

UNECE and Climate Change

UNECE

By transforming global goals into practical norms, standards and conventions, UNECE is a driving force in combating climate change in the pan-European region and beyond.

Our climate change mitigation work targets cross-cutting areas that can achieve large greenhouse gas reductions.

Our adaptation work helps countries to address the impacts of climate change – from transport and cities to water management and forests.



ENVIRONMENT

- Air Pollution Convention: cutting emissions of main pollutants by 40% to 70% since 1990 in Europe, contributing to mitigation efforts
- Water Convention: helping countries adapt to climate change, increase resilience to disasters and mitigate water shortage
- Aarhus Convention: furthering access to information and public participation in climate change-related decision-making
- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment: mechanism for integrating climate change considerations into legislation and development programmes
- Environmental Performance Reviews: assessing adaptation and mitigation policies



STATISTICS

- The first ever recommendations on climate change-related statistics
- Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics
- Developing the key indicator set for climate change





SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Promoting the uptake of renewable energy in the UNECE region
- Improving energy efficiency from source to use
- Technologies and investments for cleaner energy from fossil fuels
- Recommendations to UNFCCC on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to reduce emissions from fossil fuels
- Best practices for methane management, which are critical to reduce emissions of methane
- United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) helps to identify sustainable energy investments



TRANSPORT

- Vehicle regulations (WP.29) that increase energy efficiency, thus reducing vehicles' emissions of CO₂ and pollutants
- Developing best policy practices on transport resilience to climate change
- Promoting Intelligent Transport Systems that can reduce congestions and thus emissions
- Modelling tool to assess the impacts of transport policy options on CO₂ emissions (ForFITS)
- Promoting cycling and walking under the Transport, Health, Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)



HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- Best practices and standards on energy efficiency in buildings and compact urban planning
- Standards increasing cities' resilience to climate change-related disasters



FORESTS (WITH FAO)

- Sustainable management of forests enhances forests' role as carbon sink
- Rovaniemi Action Plan for forests in a green economy: substituting wood for non-renewable materials



TRADE

- Resource-efficient trade and business processes such as paperless trade, single window systems and advance cargo notification that cut transit time at borders and thus reduce emissions