WECOOP
EU – Central Asia cooperation on Water – Environment – Climate Change
Funded by the European Union

WECOOP NEWS BULLETIN

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1. INTRODUCTION

European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)

The EU renewed the project **"European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)"** in October 2019 to run for three and a half years. The project continues strengthening the policy dialogue on sustainable development between the CA partner countries and facilitating their cooperation with the EU on environment and climate change. Specifically, the project efforts are focused on improving and rationalising policies and enhancing the capacities of national ministries and government agencies working in relevant fields.

The WECOOP project aims to enhance environment, climate change and water policies in Central Asia through **approximation to EU standards and to promote green investments** in relevant sectors with the aim of contributing to measurable reductions in man-made pollution, including CO_2 emissions.

Priority areas for consultations and cooperation include **environmental governance, circular economy and sustainable consumption and production, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and water resources management.**

The WECOOP News Bulletin provides brief information on the recent developments in EU policies and legislation, as well as on new relevant reports and studies published by the European Environment Agency, OECD or other specialized agencies (UNECE, WHO, IEA). Special attention is paid to the documents developed under the umbrella of the European Green Deal.

Detailed information on the WECOOP project is available at the project website **https://wecoop.eu**.

2. EU POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

2.1. NEW EU POLICIES

8TH GENERAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME MONITORING FRAMEWORK – HEADLINE INDICATORS

On 26 July 2022, the European Commission adopted a list of headline indicators to monitor progress towards the EU's environment and climate goals, as foreseen in the 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP). This monitoring framework will inform European citizens about the impact of EU climate and environmental policy and facilitate an exchange between policy-makers on where further efforts are needed, in order to stay within the safe and just limits of our planet.

The headline indicators follow the structure of the 8th Environment Action Programme building on the European Green Deal and include the 2-3 most policy relevant and statistically robust indicators for each of the thematic priority objectives to 2030, covering climate mitigation, climate adaptation, circular economy, zero pollution, and biodiversity.

In addition, the list includes five indicators to measure progress towards addressing the main environmental and climate pressures. In line with European Green Deal objectives, this covers the transition the EU needs to see in the coming years towards sustainable systems for energy, industry, mobility and food.

Moreover, the headline set includes indicators to monitor progress towards the main enabling conditions, covering sustainable finance, the 'polluters-pay principle', and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies.

The last chapter of the monitoring framework includes systemic indicators that aim to capture progress towards the three dimensions of environmental wellbeing, to cover also economic and social aspects beyond nature protection.

The list of headline indicators together with related targets is presented in Annex to this Bulletin.

Document (English): **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM(2022) 357 final on the monitoring framework for the 8th Environment Action Programme: Measuring progress towards the attainment of the Programme's 2030 and 2050 priority objectives.**

Link (English): https://europa.eu/!RyDpdV

2.2. NEW EU LEGISLATION

2.2.1 Legislation in Progress

NATURE RESTORATION LAW

The European Commission has proposed a new law to restore ecosystems for people, the climate and the planet – Nature Restoration Law. It is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

The proposal aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to

- enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature
- contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives
- meet international commitments.

The proposal combines an **overarching restoration objective for the long-term recovery of nature in the EU's land and sea areas with binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species. These measures should cover at least 20 % of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and ultimately all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.**

The proposal contains the following specific targets:

- **targets based on existing legislation (for wetlands, forests, grasslands, river and lakes, heath & scrub, rocky habitats and dunes)** – improving and re-establishing biodiverse habitats on a large scale, and bringing back species populations by improving and enlarging their habitats
- **pollinating insects** – reversing the decline of pollinator populations by 2030, and achieving an increasing trend for pollinator populations, with a methodology for regular monitoring of pollinators
- **forest ecosystems** – achieving an increasing trend for standing and lying deadwood, uneven aged forests, forest connectivity, abundance of common forest birds and stock of organic carbon
- **urban ecosystems** – no net loss of green urban space by 2030, and an increase in the total area covered by green urban space by 2040 and 2050

- **agricultural ecosystems** – increasing grassland butterflies and farmland birds, the stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils, and the share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features; restoring drained peatlands under agricultural use
- **marine ecosystems** – restoring marine habitats such as seagrass beds or sediment bottoms that deliver significant benefits, including for climate change mitigation, and restoring the habitats of iconic marine species such as dolphins and porpoises, sharks and seabirds.
- **river connectivity** – identifying and removing barriers that prevent the connectivity of surface waters, so that at least 25 000 km of rivers are restored to a free-flowing state by 2030.

