

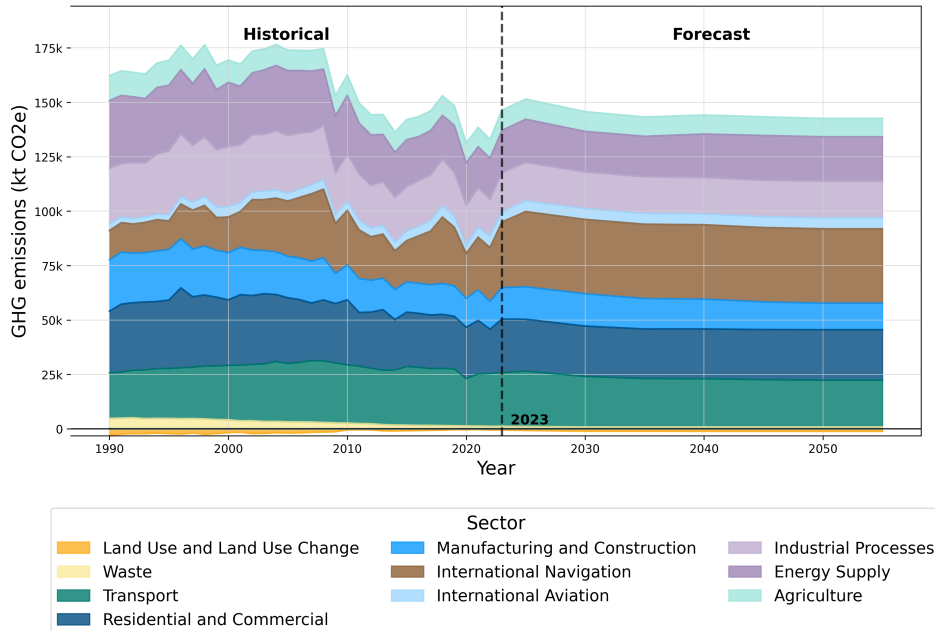


National system for policies and measures and greenhouse gas projections of Belgium

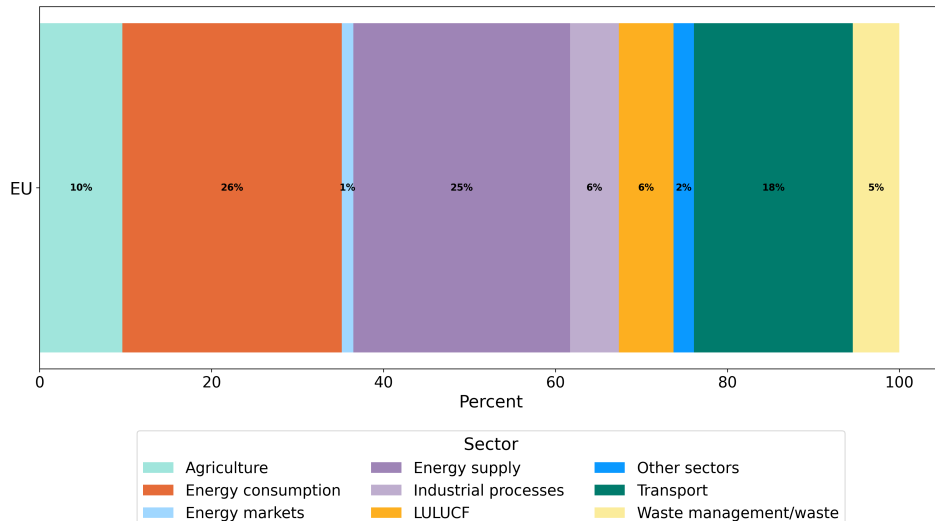
Information reported in 2025

A robust and complete national system ensures the delivery of good-quality information on the projections of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, as well as policies and measures in place to implement National Climate and Energy Plans. The two figures provide an overview of the information submitted by Belgium in 2025, enabled by the national system, as laid out below.

Historical and projected greenhouse gas emission in Belgium by sector in 2025.



Reported climate and energy Policies and Measures by affected sector in Belgium.



Institutional and procedural robustness

Institutional arrangements

The National Climate Commission (NCC) is composed of representatives of each party to the Cooperation agreement at political level. The NCC has overall responsibility for the establishment, execution and monitoring of the National Climate Plan and for fulfilling reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and EU legislation (Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (EU) 525/2013 ; Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999).

