



2022



SUMMARY

BELGIUM'S EIGHTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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1. Preamble

At the end of 2022, the National Climate Commission submitted the 8th National Communication on Climate Change to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Parties to the **Framework Convention on Climate Change** are indeed (among other things) obliged to provide a detailed description of the way they apply the Convention and to verify what progress has been made in that field. This includes the following information:

- the country-specific circumstances that have an impact on the greenhouse gas emissions
- the data provided by the inventories of greenhouse gas emissions
- the policies and measures
- the forecasts on the greenhouse gas emissions
- an assessment of the vulnerability, the consequences of climate changes and adaptation measures
- the financial assistance and the transfer of technology
- research and systematic observation
- public awareness, education and training.

In addition, the **Kyoto Protocol** stipulates that the National Communications should also provide ‘additional information’ in order to prove that the Parties discharge their obligations imposed by this Protocol:

- a description of the ‘national inventory system’ (all procedures used to guarantee the quality of the inventories of greenhouse gas emissions)
- specific legislative provisions
- information about the ‘national register’ (the ‘account’ used for all transactions conducted for the trade of emission credits when applying the ‘flexibility mechanisms’)
- additional information about the policy and measures and in particular about actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by air and shipping traffic, about the complementarity of internal measures and the acquisition of emission rights

- the financial means, the transfer of technology, co-operation, the efforts made to enhance the flexibility of developing countries.

A **biennial report** is also annexed to the National Communication which takes stock of the country's commitments to the Convention.

In order to prepare this report, the National Climate Commission has set up a working group composed of experts of the regional and federal administrations concerned.

This **summary** aims at providing the essence of the report in a concise brochure.

Availability

The **full report** (179 pages) is only available in English, this **summary** in English, Dutch and French.

Both documents are only available in electronic form (pdf) on <https://www.cnc-nkc.be/en/reports>. ■

2. National circumstances relevant to greenhouse gas emissions and removals

Belgium is a small country (30 689 km²) in north-western Europe. Belgium is highly urbanised and is the third most densely populated country in Europe (375 inhabitants/km² in 2021).

Belgium's temperate maritime climate is characterised by moderate temperatures. The evolution of temperatures in the past century reveals an upward trend, a phenomenon that has been accentuated in recent years.

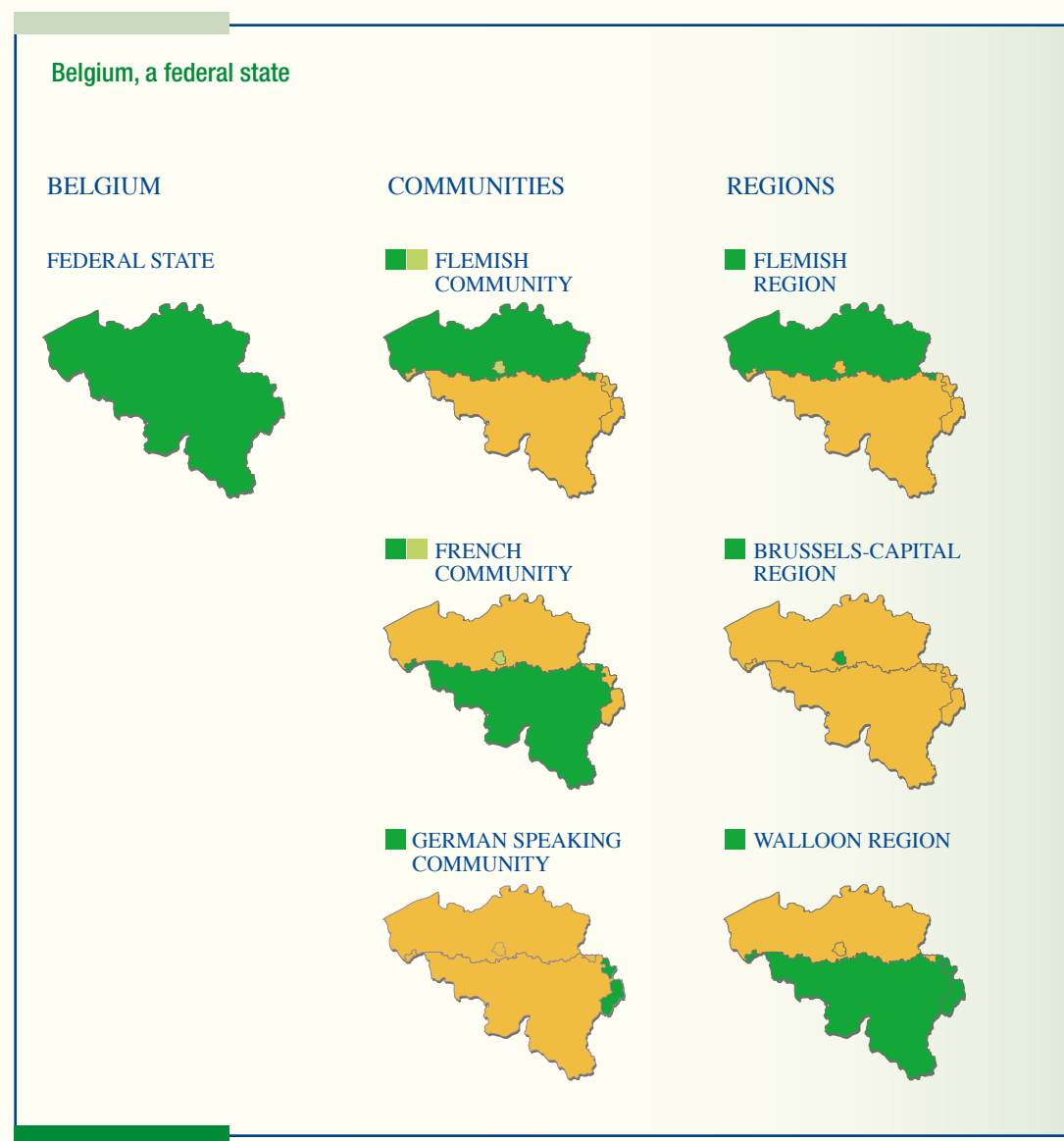
Belgium is a federal state composed of three language-based communities and three regions, each with its own executive and legislative bodies.

