



European Commission

# Europe's 2040 climate pathway A path to climate neutrality by 2050



As a global leader in climate action, the EU has committed to **climate neutrality by 2050**. On the path to net-zero emissions, we must now build momentum for a **sustainable and competitive economy** and a **healthier and safer future for Europeans**.

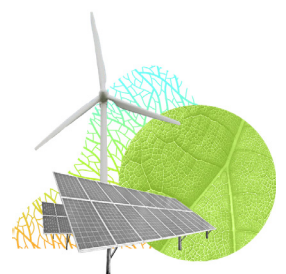
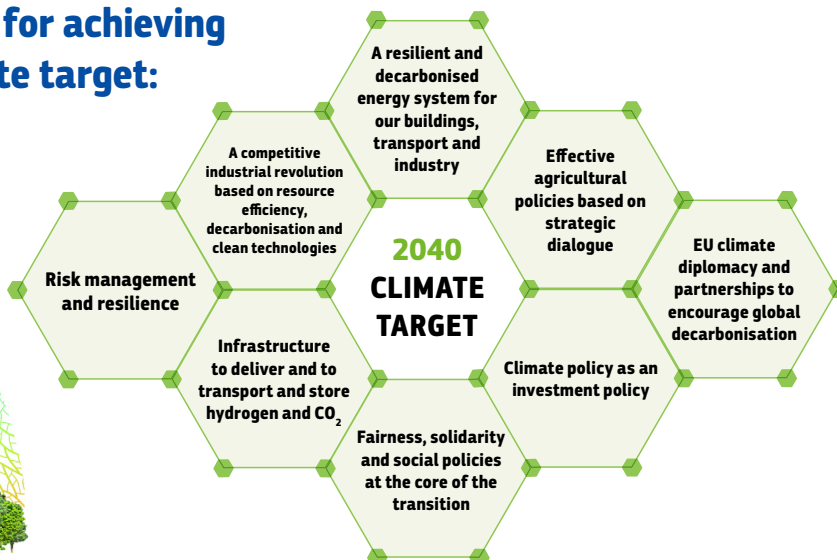
**The EU needs to stay the course** set by the EU Climate Law and the Paris Agreement, and build an economy resilient to climate hazards, free of fossil fuels and other critical dependencies, with a competitive clean tech industry, and a transition that is fair for all.

The Commission is recommending that the EU sets a **90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2040**, as compared to 1990 levels, **in line with scientific advice**. This recommendation is **the start of a political debate and an open dialogue with all stakeholders** in the process. The political and legislative decision on the 2040 target will need to be taken by the next Commission, after this year's European elections.



Reaching the 90% target will require a number of enabling policy conditions, including the **full implementation of the agreed 2030 framework, ensuring the competitiveness** of the European industry, a greater focus on a **just transition** that leaves no one behind, a **level playing field** with international partners, and a **strategic dialogue** on the post-2030 framework, including with industry and the agricultural sector.

## Building blocks for achieving the 2040 climate target:



## How could the EU reach a 90% emissions reduction target by 2040 ?

The existing policy framework has put Europe **on track to reduce its emissions by at least 55% by 2030**. It will be the responsibility of the next Commission to set out the post-2030 policy framework to continue further on this path and meet the agreed 2040 climate target. While staying committed to transitioning away from fossil fuels, it will also be necessary to invest in clean technologies to accelerate the deployment of renewables and remove carbon from the atmosphere to store and use in industrial processes.

## What are the benefits of a 90% emissions reduction by 2040?



**Investing effectively in the transition:** the cost of inaction would be far larger for our economy in the coming decades than moving forward with the green transition. Europe needs to mobilise the right mix of private and public funding to make our economy sustainable and competitive.



**A fair transition and security for current and future generations:** the transition is about securing the prosperity and well-being of EU citizens, ensuring a fair transition for all. Taking action now will ensure that our children and grandchildren will not have to pay the cost of our inaction in the future



**Predictability and certainty:** citizens, industries, governments and investors will know the path to take and can decide the appropriate steps for an orderly, cost-efficient and just transition, minimising the risks of lock-in and stranded assets



**Strengthening competitiveness:** European industry will have a headstart in the global clean tech race with the right enabling framework for industry decarbonisation and support in the transition



**Strategic autonomy and security of energy supply:** with a clear transition path away from fossil fuels, via renewables and improved energy efficiency, the EU will be more economically and geopolitically secure



**Respecting the Paris Agreement and protecting the environment:** the future EU greenhouse gas budget would be in line with the EU Climate Law, scientific advice and impact assessment. Cutting GHG emissions will also improve biodiversity and make ecosystems healthier



**Saving lives:** doing nothing to stop climate change would worsen living conditions and have an impact on our health, causing more premature deaths due to air pollution and extreme weather events

