

Sustainable development and climate change in the EU – setting the scene

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Why are we talking about climate?

Understanding our planet to benefit humankind

Carbon Dioxide

↑ **419** parts per million (current)

+

Global Temperature

↑ **1.01** °C since 1880

+

Arctic Sea Ice Minimum Extent

↓ **12.6** percent per decade since 1979

+

Ice Sheets

↓ **427** billion metric tons per year

+

Sea Level

↑ **4** inches since January 1993

+

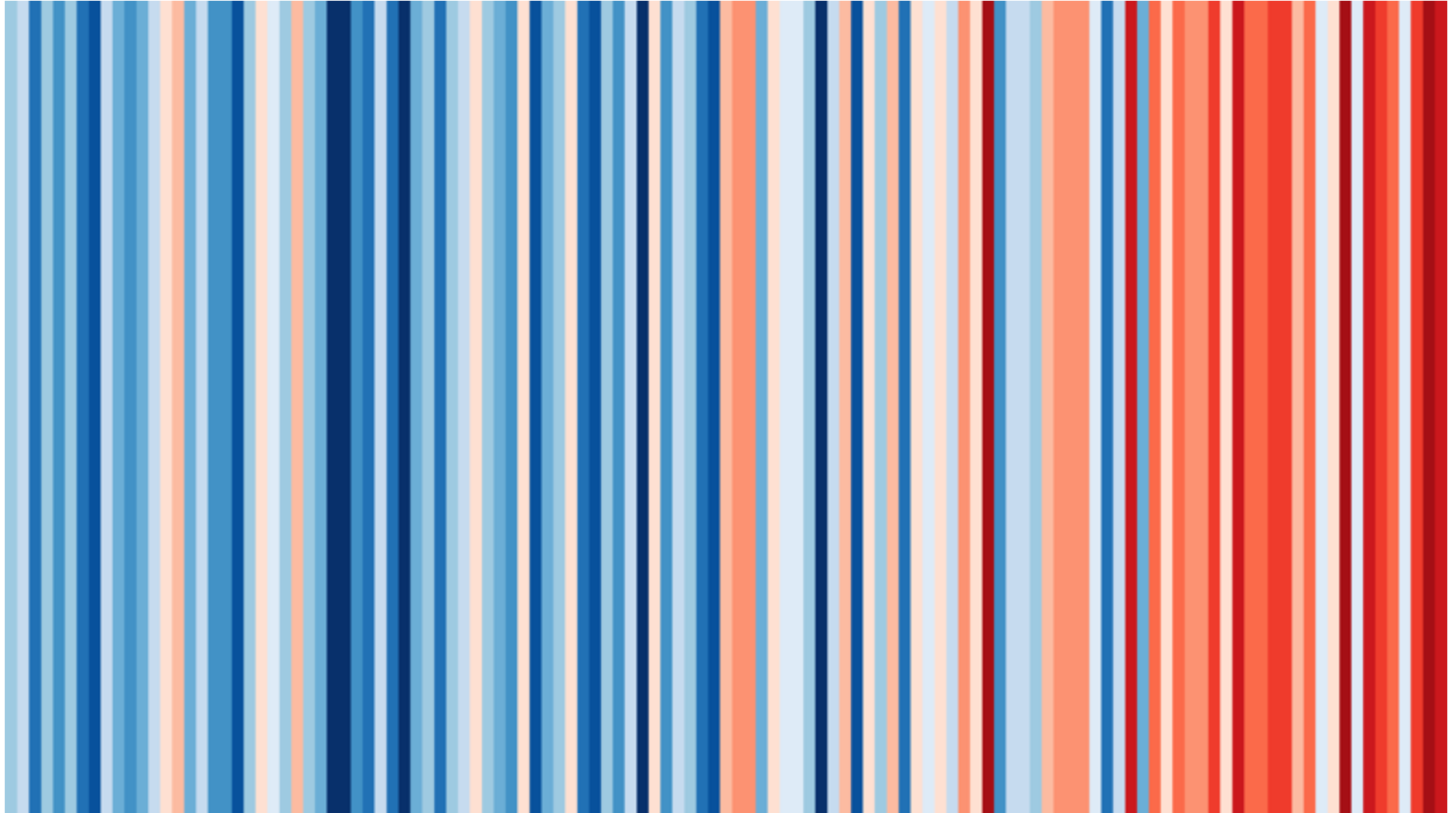
Ocean Warming

↑ **337** zettajoules since 1955

+

Source: <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

Warming stripes in Kazakhstan 1901-2021



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Source:

