PERIODIC TABLE OF SUBSTITUTE PERFORMANCE OF METALS

H 1																	He 2
Li 3	Be 4											B 5	C 6	N 7	O 8	F 9	Ne 10
Na 11	Mg 12											Al 13	Si 14	P 15	S 16	Cl 17	Ar 18
K 19	Ca 20	Sc 21	Ti 22	V 23	Cr 24	Mn 25	Fe 26	Co 27	Ni 28	Cu 29	Zn 30	Ga 31	Ge 32	As 33	Se 34	Br 35	Kr 36
Rb 37	Sr 38	Y 39	Zr 40	Nb 41	Mo 42	Tc 43	Ru 44	Rh 45	Pd 46	Ag 47	Cd 48	In 49	Sn 50	Sb 51	Te 52	I 53	Xe 54
Cs 55	Ba 56	*	Hf 58	Ta 59	W 60	Re 61	Os 62	Ir 63	Pt 64	Au 65	Hg 66	Tl 67	Pb 68	Bi 69	Po 70	At 71	Rn 72
Fr 87	Ra 88	**	Rf 90	Db 91	Sg 92	Bh 93	Hs 94	Mt 95	Ds 96	Rg 97	Cn 98	Uut 99	Fl 100	Uup 101	Lv 102	Uus 103	Uuo 104

* Lanthanides	La 57	Ce 58	Pr 59	Nd 60	Pm 61	Sm 62	Eu 63	Gd 64	Tb 65	Dy 66	Ho 67	Er 68	Tm 69	Yb 70	Lu 71
** Actinides	Ac 89	Th 90	Pa 91	U 92	Np 93	Pu 94	Am 95	Cm 96	Bk 97	Cf 98	Es 99	Fm 100	Md 101	No 102	Lr 103

Substitute Performance

Excellent 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Poor

*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2015**, 112, 6295

**0 : esistono esempi di sostituti per TUTTI gli usi principali**  
**100 : NO esempi di sostituti con performance adeguate per tutti gli usi principali**



