

EU got to change to save the climate – a closer look at EU policies

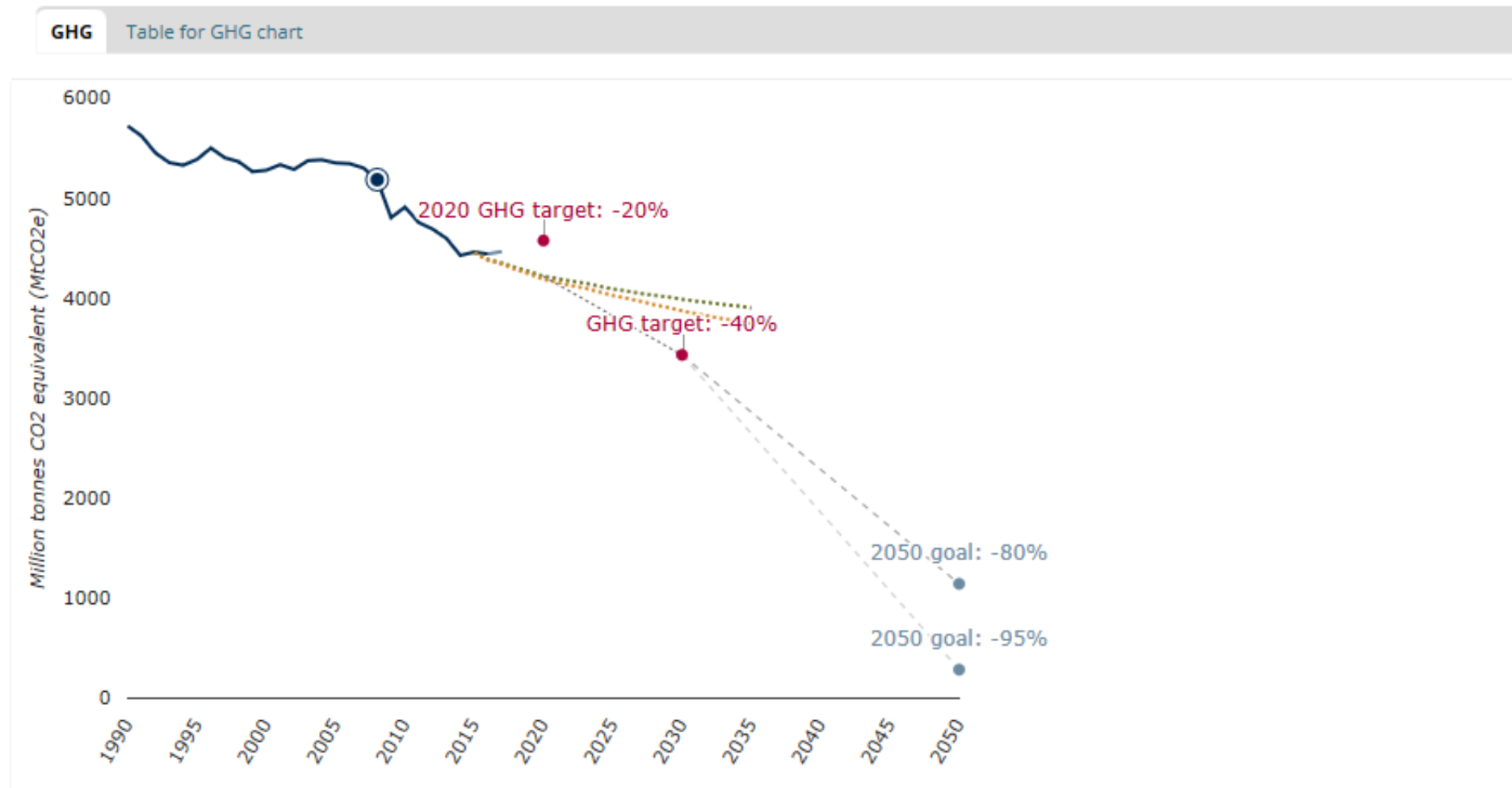
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