



BELGIUM'S DRAFT UPDATED NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN





An important step towards the more ambitious 2030 energy and climate objectives under the European Green Deal and REPowerEU



Highlights of the Commission's assessment

The European Green Deal, the fast-evolving geopolitical context and the energy crisis have led the EU and its Member States to **accelerate the energy transition and set more ambitious energy and climate objectives**. These developments are reflected in the legislative and policy framework adopted under both the 'Fit for 55' package and the REPowerEU Plan. Taking this new context into account, **Member States are updating their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) for the first time since 2019**. The European Commission has assessed Belgium's draft updated NECP, submitted on 30 November 2023.

Belgium's key objectives, targets and contributions

| | 2030 target submitted in the draft updated NECP | 2030 target under EU legislation | Assessment of 2030 ambition level |
|--|---|--|---|
|  GHG emissions in ESR sectors (compared with 2005) | -42.6% | -47%* | Belgium does not reach its target based on projections. |
|  GHG net removals in LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ eq. net greenhouse gas removals) | -1.3 | -0.32 (additional net removal target) -1.352 (total net removals)** | Belgium estimates to reach its target based on projections. |
|  Energy Efficiency (Final energy consumption) | 29.9 Mtoe | 28.8 Mtoe*** | Belgium's final energy consumption is above the indicated target resulting from EU legislation. |
|  Renewable Energy (Share of renewable energy in gross final consumption) | 21.7% | 33%**** | Belgium's submitted contribution to the EU target is significantly below the one resulting from EU legislation. |

* under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR).

** under the Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

*** according to the formula set out in Annex I of the Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 ('EED recast').

**** according to the formula set out in Annex II of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action.



Belgium's main positive elements and areas for improvement

- ✓ On **greenhouse gas reductions**, the plan pays good attention to mitigating non-CO₂ emissions in sectors such as methane emissions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors; N₂O emissions from industrial production and agriculture, and emissions of F-gases in industry and households.
- ✓ On **Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry**, the plan reflects the increased ambition of the LULUCF Regulation for 2030 and sets the pathway towards the national targets.
- ✓ On the **internal energy market**, the plan provides key policies and measures to incentivise consumer empowerment through demand response, energy sharing and energy communities.
- ✓ On **public participation**, the approach is presented in detail in the draft updated NECP. Public consultation at national and regional level ensured early public participation before decisions were taken and throughout the decision-making process.
- ✓ On **regional cooperation**, Belgium has well-developed structures for coordination on energy and climate issues. For instance, Belgium plans to establish **joint projects** for the production of offshore renewable energy within the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC).

- ✗ The **energy efficiency first** principle is not well considered. The plan lacks substantial information regarding the quantification of savings for the planned measures, while also failing to provide comprehensive estimates of financial needs or funding sources.
- ✗ On **energy security**, Belgium relies significantly on energy imports due to its dependence on fossil fuels and lack of domestic sources. The plan does not foresee improvements in this regard, with both the share of fossil fuels and energy import dependency expected to increase by 2030.
- ✗ On **research, innovation, competitiveness and skills**, the plan does not identify the expected share of climate and energy in total R&I spending and lacks sufficient information about the investments needed for the manufacturing of clean energy technologies.
- ✗ On **adaptation to climate change**, the plan does not consider relevant climate vulnerabilities and risks, which may put the achievement of energy and climate mitigation objectives at risk. Adaptation policies and measures (to address these risks and vulnerabilities) are not adequately described.
- ✗ **Just transition** is only partially addressed in the plan. It lacks an in-depth analysis of social impacts, including the distributional ones and it does not detail the resources specifically devoted to supporting a just transition.

Moving forward...

Based on this assessment, the Commission has published country-specific recommendations for each Member State. These recommendations should be taken into account by the Member States when preparing their final updated NECPs, which are due by 30 June 2024.

Full Commission's assessment and recommendations on Belgium's draft updated NECP: [here](#)

More information about the National Energy & Climate Plans: [NECP website](#)