Given Belgium's federal structure and the division of powers, several structures have been created to promote consultation and cooperation between the different levels of power and to ensure consistency in the action of the federal state and its entities. The central coordination body with regard to national climate policy is the Na-

tional Climate Commission. The central coordination body for energy is CONCERE-ENOVER. The two are increasingly working together.

Belgium has a very open economy, situated at the heart of a zone of intense economic activity. The Belgian economy is dominated by the services sector. Exports of goods and services accounted for 80% of GDP in 2020 and imports 79%.

The gross domestic product amounted to EUR 456.893 billion in 2020, but recorded a growth rate of -5.7% in the past year due to the COVID-19 crisis. Prior to this, Belgium's gross domestic product had been constantly increasing since 1990 (with a small drop related to the financial crisis in 2008-2009). At the same time, GHG emissions were initially stabilised (1990-2005), followed by a decreasing trend up to the present (-26.9% in 2020, compared to 1990, but only -20.1% in 2019 compared to 1990). The main drivers for



decoupling are: increased use of gaseous fuels (decreased use of liquid and solid fuels), higher energy efficiency, changes in the structure of the economy (fewer highly energy intensive industries such as the steel industry and more added value in sectors – services and commercial sectors – that are less energy-intensive).

In 2019, greenhouse gas emissions per GDP were 261 tons of CO₂-eq. per million euros at 2015 prices (Total UNFCCC excl. LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry)) and 253 in 2020.

Energy

Energy intensity has been following a downward trend since 1990, reflecting the decoupling of economic growth from primary energy consumption.

As far as the market share of the total final consumption is concerned, oil products remain the dominant energy source (46.1%), followed by natural gas (26.8%) and electricity (17.8%).

In 2020, the industrial sector was the main consumer of primary energy (26.3%), followed by the residential sector (20.8%) and transport (20.4%). The trend that took place in the transport sector was totally unprecedented however, its consumption decreasing by 15.8% compared to 2019.

Although the measures taken in the context of the fight against the coronavirus have had a particularly significant influence on the consumption of petroleum products, the share of these products in the country's total final consumption remains predominant (46.1% in 2020). Natural gas accounted for 26.8% of the country's final energy consumption in 2020. 89.8% of this gas was used for energy purposes, of which 33.8% was used in the residential sector.

Belgium has limited energy resources. Its total primary energy production represents approximately 35% of Belgium's total primary energy consumption. Belgium is consequently highly dependent on other countries to obtain its supplies. In 2020, 38.5% of Belgian energy production consisted of nuclear energy. The share of renewable fuels and waste amounts to 26.2%: during this decade, production has increased by 181% compared to 2011.

The dependency on fossil fuel imports to meet domestic demand is very high. In 2020, the ratio between net-imports and primary energy consumption stood at 78.1%.

Transport

Belgium is crisscrossed by an important network of waterways and a

very dense communications network (roads and railways). Owing to Belgium's location as a transit country, transport is a growing sector. Road transport is the most energy-consuming means of transport in Belgium. The number of passenger cars is increasing continuously (the motorisation rate in Belgium is very high: one car for every two inhabitants). The majority of goods being relocated over land are still being transported using road transport. Demand for fossil fuels in the sector is expected to continue to rise.

Industry

Although the significance of the industrial sector (in particular heavy industry) within the economy has declined since the 1960s, it continues to be a relatively important component of Belgium's economic activity (almost 15% of GDP).

The main contributors towards greenhouse gas emissions are: energy combustion (mainly resulting from the production of electricity and heat, but also from oil refining), industrial processes (mainly within the chemical industry, mineral products industry and metallurgy) and energy transformation (iron and steel industry, chemical industry, food and beverage processing and cement plants).

Waste

Between 2004 and 2020, waste production increased by 28%. Significant improvements in waste treatment have helped bring about a sharp reduction in the amount of waste put into landfills.

Housing stock

Since 1995, the number of buildings has increased by 14.5%. Over the same period, the number of residences increased by 25.8%. Belgian housing stock is characterised by a high proportion of old buildings. Natural gas is the main heating source. The housing equipment rate of appliances using energy continues to rise.

