



EU greenhouse gas emissions fell in 2019 to the lowest level in three decades

Brussels, 30 November 2020

The Commission today adopted its annual [EU Climate Action Progress Report](#), covering the EU's progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. Greenhouse gas **emissions in the EU-27 decreased by 3.7 % year-on-year, while GDP grew by 1.5%**. Emissions have now been reduced by 24% compared to 1990 levels.

Frans **Timmermans**, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, said: *"The European Union is proving it is possible to reduce emissions and grow your economy. However, today's report again confirms we need to step up our efforts across all sectors of the economy to reach our common goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The transition is feasible if we stick to our commitment and seize the opportunities of the recovery to reboot our economy in a greener, more resilient way and create a healthy, sustainable future for all."*

Emissions covered by the [Emissions Trading System](#) (EU ETS) saw the greatest reduction in 2019, dropping by 9.1%, or about 152 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq), compared to 2018. This drop was driven mainly by the power sector, where emissions fell by almost 15%, primarily due to coal-fired electricity production being replaced by electricity production from renewables and gas. Emissions from industry decreased by close to 2%. Verified emissions from aviation, which currently only cover flights within the European Economic Area, continued to grow modestly, increasing by 1%, or about 0.7 Mt CO₂eq, compared to 2018. Emissions that are not covered by the EU ETS, such as those from non-ETS industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and waste, saw no significant change compared to 2018 levels.

EU expenditure on climate action, financing of green technologies, deployment of new solutions and international cooperation increased in 2019, and will see a further increase in the context of Europe's recovery from COVID-19.

EU ETS auction revenue is an **increasingly important source** of climate financing. The total revenue received by Member States, the UK and EEA countries from the auctions between 2012 (the start of auctioning under the EU ETS) and mid-2020 was over €57 billion, with more than half generated in 2018 and 2019 alone. In 2019, total auction revenue exceeded €14.1 billion. Of this total, 77% will be used for climate and energy purposes, 7 percentage points higher than the 70% share reported in 2018. In addition, a growing number of EU-funded climate projects are financed through the monetisation of emission allowances via the [NER 300 programme](#), the [Innovation Fund](#) and the [Modernisation Fund](#).

Background

The Climate Action Progress Report *"Kick-Starting the Journey Towards A Climate Neutral Europe"* describes progress made by the EU and its Member States in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as reporting on recent developments in EU climate policy. The report is produced by the Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action based on data submitted by Member States under the Climate Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR, [Regulation No 525/2013](#)).

For More Information

[Climate Action Progress Report](#)

[Carbon Market Report](#)

[Fuel Quality Directive Report](#)

[Carbon Capture and Storage Report](#) (from 2019)

[2030 climate and energy framework](#)

[Climate Target Plan 2030](#)

[2050 long-term strategy](#)

[European Green Deal](#)

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