

# A REVIEW OF NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION POLICIES

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IN THE LEADING GREENHOUSE GAS EMITTING COUNTRIES

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**MAY 2017**

**Climate Scorecard Report #10**

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# A Review of National Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Policies: Climate Scorecard Country Summary Report #10

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## ACTION ALERT

Many agree that collectively, national policies intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not strong enough to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep our planet from overheating. Numerous policies have been put in place without monitoring and evaluation plans to assess their impact; many deal with only one or two economic sectors; and few make linkages with the INDC emission reduction pledges that countries made to the Paris Agreement.

Therefore, NGOs, policymakers, scientists and others need to advocate for the establishment and implementation of stronger government emission reduction policies that will help their countries honor their Paris Agreement commitments. And everyone needs to voice their concern at the US government's reversal of policies that were put in place to honor its Paris Agreement pledge.

## INTRODUCTION

**Climate Scorecard Report #10** provides descriptions of climate change policies that have been put in place by the leading greenhouse gas emitting countries. These policies provide important insights on what each country is doing to reduce emissions and implement the Paris Agreement.

The policies vary in size and scope. Some are comprehensive such as Brazil's "National Policy on Climate Change"; Canada's "Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change"; and India's "National Environmental Policy." There are also policies that focus on particular sectors or particular energy sources where a large percentage of a country's emissions take place, such as France's agricultural sector policies or the coal reduction policies in the United Kingdom and China. There also are a set of policies that focus on supporting the use of renewable energy sources, such as Germany's "Renewable Energy Sources Act" and Thailand's Low-Carbon Green Growth Policies. And finally, there are carbon tax policies such as Italy's 2012 Tax Reform Bill and South Africa's proposed Carbon Tax law.

On the surface it is encouraging to see so many countries enacting policies intended to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. However, a closer look gives one cause for concern. The majority of these policies is quite recent and will not have any meaningful impact for many years. Very few of the policies described in this Report provide for serious monitoring and evaluation so it will be difficult to know the nature of their impact. Few of them have any stated or measurable role in relation to their country's greenhouse gas emission reduction pledge to the Paris Agreement.

Of special concern are the proposed environmental policies of the new US administration that are intended to overturn the strong emission reduction policies of the Obama administration. The new US administration also seems to be abrogating America's global leadership role in support of the Paris Agreement. This is a role that other countries will need to fill.

### --- Lois Barber and Ron Israel-Co-Directors, Climate Scorecard

Country	Name of Policy	Type of Policy
Argentina	Law 27191	Renewable Energy Support
Australia	Hydrofluorocarbon Phase-Down Policy	Hydrofluorocarbon Reduction
Brazil	The National Policy on Climate Change	Comprehensive Policy
Canada	Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change	Comprehensive Policy
China	2015-2020 Action Plan for the Efficient Use of Coal and 2016-2020 13th Five-Year Plan	Coal Reduction
France	Various Agriculture Sector Policies that Impact GHG Emissions	Agriculture Sector Policy
Germany	Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), 2017 and Renewable Energies Heat Act	Renewable Energy Growth
India	National Action Plan on Climate Change	National Action Plan on Climate Change
Indonesia	One Map Policy	Forest Management
Italy	Article 15 of the 2012 Tax Reform Bill	Carbon Tax Policy
Japan	Building Insulation Law	Energy Efficiency Policy
Mexico	Special Program on Climate Change (PECC)	Comprehensive Policy
Nigeria	National Policy on Climate Change	Comprehensive Policy
Russia	Presidential Executive Order NO 752 On the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Comprehensive Policy

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Type of Policy</b>
Saudi Arabia	Green Saudi Company for Carbon Services	Emission Reduction Organization
South Africa	The Draft Carbon Tax Bill	Carbon Tax Policy
South Korea	First Basic Plan for Climate Change Response	Comprehensive Policy
Spain	Basque Environmental Framework Program	Regional Policy Scale-up
Thailand	Low-Carbon Green Growth Policies	Renewable Energy Growth
Turkey	Government Regulation on Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Regulation and Monitoring
United Kingdom	Government Regulation Closing All Coal-fired Plants by 2025	Coal Reduction Policy
United States	Trump's Executive Order on Federal Climate Policies	Policy Reversal

# ARGENTINA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DUSTIN ROBERTSON**



## Law 27191

Argentina's energy production sector is heavily fossil fuel reliant and high emitting. However, the country is attempting to improve its energy matrix through Law 27191, in place since October 2015. The law mandates a rising quota of electricity from renewable sources including wind, solar, hydroelectric, and biomass plants. The quota starts at 8% and increases steadily until it reaches 20% by 2025. With the law firmly in place, Argentina seems to be off to a good start. However, the challenge now will be to fully implement it and adhere to the prescribed quota. Some evidence suggests that the country is committed to this effort.

In 2016, the government launched the Plan RenovAr program which focuses on developing new and an increased number of sources of clean energy. Through two rounds of tenders, the program awarded fifty-nine, large-scale renewable energy projects across the country. Once completed it is expected that these projects will produce an equivalent of 6% of the national demand for energy.

In January, through Decree 9/2017, President Macri officially declared 2017 the "Year of Renewable Energy." This decree praised renewables for their potential contributions to 1.) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions 2.) Reducing reliance on energy from foreign countries 3.) Creation of local jobs. The decree states that the executive office will oversee numerous activities, seminars, conferences and educational programs to support development and use of renewable energy across the country.

If Argentina is going to meet its Paris Agreement commitments, improving its energy matrix to include more renewables will be a big step in the right direction. It also needs to monitor and report on the impact of its new renewable energy programs.

## Learn More

English Translation of Law 27191- [https://www.minem.gob.ar/archivos/Reorganizacion/renovables/legislacion/ARGENTINA - Renewable Energy Law Act 27191 \(English version\).pdf](https://www.minem.gob.ar/archivos/Reorganizacion/renovables/legislacion/ARGENTINA - Renewable Energy Law Act 27191 (English version).pdf)

Decree 9/2017 (Spanish)-  
<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/157240/20170104>

# AUSTRALIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**HANNAH CAMPI**



## Hydrofluorocarbon Phase-Down Policy

In January 2018, Australia plans to adapt a policy that has its origins in the Montreal Protocol. The plan will phase-down the use and import of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This agreement calls for an 85% reduction of HFCs in developed nations between 2019 and 2036. Australia has adapted a phase-down plan to meet the requirements of the protocol. While HFCs are not Australia's most abundant GHG, they can have an important impact on climate change. Reductions of even a small amount can have drastic and rapid benefits. One ton of HFCs or CFCs can have a global warming impact that is 10,000 or more times stronger than an equal amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. Between this and the ease at which HFCs can be decreased from industry use, addressing the use of HFCs makes for a very practical climate change policy.