# E L'EUROPA?

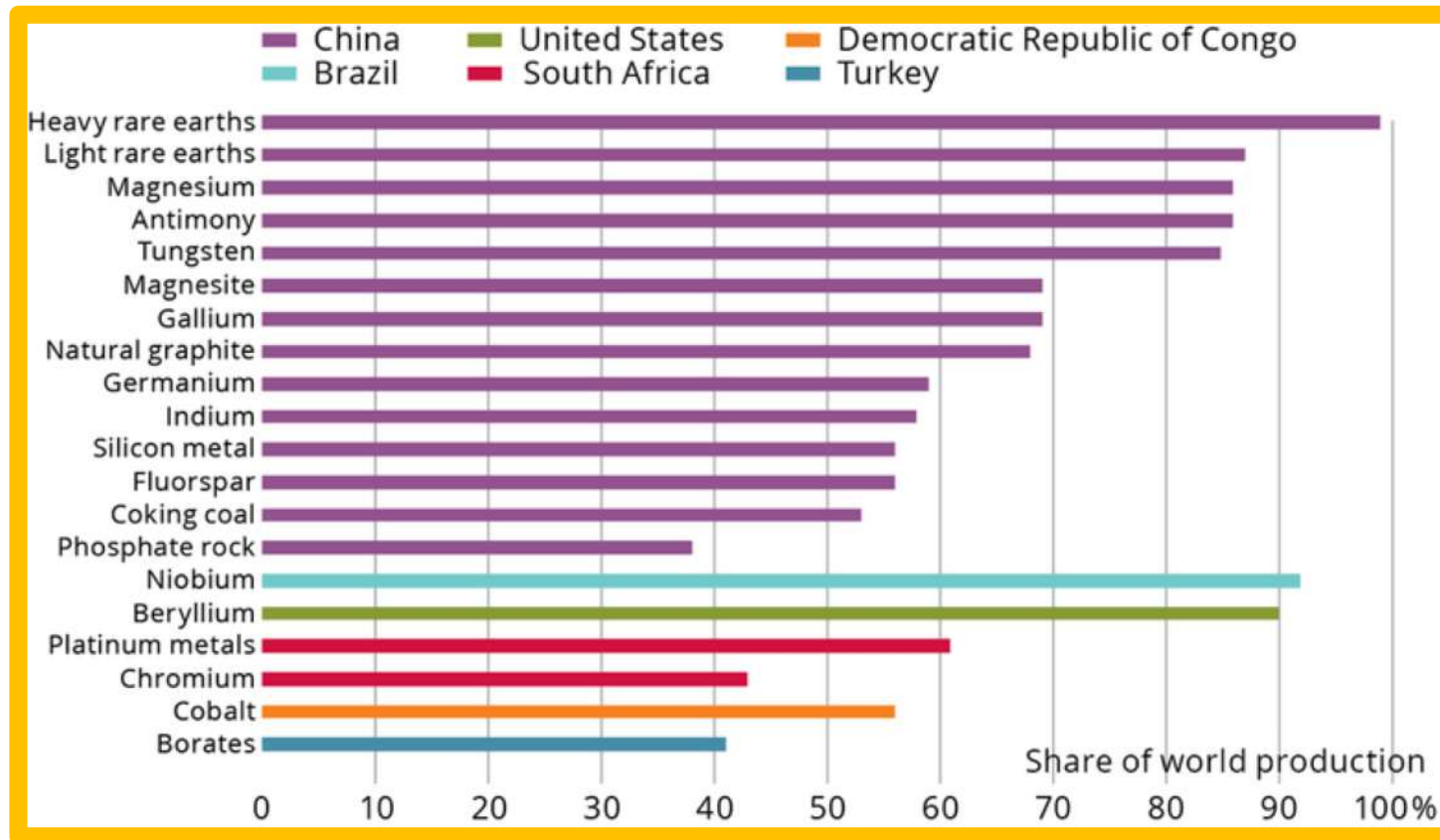


# I 27 MATERIALI CRITICI PER L'ECONOMIA EU

2017 CRMs (27)			
Antimony	Fluorspar	LREEs	Phosphorus
Baryte	Gallium	Magnesium	Scandium
Beryllium	Germanium	Natural graphite	Silicon metal
Bismuth	Hafnium	Natural rubber	Tantalum
Borate	Helium	Niobium	Tungsten
Cobalt	HREEs	PGMs	Vanadium
Coking coal	Indium	Phosphate rock	

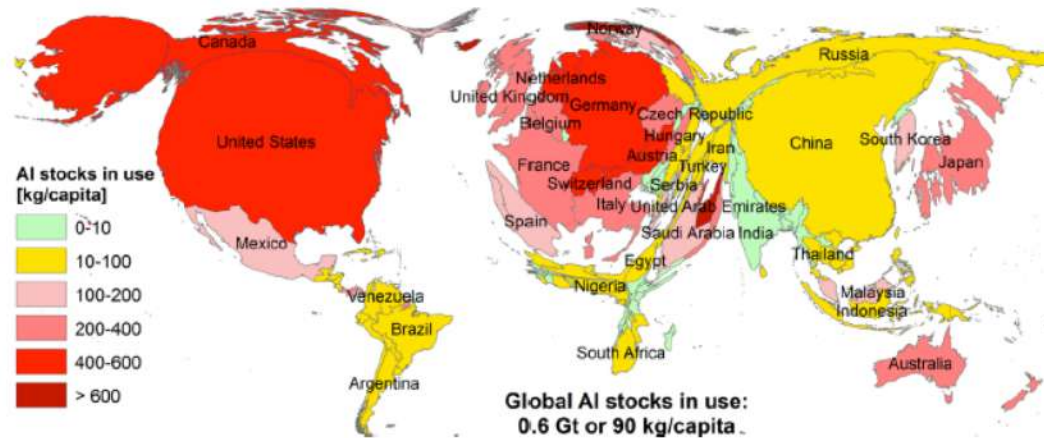
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/critical\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/critical_en)