The EU countries are expected to submit National Restoration Plans to the Commission within two years of the Regulation coming into force, showing how they will deliver on the targets. They will also be required to monitor and report on their progress.

Document (English): **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration COM(2022) 304 final.**

Link (English): https://europa.eu/!GDB8Wg

2.2.2 Guidelines for Implementation of Legislation in Force

Minimum requirements for water reuse – guidelines

Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse (the Water Reuse Regulation) seeks to facilitate and encourage the practice of reusing water for irrigation in agriculture, a sector that can be particularly vulnerable to scarce or intermittent water resources, making the EU food system more sustainable and resilient, while protecting public health and the environment. The Water Reuse Regulation (applicable from 26 June 2023) sets uniform minimum water quality requirements for the safe reuse of treated urban waste water in agricultural irrigation. Harmonised minimum requirements will also ensure the single market for agricultural produce works properly and should boost consumer confidence. Under this Regulation, urban waste water treated in line with the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC governing urban waste water treatment (the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive) must undergo further treatment to meet the new minimum quality parameters and become suitable for use in agriculture. In addition to the uniform minimum requirements for water quality, the Regulation also sets out uniform minimum monitoring requirements, risk management rules to assess and address potential additional health risks and environmental risks, permitting obligations, and rules on transparency, under which key information on all water reuse projects must be made publicly available.

Section 2 of these guidelines covers the general and administrative obligations set by the Regulation, including its scope. Section 3 covers more technical aspects (risk management, types of crops and reclaimed water classes).

Document (English): **Guidelines to support the application of Regulation 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse.**

Link (English): https://europa.eu/!P93nDg

3. REPORTS AND STUDIES

3.1 EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

Beyond water quality — Sewage treatment in a circular economy. EEA Report No 05/2022

Key messages

- Treatment to clean up sewage is essential to protect human health and the environment, with urban waste water treatment key to improvements in the quality of Europe's waters in recent decades.
- Treatment of sewage is not 'one size fits all'. Local conditions call for local solutions. Financial resources, the availability of land, population density, nature of the receiving water and types of industrial activity all influence the options available. Ensuring flexible approaches to meet necessary quality standards can enable innovation and locally-appropriate solutions.
- For all of us, a first step is to become more water-efficient, as this reduces the total amount of water required to be abstracted from the environment, pumped and treated.
- Urban waste water treatment has focused on cleaning water to return it to the environment — a linear approach. Yet there is significant potential to become more resource efficient and much more circular, as is being demonstrated through innovation for water utilities in some countries to meet climate neutral targets for operations by 2030.
- Nevertheless, urban waste water treatment remains energy intensive, and greenhouse gases can be emitted at many stages, embedded in infrastructure like sewers or released during waste water and sludge treatment.
- Urban waste water treatment plants (UWWTPs) can act as 'resource hubs' integral to resource recovery, rather than just a form of waste management. Reclaimed water, energy, nutrients and organic materials all have proven potential for reuse, recycling and recovery.
- Economic incentives for recycling and more favourable legislative frameworks are needed to scale up circular approaches to urban waste water treatment, enabling recovered resources to enter the market, while legal barriers limiting the use of such resources — for example treated sewage sludge — should be revisited.
- A major barrier to achieving circularity lies in the persistent pollutants that can be discharged to or run off into urban waste water, which then need to be removed and which

may contaminate sewage sludge. Upstream measures are needed to keep these out of waste water, through restrictions, controls at source, and development of more sustainable alternatives to the harmful substances currently in use.
- While large UWWTPs can deliver considerable efficiencies of scale, effective sewage treatment can also be achieved through local, decentralised facilities, ranging in scale from individual buildings up to small towns. Technologies such as separated waste water systems enable sewage to be safely treated while recovering both energy and nutrients. Waste water from washing and cooking can be reused for applications where lower quality water will suffice, such as irrigation of parks and gardens.
- Achieving the transition to sewage treatment and a circular economy requires change not only in regulatory and institutional approaches, but also in how we as citizens appreciate our individual and collective responsibilities towards sewage management. Nature-based solutions, which provide benefits such as green space and flood alleviation — for example reed beds — can generate local support.