This policy has the potential to bring about a huge reduction of GHG emissions both in Australia and in other nations where it is being implemented. There are low or no cost replacement gases that can be used in place of HFCs that do not require significant equipment changes or increases in consumer cost. Additionally, the atmospheric lifetime of HFCs is far shorter than that of CO<sub>2</sub> so the turnaround time to start seeing and feeling the benefits of this reduction are much shorter than policies that address CO<sub>2</sub>.

The reduction in emissions will be achieved through a gradually declining cap on imports and is estimated to achieve up to 72 billion tonnes in carbon dioxide equivalent emission savings by 2050. Although the national policy will start to be implemented in 2018, states and cities have the opportunity to move more quickly in implementing HFC reduction policies of their own and to begin moving the country towards its 85% HFC reduction goal.

## Learn More

Link to full HFC policy: <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/legislation/opsggm-review/hfc-phase-down-faqs>

# BRAZIL

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LAURA VALENTE DE MACEDO**



## **The National Policy on Climate Change (PNMC)**

During the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Brazil announced its voluntary targets for GHG emissions reduction. Their National Policy on Climate Change (PNMC) commits to an expected reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions of 36.1% to 38.9% (Art. 12, Law n. 12187-2009) in relation to a historical average calculated by sector and projected to 2020. The emissions reduction targets are mainly focused on land use change and deforestation activities, Brazil's main sources of emissions.

These targets were intended to be achieved through the implementation of the sectorial plans, as follows: a) Action Plan to Prevent and Control Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAm); b) Action Plan to Prevent and Control Deforestation and Fire in Cerrado (PPCerrado); c) Ten Year Plan for Energy Expansion (PDE); d) Plan for Low Carbon Emissions in the Agriculture Sector (Plano ABC); e) Plan to Reduce Emissions from Steel (Plano da Siderurgia); f) Transportation (Plano de Transporte), Industry and Mining, (Plano da Indústria e da Mineração) Health (Plano da Saúde) and Pisciculture (Plano da Piscicultura).

However, the new Brazilian government has decided not to move forward with these sectoral plans. They see the plans led by different ministries as too fragmented and ineffective. The new government has issued a draft document for implementing the National Policy on Climate Change that integrates the approaches that were put forward by the different sectors. The government has made the new draft integrated plan open for public comment through June of 2017. They expect to finalize a new integrated plan by the end of this year.

## **Learn More**

Sources in Portuguese

Ministry of Environment news page – call for contribution and deadline extension. <http://www.mma.gov.br/clima/ndc-do-brasil>

WRI Brazil blog post on opening of public consultation on the NDC implementation strategy by the Ministry of Environment <http://wribrasil.org.br/pt/blog/2016/12/consulta-publica-ndc-brasileira>

Instituto Akatu – Brazilian NGO focusing on consumption and environment – post on consultation <http://www.akatu.org.br/Temas/Mudancas-Climaticas/Posts/Governo-inicia-dialogo-com-sociedade->



[brasileira-sobre-metas-do-clima](#)

Sources in English

Science Magazine article <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/09/brazil-s-climate-targets-draw-lukewarm-reviews>

WRI blog assessment of Brazil's INDC by WRI Brazil climate team <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/09/closer-look-brazils-new-climate-plan-indc>

NRDC brief on Brazil's NDCs <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/paris-climate-conference-Brazil-IB.pdf>

Article by the Climate Observatory translated into English. <http://www.observatoriodoclima.eco.br/en/brasil-registra-meta-para-paris/>

# CANADA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DIANE SZOLLER**



## **Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change**

In March 2016, our provincial Ministers (premiers) and the Prime Minister issued the Vancouver Declaration on clean growth and climate change. They also agreed to develop a pan-Canadian Framework to achieve our commitment to the Paris Agreement (a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions). Four working groups including federal, provincial and territories officials next developed reports to assess how and where to reduce emissions (specific mitigation opportunities), ideas for a low-carbon economy (clean technology, innovation and job creation), carbon pricing (pricing mechanisms) and how Canadians will need to prepare and respond to climate impacts (adaptation and climate resilience).

These reports were discussed by the Ministers of the Environment and the Ministers of Innovation and Economic Development in October and November 2016 to prepare provincial responses. On December 9, 2016, Canada's First Ministers and the Prime Minister met again and adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (Saskatchewan and Manitoba did not endorse it as drafted). Officials implementing the Framework will report back yearly.

This policy is significant because it prioritizes a price on carbon, making electricity cleaner and increasing energy-efficiency of buildings and vehicles while establishing measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is a collective approach, and requires strong investment, particularly for

Adaptation, demonstrating the long-term consequence of climate change that have already begun.

## Learn More

A summary of the 4 working group findings to develop a pan-Canadian Framework to achieve Canada's targets from the Paris Agreement <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=64778DD5-1> Pan Cdn document

The announcement of the adoption of the pan-Canadian Framework in December 2016 <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/09/communique-canadas-first-ministers>

Canada's Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change strategy <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework.html>

David Suzuki's opinion on carbon pricing <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/climate-solutions/carbon-tax-or-cap-and-trade/>

# CHINA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LENA COURCOL**



## 2015-2020 Action Plan for the Efficient Use of Coal and 2016-2020 13th Five-Year Plan

In February 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and the Finance Ministry released the 2015 – 2020 action plan for the efficient use of coal: aiming to decrease coal use by 160 million tonnes in the determined period. China's federal 13th Five Year Plan (2016 – 2020) revealed further coal-related targets, including:

- Ban on new coal-fired power plants until 2018
- An annual cut in annual production capacity of coal of 700 Mtce; or, 14% of total production capacity
- Closure of coal-fired power plants with the aim of reducing air pollution in urban areas.

In Beijing, the last coal-fired power plant has been shut down in 2016 and replaced with a gas power plant.

These policies have already begun to produce effects. The latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) has shown that the production of raw coal is down 10% from 2015. In addition, hydropower generation has increased by 12%, nuclear by 24%, and wind power by 26%, between January and August 2016, in comparison to generation in the same period of 2015.

Projections further suggest that overall coal consumption in China has already peaked in 2013, as statistics show that it dropped by 2.9% in 2014, and a further 3.6% in 2015. Studies suggest that this may be due to two major factors:

1. A decline in economic growth
2. A continued policy to lower coal use in order to reduce air pollution and national greenhouse gas emissions

A continued reduction of coal consumption of 160 million tonnes per year until 2020 suggests that the range of emissions will be below the assumed 2013 peak of coal consumption. Paired with China's first target cap on total energy consumption at 5 billion tonnes of coal equivalent, as well as targets on air quality progress in cities, China's set policies will continue to have a major impact on the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall, China will meet its 2020 pledge and its NDC targets, but it is predicted that it will remain substantially above current emission levels (22-24% above 2010 levels by 2020 and 33% - 40% by 2030). Although China continues to implement increasingly stringent policies to curb carbon dioxide emissions, particularly from coal, emission reductions from other greenhouse gases seem to be neglected.

