

AGRICULTURE CLIMATE TARGETS ACROSS EU COUNTRIES



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A warming planet and more frequent extreme weather events will change how food is produced in the European Union (EU) in 2040 and beyond. But what about the sector's contribution to fighting the climate crisis?

In the discussion on how to achieve the EU's 2040 climate target, agriculture becomes more critical since the relevance of the sector's emissions grows as other parts of the economy decarbonize.

One measure that could help steer the sector in the right direction would be a sector-specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target, as it would help guide investment decisions for farmers and provide the sector with the direction of travel.

The EU is not starting from scratch: several EU countries already have such targets, primarily to achieve their intermediate climate targets until 2030. The following table provides a detailed overview of what the targets look like across EU countries.

| EU COUNTRY | TARGET | TARGET DESCRIPTION | TARGET LEVEL | TARGET SCOPE BEYOND AGRICULTURE NON-CO2 EMISSIONS | NATIONAL CLIMATE LAW |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| AUSTRIA | No target | Austria had sectoral targets until 2020, as mandated by its Climate Protection Law but successive governments have failed to adopt a successor to that law. The current draft law would include sectoral pathways, but no consequences for failing to meet those sectoral targets. Given the lack of detail on how sectoral measures may be incorporated in any future law, Austria was classified as having 'no target'. | | | Climate Protection Law |
| BELGIUM* (FLANDERS) | Target in policy document | Flanders has a sectoral target for agriculture in its Flemish Climate and Energy Plan (VEKP). | Emissions limit of 5.6 MtCO ₂ e by 2030 (22% below 2005 levels) | On-farm energy use (largely greenhouse horticulture) | |
| BELGIUM* (WALLONIA) | Target provided for in law | Wallonia has a sectoral target for agriculture in its Air Climate and Energy Plan (PACE). The plan itself, including sectoral targets, is mandated by the region's climate law (Art. 6). | -27% by 2030 (base year:2005) | On-farm energy use | |
| BULGARIA | No target | | | | Climate Change Mitigation Act |

**For Belgium, we distinguish between Flanders and Wallonia, following their separate preparation of strategic plans, including Strategic Plans for the Common Agricultural Policy

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| CROATIA | Target in progress | Croatia's Law on Climate Change and the Protection of the Ozone Layer requires sectoral targets for those sectors covered under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation (Art. 28) – including agriculture – however, these targets do not yet appear to have been set. | | | Law on Climate Change and the Protection of the Ozone Layer |
| CYPRUS | No target | | | | |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | No target | | | | |
| DENMARK | Target in policy document | Denmark's Green Tripartite Agreement , establishes a sectoral target for agriculture. The agreement has been endorsed by a plurality of parties in the Danish parliament and now must be translated into law. | -55-65% by 2030 (base year: 1990) | Agricultural land use, forestry | Climate Change Act |
| ESTONIA | Target in progress | Estonia's draft Climate Resilience Economy Act , sent to parliament, has been weakened from originally including sectoral targets to only requiring legally non-binding sectoral roadmaps. | Originally proposed targets - now only emission reduction potential in the draft sectoral roadmap : -14% by 2030 -17% by 2035 -18% by 2040 (base year: 2022) | Agricultural land use and on farm energy use | In progress |

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| FINLAND | Target in policy document | <p>Finland first established its sectoral target for agriculture in its CAP Strategic Plan. The agriculture target is referenced in Finland's Climate Plan for the Land Sector and its 2022 Medium-Term Climate Plan, the main planning documents required under Finland's Climate Change Act. However, no reference is made to the agricultural target in Finland's 3rd edition of its Medium-Term Climate Plan, published in December 2025.</p> | -29% by 2035 (base year: 2019) | Agricultural machinery, agricultural land use (i.e. peatlands) | Climate Change Act |
| FRANCE | Target provided for in law | <p>France's Low Carbon Strategies (SNBCs) set sectoral carbon budgets, as required by its Energy Transition Law (Art. 173). The latest carbon budgets (SNBC3) are being finalized. This decision would adjust the 2024-2028 and 2029-2033 carbon budgets, and agree on a carbon budget for 2034-2038.</p> | <p>Proposed carbon budgets (average annual emissions ceilings, SNBC3): 2024-2028: 73 MtCO₂e 2029-2033: 66 MtCO₂e 2034-2038: 59 MtCO₂e</p> <p>The 2029-2033 budget corresponds to a 28% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030 or an emissions limit of 67 MtCO₂e in 2030.</p> | On-farm energy use | <p>A sequence of laws: Energy Transition for Green Growth Law (2015), Energy and Climate Act (2019), Climate Change and Resilience Law (2021)</p> |
| GERMANY | Target provided for in law | <p>Germany's Climate Protection Law includes sectoral targets (Annex 2a).</p> | Annual emissions limits 2020-2030, i.e. 56 MtCO ₂ e (2030) | On-farm energy use | Climate Protection Law |