Agriculture

The agriculture in Belgium specialises in market-garden and horticultural crops, cereals, potatoes, sugar beets, livestock and milk production. Although agricultural land occupies the greater part of the territory (44.5%), the number of farms has continued to decrease in recent years. The share of agriculture in the Belgian economy is continuing to decline and now accounts for less than 1% of GDP. Despite a high population density, forests and other natural areas remain relatively stable (23.9% of the territory). ■

3. Greenhouse gas inventory information

In Belgium, emissions of all gases have decreased by 26.9 % compared to 1990 and 27.8% using 1995 as the base year for the fluorinated gases (excluding 'land use, land use-change and forestry' - LULUCF). The largest contribution to total emissions is CO₂, which accounted for 84.9% in 2020. Emissions of CH₄ account for the next largest share, at 6.7%, and emissions of N₂O make up a further 5.1%.

In 2020, the energy sector contributed 72% to the total emissions (excluding LULUCF). Since 1990, these emissions have decreased by about 26%. Energy industries and manufacturing industries are both responsible for almost 79% of this decrease.

A switch from solid fuel to gaseous fuels can be observed in the electricity production sector and industry. This, together with the development of biomass fuels in some sectors, has resulted in a lower CO₂ emission factor for a given level of energy consumption. A more rational use of energy is also developing but it often is accompanied

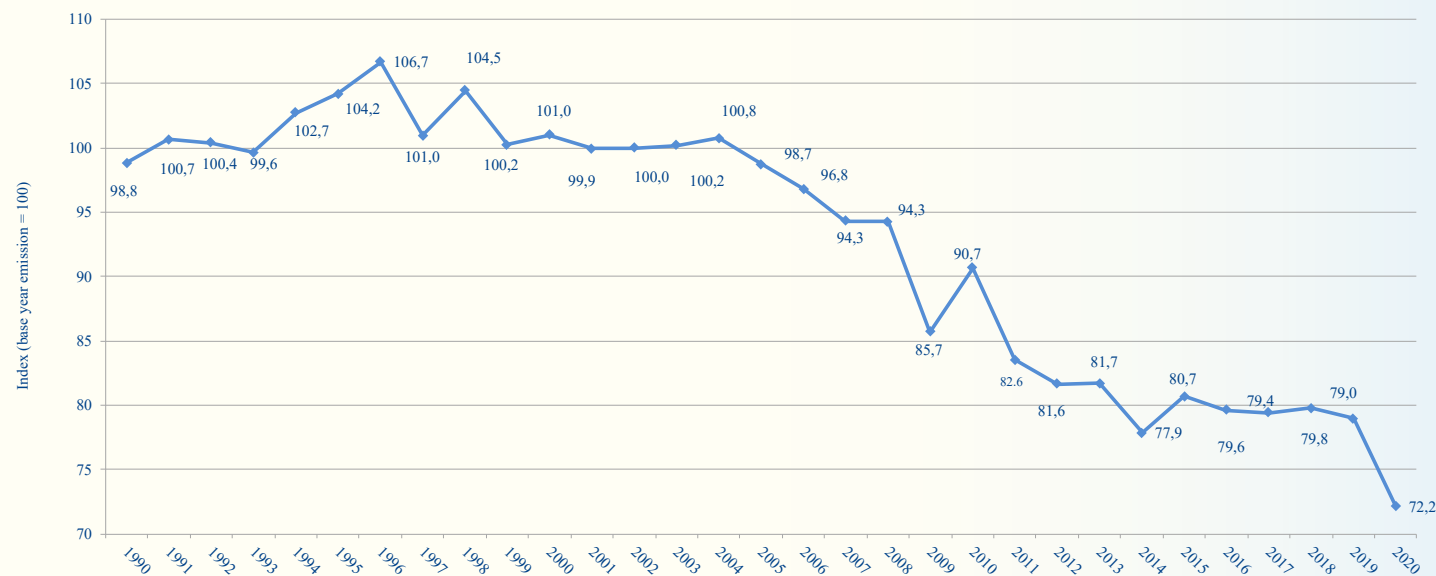
by an increase in the use of electricity, so its impact on actual emissions is generally harder to quantify. Finally, the closure of certain iron and steel works over the past few years has also led to a reduction in emissions.

Compared to recent years (with similar degree days values), emissions from the residential and tertiary sectors decreased in 2020 although a number of indicators are rising such as the increase in residences and a great

number of employees in the tertiary and institutional sectors. This is due to a switch of fuels, better insulation and milder years. However, the trend for the tertiary sector since 1990 continues to be a net increase in emissions, due

Belgium GHG emissions 1990-2020 (excl. LULUCF)

Unit: Index point (base year emissions = 100). For the fluorinated gases, the base year is 1995



to the development of activity in this sector.

Emissions caused by road transport have been increasing continually since 1990 on account of the increasing number of cars and of traffic that has become more intense. Traffic growth, however, has slowed significantly in recent years and emissions have stabilised since 2008 (maximum at 27 Mt CO₂ eq.). Of course, emissions in 2020 show a sharp decrease due to the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences on mobility.

Industrial processes and product use make up the second-largest source of greenhouse gases in Belgium, amounting to 18% of the national total in 2020. Emissions of all seven direct greenhouse gases have declined by 28% since 1990. All the sectors are involved but the metal industry has experienced the most significant decrease.