## Learn More

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-24/beijing-to-close-all-major-coal-power-plants-to-curb-pollution>

<https://www.enerdata.net/publications/daily-energy-news/china-confirms-ban-new-coal-fired-power-plant-construction-until-2018.html>

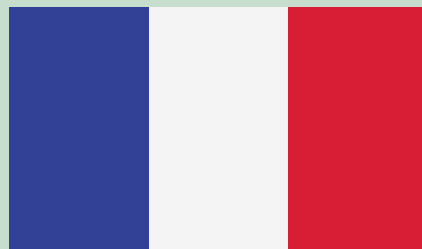
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/energy/2014-11/13/c\\_127204758.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/energy/2014-11/13/c_127204758.htm)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-03/06/c\\_134044881.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-03/06/c_134044881.htm)

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v9/n8/full/ngeo2777.html>

# FRANCE

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**CHARLINE GAUDIN**



## Various Agriculture Sector Policies that Impact GHG Emissions

In 2009, GHG emissions from the agriculture sector represented around 21% (107 MteqCO<sub>2</sub>) of the total emissions in France. Between 1990 and 2008, the emissions in the agriculture and forestry sector were reduced by 8% (around -9 MteqCO<sub>2</sub>). However, the Directorate General of Energy and Climate of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea observed that these emissions increased between 2007 and 2008 by 2.3%. This increase was caused in part by the abolition of letting fields lie fallow, which led

to the increase of cultivated areas and helped promote the development of biofuels.

In France, applied policy measures in the agriculture sector rely on two complementary pillars:

- Mitigation, aiming at reducing GHG emissions, especially through the increase of carbon sinks and fossil fuel energy substitution;
- Adaptation to climate change.

Concerning mitigation, the following policy measures have been taken:

- National Climate Plans (Plans Climats Nationaux): The first National Climate plan of 2004 proposed emission reduction measures in the agriculture sector but without specifying the real means to implement them. It focused national efforts on control of nitrogen fertilization, collection and recovery of biogas and valorization and development of products coming from biomass.
- The Grenelle Environnement Forum: The discussions on "agriculture and climate" in 2007 especially focused on reducing the energy consumption of farms. The Grenelle Law 1 adopted in August 2009 calls for reduction "if possible" of pesticide use by 50% by 2018, and the goal of having 20% of agricultural production consist of organic products by 2012. The government also proposed having 30% of French farms with low energy dependence by 2013. In addition, a Plan for Plant Proteins (Plan Protéines Végétales) as part of the "Plan Objectif Terres 2020" was developed to support financially the culture of protein crops as they have a direct interest in reducing GHG emissions. Overall the content of the measures proposed by the Grenelle Environment Forum are quite ambitious and require a lot of investments. Most of the targets have not been achieved yet but the Government and the regions are deploying efforts to achieve them.

## Learn More

<http://www.rac-f.org/Agriculture-et-gaz-a-effet-de>

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/politiques/lutte-contre-changement-climatique>

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/environnement-le-changement-climatique-une-realite-qui-simpose-tous>

# GERMANY

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**MARY NTHAMBI**



## Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), 2017 and Renewable Energies Heat Act

Climate change has been highly associated with greenhouse gas emissions that result from the ongoing burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. As a result, increased investment in renewable energy is a central approach in decarbonizing the energy sector and meeting the energy demands

of Germany. The energy law in Germany focuses on two main acts - Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), 2017 and Renewable Energies Heat Act. Both of these acts play key roles in the conversion of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power into electricity and its respective use. The Renewable Energy Sources Act ensures renewable energy supply, while the Renewable Energies Heat Act reinforces renewable energy use for heating purposes. It ensures that heating and power insulators that rely on renewable energy supplies are installed in new buildings in order to meet a proportion of the heating needs through renewable energy sources.

So far a number of renewable energy goals have been met. For instance, in 2015, about 168 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, out of which 103 million tons was from the energy sector, were offset, in particular from the use of renewable energy sources as reported in the energy transition handbook by Morris and Pehnt, (2016). Further, the government and the public in general have reached a consensus that renewable energy is not only important for climate protection but also for the growth of the economy especially in job creation, technological innovations and energy security among other benefits. Therefore, the successful implementation of the EEG 2017 and the Renewable Energies Heat Act stand out in ensuring carbon emission reduction goals are met in line with the Paris agreement.

According to the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the implementation of EEG 2017 will be funded through a market based auction scheme rather than by the government. Also, an incentive based market program has been established to ensure that a percentage of heating in new buildings is done using renewable energy power supplies as per the Renewable Energies Heat Act. If the EEG, 2017 is fully implemented, it will serve as an effective tool in ensuring that the share of renewable energy increases from the current levels of 33 % up to 40-45% in 2025, 55-60% in 2035, and up to a minimum of 80% by 2050. Part of the EEG 2017 provides for market auctions for offshore wind power installations through the Offshore Wind Act. The Offshore Wind Act is expected to increase wind power production capacity up to 15 gigawatts between 2021 to 2030. Thus, if EEG 2017 and the Renewable Energies Heat Act are successfully implemented with a reduction of carbon emission of 85-90% by 2030, the following outcomes are likely to be achieved: creation of job opportunities of about 100,000 by 2030 and 230,000 by 2050; increased export of PV technology of about 80% by 2020; and reduced risks and costs associated with problems dealing with accumulated nuclear power waste.

## **Learn More**

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Dossier/renewable-energy.html>

[https://book.energytransition.org/sites/default/files/etbook/en/German-Energy-Transition\\_en.pdf](https://book.energytransition.org/sites/default/files/etbook/en/German-Energy-Transition_en.pdf)

# INDIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Managers  
**TANIKA DUTTA** and **MUNEER MAGRAY**



## National Action Plan on Climate Change

India's National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 and is intended to run through 2017. It calls for a wide range of actions in different sectors intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Different Indian Government Ministries are responsible for implementing the NAPCC. However, it is unclear whether or not data is being collected to assess the impact on emissions reduction related to the work of each ministry.

The goals or missions of the NAPCC include: making solar energy competitive with fossil-based energy options; mandating specific energy decreases in large energy-consuming industries that is supported by the establishment of an emissions trading system; extending the existing Energy Conservation Building code; strengthening the enforcement of automotive fuel standards; seeking to achieve a 20% improvement in water use efficiency; expanding forest cover from 23 to 33% of India's territory; the development of climate resilient crops; the retirement of inefficient coal-fired power plants, and related measures.