## MATERIALI CLASSIFICATI COME CRITICI DALL'UNIONE EUROPEA: PERCENTUALE DI PRODUZIONE DA UNA SINGOLA NAZIONE



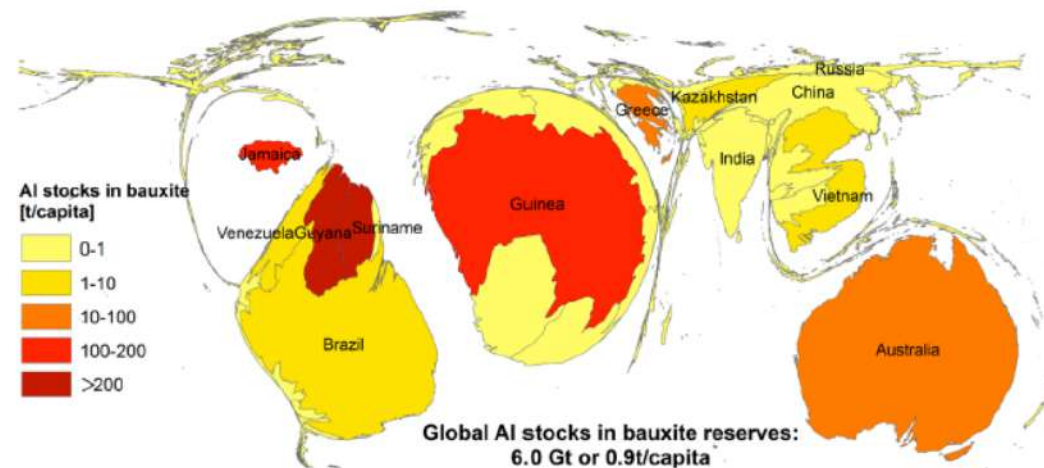
European Environment Agency, 2015

# Largo impiego, no stock: il caso dell'ALLUMINIO



IN USE

90 kg/capita



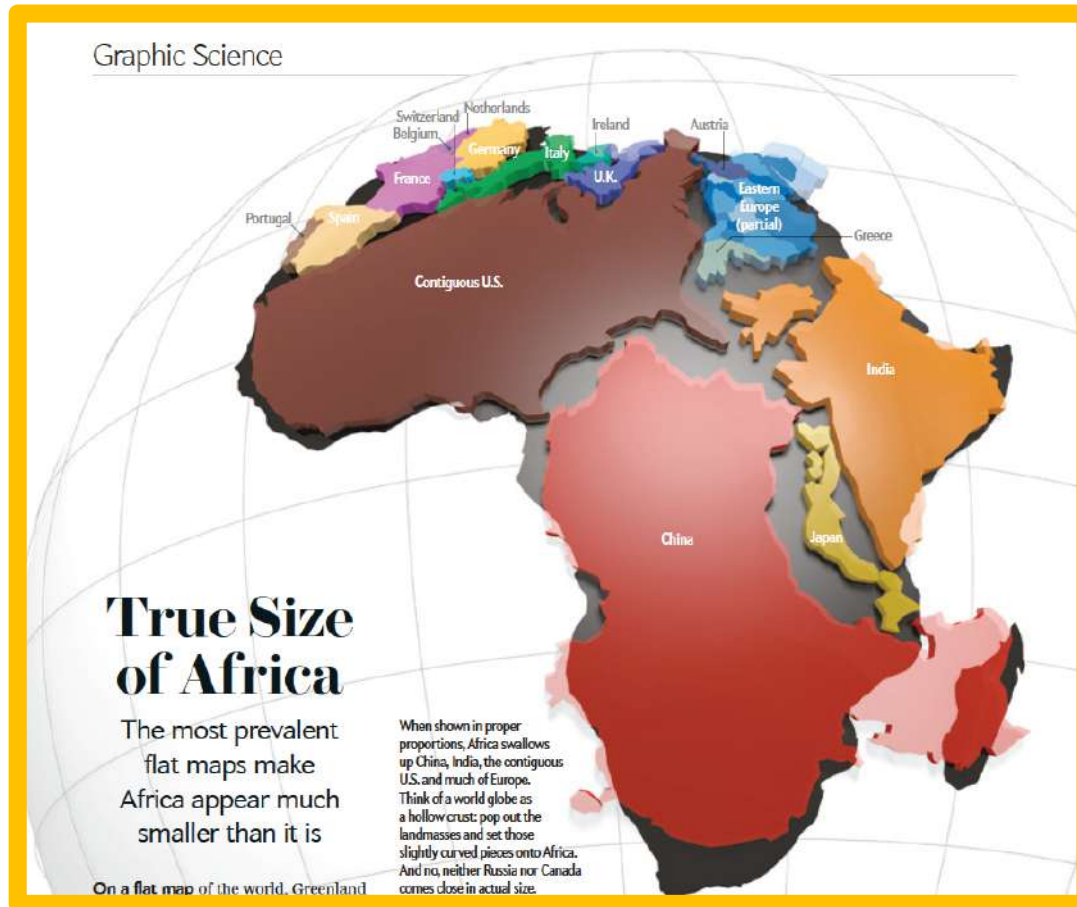
RESERVES  
IN BAUXITE

900 kg/capita

*Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2013**, 47, 4882

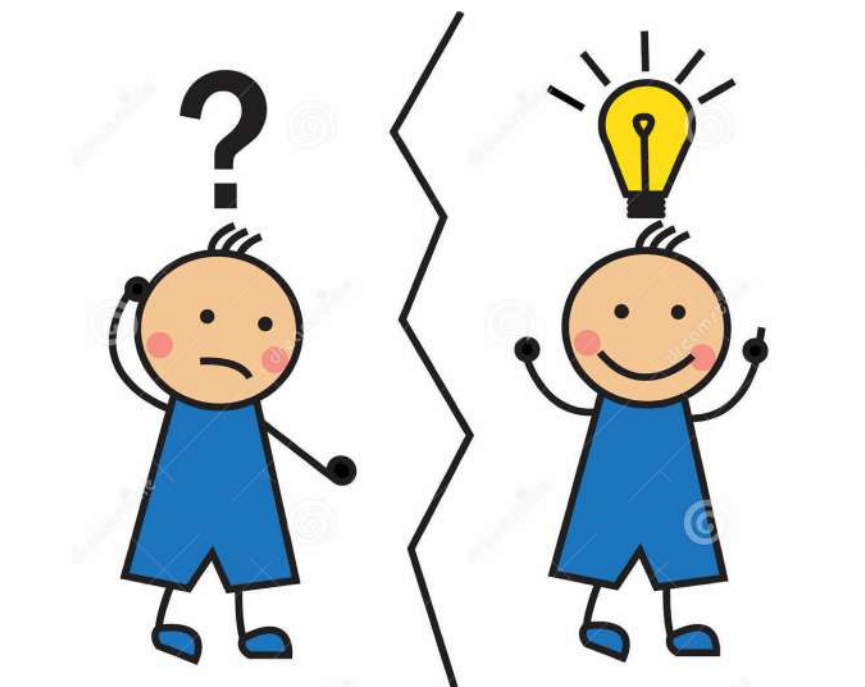


# AFRICA: IMMENSA E PIENA DI RISORSE



*Sci. Am.* **2015**, July 2015, 80

# SOLUZIONI?



# ASTEROIDI COME MINIERE?

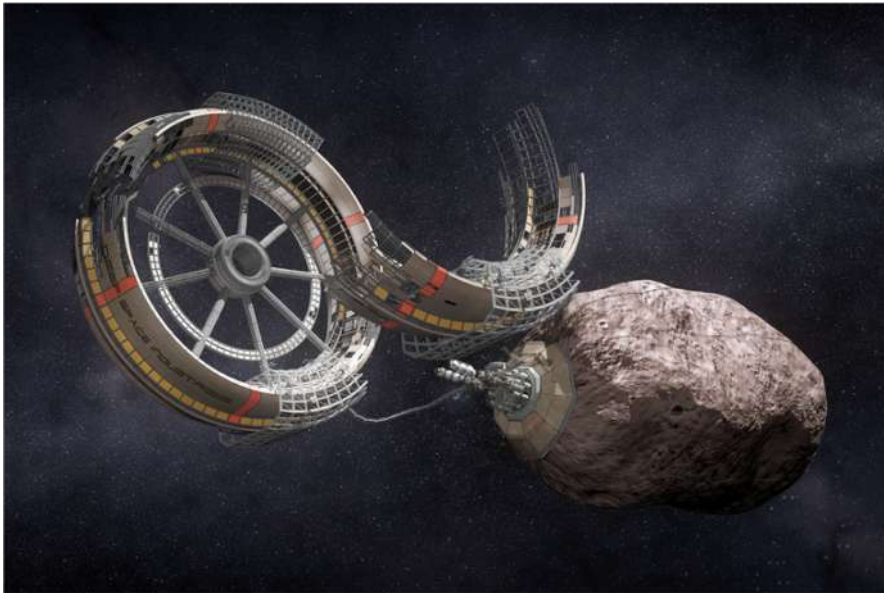


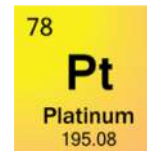
Photo Credit: National Geographic

**NON è una opzione  
realistica!**

CONCENTRAZIONE (ppb)