Link (English): https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/beyond-water-quality-sewage-treatment

Decarbonising road transport — the role of vehicles, fuels and transport demand. EEA Report No 02/2022

Key messages

- Road transport greenhouse gas emissions increased between 1990 and 2019. Current policies are projected to reverse this trend, but not sufficiently to reach the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target. Transport is responsible for a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport representing the greatest share (72 % in 2019).
- Road transport emissions remain primarily driven by an increasing demand for transport.
- The potential of modal shift has not been realised so far.
- EU standards have improved the CO_2 performance of new cars and vans, but larger-scale changes in fleet electrification and charging infrastructure development remain necessary.
- Road transport fuels remain very carbon intensive, particularly considering the indirect land-use change to grow feedstocks for biofuels.
- Future outlook: all factors need to be harnessed to ensure decarbonisation.

Link (English): https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/transport-and-environment-report-2021

Enabling consumer choices for a circular economy. EEA Briefing 17 May 2022

Key messages

- Production systems largely shape consumer demand by defining the types of products placed on the market and through targeted marketing strategies. However, consumer choices when purchasing, using and discarding products can potentially promote circular economy principles by increasing the demand for goods and services most consistent with circular economy principles.
- Policies aiming to promote circular economy-consistent decisions by consumers will be most effective if they take account of factors shaping individual behaviour and nudge consumers towards making choices that favour the greatest circularity.
- The factors affecting consumer behaviour in the context of the circular economy are economic factors, the fit between needs and offering, information, social factors, and individual consumer preferences and beliefs. Current policies mainly aim to give consumers information (e.g., eco-labels) and to a lesser extent to make circular alternatives more economically attractive. Changing social factors and personal preferences by policy measures alone is perceived to be more difficult.
- There are opportunities to explore a range of possible future policy options across different governance levels, including tax breaks and subsidies, legally binding regulations, avoiding greenwashing, making circular options more convenient, and using eco-labels and measures targeting consumers to, for instance, enhance emotional attachment to products.

Link(English): https://bit.ly/3pOtaEs

3.2 UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground

The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary

Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which was adopted in Helsinki in 1992.

Over the past three decades the Water Convention has served as a mechanism to strengthen international cooperation and implement national measures for the sustainable management and protection of transboundary waters. It provides an intergovernmental platform for the day-to-day development and advancement of transboundary cooperation.

This publication showcases some of the success stories of the Water Convention's impact on the ground. It helps the reader to better understand the Convention's social, economic and environmental impacts as well as its benefits for peace and stability in different regional settings. In this way, the publication serves as an important resource to exemplify the benefits of transboundary water cooperation based on the Water Convention.

This publication is intended for government authorities, basin organizations and other international organizations, development partners, non-governmental organizations and academia. It aims to strengthen the understanding of the benefits of the Water Convention, facilitate accession processes, and contribute towards the effective implementation of the Convention and improved transboundary water cooperation worldwide.

Link (English): https://bit.ly/3QDZ01U

Guidelines for National Eco-driving Initiatives

The most important eco-driving recommendations are presented in THE PEP Guidelines on Eco-driving, which were developed within THE PEP Partnership on Eco-driving. Eco-driving should be established and mainstreamed as the smart and efficient driving style for all drivers, all vehicles and all traffic conditions.