The NAPCC aims to help India leapfrog to a low carbon economy using high-end and emerging technologies. However, some experts criticize the plan for putting economic growth ahead of emission reductions, saying that the government is more concerned in prioritizing development and growth to alleviate poverty without having to worry about the volume of emissions created in doing so. This ambivalence between prioritizing emission reduction goals in the face of economic development is clearly stated in India's INDC pledge to the Paris Agreement.

Presumably there will be an assessment of the impact of the NAPCC at the end of this year, perhaps before the COP 23 meeting in Bonn in November.

## Learn More

"India's National Action Plan on Climate Change," Harshal T. Pandve, Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2822162/>

# INDONESIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**TRISTAN GRUPP**



## One Map Policy

Previous Climate Scorecard posts have referenced the One Map Policy (OMP) in Indonesia. It appears in several of our thematic reports because it relates to many aspects of Indonesia's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Indonesia's current land tenure system is fraught with inconsistencies and overlapping claims. The lack of clear land ownership makes implementation of REDD+ projects and government policies to manage land and forests next to impossible. Management of forests is consequential in reducing GHG emissions as 80% of Indonesia's carbon emissions come from forest destruction and clearing. Clear demarcation of land tenure, claims, and responsibilities is a prerequisite for effective land and forest governance. This demarcation can be achieved through mapping land claims.

OMP began out of the 2011 Law no. 4 regarding spatial information when President Yudhoyono was presented with the highly conflicting sectoral maps of the Ministry of Environmental and Ministry of Forestry. The law states that only the government of Indonesia shall have authority to create a national base map. The Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) is responsible for creating the base map. OMP's purpose is to pull together the sectoral maps of many government agencies into a uniform base map. The sectoral maps of government agencies have a lot of overlap as each was designed without a reference base map. There are also overlapping maps between concessions for different production activities, and between state forest areas, and customary and districts lands. OMP seeks to reconcile these conflicts.

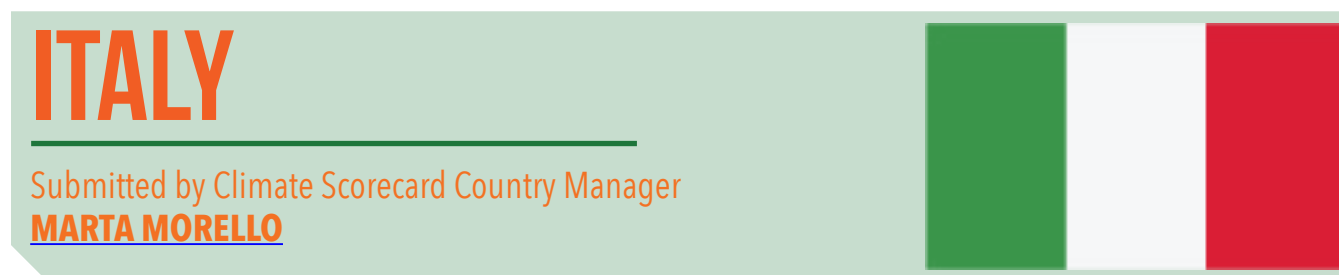
The development of the state map can be accessed by the public through a 'one geo portal', which accepts public and participatory mappings. This transparency and public participation in map-making is a new development in Indonesian mapping. In the past, government agencies' ability to issue permits and rights to land often resulted in favoritism and patronage. The Ministry of Forestry was especially notorious for its opaque forest data, forest maps, and license issuing. OMP was developed in the context of Yudhoyono's 26% GHG emissions reduction promise after COP-13 that led to the \$1 billion Norway-Indonesia REDD+ partnership. The partnership required suspensions of licensing new concessions in primary forests and peatlands. This moratorium would only be achieved if the Forestry Ministry underwent major reform. In 2010, the government led a corruption investigation of the ministry that concluded that it needed institutional change. The ministry was tasked with producing an Indicative Moratorium Map (IMM), which improved the transparency of forestry maps and increased communication between government agencies and the public. The moratorium map covers 65 million hectares of land. President Widodo has extended the moratorium into 2017. The REDD+'s push for public participation and transparency led to the beginning of the OMP.



When One Map is completed, land claims and government responsibilities should be resolved. Clear land data is a prerequisite in moratorium enforcement, peatland restoration, assigning of responsibility to sustainably manage land, and other efforts aimed to reduce emissions. The public participation in One Map allows masayarakat adat (indigenous Indonesians), forest-dependent people, and communities to submit maps. These community-made maps often more sustainably manage forests and land than under government agencies or concessions. If these submissions to One Map are prioritized, emissions reductions will be more achievable.

## Learn More

<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/37/1/012054>



## Article 15 of the 2012 Tax Reform Bill

The Italian government proposed an environmental component for excise taxes as part of the 2012 tax reform. This was a major turning point in the country's environmental policy because such a tool has enormous potential for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as accelerating the shift to a greener energy supply. With article 15 of the 2012 tax reform, the government proposed a revision of accise—or excise taxes—on energy products on the basis of environmental criteria. The idea was to introduce new rates, proportional to generated emissions, in order to curb the use of dirtier energy sources while incentivizing the use of renewables. This is a very important policy area for Italy because energy production and consumption account for about 60% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

In Italy, the system for taxing energy producers is complex, incoherent, and costly. It includes loopholes that allow for discounts, subsidies, and exemptions. Within the energy supply chain, certain producers benefit from tax exemptions. This is true in particular for suppliers of fossil fuel. Besides tax exemptions, certain fossil fuels suppliers benefit from federal subsidies that in 2014 equaled 548 million Euros. By revisiting excise taxes, so that tax rates are proportional to average emissions created, the 2012 policy was intended to disincentivize top polluting suppliers and activities. While pricing out top polluters like coal and oil, the new tax system will incentivize the production of renewables as well as the use of more modern plants that run on natural gas. The second accomplishment of the revised excise policy will be to completely eliminate exemptions to energy products and subsidies from fossil fuel sources. This was intended to reduce energy waste while at the same time making renewable sources more competitive on the market.



Studies show that restructuring energy taxes, expanding the use of other environmentally related taxes, and removing environmentally harmful tax concessions would generate additional revenue that can be reinvested in low-carbon energy sources. In 2010, environmentally harmful tax concessions alone were estimated at 0.2% of GDP.

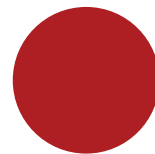
In March 2014 the law was approved. In late 2016 the Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea published a report with a detailed description and evaluation of the current environmental impact of each subsidy/excise rate. This Report established a baseline of what is currently working and what is not with regard to the environmental impact of such subsidies and excise taxes. Now the government needs to continue to monitor the implementation of the new law to assess its impact on emission reduction and alternative energy production.

