National Energy and Climate Plans Tracker

METHODOLOGY

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Together for 1.5

ACCELERATE
CLIMATE ACTION
IN EUROPE

The National Energy and Climate Plans tracker can be viewed at:
1point5.caneurope.org.

INTRODUCTION

The NECP Tracker, developed by the TogetherFor1.5 project, is a tool that monitors and assesses the implementation of National Energy and Climate plans, or NECPs. It has a double function: on the one hand, it looks into whether national governments are implementing their old NECPs as planned; on the other hand, it provides a visual representation of the level of ambition of the updated NECPs (where available), compared to the old ones (which are currently being implemented), and to the current level of emissions and energy use. The tracker currently covers 13 EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

What are NECPs?
National Energy and Climate Plans, or NECPs, are plans where EU Member States are required to describe, in an integrated manner, their climate and energy objectives and targets – as well as the policies and measures to achieve them until 2030 (with an outlook to 2040 and the longer term).

NECPs were first adopted in 2019 and – as required by the Governance Regulation – they are currently being updated. 30 June 2024 is the due date for their final submission.

NECPs developed in 2019 have become obsolete notably after the launch of the European Green Deal and the 'Fit for 55' package, the COVID-19 pandemic and 'Next Generation EU', as well as the war in Ukraine and the 'REPowerEU' policy package.

The ongoing update is therefore of the utmost importance for Member States to at least align with the EU's updated 2030 requirements, but also an opportunity to go beyond them and align with Paris Agreement commitments.

The NECP tracker assesses the implementation of NECPs by comparing the most recently released data for greenhouse gas emissions (EEA) and energy (Eurostat) with the trajectories outlined by Member States in their old and new NECPs until 2030. For each of the countries covered, the tool looks into overall and sectoral greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways and some energy transition indicators. The tool shows what Member States have promised in their NECPs (and/or other sectoral documents) and where they really stand. It provides key information to understand where gaps in ambition and implementation are that must be addressed in the final NECPs update, due June 2024.

The latest key findings of the NECP tracker are recapped in this document. More information about the methodology behind the tracker – including the selection of indicators and data sources, coupled with a short "how-to-use" guide – is provided below.

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1. Indicators: How they were chosen and what they represent
This tool is not exhaustive, as it does not cover all the dimensions that Member States shall include in their NECPs. Rather, it provides information on a selected amount of **indicators for climate and energy policies,** chosen by the LIFE TogetherFor1.5 project partners based on relevant common policies and availability of accurate historical data.

For what concerns **climate** policies, the tracker monitors greenhouse gas emission levels. The selected indicators are the following:

- Greenhouse gas net emissions
- Greenhouse gas gross emissions
- LULUCF sector greenhouse gas emissions and removals
- ETS sector greenhouse gas emissions[1]
- Non-ETS sector greenhouse gas emissions[2]

- Sectoral greenhouse gas targets:
  - Agriculture
  - Industry
  - Energy
  - Waste
  - Buildings
  - Transport

All climate indicators are expressed in MtCO2-eq. They compare historical greenhouse gas emission levels with the targets and trajectories in the old and new NECPs. This allows users to easily see whether Member States are in line with emission reduction trajectories promised in the old NECPs, as well as to show where are the gaps – both in terms of ambition and implementation – that must be addressed in the final version of the new NECPs. The tracker also allows to easily visualise which climate targets and trajectories are missing from either old or new NECPs; these should be included by Member States in the final version of the NECPs update, to ensure transparency and allow for effective monitoring of their implementation.

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1. Sectors falling under the ETS Regulation include: power stations, energy-intensive industry and aviation.
2. Sectors falling outside the scope of the ETS regulation, or non-ETS sector, are covered in the Effort-Sharing Regulation, and include: transport, buildings, agriculture, waste and small industry).

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For what concerns **energy** policies, the tracker includes a set of indicators covering the **energy savings** and **renewables dimensions**. The selected indicators are the following:

- For the **energy savings** dimension
  - Final energy consumption
  - Primary energy consumption
- For the **renewables** dimension
  - Share of renewables in gross final consumption of energy
  - Share of renewables by sector:
    - Electricity
    - Heating & Cooling
    - Transport
  - Share of renewable energy in the electricity sector (%)
    - Including a breakdown by technology (wind, solar, hydro, solid biofuels, other)

For the **energy savings** dimension, indicators are expressed in million tons of oil equivalent (Mtoe). They compare historical energy consumption levels with the targets and trajectories to reduce energy consumption in the old and new NECPs. For the **renewables** dimension, indicators are expressed in percentage terms (%) compared to the total absolute value. They compare the historical share of renewables, in different sectors and by different technologies, with the increase in renewables use promised by Member States in their old and new NECPs. They allow users to see whether Member States are (1) reducing their energy consumption levels and (2) increasing the share of renewables in the energy and electricity mix as they promised in the old NECPs, and the extent to which they have increased ambition in the updated ones. The tracker also allows to easily visualise which energy targets are missing from either old or new NECPs; these should be included by Member States in the final version of the NECPs update.