CONCERE is a consultative group that strengthens cooperation between the federal and regional governments in the field of energy. This cooperation was formalised on 18 December 1991 by the cooperation agreement on the coordination of energy-related activities concluded between the Federal State, the Walloon Region, the Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region. In practice, this agreement led to the creation of CONCERE (in Dutch: ENOVER).

CONCERE brings together :

- delegates from the four administrations and four cabinets responsible for energy,
- Belgium's Permanent Representation to the European Union (EU)
- the Directorate-General for Coordination and European Affairs of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs.

The CONCERE group carries out the following tasks:

- to organise consultation between the federal government and the regions ;
- to preserve the internal consistency of the energy policy measures of the competent authorities;
- centralising information with a view to adapting legislation in the areas concerned;
- promoting the exchange of information between the competent authorities;
- collecting data to respond to requests for information from international organisations and to draw up energy balances;
- composing the Belgian delegation to international organisations;
- developing coordinated and logically structured positions to be presented by the Belgian delegation to international bodies, particularly the Council of the EU (e.g. preparation of European directives).

The NCC is assisted by a permanent secretariat and several thematic working groups (WG) which are mandated to address different issues. Two thematic working groups have been set up in relation to “policies and measures” and “projections”:

- WG PAMs (e.g. monitor the National Climate Plan, assess the status of policies and measures implementation, quantify the GHG impact, ensure a harmonization of methodologies and assumptions used in the implementation framework of the European Directive 2006/32/EC, prepare official reports under the governance regulation, specific section of the UNFCCC Biennial Report and National Communication, punctually contribute to the work of the CCC-WG2 ...)
- WG Projections (e.g. harmonizing projections on greenhouse gas emissions made by the federal and regional authorities, preparing official reports, specific section of the UNFCCC Biennial Report and National Communication, contribution to the work of the CCC-WG2...)

For the purpose of preparing National Energy and Climate Plans and related progress reporting in implementation of the Governance Regulation, a CONCERE-NCC joint steering committee has been set up. The preparation and approval of the PAM progress reporting is done in cooperation between NCC and CONCERE. The preparation and approval of the national projections of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions is the responsibility of the NCC.

Figure 1: Main bodies involved in the preparation of the national report on projections

Figure 2: Main institutions and organisations involved in the preparation of the national report on policies and measures

The main administrations involved in the working groups PAMs and Projections are :

- The Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA) in the Flemish Region;
- The Walloon Agency for Air and Climate (AWAC) (in collaboration with Energy Department of Public Service of Wallonia) in the Walloon Region;
- Brussels Environment in the Brussels Capital Region.
- Federal public service (DG Environment / Climate change section)

Each region also has its own legal and institutional arrangements, as well as at the federal level (see below).

1.2.1 Flemish Region

Administrations/agencies in the Flemish Region, which are involved in the national system, are listed below.

Figure 3: Main institutions and organisations involved in the preparation of the Flemish GHG Projections and PAMs

1.2.2 Walloon Region

The Walloon Agency for Air and Climate (AWAC), is the Walloon administration with the overall responsibility for setting up the Walloon projections and report on Policies and Measures. This is stated in the following decree of the Walloon Government:

3 JUILLET 2008. - Arrêté du Gouvernement Wallon portant organisation de l'Agence Wallonne de l'Air et du Climat

5° de réaliser des études et des analyses afférentes à la qualité de l'air et à l'évolution du climat, et en particulier :

- récolter des informations et les stocker, notamment sous la forme de bases de données;
- réaliser des cartographies et des inventaires réguliers d'émissions

Within the AWAC, 2 FTE are involved in Climate Plan (PAMs) and Air pollutants projections (GHG and other air pollutants).

Energy Department of Public Service of Wallonia (the equivalent of 1 FTE) is also involved in working on Walloon energy projections and monitoring of energy policies and measures.

Some other administrations contribute to specific aspect (i.e. SPW-Mobility, ...).

1.2.3 Brussels Capital Region

Brussels Environment is responsible for issues related to the environment and energy of the Brussels Capital Region. It is responsible for the policies and measures and projections of GHG emissions reporting. Figure 4 shows the main institutions involve in the PAMs and projections.