### Learn More

To read article 15 approved in March 2014 please see <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2014/03/12/14G00030/sg>

## JAPAN

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**KENTA MATSUMOTO**



### Building Insulation Law

The government recently passed a new law to make all buildings more energy efficient by 2020. The thermal insulation regulation standard of Japan has been criticized as inferior to that of other developed countries. For example, it is often pointed out that the regulation standard for insulating windows is inadequate. The new law is intended to bring Japanese thermal insulation building standards in line with global standards. It will be implemented by a variety of regulatory agencies, including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Environment.

### Learn More

[http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/atclen/news\\_en/15mk/020801132/?ST=msbe](http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/atclen/news_en/15mk/020801132/?ST=msbe)

# MEXICO

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
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## **Special Program on Climate Change (PECC)**

The Special Program on Climate Change, PECC, is a federal level policy first published in 2009 as a result of the continuous involvement of the Mexican government in national and international debates surrounding climate change. It sets a long-term agenda, while also presenting short and medium-term plans. Currently Mexico is working with the updated PECC 2014-2018, following the PECC that lasted from 2009 to 2012.

Derived from the General Law on Climate Change and the National Strategy of Climate Change, and aligned with the government's National Development Plan, the program presents mitigation and adaptation targets that need to be achieved by different federal agencies, identifying their strategic roles. This involves using the same indicators and measurements for different sectors and feeding them to an online system from which the Intersecretarial Commission on Climate Change can evaluate progress.

The PECC has been praised for setting cross-sectoral goals that bring together federal agencies to consider different climate change variables, such as gender, in its targets. It serves as an example for the creation of climate change programs at the state level. However, it has been noted that it remains too vague in certain aspects, that its measuring methodologies increase uncertainty, and that it lacks a way of sharing its advances with the public. Nevertheless, the measures implemented after the creation of the PECC have been linked to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. By following the recommendations and suggestions presented in the evaluations of the PECC, it has the potential to contribute to Mexico's plan to face climate change.

## **Learn More**

PECC 2014-2018 (in English and Spanish)

<https://www.iea.org/media/workshops/2015/15thghgtradingworkshop/SpecialClimateChangeProgram20142018Englishversion.pdf> and [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5342492&fecha=28/04/2014](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5342492&fecha=28/04/2014)

Progress report of PECC 2009-2012 (in Spanish)

[http://www.afd.fr/webdav/shared/PORTAILS/PAYS/MEXIQUE/Documents/PECC\\_folleto\\_esp\\_web\\_opt.pdf](http://www.afd.fr/webdav/shared/PORTAILS/PAYS/MEXIQUE/Documents/PECC_folleto_esp_web_opt.pdf)

Evaluation of PECC 2009-2012 (in Spanish)

[http://imco.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2013/2/studie\\_2\\_pecc\\_web\\_ok4.pdf](http://imco.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2013/2/studie_2_pecc_web_ok4.pdf)

Analysis of the PECC 2014-2018 (in English)

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/amanda-maxwell/guest-blog-inspecting-mexicos-latest-climate-change-plan>

# NIGERIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**CHIUDO EHRIM**



## National Policy on Climate Change

Nigeria's Federal Executive Council approved and adopted a National Policy on Climate Change in 2013. The policy is the basis for national climate change laws and guide the country's economic and social response to climate change (ICEED, 2013). The implementation of the policy aims to promote low-carbon, high-growth economic development and foster a climate-resilient society. The National Policy on Climate Change is significant as it aims to detail the comprehensive national goals, objectives and climate adaptation strategies that can/would be undertaken by the Federal, State and Local Governments as well as other relevant stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, communities, and individuals. Unfortunately, at the moment no data is available on the status of efforts to implement the National Policy.

## Learn More

More information on Nigeria's progress on climate change governance as summarized by London School of Economics and Political Science is available here: [www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/legislation/countries/nigeria/](http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/legislation/countries/nigeria/)

More information on Nigeria's climate change adaptation policy framework is available at: [http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Nigeria/1/Approved%20Nigeria's%20INDC\\_271115.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Nigeria/1/Approved%20Nigeria's%20INDC_271115.pdf)

For the objectives of the National Policy on Climate Change, see: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/law/national-policy-on-climate-change-2/>

The news of Nigeria's adoption of its policy on climate change is available here: <http://iceednigeria.org/ic/nigeriaadoptsclimatechangepolicydocument/>

# RUSSIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DR. ELENA ZAIKA**



## **Presidential Executive Order NO 752 On the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

This 2016 Russian Presidential Order provides an action plan to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions to no more than 75% of 1990 baseline emissions by 2020. Organizations with emission volume of over 50,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year will be responsible for presenting reports to the government on their emissions levels. This target is consistent with Russia's INDC pledge to the Paris Agreement. However, to have a likely chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C (3.6°F) and thus prevent some of the worst impacts of climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that emissions must peak in all regions by 2020. While not all countries will have to peak by this year, Russia is the fifth-largest emitter globally. It remains unclear when Russia's emissions will peak, but from the numbers in its INDC, it appears likely to be after 2020. Without an earlier peak date, the rest of the world would have to make up the difference to maintain a likely chance of limiting warming to 2°C.

Russia hopes to develop by 2018 a national climate change adaptation strategy that addresses problems of permafrost degradation, sea level rise, increased rainfall and extreme weather events. Currently, the Draft Russian Energy Strategy 2035 does not contain any progressive goals or objectives in regards to the obligations on decreasing GHG emissions. Rather its focus is on the relationship of the energy sector to Russia's overall development.

Russia has yet to ratify the Paris Agreement.

### **Learn More**

Analysis of the renewable energy development progress in Russia

<http://bellona.ru/2016/11/09/bellona-conference-renewable/>

Interactive map of renewable energy assets around the world with a legend in Russian:

<http://tesiaes.ru/?p=9110>

Draft Power Strategy of Russia until 2035

<https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/1920a>

# SAUDI ARABIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**ABEER ABDULKAREEM**



## Green Saudi Company for Carbon Services

In late February 2017, Saudi Arabia established the Green Saudi Company for Carbon Services. The mission of this organization is to develop and manage carbon emission reduction programs and sustainable development mechanism projects. It also will assist in the fight against environmental pollution in accordance with regional and international agreements and protocols and local regulations. The Company, a partnership between Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) and Petroleum, Chemicals & Mining Company Limited, a subsidiary of Saudi Binladen Group, represents a step forward for Saudi Arabia in its efforts to reduce emissions and control pollution. The Company seeks to help the government achieve its goals imbedded in the Kingdom Vision 2030 Plan and the National Transformation Program (NTP) 2020.

The establishment of a Company solely focused on GHG emissions is significant for several reasons. Top senior level policy leaders represented by the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, and other agencies concerned with clean energy support this initiative. Secondly, it shows the Saudi government is intent on implementing its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The Green Saudi Company will develop clean energy and carbon reduction projects within the framework of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It also issues and markets renewable energy certificates (RECs) for national companies with clean energy projects.