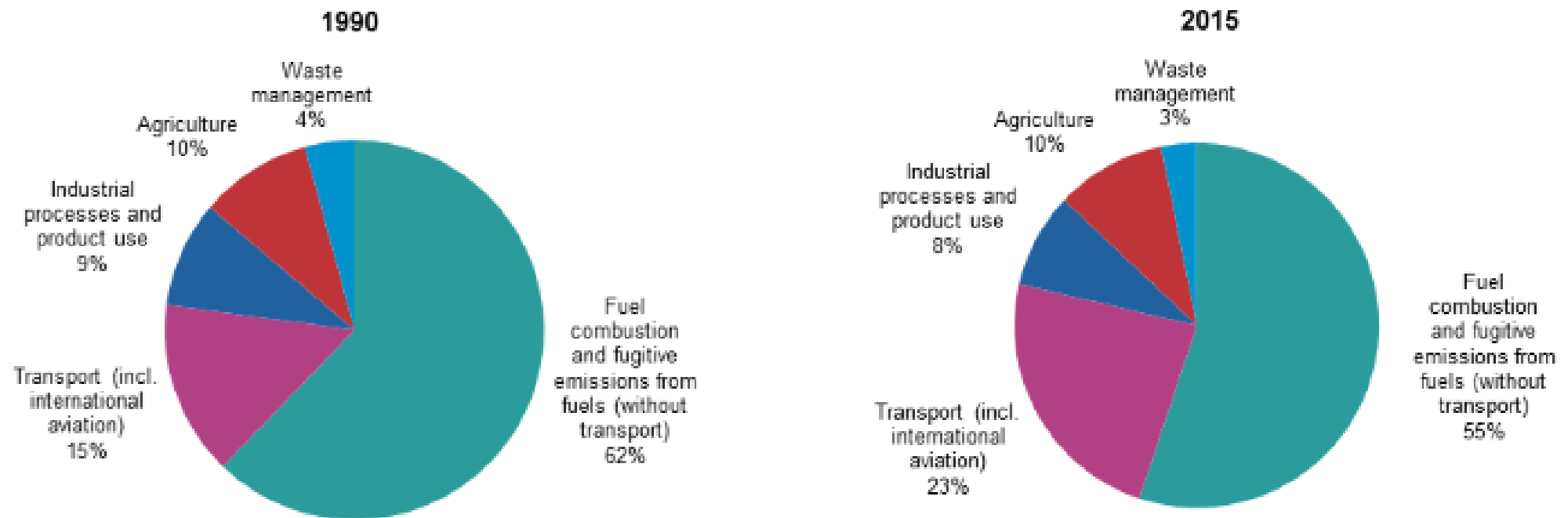
What is the progress in Europe towards international commitments regarding GHG emissions?

