

Roadmap for a low carbon economy by 2050

General Information

1) Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or institution?

I am answering on behalf of an organisation or institution (NGO, public authority, ...)

Please select the option which is the best description of your organisation

non-governmental organisation / association of NGOs

Please enter the name and type of your organisation (NGO, public authority, industry, institution, interest group, ...). Please briefly describe which stakeholders (or members) you represent. If you are registered in the *Register of interest representatives* please indicate your identification number.

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No, you can publish this contribution under the name indicated.

Do you want your contribution to be anonymous?

Section A: Questions for the general public in the EU

2) Implementing the climate and energy package (achieving a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and 20% renewable in energy in 2020) has been estimated to cost an average household in the EU approximately 12€ per month in 2020. Avoiding dangerous climate change requires investments, by you as a consumer, by firms, and by governments. How much extra (on the total of your household costs) would you be prepared to pay on a monthly basis to build the future low-carbon society?

3) Reducing emissions and saving energy is possible through your daily choices as a consumer. What do you already do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Reductions to your energy bill: roof insulation, window replacement, maintenance or upgrading of heating or air conditioning systems

I have already done this

Choosing the most efficient appliances – with energy labels A(+) when replacing your fridge, dishwasher, washing machine, TV, computers

I have already done this

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| An energy audit of your house or company | I have already done this |
| Switching to a provider of renewable electricity or installing your own renewable energy generation system | I could do this, it is interesting |
| Checking your real-time CO2 consumption with an IT application | I could do this, it is interesting |
| Commute to work on foot, cycling or by public transport (bus, train, metro) | I have already done this |
| Using electric cars | I could do this, it is interesting |
| Using biofuel-blended petrol or diesel | I could do this, it is interesting |
| Diversify your weekly diet to reduce emissions in food production (e.g. replace meat for some meals) | I have already done this |
| Buy locally-produced food and seasonal fresh products more often | I have already done this |
| Encourage actions that reduce deforestation worldwide (e.g. buying products from certified forests...) | I have already done this |
| Check your holiday plans and opt for the best transport connections which would reduce your CO2 emissions | I have already done this |
| Compensating for your greenhouse gas emissions by buying carbon offsets, i.e. financing projects to reduce emissions somewhere else in the world | I could do this, it is interesting |
| Get your neighbourhood / friends / family to make a pledge / take part in local challenges to reduce emissions | |
| Create or invest in a company putting new low carbon or energy-efficient product and services on the market | I have already done this |
| Develop your skills so that you can get a job requiring knowledge or know-how about reducing emissions | |
| Find out what your local government does to save energy and money | I have already done this |
| Reduce waste, recycle and reuse | I have already done this |
| 4) What else do you think you could do? | |
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| 5) What do you think are the main obstacles to reducing the EU's greenhouse gas emissions? You can pick up to three of the options below. | <p>There are still subsidies available that support mining and other means of obtaining and using fossil fuels at global level.</p> <p>There are no tax advantages for companies and households that make an effort to cut their harmful emissions and save energy, so why should they bother?</p> <p>Markets are dominated by strongly established firms, so newcomers find it hard to break in with low-carbon innovations.</p> |

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| <p>6) Rich and poor countries have to act together to avoid dangerous climate change. Developing countries want us to help them with two things: cutting their greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change (e.g. building better flood defences and switching to more drought-resistant crops). What do you think the priorities should be for helping developing countries with these challenges? If we support them, what should the terms be?</p> | <p>support the poorest countries support the countries that generate the most pollution by helping them to develop or buy climate-friendly technology support countries most likely to suffer from climate change support the development of technologies poorer countries can use, and launch pilot projects to see if they work there</p> |
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Section B: Questions for organizations

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| <p>7) The EU has put in place a regulatory framework related to climate and energy. Which of the following EU legislations you expect to be the most effective in terms of delivering emission reductions by 2020 and beyond? (select maximum 4)</p> | <p>Renewable Energy Directive Directive on end-use energy efficiency and energy efficiency services (ESD) Recast Energy performance of Buildings Directive</p> |
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| <p>8) Do you have any comments on the policies evaluated in the previous question? Do you have any comments on any other policies?</p> <p>The challenge is well identified, and business as usual will not get us there. We must act now to ensure that existing energy and climate commitments are interpreted in the strongest way possible. Analysis by WWF and Ecofys reveals that only about a third of the action needed to put European Union countries on a path towards a low carbon economy by 2050 is currently underway. Member States need to scan their policy portfolios to address implementation weaknesses, particularly as 40% of results hinge on existing European legislation. The good news is, if Member States were to follow the example of the highest-scoring country in each policy area and sector, they would achieve two-thirds of the required effort - double the current average.</p> |
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| <p>9) The EU will need a diverse portfolio of technologies to build a low-carbon future. Some examples of potential technologies and energy efficiency solutions are carbon capture and storage, renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, fuel cells, smart grids, heat pumps, cogeneration, next generation nuclear power, zero emission buildings, etc. Which technologies do you think will be the most important in achieving a low carbon economy by 2050 and how can the EU foster their development and deployment?</p> <p>The problem is not technology; the biggest obstacle to genuine sustainability remains consumer demand. While we consider the speeding-up of research in low-carbon technologies important to facing the twin challenges of climate change and sustainable energy security, we also recognise that market-solutions only deliver monopolies. In the forthcoming energy efficiency and renewable energy revolution, we need to guarantee the protection of a whole portfolio of necessary solutions. Unfortunately, if you look at the level of R&D in energy compared with health and medicine, it's very, very low -- the EU is still lagging behind when it comes to big R&D budgets. Additional public and private research are needed to augment the existing programme of scattered, fragmented and sub-critical capacity research. If the European Union is not careful, a coordinated response to Europe's energy revolution will be impossible, and the consequences ungovernable.</p> |
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| <p>10) What are in your opinion the most important initiatives the EU should pursue in the next five to 10 years to secure a successful transition towards a low carbon economy by 2050?</p> <p>The housing sector's contribution to realising Europe's 3x20 climate and energy goals bears great potential economically, socially and culturally. Statistics show that buildings account for almost half of end-use energy consumption, and more than 25% of the EU's CO₂ emissions. Energy efficiency offers many benefits for homeowners, tenants and housing associations, including more energy-efficient buildings (warmer), an attractive residential environment (better), and significant cost savings for users (cheaper). If we significantly invest in energy savings, the EU economy will not only be more resilient to fossil-fuel price fluctuations, but also benefit from additional growth and job creation in innovative sectors like clean tech manufacturing and exports. Analysis has shown that, without any technical breakthroughs or massive behavioural changes assumed, an 80% GHG reduction can be achieved by maximum abatement within the power sector, as well as significant savings in other areas.</p> |
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| <p>11) The EU Emissions Trading Scheme is a central element of EU climate policy. The EU wants to foster international climate action by reinforcing international carbon markets, e.g. by making links among</p> |
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emissions trading systems and by further developing crediting systems. What elements do you think should go into the EU low-carbon roadmap? (e.g. bilateral agreements to recognise international allowances and credits, sectoral crediting systems, separate financing mechanism for the purchase of international credits from developing countries, etc.)