## Learn More

Green Saudi Company for Carbon Services Established. 2017. Zawya. February 20. Accessed from [https://www.zawya.com/mena/ar/story/%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1\\_%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%86-ZAWYA20170220040349/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/ar/story/%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A1_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1_%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%86-ZAWYA20170220040349/)

Green Saudi Company for Carbon Services to Focus on Emissions Reduction. 2017. Gulf News Journal. March 2. Accessed from <http://gulfnewsjournal.com/stories/511086310-green-saudi-company-for-carbon-services-to-focus-on-emission-reduction>

Taha. Sharif. 2017. Saudi Electricity Company Signs a Pact with PCMC to Reduce Carbon Emissions. Arab News. February 22. Accessed from <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1058011/saudi-arabia>

# SOUTH AFRICA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LEE-ANN STEENKAMP**



## The Draft Carbon Tax Bill

The proposal for a carbon tax in South Africa was first made in 2007. After lengthy public consultation processes and debates, the National Treasury introduced the Carbon Tax Bill in 2015. The implementation of the Bill has been delayed numerous times. It was set to come into effect during 2017, but it is likely that further delays might ensue.

The Bill is designed to encourage emission-reduction activities in certain sectors, through placing a price on carbon. This price on carbon acts as a signal that incentivizes behavioral change and makes emission reduction projects more attractive. The planned carbon tax is aimed at achieving South Africa's ambitious Paris Agreement commitments to reduce GHG emissions by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025. It is anticipated that the carbon tax will come into effect in a phased manner at a marginal rate of R120 per ton CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Persons who conduct various activities in the manufacturing, construction, mining and transport sectors will be affected. It will likely be implemented with complementary measures, for example a reduction in the electricity levy, and carbon offsets which firms can use to reduce their carbon tax liability.

## Learn More

The Carbon Tax Discussion Paper can be read at: <http://www.treasury.gov.za/public%20comments/Discussion%20Paper%20Carbon%20Taxes%2081210.pdf>

<http://www.treasury.gov.za/public%20comments/Carbon%20Tax%20Policy%20Paper%202013.pdf>

The Draft Carbon Tax Bill is available at: <http://www.treasury.gov.za/public%20comments/CarbonTaxBill2015/Carbon%20Tax%20Bill%20final%20for%20release%20for%20comment.pdf>

# SOUTH KOREA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**EUNJUNG LIM**



## First Basic Plan for Climate Change Response

On December 6, 2016, the South Korean government confirmed the country's "First Basic Plan for Climate Change Response," after approval by the National Green Growth Committee's and at a cabinet meeting led by Prime Minister (Acting President) Hwang Kyo-Ahn. The Basic Plan incorporates the goal of reducing the national greenhouse gas emission level by 37% (BAU) by 2030 in line with South Korea's pledge to the Paris Agreement.

The Basic Plan is the first comprehensive policy that has medium and long-term strategies and specific action plans to combat climate change. The Basic Plan puts the focus for emission reduction on new market-and-technology-oriented efforts. It seeks to encourage the role and contribution of the private sector in reducing emissions. The Basic Plan also promotes the active participation of the public in climate change efforts. It establishes mechanisms that facilitate collaboration in combatting climate change between the central and local governments and public and private sectors. The Basic Plan provides consulting services to small and medium enterprises regarding the adoption of energy-saving technologies.

The Plan further states that the South Korean government will invest more in the development and utilization of clean energy across the country. It calls for the government and public enterprises to cooperate in doubling the investment of R&D for utilizing clean energy. Private enterprises will concentrate on their own businesses and the government will focus on R&D for the public sector. The Basic Plan states that the prime investment fields for clean energy technology will be in renewable energy, efficiency improvements, demand management, carbon capture, use and storage, nuclear energy, and thermoelectric power transmission and distribution.

## Notes

The National Green Growth Committee is a special committee that is part of the Prime Minister's office for the purpose of deliberating and coordinating the government's green growth policies and collecting diverse opinions in the society. It is composed of 38 committee members, 21 civilian members from relevant fields and 17 government officers including minister of Finance and minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn has been serving as Acting President as the process of impeachment of President Park Geun-hye was ongoing during this period of time.

## Learn More

<http://www.me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?boardMasterId=1&boardId=722500&menuId=286>

[http://mosf.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaView.do;jsessionid=+Xm++b7UtdRGbzki6RsIU0p4.node10?searchBbsId1=&searchNttId1=MOSF\\_000000000006696&menuNo=4010100](http://mosf.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaView.do;jsessionid=+Xm++b7UtdRGbzki6RsIU0p4.node10?searchBbsId1=&searchNttId1=MOSF_000000000006696&menuNo=4010100)

# SPAIN

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**ANDREA DELMAR-SENTIES**



## Basque Environmental Framework Program

The Environmental Framework Program has been in place in the Basque region since 2002. It is a manifestation of the region's holistic way of combating climate change. The Program's goals are to protect the region's natural resources and limit the impact of climate change on the region. The Environmental Framework Program seeks to address current environmental problems, and in so doing prevent future damage caused by climate change and other environmental problems. By putting preventive measures in place, the Basque region is investing resources now but avoiding large environmental related expenditures in the future.

The Environmental Program's approach to climate change is focused on incentivizing business and consumers to increase the production and consumption of low-carbon and renewable energy sources. However it should be noted that the Framework addresses stopping climate change as part of a holistic set of environmental goals that also include protecting, conserving and restoring natural resources, fostering and protecting the health and well being of citizens, increasing economic sustainability, and integrating environmental goals into all government policies.

A distinguishing feature of the Environmental Framework Program is that it establishes a system for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the region's environmental policies. The Program also emphasizes research and education related to the impact of climate change on the region's environment.

The Basque Regional Environmental Framework Program is a policy model for preventing the damaging effects of climate change that could be scaled-up for use at a national level.

## Learn More

[https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/uploads/attachments/6057/Environmental\\_Framework\\_Programme\\_2020.pdf?1426067174](https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/uploads/attachments/6057/Environmental_Framework_Programme_2020.pdf?1426067174)



# THAILAND

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**NEEBIR BANERJEE**



## Low-Carbon Green Growth Policies

Low carbon green growth policies are currently in use in various Thai government programs. Thailand will be able to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if the government can scale-up the use of these policies. There are several ways in which green low-carbon growth policies are significant for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. First, low-carbon green growth policies help in the facilitation of infrastructures that are carbon-free. This ensures sustainable economic development in the long-run. Second, the low-carbon green growth policies, if scaled-up, can be an appropriate solution in terms of improving the country's energy efficiency and providing viable technologies that will help to curb vast amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, the transportation sector in Thailand generates a major proportion of greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas including in cities like Bangkok. If a scaled-up and low-carbon green growth policies are in place, around 25% of greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced in Bangkok with respect to Bangkok's 2020 baseline. This can be achieved by: increasing fuel efficiency to meet future European Union fuel economy standards; fuel tax and road pricing policies can be implemented through increased vehicle registration fees, congestion charges and parking fees; and developing energy-efficient public transport infrastructures. Finally, the scaling-up of low-carbon green growth policies can also decrease Thailand's large-scale greenhouse gas emissions by offering effective power generation sources that use low-carbon technologies and clean renewable energy.