Fig. 1: Greenhouse gas emission trends, projections and targets in the EU



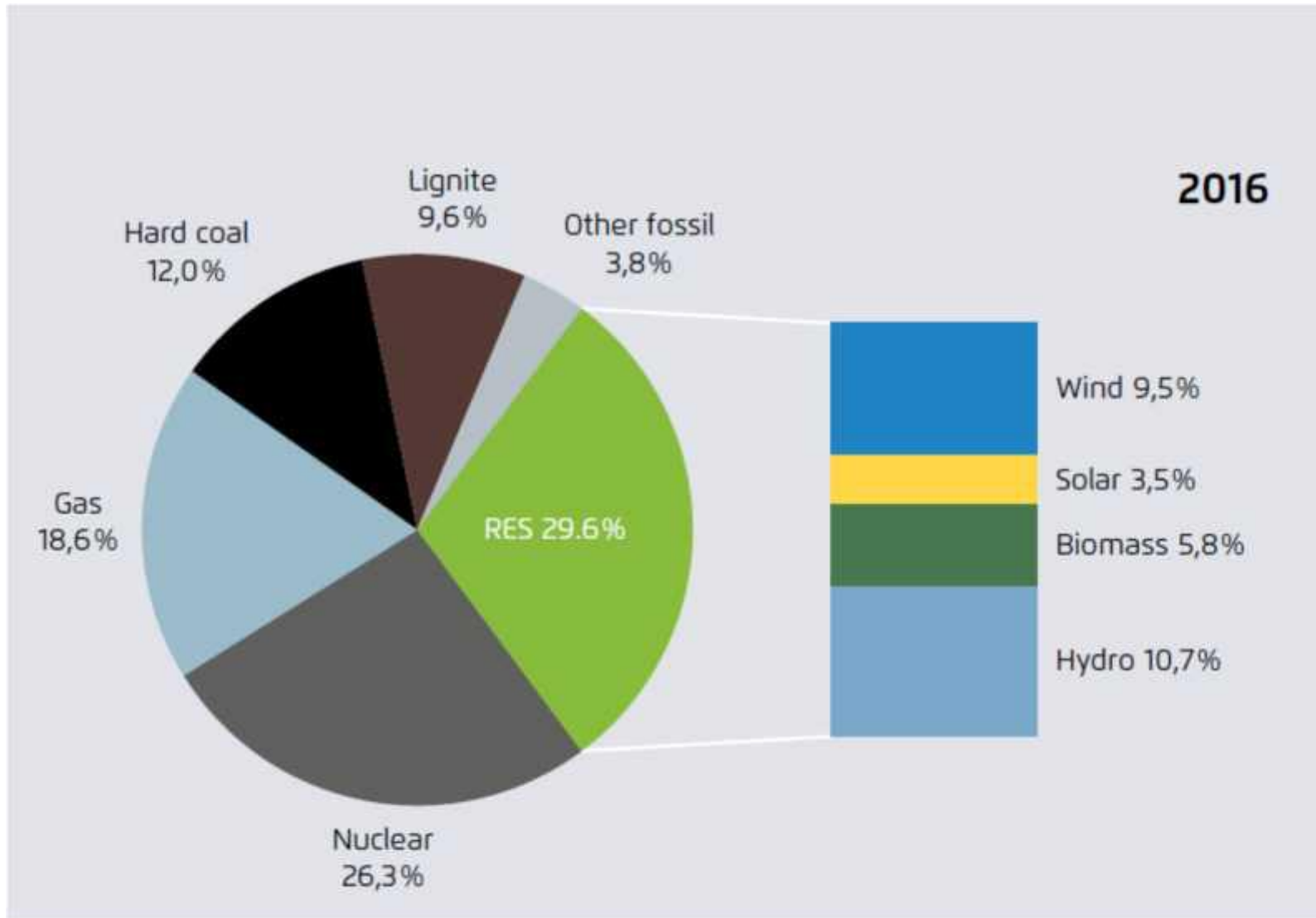
Source: European Environment Agency

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector



Source: Eurostat