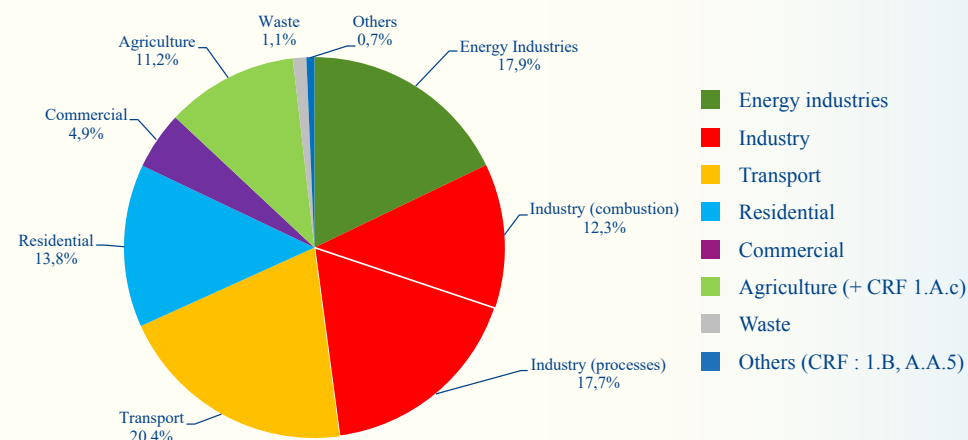
Agriculture represents 9% of the total emissions, mainly of CH₄ and N₂O. Some CO₂ emissions are caused

by liming and urea consumption. Since 1990, emissions from this sector have decreased by 19%, due to a decline in emissions from enteric fermentation (this is connected with lower livestock numbers but also with the shift from dairy cattle to brood cattle) and from agricultural soils (reduced use of synthetic fertiliser and livestock reduction leading to less nitrogen being excreted on pasture).

Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry contain sinks as well as sources of CO₂ emissions. LULUCF is a net sink in 2020 as it is for the complete time series but in constant decline since 1990. Emissions from this sector occur for CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O.

In 2020, the waste sector contributed around 1.1% to the national total. Emissions originated from waste incineration, solid waste disposal on land and wastewater handling. Emissions from this sector have steadily declined and were 72 % below 1990 levels in 2020, mainly due to the recovery and use of biogas from solid waste disposals. ■

Share of the main sectors in 2020 (without LULUCF)



"Others" includes "Fugitive Emissions from Fuels", "Other Combustion" and "Solvent and Other Product Use". Combustion of agriculture are included in "Agriculture" sector.

4. Policies and measures

Within Belgium's federal system, responsibilities and policy-making powers are shared between the Federal State and the three Regions (the Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions). Climate change policies are therefore designed and implemented by the federal and regional governments, which have set up their own priorities and objectives within the scope of their powers.

Regions have major responsibilities in areas such as the rational use of energy, the promotion of renewable energy sources, public transport, transport infrastructure, urban and rural planning, agriculture and waste management. In the context of the 6th Belgian state reform, they have also obtained new fiscal responsibilities.

The Federal state is responsible for large parts of taxation policy. It is also responsible for product policies (standards, fuel quality, labelling and performance

standards for household or industrial electrical goods...). It is responsible for ensuring the security of the country's energy supply and for nuclear energy. It also supervises Belgium's territorial waters, which implies that it is also responsible for the development of offshore wind farms.

Several instruments (strategies, plans) have been put in place to supervise Belgium's commitments in the medium term (2030) and long term (2050), with a view to achieving the European objective of climate neutrality.

The National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, adopted in 2019, compiles the policies and measures elaborated by each of the 4 decision-making entities. This is the most detailed steering instrument available to carry out national climate policy. It will soon be revised to take into account the enhancement of European ambition. ■

Synthesis of Belgian objectives

| | 2020 Climate and Energy package | 2030 Climate and Energy framework | Proposal: Fit for 55 | LT strategy |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Time horizon | 2020 | 2030 | 2030 | 2050 |
| Total reduction of GHG emissions | | | | No national objective yet |
| - ETS [1] | (No national objective) | (No national objective) | (No national objective) | (No national objective) |
| - non ETS | -15% (ref. 2005) [2] | -35% (ref. 2005) | -47% (ref. 2005) | -85%--87% (ref. 2005; projection) |
| EU Reference | 2009/28/EC 2009/29/EC 2009/31/EC 406/2009/EC | EU 2018/2001 EU 2018/2002 EU 2018/841 EU 2018/842 | EU 2021/1119 | |
| RES [3] | 13% [4] | | | |
| LULUCF: removals | not included | no-debit rule | increase of the sink by 320 kt | |
| EE | -18% | 15% PEC, 12% FEC | | |

[1] An essential element of Belgium's climate policy relies upon the European Emissions Trading System (Directives 2003/87/EC and 2009/29/EC). It constitutes a key instrument to help energy-intensive sectors to improve their energy efficiency while optimising costs.