Thai Government's policymaking process includes three major steps that outlines the proposed plans for scaling-up low-carbon green growth policy. The first step is the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on green growth, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. In this step, the green growth action plans in place under the national economic and social development plan led by the NESDB should be integrated with the National Strategy for Climate Change Management led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This will help in mainstreaming the green low-carbon growth policy with the 11th Five Year Plan, which has been implemented by NESDB. The second step is for the national green growth policy and strategy to take a holistic approach, which looks into the most cost-effective interventions and sectors. Such a holistic approach will be required to successfully fulfill the scaling-up of low-carbon green growth policy objectives. The third step is that urban transport and its roles and responsibilities should be listed as a priority green growth investment sector by central and local governments. This step will ensure that both central and local governments in Thailand address urban transport issues from a green growth perspective.

### Learn More

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/576401468120848097/pdf/662200WP0p12440e0Clean0Energy0all07.pdf>



## **Government Regulation on Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Even though Turkey has been trying to take responsibility for the fight against climate change, there has not yet been any significant policy adopted and implemented by the Government to decrease GHG emissions. The reasons might be the lack of local data and information to start a policy dialogue between the actors. For this reason, in 2012 the Government issued the Regulation and Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The purpose of this Regulation is to set forth the principles and procedures for monitoring and reporting emission levels from businesses and government enterprises. Some of the facilities subject to the Regulation are as follows:

- Oil refineries;
- Facilities with thermal power equal to or higher than 20 MW (except for hazardous and domestic waste incineration facilities);
- Certain steel and iron production facilities;
- Clinker facilities with a daily capacity of 500 tons and above or revolving furnaces with a daily capacity of 50 tons and above; and
- Facilities producing paper, paperboard or cartons with a daily capacity of 20 tons and above.

Within the scope of this regulation, these types of facilities are subject to monitoring, reporting and verification processes every year. These monitoring and verification activities may stimulate the establishment of a mandatory carbon market in Turkey. Turkey's Energy Efficiency Strategy Document 2012-2023 includes actions to be taken related to setting up a carbon trading system.

### **Learn More**

[http://www.csb.gov.tr/db/iklim/editordosya/%C3%84%C2%B0zleme%20Plan%C3%84%C2%B1%20K%C3%84%C2%B1lavuzu\(3\).pdf](http://www.csb.gov.tr/db/iklim/editordosya/%C3%84%C2%B0zleme%20Plan%C3%84%C2%B1%20K%C3%84%C2%B1lavuzu(3).pdf)

<http://dergipark.ulakbim.gov.tr/verimlilik/article/view/5000153883>

[http://www.cakmak.av.tr/articles/Construction\\_Infrastructure/Regulation%20on%20Monitoring%20of%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions.pdf](http://www.cakmak.av.tr/articles/Construction_Infrastructure/Regulation%20on%20Monitoring%20of%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions.pdf)

# UNITED KINGDOM

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**ADAM BARNETT**



## Government Regulation Closing All Coal-fired Plants by 2025

In January 2016, then-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Amber Rudd announced that all UK coal-fired power plants would be closed by 2025, with their use restricted by 2023 at the latest. Rudd promised to prioritize energy security, competition within the energy market and a reduced financial burden on bill-payers, as well as ensuring that the replacement energy comes from sources that are affordable, clean and low-carbon. Rudd stated that "it cannot be satisfactory for...the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive 50-year-old coal-fired power stations. We need to build a new energy infrastructure fit for the 21st century. Our determination to cut carbon emissions as cost effectively as possible is crystal clear and this step will make us one of the first developed countries to commit to taking coal off our system."

The initial response to this proposal was positive. Nick Mabey, chief executive of think tank E3G, said that 'it is significant that the country that led the industrial revolution is the first major economy to set a date for the phase out of unabated coal'. A total removal of coal from the UK's energy landscape would contribute greatly towards achieving both the UK's commitments in the Paris Agreement, and the emission reduction targets obligated by the UK Climate Change Act 2008.

However, this positivity was mitigated by several factors. First, Rudd emphasized that gas would be prioritized as the replacement energy source: a move Friends of the Earth described as "like an alcoholic switching from two bottles of whiskey a day to two bottles of port". Although gas is less emission-intensive compared to coal, it is still a finite, fossil fuel-based resource that releases a considerable amount of emissions—an amount that is incompatible with achieving the UK's long-term emission reduction targets. Second, the speech—and existing government policy—does not contain support for renewables as a method of 'filling the gap' that removing coal will open up. Indeed, much governmental policy has worked against renewables: the feed-in tariff for small scale solar installations was cut by 87%, financial aid was removed for new onshore wind farms and energy efficiency projects, and the Green Investment Bank (that funds projects contributing to the decarbonization of the UK's economy) is in the process of being sold off. Paul Ekins, Co-Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, questioned, "who will invest in the new gas-fired power stations the government wants to replace coal, after its U-turns on renewables have left so many investors who believed past government policy out of pocket?"

Though Rudd's proposal was headline-grabbing, evidence suggests that it is not as revolutionary as it first appeared. Coal usage in the UK has been declining for decades—and rapidly so in the past 5 years. Usage dropped 41% in 3 years from 2013 to 2015, with a huge drop of 22% between 2014 and 2015—

which was the largest-ever annual reduction in coal usage not including from the miner's strikes. As a share of the UK's energy landscape, coal decreased from 29.7% in 2014 to 22.6% in 2015—whilst gas and nuclear remained roughly the same, but renewables gained 6%: eating up most of the capacity coal had dealt with. The UK's coal consumption is now at its lowest levels since the start of the industrial revolution, and this is due to several factors. The central of these is the recent pre-planned closures of coal power stations that have reached the end of their workable lifespan. In 2016 alone 8 gigawatts of coal capacity (half of the UK's remaining capacity) was closed. Second, Drax, the UK's largest coal plant, switched to burning wood pellets instead. Third, the profitability of coal plants has plummeted due to falling wholesale electricity prices, the rising UK carbon floor price, and the cheapening of renewable alternatives. Overall, this points to the conclusion that coal was—due to ageing infrastructure and market forces—already being phased out at a rapid rate without the need for Rudd's statement of intent. And though such a statement is always welcome for environmentalists, the clauses that Rudd included in her proposal mitigate the potential benefits that the policy could have had, and will ensure that while emissions are greatly reduced in the short-term, the UK's long-term emission reduction targets will be wholly missed.