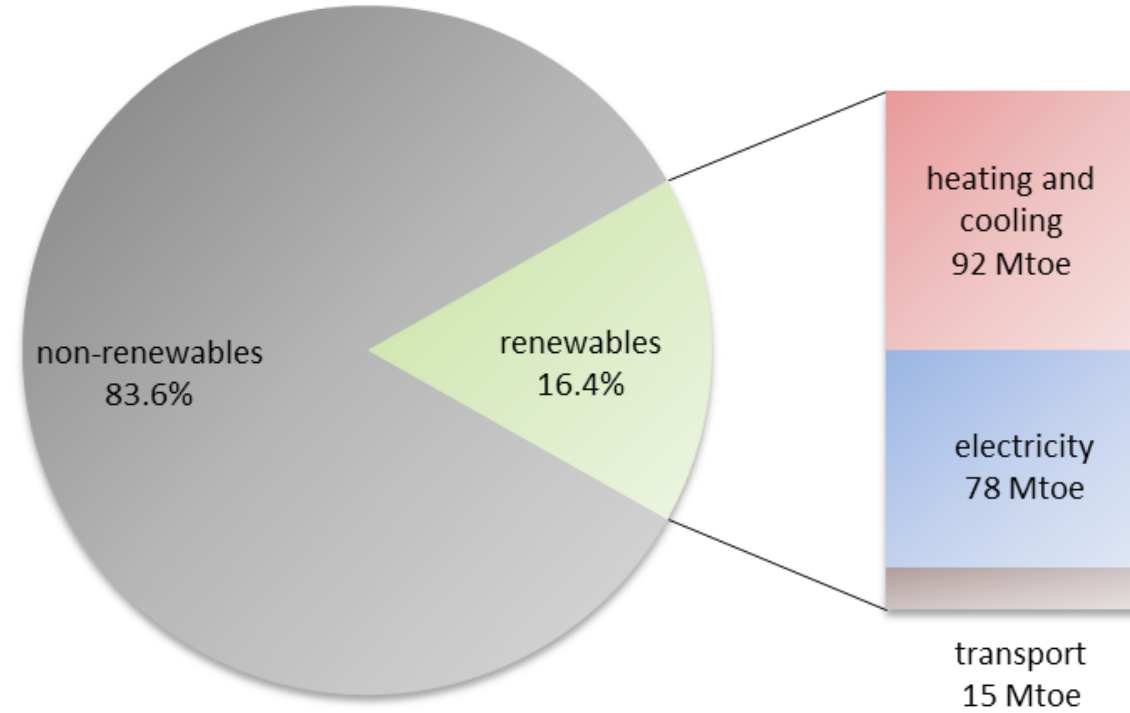
Electricity Mix European Union, EU28



Source: Agora Energiewende, Energy Transition in the Power Sector in Europe, 2016

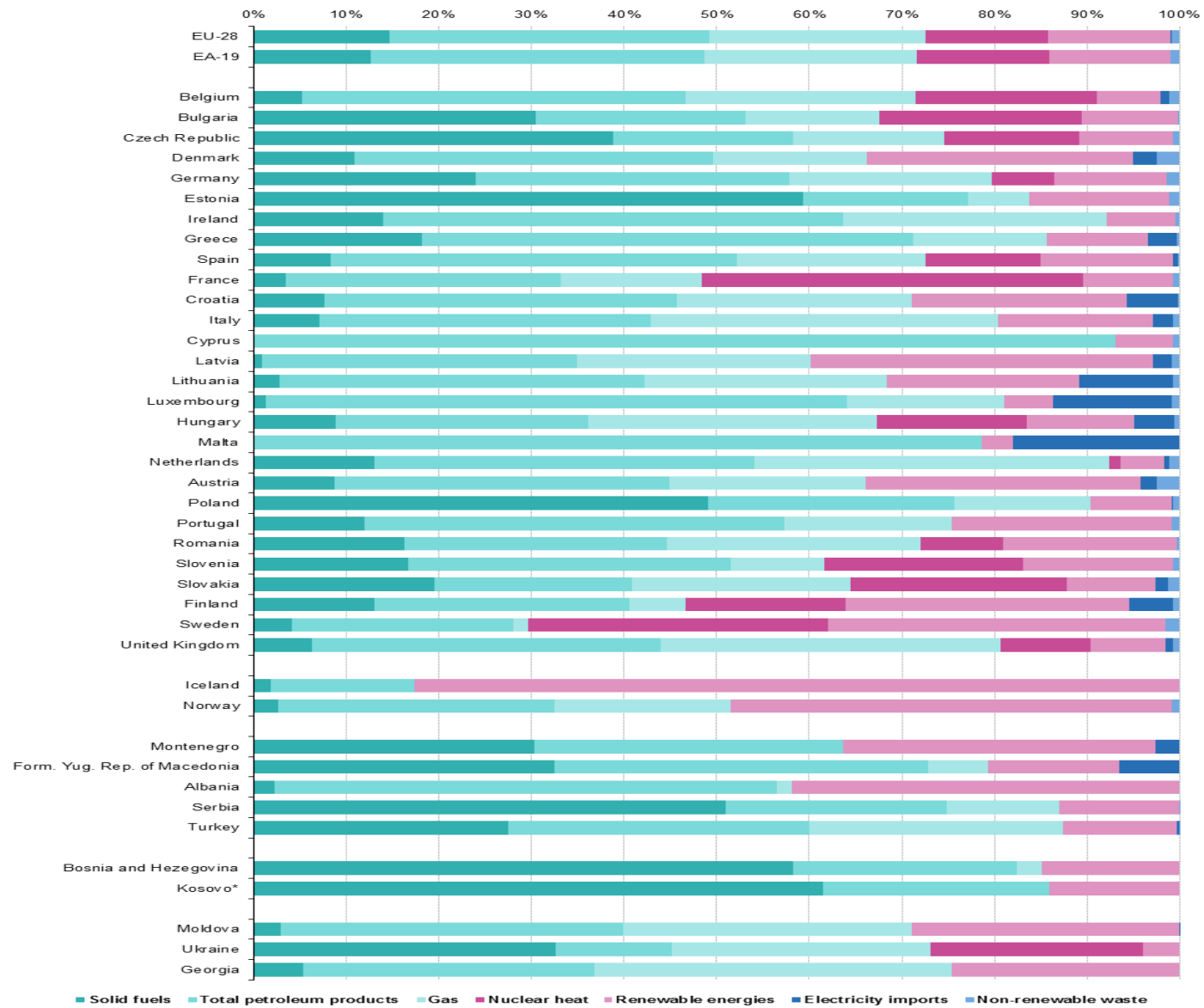
Final Energy Consumption in the EU28 in 2015