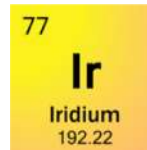
**Terra**

**Asteroidi**



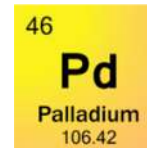
**5**

**1400**



**1**

**760**



**15**

**870**



**4**

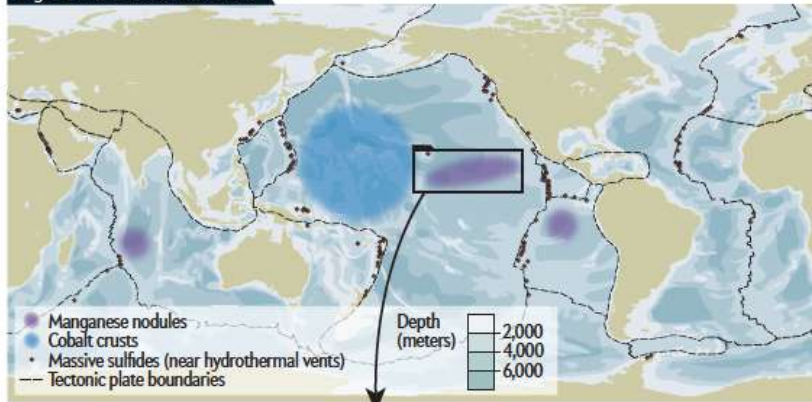
**215**

# MARE PROFONDO (Mn, Co)?

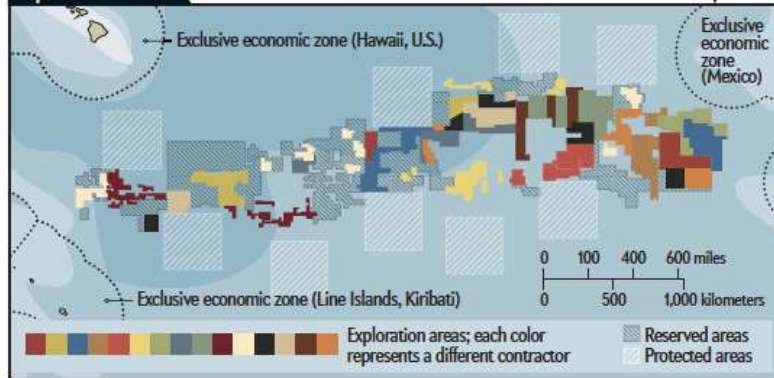
## Treasure Hunt

Many countries and companies mine the shallow ocean floor for oil, sand and diamonds. Now they are exploring the deep seabed for critical metals such as nickel and cobalt. Researchers have mapped three types of deposits in international waters that seem particularly promising (colored regions). Manganese nodules may be the most economical to extract.

### High Concentrations of Minerals



### Exploration Licenses



The International Seabed Authority, which regulates mining in international waters, has issued 16 exploration licenses (colors) for manganese nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone, a region of the Pacific Ocean seafloor about the size of Europe. Most of the rocks lie in water deeper than 4,000 meters. As the authority grants permits, it designates reserved areas for possible future exploitation by developing countries, as well as protected areas where no mining can occur. Some countries are also searching within their exclusive economic zone—their national waters.

International Seabed Authority

**Opzione  
FUTURIBILE(?)**

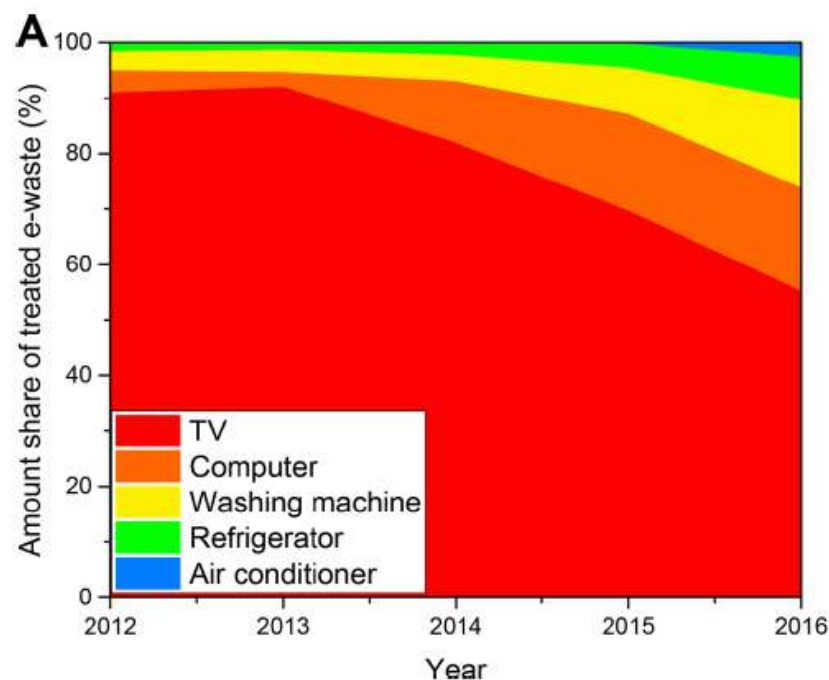
*Sci. Am.* **2018**, 318 (5), 72



# MINIERE URBANE ("URBAN MINING")

## Urban Mining of E-Waste is Becoming More Cost-Effective Than Virgin Mining

Xianlai Zeng,<sup>†</sup> John A. Mathews,<sup>\*,‡</sup> and Jinhui Li<sup>\*,†</sup>



"In this work, we demonstrate utilizing real cost data from e-waste processors in China that **ingots of pure copper and gold could be recovered from e-waste streams at costs that are comparable to those encountered in virgin mining of ores.**"

*Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2018**, 52, 4835

# RIFIUTI ELETTRONICI IN CINA







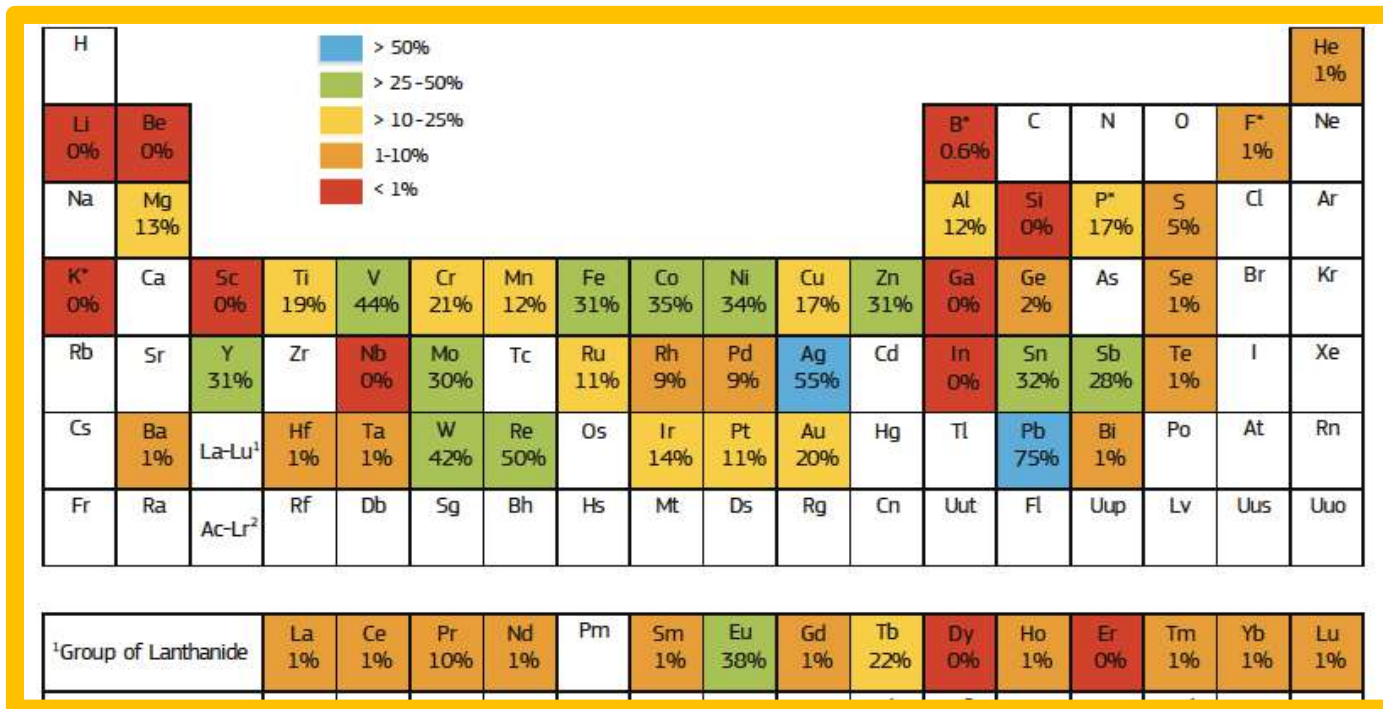
# SONO IMPIANTI VERI!