## Learn More

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/31/rapid-decline-of-coal-use-leads-to-drop-in-uk-emissions>

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-emissions-fall-again-after-record-drop-in-coal-use-in-2015>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-direction-for-uk-energy-policy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-plans-to-close-coal-power-stations-by-2025>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/27/slashing-household-solar-subsides-kill-off-industry-government-feed-in-tariff>

# UNITED STATES

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**STEPHANIE GAGNON**



## Trump's Executive Order on Federal Climate Policies

President Obama created the President's Climate Action Plan (CAP) in June 2013, through which he directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote a 26-38 percent reduction of GHG emissions from 2005 levels by 2025. Under this plan, the EPA is to promote reductions across the country in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the reduction in carbon emissions from the energy generation sector, the improvement of end-use efficiency of buildings and appliances, the reduction in pollution of hydrofluorocarbons and methane, and the promotion of carbon fixing processes through the protection of forests and other natural landscapes. This plan has been

instrumental in the EPA's creation of the Clean Power Plan, passed in 2015. It set a national target of a 32% reduction in emissions from the power generation sector from 2005 levels. The CAP has also encouraged states, cities, and counties across the nation to create their own climate action plans, and to commit to even greater GHG emissions reductions than the President's CAP set forth. Finally, it has encouraged investment in and development of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind farms.

In March 2017, President Trump signed an executive order rescinding 23 federal climate policies, crippling the Clean Power Plan and destroying the Climate Action Plan, citing the energy industry's need for unregulated growth. Through this executive order, the President is prioritizing the fossil fuel industry heavily over the renewable energy industry. President Trump has committed to "eliminating harmful and unnecessary policies such as the Climate Action Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule," according to the White House website. The Trump Administration believes that the CAP must be eliminated in order to "increase wages \$30 billion over the next 7 years," but fails to mention the cost to the environment of not reducing emissions.

If the US is to meet our commitments to the Paris Agreement, it is imperative that we uphold the Climate Action Plan. Without the plan or its support for the EPA's emissions reductions regulations, GHG emissions are projected to only decrease 7% from 2005 levels to 2020, which marks an increase from current levels. While in the short run there might be an economic cost associated with the CAP, in the long run the environmental—and subsequent economic—costs of not maintaining and implementing the CAP will be much greater.

Currently, President Trump has not indicated his intent to withdraw from the Paris Agreement entirely, but under his new Executive Order the US will certainly not meet its nationally determined contributions to the agreement, and will likely not participate in further negotiations while President Trump remains in office.

## **Learn More**

Effects of Trump's executive order on climate change: <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/trump-moves-to-dismantle-climate-rules-21286>

The President's Climate Action Plan: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>

Timeline of Progress Made in President Obama's Climate Action Plan: <http://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-timeline-progress-of-president-obama-climate-action-plan>

White House Fact Sheet on President's Climate Action Plan: <http://pcastarchive.net/PCAST4/www.whitehouse.gov/president-obama-climate-action-plan.html>

Summary of Resources on President's Climate Action Plan (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions): <https://www.c2es.org/federal/obama-climate-plan-resources>

# ABOUT

**Climate Scorecard** is a participatory, transparent, and open data effort to engage all concerned citizens in supporting the implementation of the new 2015 Global Climate Agreement.

## Background

Over 190 countries endorsed a new global climate agreement in December 2015 at a United Nations meeting in Paris (known as COP21). The Paris Agreement is designed to stabilize the earth's climate and prevent our atmosphere from heating-up above a global warming tipping point of 2 degrees Celsius, beyond which scientists warn extreme ecological disasters will occur. The success of the new agreement is contingent on the efforts all countries, as well as non-state actors, must make to increase and honor their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2015, in preparation for COP 21, most countries submitted pledges, also known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 or earlier. The Paris Agreement recognizes that these pledges, while good starting points, are insufficient to avoid having the planet warm beyond 2 degrees Celsius. Therefore, all countries are encouraged to revisit and strengthen their pledges before the agreement goes into effect in 2020.

Climate Scorecard is a mechanism for supporting efforts needed to implement the new Paris Agreement. Such efforts include encouraging countries to increase their emission reduction pledges, tracking efforts to strengthen pre-Paris INDCs, making sure that countries put in place policies and programs to achieve their reduction targets, and holding nation-states accountable for fulfilling the promise of the Paris Agreement.

## HOW IT WORKS

The Climate Scorecard team has established a website - [www.climatescorecard.org](http://www.climatescorecard.org) - where everyone – citizens, organizations, businesses, researchers, members of governments, journalists – can share information related to emission reduction efforts in the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries. Each of the 25 top greenhouse gas emitting countries has a page on our website where concerned stakeholders can post information related to the status of their country's pledge. Climate Scorecard's website also provides a set of 6 targeted results (see below) that we believe each country needs to achieve by 2020 in order to successfully implement the new Paris Agreement. These results are based on recommendations from the agreement itself, benchmark country emission reduction pledges, and our own research that has identified goals that all countries need to reach. Our targeted results provide a framework for tracking progress made by the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries.

## Results for the Top 25 Greenhouse Gas-Emitting Countries to Achieve by 2020

- Strengthens its 2015 agreement pledge, or adheres to a pledge that meets Result 3 in the Framework
- Agrees and implements measures to reach the target of 20% unconditional emission reduction by 2020
- Agrees and implements measures to reach the target of 30% unconditional emission reduction by 2025
- Adopts the UN suggested baseline year of 2010 from which to calculate future reductions
- Agrees to and implements policies that achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Make all aspects of its emission reduction process, including policy development and implementation, transparent and inclusive

## WHO WE ARE

An outstanding team of organizations and individuals is implementing Climate Scorecard. Coordination of our effort is through a partnership between The Global Citizens' Initiative (TGCI) and EarthAction- non-profit organizations with missions focused on environmental protection and citizen engagement. TGCI and EarthAction worked together to successfully implement last year's Citizens' Campaign for a 2015 Global Climate Agreement ([www.climateagreementcampaign.org](http://www.climateagreementcampaign.org)).

TGCI and Earth Action have recruited a team of 25 environmental graduate students and young professionals who serve as Country Managers, building and supporting networks of organizations and people to contribute and share information related to the post-Paris progress of each of the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries.

In addition, university-based experts provide quality control and address technical questions related to documents that are proposed for posting on the Climate Scorecard website.

For further information about Climate Scorecard please contact Ron Israel, Executive Director, The Global Citizens' Initiative ([roncisrael@gmail.com](mailto:roncisrael@gmail.com)) or Lois Barber, Executive Director, EarthAction ([lois@earthaction.org](mailto:lois@earthaction.org)).