2. Data: How it was collected
The tracker includes (1) historical data and (2) data gathered from NECPs or other relevant national planning documents.

For **historical data**, the NECP tracker uses the same databases for all countries (instead of using databases available at the national level), in order to ensure consistency across countries and allow for comparisons. In fact, data extracted at the national level oftentimes does not coincide with data available at the EU or international level. While this has the advantage of ensuring consistency, it also means that the latest available historical data refers to 2021 (while, in some cases, 2022 historical data may already be available at the national level).

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- For **climate** indicators, the **European Environmental Agency** (EEA) was used as the main data source for historical data. The specific datasets used are the following:

  - For gross, net and LULUCF emissions (1990-2021):
    https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/data-viewers/greenhouse-gases-viewer
  - For emissions in ETS sectors (2005-2021): https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/emissions-trading-viewer-1
  - For emissions in non-ETS sectors (2005-2021)):
    https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/datahub/datahubitem-view/e9ce7eb8-8439-4f2f-96f8-279a36c5fa7a
  - For all other sectoral emissions (1990-2021):
    https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/data-viewers/greenhouse-gases-viewer

- For **energy** indicators (2005-2021), **Eurostat** was used as the main data source for historical data. The specific datasets used are the following:

  - For **energy savings** indicators (primary and final energy consumption):
    https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/database/additional-data#Energy%20balances

  - For renewables indicators:
    https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/nrg_ind_ren__custom_8490338/default/table?lang=en

For the **NECP targets and trajectories until 2030**, the tracker uses data provided by Member States at the national level. This includes information available in the old NECP (submitted to the European Commission in 2019 or 2020); the new draft NECP update (supposedly submitted to the European Commission in June 2023); and, where relevant, other national plans. This is the case when a specific target or trajectory is missing in the old or new NECP, but available somewhere else; or when national plans other than the NECPs show different targets or trajectories compared to the NECPs. It is helpful to identify gaps, but also inconsistencies across national policies and plans.

3. How-to guide: what users can do with the tracker
The NECP tracker has a dedicated page on the TogetherFor1.5 website. Country information is also available on each of the specific country pages. On the NECP tracker page, users have the following options:

- Generate a specific graph, by selecting a country and an indicator.
- See a country performance overview, by selecting a country on the map.

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The following elements will be shown in the graphs:

- Historical data, either from 1990 or 2005
- Targets and trajectories from the old NECP, until 2030 (when available)
- Targets and trajectories from the new draft NECP update, until 2030 (when available)
- Targets and trajectories from other national legislation, until 2030 (when available, in case NECP data are missing)

When targets or trajectories from the **old NECP** are available for the selected indicator and country, users would be able to compare historical emissions with the first years of implementation of the old NECP (notably the period 2020-2021), and therefore to assess if they are aligned.

When targets or trajectories from the **new draft NECP update** are available, users would be able to compare the new level of ambition compared to the old one, as well as to historical data. This will provide information regarding where gaps in implementation and ambition lie in the new draft NECP updated.

When targets or trajectories from other **national legislation** are available, users

will be able to assess the lack of consistency between NECPs (old and new) and other national legislation, which can be addressed in the final NECPs update.

When **NECP data is not shown** it means that it was not available in any national plan (old and new NECPs, or other national legislation). Users will therefore be able to identify where the main gaps are when it comes to defining clear targets and trajectories, which are key to successfully plan and implement climate and energy policies.

In the graph page, users also have several customising options:
- On the graph, they can highlight a particular line and select different year ranges. They can also switch the data from absolute to relative values.
- Users also have the possibility to easily switch to different countries or indicators. The possibility also exists to compare the same indicator for two countries.

Below each graph, users will be able to have more information about the selected indicator and graph. Users are highly encouraged to check these parts. These include:

- **Sources** used for both historical and NECP data, with the relevant link, for transparency.
- **Relevant comments,** where needed, notably related to how data for that graph were collected and calculated, or which documents other than NECPs were consulted. Sometimes, they provide further details – that could not be included in the legends – about the data shown in the graph

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As a final note, it is worth stressing that the NECP tracker is **not** a modelling tool. **It compares emissions that already occurred with targets and trajectories promised by Member States in their plans**; it does not show what different trajectories should or could be according to different modelling scenarios.

VISIT THE NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANS TRACKER

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