Eco-driving facilitates the achievement of important objectives: improved traffic safety, reduced driving stress and greater comfort for drivers, smoother traffic flow and less congestion, lower fuel consumption and operating costs and lower carbon dioxide emissions and health risks. Eco-driving is a highly cost-effective measure contributing to greater energy efficiency and environmentally friendly and safer mobility and transport. One advantage of eco-driving is that it can also be practised on a voluntary basis and applied instantly by any driver without new equipment or devices.

Link (English): https://thepep.unece.org/node/847

3.3 WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

Drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene in the WHO European Region: highlights and progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Universal and equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for all in all settings is of vital importance in achieving the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional commitments. Despite the progress made in provision of WASH services, geographical, economic and social disparities prevail, and several million people still do not enjoy access to basic services in the WHO European Region. According to current development rates, the Region is not on track to meet the targets of SDG 6 to ensure safely managed water and sanitation services for all by 2030. This report provides an overview of the current situation, progress made to date, and existing gaps and prevailing inequalities in access to safe WASH services for households, schools and health-care facilities in the Region. It highlights further priorities and eight areas for action to accelerate efforts towards achieving universal coverage for such services.

Link (English): https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/9789289058063

Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice

Active travel modes, especially walking and cycling, are now recognized by many as modes that are fully equal to other urban transport modes, integrated into planning frameworks, and adopted as part of the mainstream – not just in trailblazer countries, but worldwide. An ever-growing body of science underpins the gains society can reap from active travel in terms of transport, health and environmental benefits. Planning practice has accumulated a rich portfolio of measures ready to be considered for inspiration, adaptation and possible application in every city. This report presents a comprehensive case for why and how to promote walking and cycling, based on the latest evidence from scientific research and planning practice

Link (English): https://thepep.unece.org/node/852

3.4 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

3.4.1 Energy Sector Reviews of Central Asia Countries

These in-depth reviews of the energy policies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan follow the same format used by the International Energy Agency (IEA) to review member countries. They were conducted under the auspices of the EU4Energy programme, which is being implemented by the IEA and the European Union,

along with the Energy Community Secretariat and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

These reports assess the energy sectors and related challenges facing the countries and propose policy recommendations to improve sector governance, energy efficiency and security of supply.

Kazakhstan 2022. Energy Sector Review

Kazakhstan has made ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the role of renewables in its energy supply, but dependence on large reserves of inexpensive domestic coal and a lack of flexible generating capacity make these a challenge. Oil continues to provide much of the country's export earnings and government revenue, while many oil-importing countries have pledged to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, and most oil exports currently transit the Russian Federation. Low domestic energy prices are a social priority for the government, but have made it difficult to promote energy efficiency and stimulate commercial production of gas for the domestic market.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/kazakhstan-2022

Kyrgyzstan 2022. Energy Sector Review

Kyrgyzstan's plentiful water resources make hydropower the country's most important energy source. In addition, Kyrgyzstan has significant coal deposits, but oil and natural gas resources are marginal, making the country dependent on imports of natural gas, oil and oil products. The Kyrgyz government's long-term Sustainable Development Strategy sets out priorities for the evolution of the country's energy sector through 2040. Key government goals include reducing the country's dependence on hydrocarbon energy sources through further large-scale development of hydropower resources, while also increasing the share of other renewables such as solar, wind and biogas to 10 % of the country's total energy mix.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/kyrgyzstan-2022

Tajikistan 2022. Energy Sector Review

With abundant water potential from its rivers, natural lakes and glaciers, Tajikistan is almost exclusively reliant on hydro for electricity generation. It is home to some of the world's largest hydropower plants and is ranked eighth in the world for hydropower potential with an estimated 527 terawatt-hours (TWh). Currently only 4 % of the country's hydro potential is exploited. Tajikistan's geographic proximity to some of the world's fastest-growing energy markets means that investing in developing its hydropower potential can contribute to regional energy security and the clean energy transition, in addition to addressing Tajikistan's high vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

Coupled with the IEA roadmap on cross-border electricity trading for Tajikistan, published in October 2021, this report aims to give a holistic overview of Tajikistan's energy sector and to assist policy making at all levels in order to facilitate the effective delivery of the National Development Strategy for 2030 and its ambitious goals, which include increasing hydropower generation capacity by 10 gigawatts and raising annual electricity exports by 10 TWh. It also supports government efforts for ongoing energy sector reforms, aimed at restructuring the state-owned vertically integrated electric utility with financial viability issues, introducing market mechanisms to alleviate power sector challenges and updating its regulatory and tariff regimes.