We believe the EU ETS is a flawed policy instrument. Regardless, we could recommend: Imposing carbon tariffs on countries that are not part of a global agreement to curb greenhouse gases. The inclusion of shipping and aviation emissions.

12) Achieving a low-carbon future means investing in the medium to long-term. How can the EU roadmap help to create a stable environment to encourage investment in low carbon technologies? Would it be a good idea to consider a mid-term objective for 2030 and, if so, in what form?

For the energy sector to evolve towards supporting the EU's climate objectives, governments should accelerate the removal of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, as agreed by the G20. Not only do fossil-fuel subsidies encourage waste, but these subsidies amounted to \$312 billion in 2009, and phasing them out by 2020 could cut oil demand alone by 4.7 million barrels per day. The Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Labelling of products Directive, EU Competition Policy, the Recast Energy performance of Buildings Directive -- there already exists a number of reasonable, medium-term policies, which desperately need full implementation and enforcement -- Member State commitments made in Brussels need to be kept at home. By 2020, no part of Europe should be isolated with respect to energy.

13) We want to cut emissions in the EU by 80% to 95% by 2050. Some of the measures needed to achieve this could bring about more sustainable growth, extra jobs, accelerated innovation, cleaner air, increased energy security and lowering our vulnerability to external energy shocks. Which of these do you think should be top of the list? What should the EU do to maximise the benefits you think should be delivered in priority by future climate action?

We need to develop a new, closer relationship with the energy we use, which will encourage us to value our energy more, and to use it less. The age of cheap oil is over. Efficiency in both production and end-use energy consumption is the cheapest way to reduce fossil fuel dependency. The problem is not technology, but our organisation and administration (which includes training and awareness raising). We need to pull together and make it happen. Looking back, it will be hard to imagine that we collectively couldn't do this. "It is no longer a question of vain words but of a bold, constructive act." -Robert Schuman

14) What sectors do you think may be most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, and what policies do you think the EU should pursue to help them to adapt? Do you have any suggestions on the integration of adaptation policies in the Common Agriculture Policy, civil protection, environment, energy, transport, research and development policies?

Decarbonising our economy is indistinguishable from a sustainable future for the developing world. Even if governments implement their current climate and energy commitments, the IEA predicts that energy demand will still rise by 36% between 2008 and 2035, driven primarily by non-OECD countries. Meeting poverty reduction targets will therefore be crucial to the success of Europe, and to ensuring that everyone can enjoy the benefits of sustainable growth. And it's not just in the developing world -- 84 million people are directly affected by poverty in the European Union alone. Energy influences all aspects of development -- social, economic, and environmental -- including livelihoods, access to water, agricultural productivity, health, population levels, education, and gender-related issues. None of the Millennium Development Goals can be met without major improvement in the quality and quantity of energy services in developing countries.

15) Do you have success stories that could lead to new initiatives for steering EU transition to a low-carbon economy you wish to highlight? Please add other further comments or suggestions here if you wish.

We believe the public have been underestimated for their impact to deliver on energy policy. There a number of successful, grass-roots, community-led initiatives in response to the pressures of climate change, fossil fuel depletion and increasingly, economic contraction (e.g. <http://www.transitionnetwork.org>) The CONCERTO (www.concertoplus.eu) initiative, launched by the European Commission, is a good example of project which successfully integrates the technical, strategic and process challenges of achieving the highest level of self-sufficiency -- cities can be the catalysts for change. Given that a 20% energy efficiency saving is equivalent to fourteen (proposed) Nabucco pipelines, we've seriously got to consider our priorities, and the necessary actions that will bring about genuine sustainability. If you don't celebrate/acknowledge/showcase successes, all that remains is the hard work.

Additional Comments

Please insert text (max 5000 characters) or upload a document (1 document, max 1 MB). You can also

send us documents via email (CLIMA-ROADMAP2050@ec.europa.eu). Please, if possible, do not submit lengthy documents.

Meta Informations

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