Figure 4. Main institutions involved in the preparation of the Brussels PAMs and Projections

1.2.4 Federal level

A federal MRV law was adopted on 28 October 2016 . It puts in place the framework for the reporting, monitoring and evaluation of federal policies and measures in the field of climate change and ozone layer protection. According to the Law all entities and departments of the federal authority in possession of relevant data and information shall communicate them annually in order to guarantee the timeliness, transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability and completeness of the information reported.

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation of federal actions in accordance with the governance regulation is under the responsibility of the climate change unit of the Directorate General Environment of the Federal Public Service health, food chain safety and environment, as stated in the Royal Decree of 22nd December 2006 .

Practical modalities for information gathering, monitoring and evaluation of federal PAMs have been translated in a Royal Decree , in accordance with article 2§2 of the law.

Concerning projections, the Federal Planning Bureau (FPB), [a public agency, whose mission is to achieve studies and projections on economic, social and environmental policy issues and on their integration within the context of sustainable development,] is in charge of the macro-economic analysis for the WG Projections (to the extent possible, see “Procedural and administrative arrangements”).

On 2 April and 8 October 2021, the government established a system for effective and regular monitoring of the implementation of federal policies and measures . This governance-cycle currently provides for a 6-monthly evaluation and yearly public reporting on the operationalisation of policies and measures based on 'policy roadmaps' for each group of related PAMs. These roadmaps consist of a detailed implementation-calendar, a budgetary overview, indicators to follow-up implementation progress and impact, and a GHG and socio-economic impact assessment. The federal governance is aligned to European reporting obligations.

A law legally enshrining this policy cycle has been adopted on 15 January 2024. A task force (<https://climat.be/politique-climatique/belge/federale/taskforce-energie-et-climat>) is set up. The law introduces the creation of an independent expert committee (<https://climat.be/politique-climatique/belge/federale/conseil-scientifique-du-climat>) to review federal climate policy and issue opinions and a monitoring and reporting system to ensure the effective use of the federal share of revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances (ETS) in the budget (<https://climat.be/politique-climatique/belge/federale/utilisation-des-revenus-ets>).

Procedural and administrative arrangements and timescales

1.4.1 Projections

National projections of greenhouse gas emissions are prepared within the working group “Projections” of the NCC. These are based on the compilation of regional projections (bottom-up).

Predetermined timeline

- March (year X-1): harmonized values for key parameters which the Commission recommends twelve months before the deadline for submission of the reports.
- September-December (year X-1): Preparation of projection parameters and assumptions and final approval by NCC.
- February-March (year X): Projection calculations and data compilation (Regions +F-gas).
- March (year X): Compilation of the report, final approval by NCC and transmission to the EU Commission.

Regional projections are compiled within the WG Projections on the basis of the information reported by the regions and then submitted to the National Climate Commission for official approval.

Total estimates in the Belgian GHG projections reflect the sum of regional GHG projections. The quality of national GHG projections primarily depends on the quality of regional projections. Regions are responsible for the quality of methodologies and models used for the preparation of their regional GHG projections. They make sure, via the cooperation within the Working Group on Projections, that these methodologies and models are compatible (and, to the extent possible, harmonized) with those used in the other regions. The regions are also responsible for establishing QA/QC procedures for their regional projections (for more information, see description of QA/QC

activities).

National GHG projections, as compiled by the WG projections serve as a basis for the assessment of progress of Belgium towards reaching its target and reporting under the governance regulation.

Alignment between GHG projections and projections under Directive (EU) 2016/2284 is the responsibility of the regions.

1.4.2 Policies and measures

Regional and federal policies and measures are monitored by the different responsible entities. This monitoring information is compiled at Belgian level by the Working Group PAMs, in order to inform the NCC and to prepare the different national reports (National communications and biennial reports under the UNFCCC, reports under governance regulation), which are submitted to the NCC for approval before final submission. The preparation and approval of the progress report in implementation of the governance regulation is a shared competence of NCC and CONCERE

Belgian authorities (Regions and Federal state) periodically evaluate the impact of their policies and measures (GHG emission reductions). Methodologies vary depending of the type of policies, the sector, the target, the availability of data, etc. To the extent possible, these methodologies are harmonized in order to ensure transparency and comparability, allowing among others to identify the most efficient measures.

In that sense, the NCC has created an ad-hoc working group, gathering representatives of each entity and various administrations concerned by elements of the NCP. In particular, the group integrates representatives of the energy administrations in charge of monitoring and reporting the energy efficiency action plan established in the framework of Directives 2006/32/EC and 2012/27/EU relative to energy efficiency and services, to ensure a necessary harmonization of methodologies, hypotheses and parameters between climate and energy policies quantifications.