based on Öko-Institute proxies, statistical transferts and mult. counting excluded in Mtoe



Source: COM, Renewable Progress Report 2017

Gross inland energy consumption by fuel, 2016
(%)



(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_110a)

Carbon countdown clock: how much of the world's carbon budget have we spent?

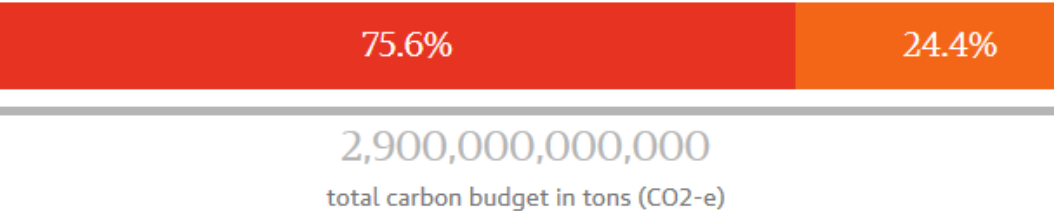
One way of looking at emissions targets is as a fixed budget amount, or quota. This countdown shows one estimate of how long it will take to reach an amount of greenhouse gas emissions beyond which 2C of warming will be likely

2,191,423,127,139

Total carbon budget used since 1870, in tons (CO2-e)

708,576,872,861

Total carbon budget remaining in tons (CO2-e), if we want to limit human-induced warming to less than 2C