The report commends the government of Tajikistan for setting clear goals for its national development strategy and the subsequent sectoral development programmes, caveats the introduction of domestic coal as a key support for national energy security structures, and advocates for the introduction of other renewable sources and enhanced regional co-operation for achieving energy security and sustainable development goals.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/tajikistan-2022

Uzbekistan 2022. Energy Sector Review

Uzbekistan's broad economic reforms were expanded to cover energy in 2019 when the government launched a multiphase transition from the state-owned and -operated and subsidised energy sector model to competitive gas, oil and electricity markets with significant private-sector participation and cost-covering energy prices.

The reform plans to diversify the country's energy supply,

which domestic natural gas continues to dominate in all sectors, including transport. Natural gas exports will be phased out by 2025 and the gas will be used increasingly to expand petrochemicals production, while Uzbekistan's significant but unexploited solar and wind resources will be harnessed to help build a cleaner power sector to 2030. While energy use per capita is low, the country's economy remains one of the most energy-intensive in the world, and massive potential remains to improve energy efficiency through incentives and mandates.

This report is intended to help guide Uzbekistan towards a more secure, sustainable and efficient energy future. It proposes several ways to support the government in its reform efforts. The gradual transition to competitive markets and withdrawal of subsidies should be accompanied by support measures for those most in need. For the reform to succeed, an independent and well-resourced energy regulator is also necessary. Furthermore, the financial imbalances in the state-owned energy companies must be addressed and their re-emergence avoided.

For the long term, as Uzbekistan's population, cities and economy are projected to grow strongly, a cross-sectoral approach is required to limit the increase in energy demand and energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/uzbekistan-2022

3.4.2 Thematic IEA Reports

Securing Clean Energy Technology Supply Chains. An IEA Technology report

Secure, resilient and sustainable energy technology supply chains are central to successful clean energy transitions. The race to net zero emissions will redefine global energy security and shift the focus from the supply of fossil fuels to the supply of the minerals, materials and manufacturing capacity needed to deliver clean energy technologies. This report, Securing Clean Energy Technology Supply Chains, assesses current and future supply chain needs for key technologies – including solar PV, batteries for electric vehicles and low emissions hydrogen – and provides a framework for governments and industry to identify, assess and respond to emerging opportunities and vulnerabilities. The IEA highlights five key strategies to build secure, resilient and sustainable supply chains: Diversify, Accelerate, Innovate, Collaborate and Invest.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/securing-clean-energy-technology-supply-chains

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for CCUS. An IEA CCUS Handbook

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technologies are set to play an important role in putting the global energy system on a path to net zero. Successfully deploying CCUS relies on the establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure the effective stewardship of CCUS activities and the safe and secure storage of CO_2.

Several countries have already developed comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks for CCUS. These form a valuable knowledge base for the growing number of countries that have identified a role for CCUS in meeting their climate goals, but which are yet to establish a legal foundation for CCUS, and particularly for CO_2 storage. Increasingly, existing frameworks are also being tested as more commercial CCUS projects are developed, with important learnings for regulators.

This IEA CCUS Handbook is a resource for policy makers and regulators on establishing and updating legal and regulatory frameworks for CCUS. It identifies 25 priority issues that frameworks should address for CCUS deployment, presenting global case studies and examining how different jurisdictions have approached these issues. The handbook is supported by a web-based legal and regulatory database, and model legislative text that is found at the end of this report.

