Our Vision for A Clean Planet for All

"As Europeans, we want to leave a healthier planet behind for those that follow. We obviously cannot turn a blind eye to the climate challenge; we must look to the future."

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of Union address September 2018

The European Union has been at the forefront of addressing the root causes of climate change and the strengthening a concerted global response in the framework of the Paris Agreement. Our long-term strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as requested by the European Council in March 2018, confirms our lead in global climate action. It presents a vision to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, through a fair transition encompassing all sectors of the economy. It underlines the opportunities that this transformation offers to European citizens and its economy, as well as identifies and anticipates challenges along the road.

93% OF EUROPEANS BELIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY

93% OF EUROPEANS believe climate change to be caused by human activity

85% OF EUROPEANS agree that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can create economic growth and jobs in Europe

Source: Special Eurobarometer 479

THE EU HAS SUCCESSFULLY DECOUPLED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH

Greenhouse Gas Emissions down 22%

EU GDP up 58%

1990-2017 1990-2017
The strategy outlines a vision of the deep economic and societal transformations required, engaging all sectors of the economy and society, to achieve the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It does not set targets or propose new initiatives to be taken. Instead it seeks to ensure that this transition is socially fair – not leaving Europeans or regions behind – and enhances the competitiveness of EU economy and industry on global markets, securing high quality jobs and sustainable growth in Europe.

Our long-term strategy opens a thorough debate on how the EU should prepare itself towards the 2050 horizon. Reaching a climate neutral economy by 2050 is feasible from technological, economic and social perspective, but it requires deep societal and economic transformations within a generation.