<https://showyourstripes.info/s/asia/kazakhstan>



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This project is implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with ELLE (Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment), ACTED, and Kommunal kredit Public Consulting as the consortium partners.

Why is it important?

Earth Will Continue to Warm and the Effects Will Be Profound

The potential future effects of global climate change include more frequent wildfires, longer periods of drought in some regions, and an increase in the duration and intensity of tropical storms.



Sources: <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>; Photos: left - Mellimage/Shutterstock.com, center - Montree Hanlue/Shutterstock.com, right - NASA.

Why is it important?

«Taken as a whole, the range of published evidence indicates that the net damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and to increase over time.»

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Why is it important for Kazakhstan?

Projected climate change impacts vary across the country. Kazakhstan has already begun to experience an increasing number of droughts, floods, landslides, mudflows and ice jams that affect agriculture, fisheries, forests, energy production, water, and health.



What is the reaction of international community?

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC; in force as of 1994) was established with the purpose of uniting countries within the UN to combat climate change via reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The signatories of the UNFCCC meet annually at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to confer on further reductions of emissions and increase environmental protection. Through the UNFCCC there have been two agreements signed by nations in the UN to formally declare emission reduction goals:



→ **Kyoto Protocol** (1997)

→ **Paris Agreement** (2015) The goal of the agreement is to “strengthen implementation” of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular to keep global average temperature rise “well below” 2°C and to “make efforts” to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.

What is the reaction of international community?

IPCC Report 1.5°C

Human-induced warming has already reached about 1°C above pre-industrial levels. **We are not on track to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.** Limiting temperature rise to 2°C will not avoid severe climatic impacts.

IPCC Report "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis"

Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in GHG emissions, limiting warming to nearly 1.5°C or even 2°C will not be achievable. In the coming decades, climate change will intensify in all regions. With a warming of 1.5 °C, heat waves will intensify, warm seasons will lengthen, cold seasons will shorten, **and with a warming of 2 °C, extreme heat indicators will more often reach critical thresholds for forestry and agriculture, and public health.**

What is the reaction of international community?

On November 8, 2022, the UN High-Level Expert Group published a report on the commitment of non-governmental organizations to zero emissions

INTEGRITY MATTERS: NET ZERO COMMITMENTS BY BUSINESSES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CITIES AND REGIONS

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/high-level_expert_group_n7b.pdf

The report recommends in 10 areas of action that non-state actors, including cities, need not only long-term commitments, but also short-term, science-based goals, as well as transition plans that show immediate emission reductions and capital expenditures consistent with these goals.

What is the reaction of international community?

ISO in the framework of COP27 in November 2022 presented guidelines

IWA 42:2022(en) Net zero guidelines

<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:iwa:42:ed-1:v1:en>

The guidelines serve as a common guideline for collective efforts, offering a global framework for harmonization, understanding and planning for actors at the level of states, regions, cities and organizations.