[2] Effort Sharing Decision 406/2009/EC

[3] Part of renewable energy sources in gross final energy demand

[4] Renewable energy Directive 2009/28/EC

Summary table of the main objectives, policies and measures of the BE NECP

| Dimension | 2030 objective | Remarks |
|--|----------------|---|
| Decarbonisation | | |
| GHG-ESR | -35% | compared to 2005 |
| LULUCF | No debit | |
| RES | 17.5% | of gross final energy consumption |
| Energy efficiency | | |
| Primary energy consumption | 42.7 Mtoe | i.e. -15% compared to BAU Primes 2007 in 2030 |
| Final energy consumption | 35.2 Mtoe | i.e. -12% compared to BAU Primes 2007 in 2030 |
| Cumulative amount of energy savings (Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive) | 185 TWh | |

5. Projections and the total effect of policies and measures, and complementarity relating to Kyoto protocol mechanisms

The projections described in the 8th National Communication are based on the 2021 Belgian submission to the European Commission in compliance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. All implemented and adopted (EU, federal, regional) policies and measures, considered until the end of 2019, have been taken into account in the ‘with existing measures’ (WEM) scenario. Planned policies and measures or targets have been integrated in a scenario with additional measures (WAM). Since Belgium’s last biennial report and national communication, there have been some changes in the modelling tools used by the Walloon Region since the last reporting of the national communication and biennial report, due to the development and the first exploitation of “TIMES-Wal”, which replaces EPM model. In addition, the input data for the other models was also updated.

Except for electricity production and bunker fuels, the reported projections are the sum of the projections of the three regions (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels-Capital) which are calibrated on the regional energy balances. The regional approach starts from the demand side of the different sectors (industry, domestic, tertiary, transport, ...) and results in sectoral energy projections. Within this approach, relations between energy consumption, activity levels and energy prices are assessed on a sectoral level. The electricity production and the bunker fuel emissions are modelled on a national level.

Sensitivity analyses have been performed in the case of some important parameters such as the number of degree-days and the importation of electricity.

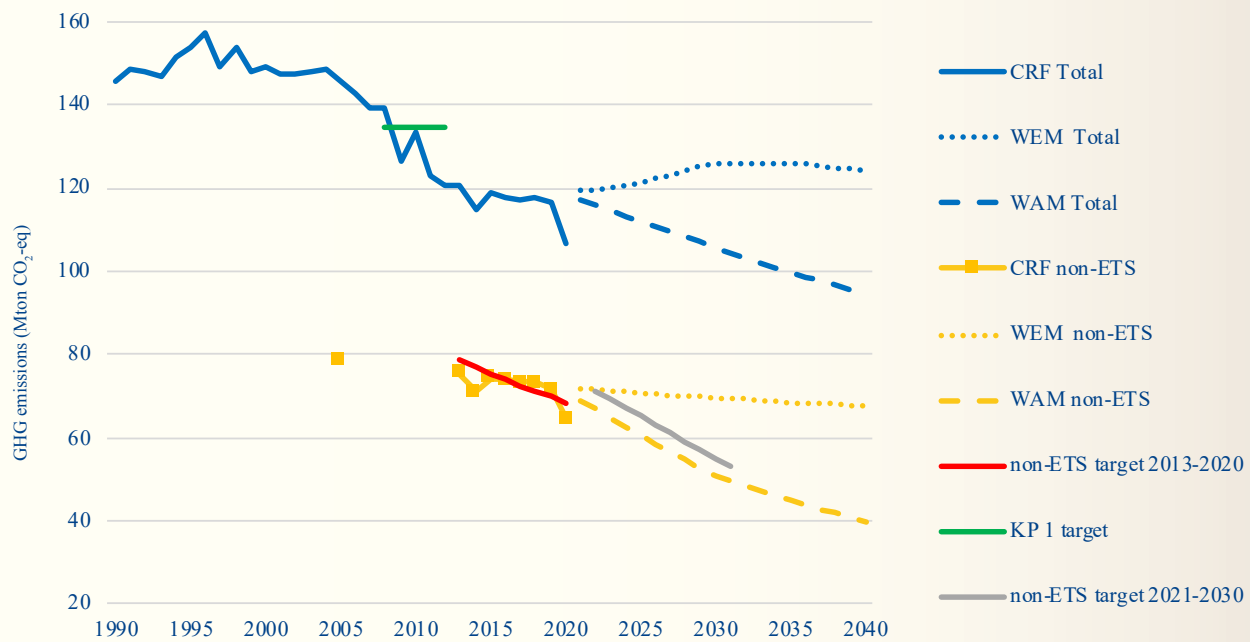
The projection results presented in this report have been compared with the previous reports (7th national Communication and 4th Biennial Report). The main differences can be explained by the different sectoral assumptions, resulting in a more ambitious WAM scenario in this report.

There was a clear decrease between 1996 and 2019 in the total greenhouse gas emissions in the inventory and in 2020, the inventory shows a sharp decline due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. However, the total emissions in the WEM scenario show a clear increase in the period 2021-2030, followed by a slight decrease in the period 2030-2040. The total emissions in the WAM scenario show a steady decrease in the period 2021-2040. These projections do not include emissions or removals from LULUCF.

Uncertainties concerning exogenous variables such as economic growth, climate conditions and electricity imports exist and their level will have an impact upon the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, notably in the sectors covered by the EU ETS.

The EU Effort Sharing Regulation, establishing binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by EU Member States from 2021 to 2030, mentions a target of -35% in 2030 compared to 2005 for Belgium. With the WEM scenario, the emission targets will be exceeded in all years of the period 2021-2030. In the WAM scenario, the non-ETS objectives will not be exceeded in any year. However, as the projections (AR4) and the non-ETS targets (AR5) are based on different GWP values, it should be noted that both datasets are not yet fully comparable. ■

GHG emissions excluding LULUCF, Mton CO₂-eq



6. Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures

In 2019-2020, Belgium reinforced its efforts to achieve a climate-resilient society and environment. During the past few years, Belgium has been confronted with the effects of climate change, namely some severe periods of drought, fluvial and pluvial flooding and prolonged heat waves, which has led to an increased sense of urgency to take action on climate change adaptation.