When possible, the working group provides estimates of the impact of measures (or groups of measures) on GHG emissions.

For this particular task, it is essential that the composition of the WG gathers representatives of Federal and Regional administrations which are the most closely involved in climate change policy: environment, mobility, economy, energy production, renewable energy sources and rational use of energy,...). Indeed, this participation of all relevant areas ensures coherence and harmonization in the selection of methodologies, parameters and assumptions, that happen to be common in order to quantify the impact of measures on energy savings and GHG emissions.

Procedures for the official consideration and approval of the Member States national system

The national system is being prepared in joint consultation between the WG PAMs and WG projections. The national system and any changes are finally approved by the National Climate Commission.

Description of the information collection process

The collection process for the preparation of the projections and PAM reporting takes place within the regional and federal entities. In the accompanying report on projections and PAM reporting, specific explanations are always given on the origin of the source data used.

The projections start from the (most recent available) energy balances, which are then processed for the future years. Gathering the necessary information to process the data is done in consultation with policy experts, by conducting studies and through literature reviews.

The following information is added specifically for the federal evaluation of the impact of PAMs:

The federal public service health, food chain safety and environment commissioned regular comprehensive evaluations to evaluate the GHG and socio-economic impact of the main group of

federal climate and energy policies (ex-ante and ex-post).

All federal administrations involved in the development and implementation of federal PAMs take part in the steering committee of these studies. These include ministries of transport, energy, finance, etc. The collection of data is made based on the Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)-law of 2016 and subsequent Royal Decree of 2018 (see 'institutional arrangements'). The steering committee discusses data access and availability, and seeks to provide ad hoc solutions, notably in case of interlinkages between federal and regional measures.

In complement to regular commissioned evaluations of policies and measures, the yearly federal governance-cycle that has been put in place in 2021 provides for further development and identification of indicators, evaluation methodologies and subsequent updates of GHG and socio-economic impact evaluations.

Description of the process for selecting assumptions, methodologies and models for making projections of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions

The Working Group Projections starts the preparation of projections the year before the reporting year.

The first step is the choice of assumptions and parameters for the preparation of projections, to ensure a certain level of harmonisation between the 3 bottom-up regional models.

These assumptions include the recommended harmonised values delivered by the Commission for key supra-nationally determined parameters, including carbon prices under the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS), international oil and coal import prices, with the view of ensuring consistency of the aggregated Union projections. However, most of these values are not used in the bottom-up models used by the regions.

Other assumptions and parameters include demographic assumptions by regions, normalized degree-days, reference year for projections, electricity production harmonised at national level, planned nuclear phase-out, road transport volumes, more general choices regarding the possible preparation of WEM and WAM scenario, choices regarding the parameters included in sensitivity analysis...

The set of assumptions and parameters prepared by the Working Group Projections are submitted to the NCC for official approval, before the preparation of regional and federal projections. This approval procedure aims to ensure the quality of the assumptions, the harmonization and comparability of regional projections and eventually the consistency of national GHG projections. The approval by the NCC is also needed to ensure that the assumptions properly reflect current political choices of the federal and regional governments, especially regarding policies and measures or electricity production.

The choice of methodologies and models is made by the different entities and summarized below.

1.9.1 Flemish Region

A Flemish simulation model has been developed in 2014 (with annual updates and regular improvements since then) to construct short term projections for Flanders.

The simulation model is a projection model for energy demand, greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of air pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, PM and VOC) that covers most of the relevant emission sectors (energy sector, industry, waste, agriculture, residential and commercial buildings).

This simulation model works as a "bottom-up" type model, i.e. explaining energy consumptions and emissions from activity variables expressed as far as possible in physical units, and the main determining factors of the evolution of energy demand and emissions.

The model, which includes a database on the energy consumption, emission factors, activity data and reduction effects of climate & energy and air quality policy measures, can be used in particular for:

- the construction of a reference scenario (business as usual), representing the expected future evolution in the absence of any new emission reduction policy based on expected economic and demographic evolutions: With Existing Measures (WEM) Scenario;
- constructing emission reduction scenarios, based on the implementation of a combination of reduction measures With Additional Measures (WAM) Scenarios;
- assessing the impact of existing or draft legislations on energy consumption and emission levels.