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| GREECE | Target in progress | Greece's National Climate Law requires the setting of 5-year sectoral carbon budgets (Art. 7), starting with the 2026-2030 period. The first sectoral budgets should have been set by 2024, however public consultation only took place in mid-2025, with a final decision still pending. | | | National Climate Law |
| HUNGARY | No target | | | | Climate Protection Act |
| IRELAND | Target provided for in law | Ireland's sectoral emissions limits are mandated by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (Art. 6C). No sectoral emissions limits have been set for the post-2030 period, however, a decision on the final carbon budget for 2031-2035 is pending. | Carbon budgets – 2021-2025: 106 MtCO ₂ e 2026-2030: 96 MtCO ₂ e | On-farm energy use | Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act |
| ITALY | No target | | | | |
| LATVIA | Target provided for in law | Latvia's Climate Resilience and Economic Sustainability Law enshrines its obligations under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation in law (Art. 5). It mandates the development of sector-specific targets to achieve this obligation in its National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). | Emissions limit of 2.18 MtCO ₂ e in 2030 | | Climate Resilience and Economic Sustainability Law |
| LITHUANIA | Target provided for in law | Lithuania's National Climate Change Management Agenda establishes sectoral emission reduction targets for agriculture (Para. 28). The Management Agenda has been approved by parliamentary resolution. | -3.8% by 2025, -11% by 2030 (base year: 2005) | | National Climate Change Management Agenda |

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| LUXEMBOURG | Target provided for in law | Luxembourg's Climate Law (Art. 5) requires the setting , of sectoral targets. | Annual emission limits 2021-2030, i.e. 0.556 MtCO ₂ e (2030) | On-farm energy use | Climate Law |
| MALTA | No target | The Climate Change Authority , established under Malta's Climate Action Act to regulate climate action, has the ability to establish sectoral targets (Art. 10(1)(a)), but has not done so to date. | | | Climate Action Act |
| NETHERLANDS | Target in policy document | The Netherlands sets indicative sectoral emissions limits, which are occasionally revised as climate policy develops. | (Indicative) emissions limit of 17.9 MtCO ₂ e in 2030 (13.6 MtCO ₂ e for arable and livestock farming, 4.3 MtCO ₂ for greenhouse horticulture) | Stationary on-farm energy use in agricultural greenhouses | Climate Act |
| POLAND | No target | | | | |
| PORTUGAL | Target in policy document | Portugal's Basic Climate Law requires the setting of sectoral targets (Art. 21) and the development of plans to meet those targets (Art. 22); however, the implementation of this law has been significantly delayed , and the agricultural target and plan have not yet been developed pursuant to this Law. Portugal's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) includes a sectoral target for agriculture. This target was also reflected in its public consultation on the development of carbon budgets. The NECP is only considered to be the sectoral plan, as defined by the climate law, for energy . | -11% by 2030 (base year: 2005) | On-farm energy use | Basic Climate Law |

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| ROMANIA | Target in policy document | Romania's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) has a sectoral target for agriculture. | -44% by 2030, -47% by 2050 (base year: 1990) | | 2024 draft law has been withdrawn |
| SLOVAKIA | No target | A sectoral target for agriculture was included in a draft Climate Change Act ; however, preparations for the passage of the law have stalled . | | | No, passage of 2023 draft law has stalled |
| SLOVENIA | Target in policy document | Slovenia's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) has a sectoral target for agriculture. | -2.8% by 2030 (base year: 2005) | | Climate Change Act |
| SPAIN | No target | Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) provides sectoral projections for agricultural emissions. While Spain's Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition requires the NECP to define sectoral targets, the projections in the NECP could not be clearly identified as targets. | No target; however, the NECP projects agricultural emissions will fall to 28.4 MtCO _{2e} in 2030 | | Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition |
| SWEDEN | No target | | | | Climate Act and Climate Policy Framework |

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