485,979

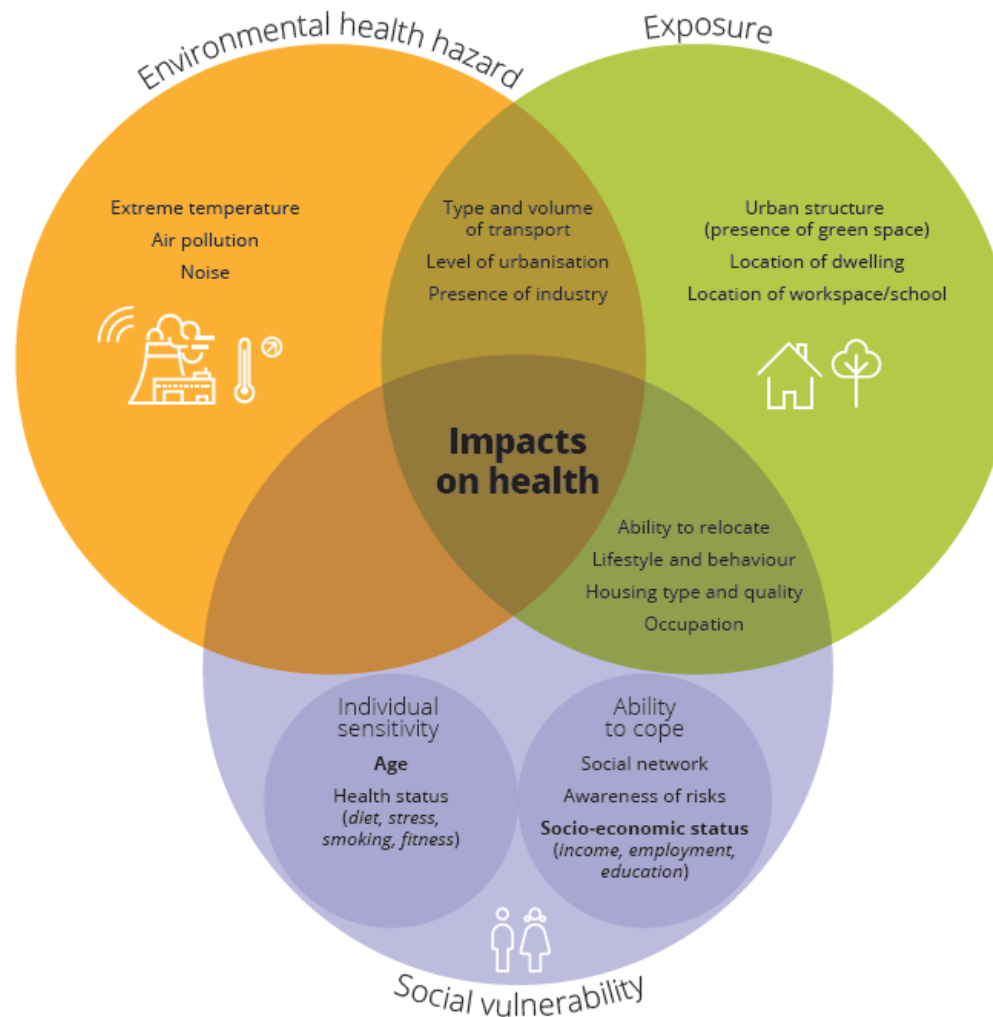
Total emissions in tons (CO2-e) since you started reading this

17 years, 297 days, 6 hrs, 5 mins, 47 secs

Until we will exceed the IPCC's 2C carbon budget, if our emissions stay as they are now

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/datablog/2017/jan/19/carbon-countdown-clock-how-much-of-the-worlds-carbon-budget-have-we-spent>

Figure ES.1 Impacts on well-being of the combination of vulnerability and exposure to environmental health hazards



Source: EEA Report, No. 22/2018, Unequal exposure and unequal impacts: social vulnerability to air pollution, noise and extreme temperatures in Europe
16/03/2019

Climate and Energy policy targets at European level (European Energy Union)

- reduction green house gas emissions: 40% by 2030 (Council in 2014, KOM in 2018)– must be higher (at least 55%)
- 32,5% increase of energy efficiency by 2030 – must be higher (at least 40%) (energy eff. directive)
- 32% renew. energy in final energy consumption by 2030 – must be higher (at least 45%) (renew. energy directive)
- good: governance regulation – MS must ratchet-up their targets regularly

- Long term strategy of European commission for decarbonised economy by 2050 (Nov 2018) „A Clean Planet for All“
 - problem: no intermediary targets for 2030
 - problem: CCS and concept of negative emissions
 - problem: nuclear power

- good: 14 March 2019 EP voted for 55% reduction of emissions by 2030 (amendment by GUE/NGL, S&D, Greens, ALDE)

What to do?

Transformation of power sector, building sector, transport and industry

Power sector:

- deployment of RE slowed down in last years
- need fixed feed-in tariffs, no auctioning/tendering (state aid rules of 2014 must be changed)
- good: more rights for community energy (directive electricity market)
- priority dispatch for renew. electricity watered down (directive electricity market)

European Emission Trading System (ETS)

- needs to be abolished, does not work
- a ton of CO2 still too cheap (today: 22 EUR, must be at least 40 EUR)
- currently: market stability reserve of January 2019 – prices still too low
- needed: carbon price, carbon tax

Energy efficiency

More ambition in energy efficiency

- energy intensive industry slowest sector in EU to reduce emissions
- the best energy is the one that is not used
- EU needs to cut its energy consumption by 20% by 2030, needs to be halved by 2050
- potential: building sector – fight against energy poverty, creation of local jobs