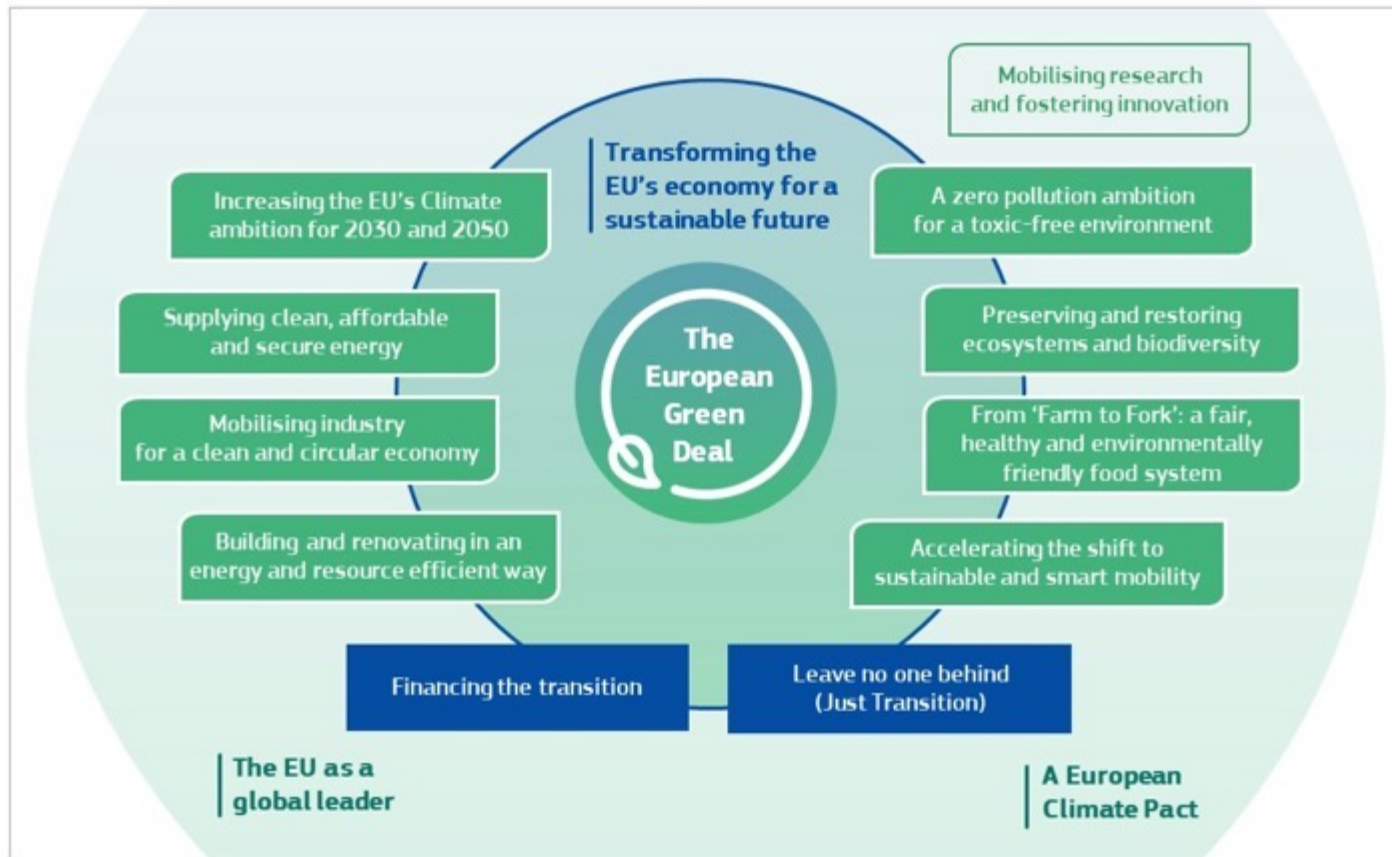
Provide recommendations to develop a common global approach to achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions through the harmonization of voluntary initiatives and the adoption of standards, policies and national and international regulations.

What is the reaction of the EU?

The **European Green Deal** is a package of policy initiatives, which aims to set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

The Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy: from agriculture to energy and from transport to construction. It includes key policies and measures such as the Farm to Fork Strategy and the New Circular Economy Action Plan.

The EU Green Deal



The EU Green Deal

What does climate neutrality entail?

It is the main objective of the Green Deal. Which entails update of the climate change ambitions of the EU for 2030 by setting GHG reduction target to 55% instead of previous target of 40%.

This entails the **review of relevant EU legal acts and drafting of new legal instruments**, which is currently in process.

The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

Forest strategy and deforestation-free imports

New measures proposed by the Commission aim to reduce the EU's impact on global deforestation. The measures would ensure that products purchased, used and consumed by citizens on the EU market do not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide.

