
DOCUMENTS

EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT

The European Climate Pact aims to engage citizens and communities in action for our climate and environment.

The transition to a climate-neutral society is both a challenging task and an opportunity to build a better future for all. It is about people and their daily lives: how we produce, consume, move, heat or cool our houses, work and live together.

Alongside government policies and regulation, citizens, communities and organisations in all sectors of our society and economy have their part to play.

To this end, as part of the European Green Deal, the Commission will launch a European Climate Pact to give everyone a voice and space to design new climate actions, share information, launch grassroots activities and showcase solutions that others can follow.

The European Climate Pact aims to inform, inspire and foster cooperation between people and organisations ranging from national, regional and local authorities to businesses, unions, civil society organisations, educational institutions, research and innovation organisations, consumer groups and individuals.

We are not starting from scratch. The European Climate Pact will build on and amplify existing activities, trigger and embrace new ones, offering opportunities for learning, exchange, co-creation and collaboration.

The European Climate Pact will be launched in the last quarter of 2020. Follow this page, our news, events and social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) for updates on opportunities to be part of the Pact.

Activities

The European Climate Pact will encourage broad societal engagement on climate and environment through a range of activities.

Talking about climate change

Through communication activities and events, and by using multiple channels and tools, the Pact will raise awareness and build understanding of climate change based on reliable scientific evidence, inspire people and organisations to become involved and encourage sustainable behaviours.

Triggering action

The Pact will encourage people and organisations to commit to concrete actions, designed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The Commission will promote pledges (public commitments) and support relevant initiatives with knowledge/capacity-building, to boost their impact and inspire further action across Europe and globally.

In selected areas, the Commission could provide targeted support. At the start, these areas could cover:

- buildings, by stimulating advisory services, facilitating smart financing and assisting local authorities for energy efficient housing;
- mobility, by supporting cities and towns with knowledge, raising awareness, and possibly targeted financial support for sustainable urban mobility plans; and
- tree-planting, nature regeneration and greening of urban areas.

Working together

The Pact will provide opportunities for communication, learning and networking, online and offline. It will help to bring together people and organisations to share ideas and experience, and to work together.

Direct citizen consultations could be organised using formats such as citizen dialogues, citizen assemblies, and more. As appropriate, these platforms will link to existing initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or CITIZENV dialogues with young people across Europe.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action/pact_en

EU CLIMATE ACTION AND THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The EU is fighting climate change through ambitious policies at home and close cooperation with international partners.

It is already on track to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020, and has put in place the key laws and measures to achieve its climate and energy targets for 2030.

By 2050, Europe aims to become the world's first climate-neutral continent.

European Green Deal

Climate action is at the heart of the European Green Deal – an ambitious package of measures ranging from ambitiously cutting greenhouse gas emissions, to investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe's natural environment.

First climate action initiatives under the Green Deal include:

- European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality objective into EU law
- European Climate Pact to engage citizens and all parts of society in climate action

Based on a comprehensive impact assessment, analysis of the national energy and climate plans, and considering stakeholder contributions received to the public consultation, the Commission will propose a new EU ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

By June 2021, the Commission will also review and, where necessary, propose to revise all relevant policy instruments to deliver additional greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

In early 2021, the Commission will adopt a new, more ambitious EU strategy on adaptation to climate change in order to strengthen efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness, ensuring that businesses, cities and citizens are able to integrate climate change into their

risk management practices. A public consultation will inform the design of the new strategy.

At international level, the EU will continue to lead international negotiations to increase the ambition of major emitters ahead of the United Nations climate change conference in Glasgow (COP26).

Key EU legislation and policies

- EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, industry and flights within the EU
- National targets for sectors outside emissions trading, such as transport, buildings and agriculture
- Ensuring our forests and land contribute to the fight against climate change
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, e.g. through CO₂ emission standards for vehicles
- Boosting energy efficiency, renewable energy and governance of EU countries' energy and climate policies
- Promoting innovative low-carbon technologies
- Phasing down climate-warming fluorinated greenhouse gases
- Protecting the ozone layer
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change
- Funding climate action

International cooperation

The EU is actively working with other countries and regions to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

It promotes ambitious climate action in multilateral fora and in its bilateral cooperation with countries outside the EU.

The EU is also a top provider of international climate finance to support developing countries in their efforts to tackle climate change.

Aligning action in all areas

Fighting climate change and achieving the transition to a climate-neutral society will require significant investments, research and innovation, new ways of producing and consuming, and changes in the way we work, use transport and live together.

The EU is addressing this by aligning action in key areas, for example:

- Energy
- Environment
- Mobility and transport
- Regional policy and the low-carbon economy
- Sustainable finance
- Industrial policy
- Trade and sustainable development
- International cooperation and development
- Research and innovation on climate change
- Sustainable development goals

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action_en