The federal level and the three Regions continued implementing the measures in their adaptation plan, complemented by the National Adaptation Plan which aims to strengthen the cooperation and develop synergies between the different entities with regard to adaptation. Efforts were made by the regions to support local governments in the development and implementation of their adaptation plans.

As gaps in the available data and assessments were detected and new insights led to new research questions, new research programmes were launched to improve the understanding of the effects of climate change and adaptation. The studies “Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of climate change in Belgium” and “Taking into account the impact of climate change

and adaptation needs in the framework of the future National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP)” have been published in connection with the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan.

Adaptation measures are already being implemented and mainstreaming is ongoing, that is in spatial planning, water management (drought and floods), coastal area (coastal safety master plan and long-term coastal vision), biodiversity (green-blue networks, calls, tools), agriculture (research, projects), forestry (resilient forests, observatories, expansion of forests), urban environment, transport, health,... Informing and raising awareness amongst Belgium’s population continues to be an important aspect.

Further progress has been made in connection with the governance that takes place between the regional and local level: by providing funds and tools and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and good practices, regional governments encourage and support the cities and municipalities to sign the Covenant of Mayors, to develop local adaptation plans and to take action on climate change adaptation.

In the context of development cooperation, adaptation to climate change is one of the main focuses in the implementation of programmes and projects (climate-related factors to be taken into account during design and follow-up,

climate actions and policy coherence) as well as in finance (Least Developed Countries Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and Flemish Climate Fund). ■



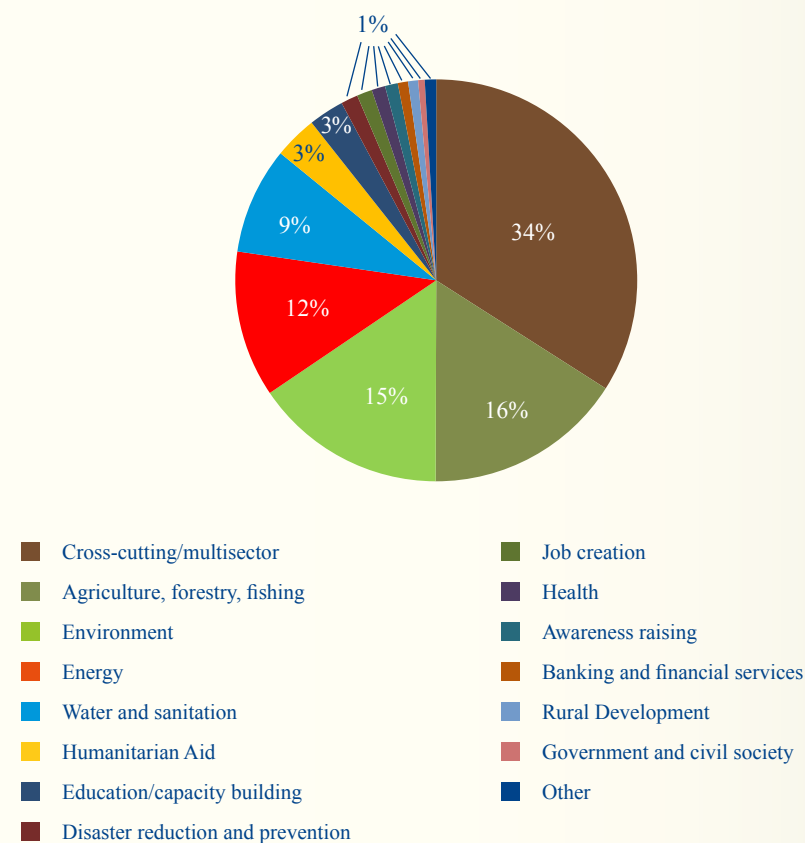
7. Provision of Financial Resources and Transfer of, or Access to Technologies

In 2019-2020, Belgium provided EUR 208 million of public support to developing country Parties. This financial, technological and capacity-building support to non-Annex I Parties mainly focused on:

- Adaptation and cross-cutting activities as the predominant focus;
- Providing of bilateral and multilateral support under the form of grants;
- Contributions mainly directed towards Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- Contributions to climate-specific multilateral funds (Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, etc.) or specialised UN agencies;
- Contributions to bilateral projects mainly directed towards African partner countries and Least Developed Countries.

In parallel with its long-standing provision of public climate finance to developing countries, Belgium also supports the efforts of developing countries to implement low-emission, climate-resilient projects and programmes (i) by providing significant core funding to multilateral organisations and (ii) by mobilizing, through public means, private investments for climate-related projects in developing countries. ■

Belgian Climate Finance in 2019-2020, distribution by sector



8. Research and systematic observation

The financial resources allocated to climate research in Belgium have increased considerably since 2017; Belgian research has been better and better embedded in international research initiatives; the number of publications has increased and more and more climate-related data have been produced and processed and are accessible today for further research or policy developments.