The Council agreed to set mandatory due diligence rules for all operators and traders who place, make available or export the following products from the EU market: palm oil, beef, timber, coffee, cocoa and soy. The rules also apply to a number of derived products such as leather, chocolate and furniture.



The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

Circular economy

The new circular economy action plan (CEAP) adopted in March 2020 is one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal. The EU's transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth and jobs. It is also a prerequisite to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss.



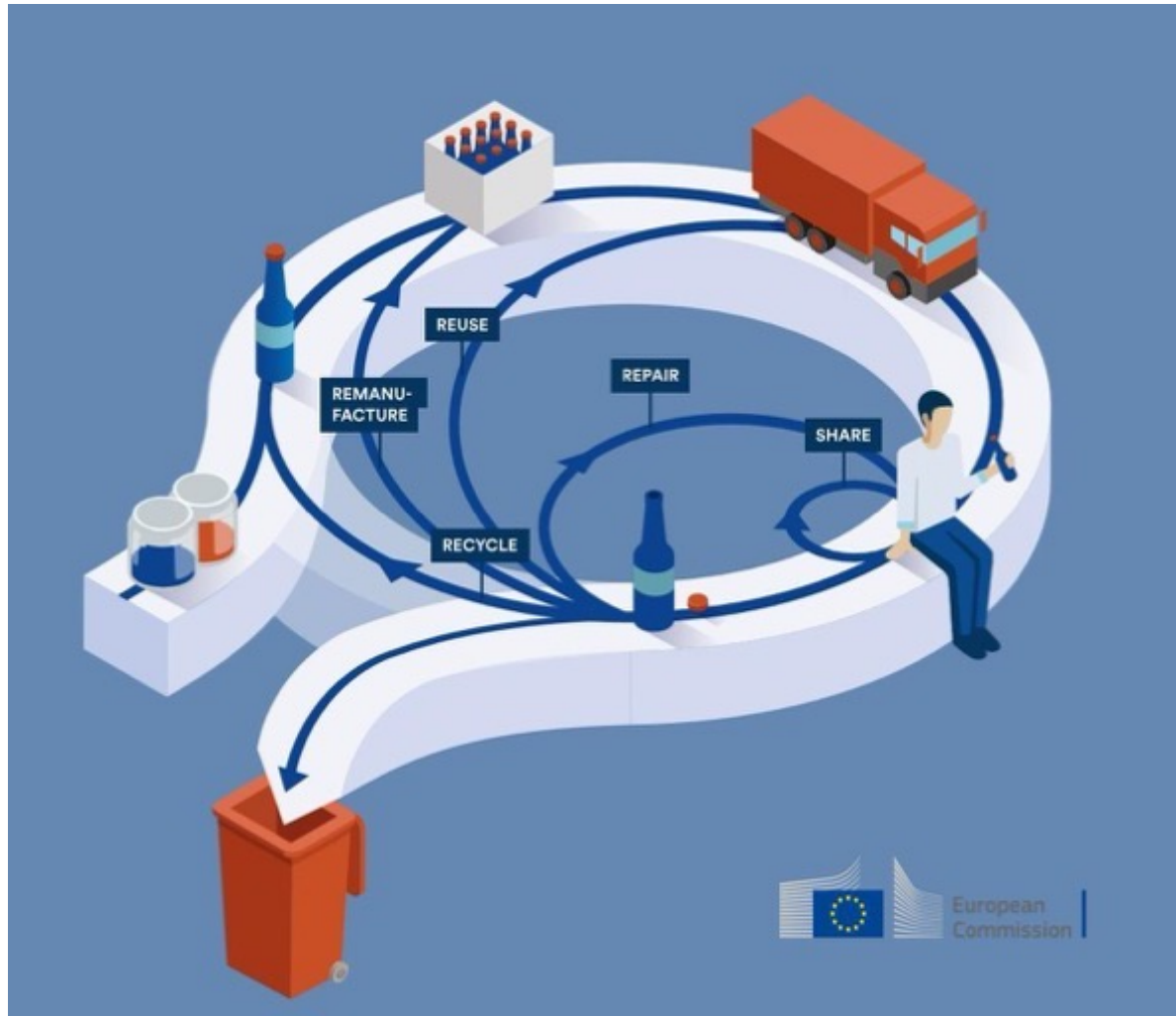
Source: <https://insights.tuv.com/blog/enabling-circular-economy>

