

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE



PSE

Socialist Group in the
European Parliament



Fighting climate change for a sustainable Europe. Socialists fight for a fair, clean, social and prosperous future.

Our ambition: Reduce, adapt and take action!

Climate change is a worldwide challenge which needs to be tackled both globally and locally.

Socialists embraced this challenge early on and we have fought hard, over the last five years, to ensure that this issue is at the top of the European agenda and the global agenda.

For us, climate change is not only a threat to our planet's future, but also a question of global justice. The poorest countries are already paying the price of climate change and we need North/South solidarity as well as action in our own countries to tackle climate change effectively.

Over the next five years, Socialists intend to keep this issue high up on the agenda, and fight for a Europe which is creating green jobs and developing a strong and prosperous economy that will allow our children to live in a clean and healthy world.

How? The 2020 Targets:

- 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (based on 1990 emissions), **30% if other developed countries agree to it at the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.**
- 20% of energy consumption will be supplied from renewable energy sources.
- Energy consumption will be reduced by 20% thanks to energy efficiency measures.
- By 2050, greenhouse gas emissions will have been reduced by at least 80% (based on 1990 emissions).



By meeting these targets, the most ambitious in the world to date, Europe will lead in the fight against climate change.



Our success: putting people and jobs at the centre of the climate change challenge

Policy recommendations from the European Parliament climate change temporary committee

It was Socialist MEPs who pushed in 2007 for the creation of a European Parliament Temporary Committee which had the remit to explore possible ways to tackle climate change. In February 2009, the Parliament adopted the Committee's recommendations for EU action – 200 measures designed to deliver an 80% cut in CO₂ by 2050 on 1990 levels and create several million new jobs as well as helping citizens to change our behaviour and save money.

Towards a new global agreement on climate change

These recommendations help position the European Union for the new round of UN talks on climate change that will take place in Copenhagen in December 2009 and provide a European-wide plan for action for the years to come.

Reducing CO₂ emissions responsibly: binding legislation adopted

In December 2008, MEPs and Ministers agreed a groundbreaking package of laws to deliver the 2020 targets. These laws will:

- Force car companies to make **cleaner cars**.
- Reduce industrial emissions through an improved 'cap and trade system'. From 2013, CO₂ emitting industries **will have to pay to pollute**.
- **Switch** energy use to renewable energy sources including wind, solar and sustainable and innovative biofuels.
- **Create binding targets** for all EU countries to reduce further emissions at national level.



Socialists brokered the deal which ensured that these laws balance our economic needs with our environmental responsibilities: cutting carbon emissions, investing in energy efficiency measures as well as protecting and creating new jobs and new growth opportunities.

Our Future: A green 'New Deal'

Tackling climate change and tackling the financial crisis form a single common challenge facing the world. Socialists support a green 'New Deal' to help tackle the financial crisis with a long-term target of reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 emissions.

European Socialists have adopted a 12 point 'Green Growth Plan' to deliver the target.

It will need everyone's involvement. **Everyone and every sector of society will** be encouraged to do their bit. It will require increased investment in energy efficiency in buildings, the public sector, transport, and other aspects of everyday life.

If we get it right, in the next five years we will create new jobs and leave a less polluted world for our children.

Europe's 12 point agenda for action to combat climate change for the period 2009-2014:

The Commission and the Member States should:

- 1 Lead local and global level discussions on action to combat climate change.
- 2 Develop, fund and set-up an EU-wide supergrid, accessible to all types of electricity providers.
- 3 Promote and fund efficient, sustainable transport infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions, including hydrogen technology and high-speed railways.

- 4 Develop new communication strategies to raise awareness and provide people with incentives to reduce emissions in an affordable way, e.g. by developing information on the carbon content of products and services.
- 5 Develop laws to encourage all parts of industry to become leaders in the fight against climate change, starting with a demand for transparency on carbon emissions.
- 6 Establish stronger links between economic, social and climate change policies.

National, local and regional governments should promote:

- 7 Energy efficiency and other measures to combat energy poverty, with the objective of energy neutral performance targets in private, commercial and public buildings.
- 8 Recycling and re-use of waste, for instance by developing networks of collection points.
- 9 Development of renewable energy distribution points for low-emission passenger cars, and the introduction of incentives for the development of zero-emission vehicles for public transport.
- 10 More sustainable mobility in cities and in rural areas.
- 11 Measures for adaptation to climate change.
- 12 Local and regional food production and consumption.

What can **you** do to help? A few things you can do to save the planet and save money!

Reduce your energy consumption!

- **Turn down the heat.** Reducing the temperature by just 1°C can cut 5-10% off your family's energy bill and avoid up to 300kg of CO₂ emissions per household per year.
- **Use energy-saving light bulbs:** just one can reduce your lighting costs by up to €60 and avoid 400kg of CO₂ emissions over the lifetime of the bulb – and they last up to 10 times longer than ordinary light bulbs.
- **Do not leave appliances on standby** – use the “on/off” function on the machine itself. A TV set that's switched on for 3 hours a day and in standby mode during the remaining 21 hours uses about 40% of its energy in standby mode.
- **Unplug** your mobile charger when you're not using it. Even when it is not connected to the phone, it is still draining electricity.
- **Insulate your house.** This will help you reduce energy consumption and help save money.

Recycle and reduce waste!

- **Recycle as much as you can:** glass, paper, cardboard, plastics, cans, batteries and old electrical goods can all be recycled.
- **Re-use your shopping bag.** When shopping, a re-usable bag saves energy and reduces waste.
- **Choose products that come with minimum packaging and buy refills** when you can – this will also cut down on waste production and energy use!

- **Buy intelligently:** a single bottle containing 1.5 litres requires less energy and produces less waste than three bottles of 0.5 litres bottles.
- **Recycle your organic waste.** Landfills account for around 3% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions through the methane released by decomposing bio-degradable waste. By recycling organic waste or composting it if you have a garden, you can help eliminate this problem!

Travel wisely!

- **Cycle, walk, car-pool, or take public transport to work.** On average, for each litre of fuel burnt in a car engine, more than 2.5kg of CO₂ is released.
- **Travel by train!** One person travelling by car alone produces three times more CO₂ emissions per kilometre than if they were travelling by train.





save it.

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