Link (English): https://www.iea.org/reports/legal-and-regulatory-frameworks-for-ccus

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List of the 8th EAP headline indicators and related targets

INDICATOR	TARGET
Climate change mitigation	
1. **Greenhouse gas emission** (GHG, index 1990=100, tons of CO_2 equivalent)	Climate neutrality: reduce net GHG emissions by at least 55 % by 2030 from 1990 levels
2. **GHG emissions from land use, land use change and forestry** (LULUCF, tons of CO_2 equivalent)	Climate neutrality: increase net GHG removals by carbon sinks from the LULUCF sector to 310 million tons CO_2 equivalent by 2030
Climate change adaptation	
3. **Climate-related economic losses** (in EUR billion)	Economic impact of climate change: reduce overall monetary losses from weather and climate-related events
4. **Drought impact on ecosystems** (area affected in km^2)	Ecosystem resilience: decrease the area impacted by drought and loss of vegetation productivity
A regenerative circular economy	
5. **Raw material consumption** (tons per capita)	Material footprint: significantly decrease the EU's material footprint by reducing the amount of raw material needed to produce the products consumed in the EU
6. **Total waste generation** (kg per capita)	Waste prevention: significantly reduce the total amount of waste generated by 2030
Zero pollution and a toxic free environment	
7. **Premature deaths due to exposure to fine particulate matter** ($PM_{2.5}$) (number of premature deaths)	Environmental impact on health: reduce premature deaths from air pollution by 55 % (from 2005 levels) by 2030
8. **Nitrates in groundwater** (mg of NO_3/l and % monitoring stations with value above 50 mg NO_3/l)	Clean water: reduce nutrient losses by at least 50 % in safe groundwater resources
Biodiversity and ecosystems	
9. **Designated terrestrial and marine protected areas** (% of total area)	Nature protection: legally protect at least 30 % of the EU's land area and 30 % of the EU's sea area by 2030
10. **Common bird index** (index: 1990 = 100)	Biodiversity preservation: reverse the decline in populations of common birds
11. **Forest connectivity** (0-100 %)	Healthy ecosystems: increase the degree of connectivity in forest ecosystems, with a view to creating and integrating ecological corridors and increase climate change resilience
Environmental and climate pressures related to EU production and consumption	
12. **Energy consumption** (in million tonnes of oil equivalent)	Energy efficiency: reduce (primary and final) energy consumption by at least 13 % by 2030 compared to 2020
13. **Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption** (in %)	Sustainable energy: at least [45 %] of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption by 2030

14. Circular material use rate (in % to the overall material use)	Sustainable industry: double the ratio of circular material use by 2030 compared to 2020
15. Share of buses and trains in inland passenger transport (% of total inland passenger transport, expressed in passenger-kilometres)	Sustainable mobility: Increase the share of collective transport modes (buses, coaches and trains)
16. Area under organic farming (% of utilised agricultural area in km^2)	Sustainable agriculture: 25 % of EU agricultural land organically farmed by 2030
Enabling conditions	
17. Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenues (in %)	Making polluters pay: increase the share of environmental taxes in total revenues from taxes and social contributions
18. Fossil fuel subsidies (EUR million)	Making polluters pay: reduce environmentally harmful subsidies, in particular fossil fuel subsidies, with a view to phasing them out without delay
19. Environmental protection expenditure (EUR billion and % GDP)	Financing the transition: increase spending by households, corporations, and governments on preventing, reducing and eliminating pollution and other environmental degradation
20. Green bonds (% of total bonds issued)	Sustainable investments: increase the issuance of green bonds to boost public and private financing for green investments
21. Eco-innovation index Member States' performance compared to EU average (EU = 100) and trend	Innovation for sustainability: increasing eco-innovation as a driver for the green transition
Living well, within planetary boundaries	
22. Land take (km^2 per year)	Planetary boundaries/sustainable use of land: no net land take by 2050
23. Water exploitation index plus (in %)	Planetary boundaries/sustainable use of water: reduce water scarcity
24. Consumption footprint (based on life cycle assessment)	Sustainable consumption: significantly decrease the EU's consumption footprint, i.e., the environmental impact of consumption
25. Employment and gross added value of environmental goods and services sector (% of total economy)	Sustainable competitiveness: increase of the shares of the green economy and of green employment in the whole economy
26. PLACEHOLDER Environmental inequalities	Environmental wellbeing: reduce environmental inequalities and ensure a fair transition