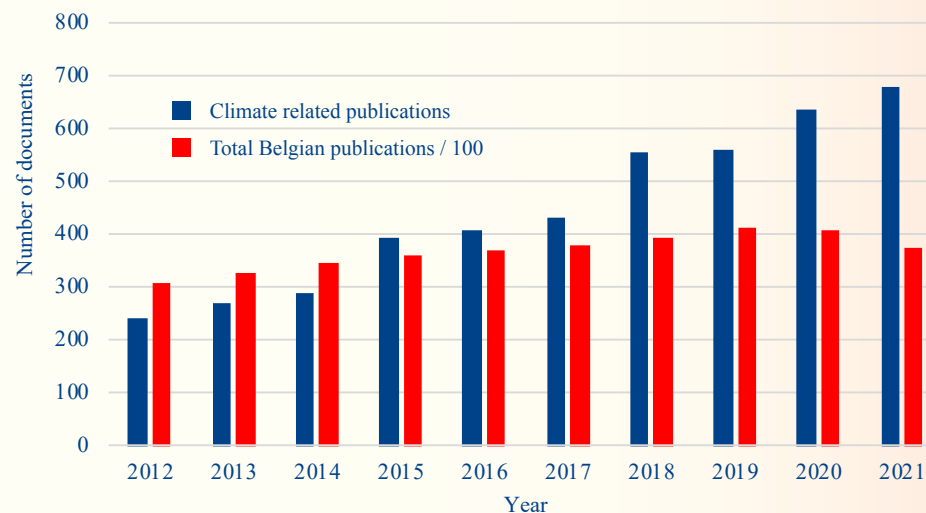
If basic research aiming at reducing uncertainties on climate evolution and involving academic scientists is still strongly supported in Belgium, an increase can be observed in the support provided for the development of solution-oriented research or policy-driven research conducted by scientific experts and policy experts.

Belgian research is addressing the whole spectrum of climate-related issues and encompasses all temporal and spatial scales.

Belgium is making an active contribution to plans, programmes and support for ground and space-based climate observing systems that form a key mission of several Federal Scientific Institutions.

Climate observation facilities are also being rolled out by coordinated networks of universities and research centres. These mainly perform measurements linked to the composition of the atmosphere, greenhouse gases and proxies. ■

Evolution of the share of climate related publications in the total Belgian output



Expenditure for climate research in Belgium

| ENTITY | Category of R&D | Previous reporting period 2012-2016 (~ NC7) | | Recent quinquennium 2017-2021 (NC8) | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | | Number of projects | Budget in eur millions | Number of projects | Budget in in eur millions |
| FLANDERS climate research for which metadata is available in FRIS, with Flemish funding | | 235 | 53 | 610 | 107 |
| | Climate Fundamental | 80% | 83% | 92% | 88% |
| | Climate Solution oriented (applied and policy oriented) | 16% | 17% | 7% | 12% |
| | All research | 13 413 | 2 730 | 20 652 | 3 900 |
| | Climate vs all research | 1.8% | 1.9% | 3.0% | 2.8% |
| BRUSSELS REGION | | / | / | 237 | 44.4 |
| | Climate Fundamental | / | / | 0% | 0% |
| | Climate Solution oriented (applied and policy oriented) | / | / | 100% | 100% |
| | All research | / | / | 1 793 | 227.8 |
| | Climate vs all research | / | / | 13.2% | 20.9% |
| WALLOON REGION | | 989 | 230 | 648 | 164 |
| | Climate Fundamental | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | climate Solution oriented (applied and policy oriented- energy efficiency) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | All research | 7 664 | 1 695 | 5 046 | 1 465 |
| | Climate vs all research | | 13.6% | | 14.5% |

| ENTITY | Category of R&D | Previous reporting period 2012-2016 (~ NC7) | | Recent quinquennium 2017-2021 (NC8) | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | | Number of projects | Budget in eur millions | Number of projects | Budget in in eur millions |
| WALLONIE BRUSSELS FEDERATION | | / | / | 128 | 38.2 |
| Funder: FNRS | Climate Fundamental | / | / | 88 | 23 |
| | Climate vs all research | / | / | 2.8 % | 3.2% |
| Funders H2020 + BELSPO | Climate (Solution oriented applied and policy oriented) | / | / | 40 | 15.2 |
| FEDERAL | | / | / | 27 | 6.03 |
| Climate research for which metadata is available in FEDRA with BELSPO funding | | | | 11 | 3.10 |
| | Climate Fundamental | / | / | 10% | 10% |
| | Strategic/ Solution oriented (applied and policy oriented) | / | / | 90% | 90% |
| Climate strategic research for which metadata is available in e-CORDA with EU funding | | / | / | 16 | 2.93 |
| | Climate / all research | / | / | 25% | 10% |

9. Public awareness, education and training

This chapter is a non-exhaustive inventory of initiatives undertaken by (regional or federal) authorities, institutions (e.g. universities) and non-governmental organisations that successfully reached a rather large audience. In order to avoid a multitude of small-scale initiatives, actions undertaken by local communities, companies or private persons have not been added.

A short introduction to the enquiries into the degree of awareness among the general public is followed by a short description of 22 awareness-raising initiatives dealing solely with climate change, or with closely related themes such as energy saving, buildings, mobility and the environment in general. This classification may seem somewhat artificial, as climate

change is a transversal issue, leading to overlaps between themes or activities.