1.9.2 Walloon Region

A new model, called « TIMES-Wal » has been developed for Wallonia since 2016. The model is used for reporting purposes for WEM and WAM scenarios..

TIMES-Wal :

- belongs to the “bottom-up” energy system models: it is based on a detailed technological set with associated costs and technical parameters;
- is an integrated model: one change in a sector can impact any other sector;
- is an optimization model;
- covers energy sectors (power sector, industry, residential, commercial, transport);
- has been built in close collaboration between public (the Public Service of Wallonia) and private actors (ICEDD and E4SMA).

Complementary, specific Excel models are used for other sectors (notably for agriculture, waste, LULUCF)

Regularly updating models on the basis on the best available data collected through studies or actors is an important point of attention.

1.9.3 Brussels Capital Region

Brussels Environment has developed its own projection model for energy consumption and atmospheric emissions. The horizon of the projections is 2050. Every two years, the model is calibrated with the most recent regional energy balance, other data needed for the projections is updated as well (population, employment, climate, household size among other information). Projections are calculated for each activity sector, they use the latest inventory emission factors and approaches so coherence with historic data is assured. The calculation of atmospheric pollutants emissions and fuels consumption for road transport is based on the European COPERT IV approach.

The model also takes into account the direct emissions that are not related to energy consumption, since those sectors are not big emitters simplify approaches are used: i.e. the fugitive methane emissions of natural gas delivery, the industrial processes and product use, and waste (composting plant, water treatment plants...).

1.9.4 Federal level

More information on the process for selecting assumptions and methodologies for the evaluation of federal policies and measures can be found in the successive studies available at www.climat.be/evaluation-PAMs

In the context of the projections under the Governance Regulation and to the extent possible, the FPB produces a report with a WEM (and eventually a WAM) scenario based on macro-economic hypotheses (see “Procedural and administrative arrangements”). The projections of GHG emissions are based on the use of the macrosectoral HERMES model suitable to short- and medium term forecasts. The model is also used for variant analysis. Main elements of the report are extracted and included in the final national projection report. In the future, another type of model more in line with the time horizon foreseen in the regulation is envisaged, but will require new human resources.

Institutional administrative and procedural arrangements for domestic implementation of EU's NDC



The EC has enshrined its NDC in its European Climate Law (art. 4): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1119/oj>. The EC is responsible for evaluating the collective efforts of the MS; among other things, it issues recommendations to Member States when their efforts are insufficient. (art. 7).

Each year, the Commission publishes the EU Climate Action Progress Report: an annual report on progress towards the EU's emission reduction targets. The report covers actual (historic) emissions and projected future emissions for the EU as a whole and for every EU Member State. It also includes information on different climate policy areas, EU legislative progress, climate finance and adaptation : Progress on climate action - European Commission (https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/progress-climate-action_en).

At the same time, the EEA is publishing a report entitled 'Trends and projections in Europe'. This report is based on the information submitted by the Member States (under the Governance regulation), which are consulted during the drafting process, in particular via the working groups of the Climate Change Committee. The AEE is also responsible for distributing the various information from the MS in a more readable form : <https://climate-energy.eea.europa.eu/about>.

The EU's joint NDC is monitored in its entirety at EU level only. At MS level, only the underlying objectives and their plans have procedures.

The arrangements for implementing policies and measures as means of domestic implementation and to the arrangements for national projections of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks as means to track domestic fall under the responsibilities of the different entities.

As far as the Flemish Region is concerned, the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 provides the general framework for the implementation and monitoring of energy and climate policy. This plan, which is the Flemish contribution to the National Energy and Climate Plan, sets out the policy lines for the period 2021-2030. It contains action plans and policy packages per sector. An agreement framework (https://assets.vlaanderen.be/image/upload/v1659457090/Visienota_Afsprakenkader_VEKP_1712_2021_jmyu20.pdf) on the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 was approved by the Flemish Government at the end of 2021. This agreement framework contains clear procedures and timing of the successive steps of the energy and climate policy cycle, as well as the role of all ministers, departments and entities. For each measure of the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan, an entity is designated that is responsible for the implementation of this measure. For a significant part of the measures, several government entities and also other actors are involved, although not always as final responsible parties. The Flemish Energy and Climate Agency is responsible for general coordination, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. This plan also provides for annual Flemish progress reporting.