<http://en.tusholdings.com>



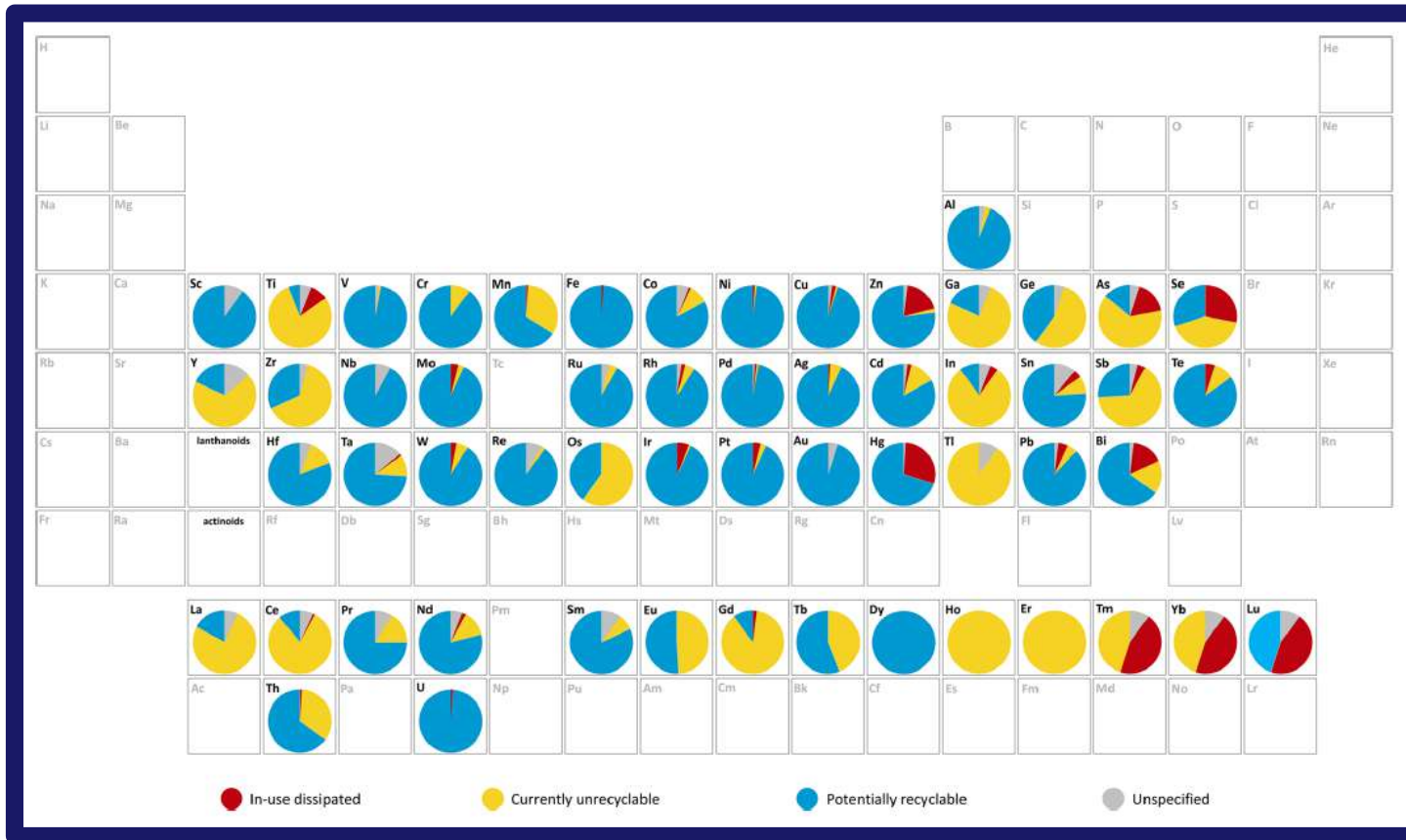
# EU-28, TASSO DI RICICLO A FINE VITA



Raw Materials Scoreboard,  
*The European Commission, 2018*

**Gli attuali tassi di riciclo sono TOTALMENTE insostenibili**

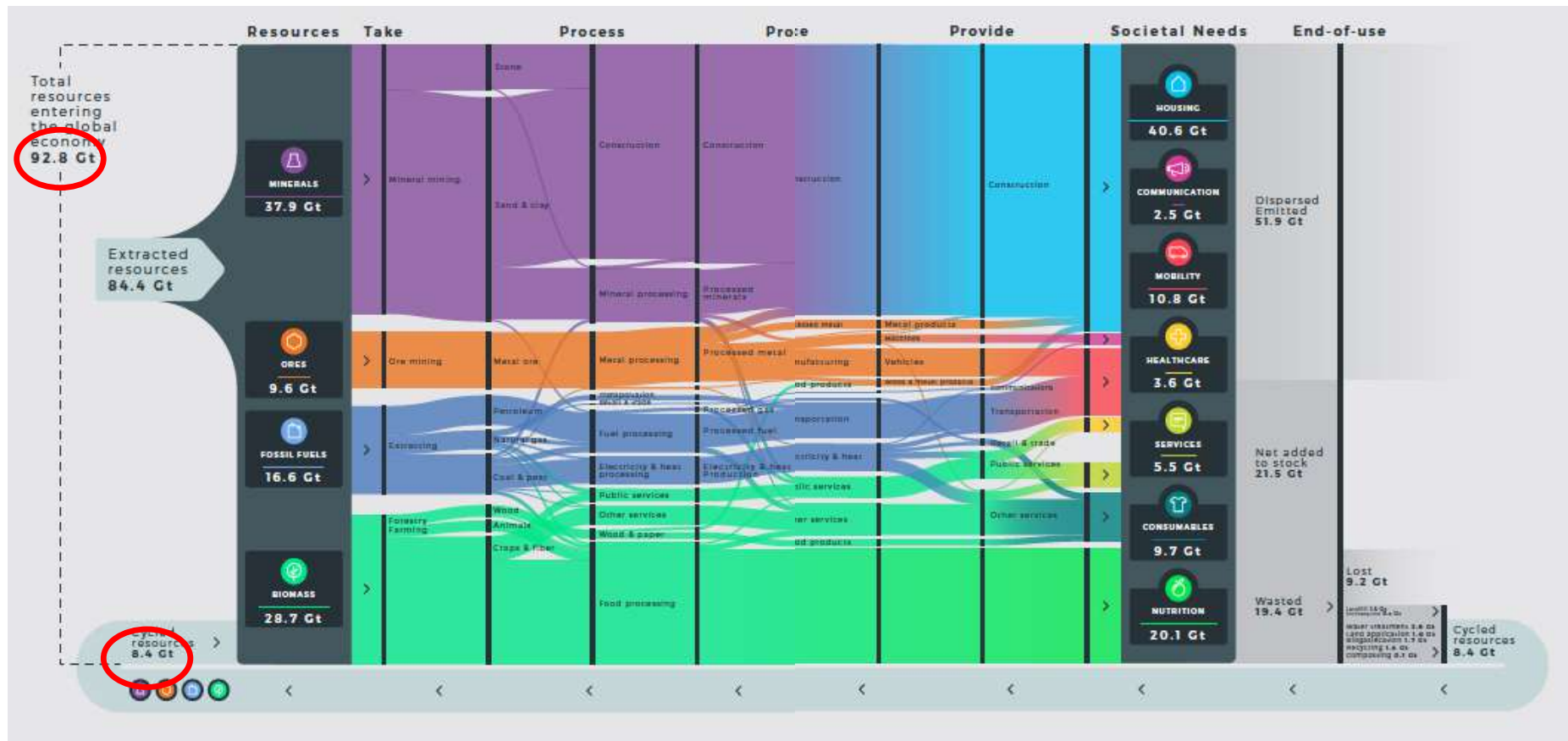
# NB: IL RICICLO HA DEI LIMITI



**IMPORTANZA  
CRUCIALE  
DEL DESIGN  
DEGLI OGGETTI**

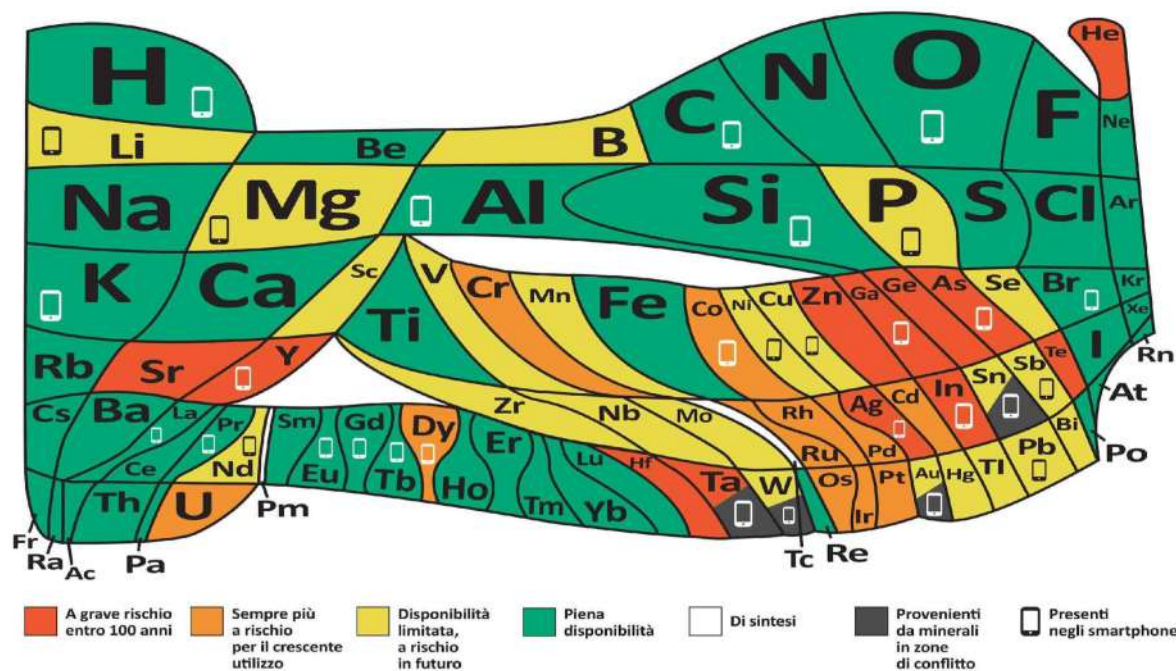
*L. Ciacci et al. "Lost by Design", Environ. Sci. Technol. 2015, 49, 9443*

# L'ECONOMIA MONDIALE È CIRCOLARE AL 9%



The Circularity Report Gap, *The Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE)*, 2019

## 90 elementi chimici e la loro disponibilità relativa sulla Terra. Ci basteranno?



Ispirato a W.F. Sheehan's A Periodic Table with Emphasis, pubblicato in Chemistry, 1976, 49, 17-18