
5. Green House Gas emissions 2005-2009

Change in GHG emissions outside the Emissions Trading Scheme and distance to national 2020 targets (national)

Why does this matter?

This indicator shows trends in total man-made emissions of greenhouse gases by sectors included in the so-called 'Effort Sharing Decision'. The EU as a whole is committed to achieving at least a 20% reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990. This objective implies a 21 % reduction in emissions from sectors covered by the EU emission trading scheme (ETS) compared to 2005 by 2020; and a reduction of 10 % in emissions for sectors outside the EU ETS. To achieve this 10% overall target each Member State has agreed country-specific greenhouse gas emission reduction or limits for 2020 compared to 2005 from sectors included in the 'Effort Sharing Decision': transport, buildings, agriculture and waste.

This table shows the five countries with the highest GHG emissions reduction outside ETS in 2009	
MS	Change in GHG emissions, 2005-2009 (%)
HU	-14.1
CY	-11.1
UK	-10.7
AT	-7.4
IT	-7.0

How do the EU Member States score?

The reduction of GHG emissions in sectors included in the Effort Sharing Mechanism has been very high in some Member States. In Hungary, emissions were reduced by 14.1% while in Cyprus, they fell by more than 11%. For most new Member States, the decrease is more modest which reflects the very high level of economic growth these countries have experienced. Emissions significantly increased in some countries, like for instance in Poland (+8.2%) or Lithuania (+24.4%).

This table shows the five countries that are most distant to their national target in 2009		from one country to the other. A number of countries are way ahead of their target, like for instance Hungary and Latvia which commit to limit their emissions to no more than 10% and 17% respectively and where emissions actually decreased.
MS	Distance to target, percentage point	
IE	17.6	
DK	15.9	
BE	15.3	
DE	14.7	
FI	13.6	

In other countries, the target for emission reduction is not yet reached but the emissions have started to reduce, like for instance in Sweden where the target was set to a reduction of 17% and emissions decreased by 3.6% compared to levels of 2005. In a few countries, namely Belgium, Germany and Lithuania, the distance to target has increased in time. Emissions in Belgium and Germany increased while these Member States committed to reduce them. In Lithuania, emissions increased above the limit which was committed. Among the Member States which have not reached their target, the distance to target is the highest in Ireland, Denmark and Belgium. It is the lowest in Italy, the United Kingdom and Greece where additional reduction of 6.0, 5.3 and 2.2 percentage points respectively are required to meet the objectives.

The share of GHG emissions outside ETS was based on data on the total emissions and emissions within ETS from the European Environmental Agency.

Change in greenhouse gas emissions outside the Emmissions Trading Scheme, 2005-2009 and Europe 2020 targets