The Education and training section describes 24 activities, split into three categories: educational projects (mainly aimed at primary and secondary schools), higher education, and international cooperation and education in southern countries.

Finally, 65 useful sources on the internet are listed and shortly described. ■

| Nr. | Activity | Target Groups | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| | | Citizens | Organisations | Authorities | Business | Lower Education | Secondary Education | Higher Education | Abroad |
| 9.2 - RAISING OF AWARENESS | | | | | | | | | |
| | GLOBAL WARMING | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.1 | Awareness raising by the federal and regional governments | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| 9.2.2 | Earth Hour | x | | x | | | | | |
| | ENERGY SAVINGS | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.3 | Avoiding energy-guzzlers at home : EnergyWatchers | x | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.4 | The TopTen website | x | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.5 | Energy saving investments | x | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.6 | Assistance to disadvantaged groups of residents | x | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.7 | Energy consultants | x | x | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.8 | Raising awareness of energy in the agricultural sector | | | | x | | | | |

| Nr. | Activity | Target Groups | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| | | Citizens | Organisations | Authorities | Business | Lower Education | Secondary Education | Higher Education | Abroad |
| | BUILDINGS | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.9 | Guidance for consumers | x | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.10 | Guidance for professionals | | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.11 | Pixii & The Passive House Platform | x | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.12 | Energy efficiency certificates and audits | x | | x | x | | | | |
| 9.2.13 | Eco-construction | | x | | x | | | | |
| | MOBILITY | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.14 | Promotion of sustainable mobility | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 9.2.15 | Eco-driving | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| 9.2.16 | The purchase of energy-efficient vehicles | x | | x | x | | | | |
| 9.2.17 | Logistics consultants | | | | x | | | | |
| | ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.18 | Corporate social responsibility | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 9.2.19 | Sustainable Neighbourhoods | x | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.20 | The 'Eco-dynamic Enterprise' label and 'Resilient coaching' | | | | x | | | | |
| 9.2.21 | Youth empowerment and the voice of youth | x | | | | | x | x | x |
| 9.2.22 | Hera Programme | x | | | | | | x | |
| 9.3 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING | | | | | | | | | |
| | EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS AND POLICIES | | | | | | | | |
| 9.3.1 | Climate education websites | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.2 | Climate workshops in schools | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.3 | The 'Climate Challenge @ School' conferences | | | | | | x | | |
| 9.3.4 | The My2050 web tool | | | | | | x | | |
| 9.3.5 | Invite a Climate Coach into your (secondary) school | | | | | | x | | |
| 9.3.6 | Belexpo – Wanted : Climate Heroes | x | | | | x | | | |
| 9.3.7 | Training for teachers | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.8 | Initiatives addressing energy efficiency in schools | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.9 | The MOS project (Milieuzorg Op School - Respect for the environment at school) | | | | | x | x | | |

| Nr. | Activity | Target Groups | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| | | Citizens | Organisations | Authorities | Business | Lower Education | Secondary Education | Higher Education | Abroad |
| 9.3.10 | Cooperation Agreement on education concerning the environment, nature and sustainable development | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.11 | Raising environmental awareness for schools | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.12 | The network of Regional Centres of Initiation to the Environment (CRIE) | x | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.13 | Ener'jeunes | | | | | x | | | |
| 9.3.14 | Idea Network | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.15 | GoodPlanet | | | | | x | x | | |
| 9.3.16 | Going to school by bike | | | | | x | | | |
| 9.3.17 | Thick Jumper Day | | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| 9.3.18 | Association for the promotion of renewable energy (REnouvelle) | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| 9.3.19 | Training for building professionals | | | | x | | | | |
| | HIGHER EDUCATION | | | | | | | | |
| 9.3.20 | Awareness raising at the university | | | | | | | x | |
| 9.3.21 | Education about the Environment and Sustainable Development | | | | | | | x | |
| 9.3.22 | Summer university dedicated to climate and climate incubator | | | | | | | x | |
| 9.3.23 | Commitment program to reduce students' individual carbon footprint | | | | | | | x | |
| | INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN COUNTRIES | | | | | | | | |
| 9.3.24 | Federal initiatives | | | | | | | | x |
| 9.3.25 | Walloon initiatives | | | | | | | | x |

10. About commitment under the Convention for the period until 2020

The EU has jointly fulfilled its UNFCCC target and implemented it internally through EU legislation in the 2020 EU Climate and Energy Package. In the package, the EU introduced a clear approach to achieving the 20% reduction in total GHG emissions from 1990 levels, by dividing the effort between the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the sectors under the Effort Sharing Decision (ESD). Binding national targets were set for Member States under the Effort Sharing Decision. The achievement of EU internal compliance under the 2020 Climate and Energy Package including the national targets under the ESD is not subject to the UNFCCC assessment of the EU's joint commitment under the Convention.

The EU has substantially overachieved its reduction target under the Convention, which means that its Member States and the United Kingdom have also fulfilled their emission reduction obligations. As stated in the 2022 EU GHG inventory submission to the UNFCCC, total GHG emissions, excluding LULUCF and including international aviation, decreased by 34% in the EU-27 + UK compared to the base year 1990 or 1.94 billion tons of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent).

Because of the achievement of the EU target as a whole, Belgium is deemed to have achieved its target also, regardless of whether it has achieved its own target under the ESD. ■

BELGIUM'S EIGHTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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