The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

Circular economy objectives:

- make sustainable products the norm in the EU
- empower consumers and public buyers
- focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients
- ensure less waste
- make circularity work for people, regions and cities
- lead global efforts on circular economy (incl., «mainstreaming circular economy objectives in free trade agreements, in other bilateral, regional and multilateral processes and agreements, and in EU external policy funding instruments»)

The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives



The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

EU Taxonomy

The EU taxonomy is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities, which plays an important role helping the EU scale up sustainable investment and implement the European green deal.

The EU taxonomy provides companies, investors and policymakers with appropriate definitions for which economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable.

The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

The six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy



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Source:

<https://nordicsustainability.com/how-the-future-fit-business-benchmark-can-help-you-prepare-for-the-coming-eu-taxonomy-disclosures/>



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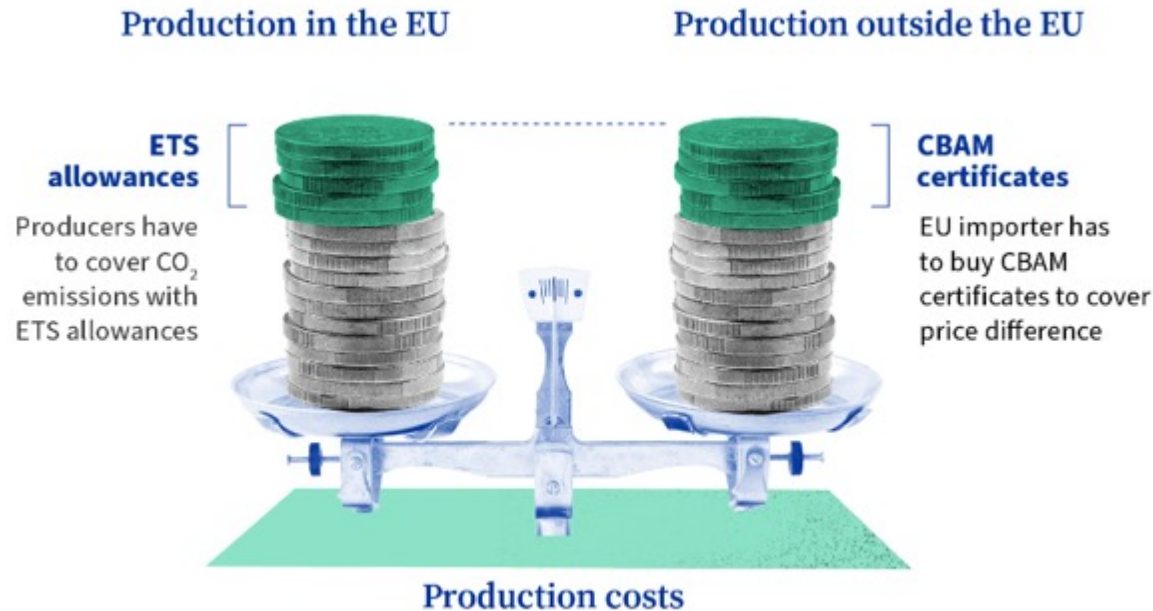
Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)

The objective of the Commission's proposal for CBAM is to prevent - in full compliance with international trade rules - that the emissions reduction efforts of the EU are offset by increasing emissions outside its borders through relocation of production to non-EU countries (where policies applied to fight climate change are less ambitious than those of the EU) or increased imports of carbon-intensive products.



The EU Green Deal – some important initiatives

How will CBAM work?



First, it will cover: iron and steel, cement, fertilisers, aluminium, electricity.
It is planned to expand it in the future.

Thank you!



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