

AUSTRIA'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 Plan



Highlights of the Commission's assessment

The 'Fit for 55' package and **REPowerEU Plan** must be robustly implemented to ensure that the Union achieves its climate and energy objectives. Going forward, the **Clean Industrial Deal** will be the framework to address the Union's competitiveness challenges, with a focus on investments in clean energy and a more competitive industrial base. The **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)** can guide investors in this framework for more affordable and secure energy. Taking this into account, Member States are updating their NECPs for the first time since 2019. The European Commission assessed Austria's draft updated NECP, submitted on 20 August 2024.

Austria's key objectives, targets and contributions

	2030 value submitted in the draft updated NECP	2030 target under EU legislation	Assessment of 2030 ambition level
 GHG emissions in ESR sectors (compared to 2005)	-41.7% up to -46%	-48%*	Austria does not reach its target based on projections (if stated use of flexibilities is not considered).
 GHG net removals in LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ eq. net GHG removals)	-5.7	- 0.879 (additional removal target) - 5.650 (total net removals)**	Austria reaches its target based on projections.
 Energy Efficiency (Final energy consumption)	22 Mtoe (21.6 Mtoe when transposed to nat. legislation)	21.6 Mtoe***	Austria's final energy consumption is above the indicated target resulting from EU legislation
 Renewable Energy (Share of renewable energy in gross final consumption)	at least 57%	57%****	Austria's contribution of at least 57% is in line with the 57% required under the formula set out in Annex II to the Gov. Regulation

* 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 to 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 to the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action.

Austria's main positive elements and areas for improvement

- ✓ On **renewable energy**, the plan provides, for the most part, a comprehensive list of measures that Austria has adopted or intends to adopt to support the deployment of renewable energy, including in relation to solar PVs for 2023 to 2026, the EU's Solar Energy Strategy, and eased rules for grid connection of small installations to simplify and accelerate permit-granting.
- ✓ On **energy efficiency**, Austria's plan sets out, for the most part, comprehensive measures addressing most of the relevant sectors, including buildings, energy distribution, transport and business.
- ✓ On the **internal energy market**, Austria's plan puts forward some policies and measures to boost electricity grid development including through Projects of Common Interest and promotes consumer empowerment e.g. through smart metre roll-out and energy communities.
- ✓ Regarding **adaptation** to climate change, the draft updated NECP marks remarkable progress. Compared to Austria's initial NECP from 2019 plan, which did not identify any adaptation goals, the plan incorporates, albeit generally in a qualitative way, the relevant climate risks and the adaptation goals and measures of the revised Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change adopted in spring 2024, including its links with the biodiversity strategy, which is an integral part of the adaptation strategy.

- ✗ On **buildings**, the plan does not increase the ambition of Austria's 2020 long-term renovation strategy nor does it set milestones for energy savings in the building sector. For the energy savings measures it does describe, the source of funding is not always specified.
- ✗ The draft plan does not provide sufficient information for the preparation of the **Social Climate plan** and how the consistency of the two plans will be ensured.
- ✗ The **public participation** process exhibits notable shortcomings. While the plan mentions the involvement of some key stakeholders and social partners, it does not contain a clear and detailed summary of the comments received and if and how the public's views were taken into account and addressed.
- ✗ Austria submitted its plan more than **13 months after the legal deadline**. This means that the EU wide assessment of the draft plans had to be done without it. The governance process relies on each Member State respecting the deadlines in order for the outcome to be most reliable.

Moving forward...

Based on this assessment, the Commission has published country-specific recommendations for Austria. These recommendations should be taken into account by Austria when preparing its final updated NECPs, which was already due by 30 June 2024.

*Full Commission's assessment and recommendations on Austria's draft updated NECP: [here](#)
More information about the National Energy & Climate Plans: [NECP website](#)*