Subsidies for dirty energy

- phase-out of coal by 2030 necessary
- subsidy mechanism for coal, gas, nuclear in current European regulation for electricity market (capacity mechanisms) (regulation electricity market)
 - 32 billion EUR from 1998-2018
 - additional 25 billion EUR planned until 2040

Transport

- transport needs to be electrified
- rise of emissions by 16% betw. 1990 and 2015
- investment in public transport + railways for freight transport
- good: competition from China + California
- we need strategic alliance with big cities (e.g. Paris, Barcelona..)
- real job risk: e-cars will be built in China

Buildings

- buildings: lack of money for refurbishment (esp. for small-scale projects)
- 2018 directive on energy performance of buildings
- renovation rate: 1% - 2% per year
- 75% of buildings in EU are not energy efficient
- 35% of buildings are older than 50 years
- buildings consume 40% of energy in EU; produce 30% of CO₂-emissions in EU

European budget (MFF)

- good: in proposal 25% climate mainstreaming planned
- bad: planned reduction of 10% in structural funds (330 billion EUR instead of 378 billion EUR)
 - needed: keep high co-financing rates (80%, 65%, 50%) – because municipalities lack funding
 - abolish macroeconomic conditionalities
 - climate proofing for projects needed

European budget (MFF)

- Projects of common interest
- in 2016 LNG strategy adopted
- in last years: 1.2 billion EUR to gas projects
- 2007-2017 17 billion EUR loans by EIB to gas
- TEN-E regulation needs to be changed

- European semester – mechanism for economic governance
 - needed: binding mechanism to report on fossil fuel subsidies for MS
- Horizon 2020 must not finance fossil fuels based projects
 - must help cities to get carbon free
 - e.g. new mobility solutions

Nuclear power

- subsidies for nuclear power via EURATOM treaty
- needs to be abolished
- 2021-2027: 2.4 billion EUR for nuclear energy

- state aid for nuclear power plants: allowed by European commission(!)
- Hinkley Point C in UK: 20 billion EUR state aid
- Paks II in Hungary: state aid allowed by European commission

State aid rules

- we need reform of state aid rules
- next reform will start in 2020 – competence of European commission only (!!)
- we need state aid rules supporting RE
- we need state aid rules for industrial policy for RE, storage and energy efficiency, public transport

Discussion in Germany

- German government commission: coal phase out in Germany by 2038 (too late)
- in DIE LINKE European election programme: 2030
- alternatives?
- Lusatia – fund for civil society projects needed (political demand of DIE LINKE)
- 40 billion EUR by government – but how to spend it? civil society must be involved

- in Lusatia: 16.000 direct and indirect jobs in coal sector
 - lack of qualified employees
 - young people leaving the region
 - we need qualified staff to manage the structural change
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- at European level and in MS: end of austerity policy needed!

DIE LINKE

- Demands of DIE LINKE:
- coal phase out by 2030, by 2040 fully renewable energy supply
- community energy, re-municipalisation, public ownership
- CO₂-emissions at EU level: reduction by 65% by 2030, 95% by 2050
- abolish ETS, better: minimum price for CO₂ and carbon tax
- right to energy, right to water – in public ownership

LINKE. in government in Berlin (since 2016)

- March 2019: electricity grid re-municipalised
- by 2050 Berlin climate-neutral
- since 2017 no lignite used for energy supply
- by 2030 hard coal power plants shall be phased-out
- aim: CO2-free district heating in Berlin

LINKE. in government in Brandenburg (since 2009)

- demanded later coal phase-out due to coalition government
 - lot of resistance against wind power
 - ERDF spent on storage, energy efficiency, heat market, power-to-gas
 - funding is available but lack of reasonable project proposals
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- good: 73% of electricity demand covered by RE
 - 4.600 MW coal²⁶
 - 11.000 MW wind
 - University of Cottbus: research on hydrogen

- Partners: trade unions, climate justice NGOs
- Campaigns: one million climate jobs (in UK, France, Portugal, South Africa)

Thank you very much for your attention!

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