The framework for Brussels Capital Region is established in the Brussels Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the new Air Climate and Energy Plan approved on April 2023. The PACE provides for or institutionalises various governance bodies designed to ensure the coordination and implementation of Brussels' climate policies in a cross-sectoral and integrated manner. It includes the elements that are essential for good governance: (1) an implementation body that puts the measures into operation and monitors them: the Interdisciplinary Climate Unit; (2) an independent expert body that evaluates implementation: the Committee of Climate Experts; (3) a citizens' participation body that relays the concerns of the people of Brussels: the Citizens' Climate Assembly; (4) and a political body responsible for making the necessary decisions, the Regional Climate Committee. Each link, through the mandate entrusted to it, strengthens climate action and improves its monitoring, effectiveness, transparency and coherence. The diagram in attachment illustrates the links between these different governance bodies.

The Air-Climate-Energy Plan is monitored annually in the form of a summary report on the progress

made in implementing the Plan. The report gives an overview of the progress made in putting the plan into operation, after a first year of implementation by the various administrations concerned. The aim of this report is to communicate, in a transparent and objective manner, the information needed to assess the progress of the implementation of the PACE, by means of monitoring indicators. The report also aims to identify any shortcomings in the implementation of the CAPC and to point out the risks identified by the administrations at operational level.

The air-climate-energy plan is also subject to an annual assessment by the Brussels-Capital Region's committee of climate experts. The Committee's remit is to study and evaluate regional public policies each year with regard to medium- and long-term climate objectives. No later than 31 March each year, the Committee simultaneously submits to the Government and Parliament a report containing an assessment of regional climate-related policies and recommendations based on this assessment. This report also covers compliance with the principles of the Climate Ordinance, in particular: the principles of social justice and just transition, mutuality, citizen contribution, progression, integrated pollution reduction, as well as the principle of harmlessness, according to which no measure taken by the regional public authorities can undermine medium- and long-term climate objectives. This report is examined each year by the Brussels Parliament on Climate Day, 15 June.

In Wallonia, the Walloon Air Climate and Energy Plan (PACE 2030) provides the general framework for the implementation and monitoring of energy and climate policy (see chapter 6 on governance). The Government is responsible for the practical implementation of the PACE and has various bodies and tools at its disposal to ensure the relevance, adherence, and implementation of the actions. A steering committee is responsible for both monitoring and proposing the necessary adjustments to the Government to achieve the objectives. In order to optimize the monitoring and the implementation of the transversal measures of the Plan, an inter-administration working group was created.

The federal policy governance cycle is described above in section 1.2.4. The cycle ensures that the relevant federal ministers and secretaries of state are empowered to make their own contribution to implementing and strengthening climate policy. The federal task force (TF) set up as an administrative body, made up of representatives of the relevant federal public services and programs, federal public institutions and public enterprises is in place to discuss priorities, hypothesis and methodologies. It is responsible for several key tasks:

- Developing, reviewing and updating the federal contribution to the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (NECP);
- Monitoring the implementation and impact of federal policies and measures, in line with the federal governance cycle;
- Preparing the technical analysis and impact assessment of additional or reinforced policies and measures. This analysis includes assessment of the effects in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption (final, primary and renewable) and the evolution of the energy system, as well as the macroeconomic, environmental and social effects falling within their remit;
- Contributing to the organization and monitoring of stakeholder consultation processes and dialogue on climate and energy at various levels (e.g. through climate roundtables).

The TF is co-chaired by the Directors General of DG Environment of FPS Health and DG Energy of FPS Economy. The TF's permanent secretariat is provided by the Climate Change Department.

TF members must submit progress reports each year by March 1, along with any requests for funding to use the federal share of Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) revenues for new or enhanced policies and measures. Each year, the Climate Change Department compiles and analyzes progress reports on federal policies and measures in a summary report, with a view to adjusting existing measures and/or establishing new policies. This report is made public annually, forwarded to Parliament and submitted to the Climate Science Council and advisory bodies for their opinion.

To track progress, the Climate Change Department is also conducting PAMs evaluation studies of the Federal and National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 available on www.climat.be/evaluation-PAMs.

Formality

Legal arrangements

In the Belgian federal system, responsibilities and policy-making powers regarding climate policy are shared between the Federal State and the three Regions (the Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions). Therefore, climate change policies are designed and implemented by the federal and regional governments, which set up their own priorities and objectives within the scope of their powers.

Regions have major responsibilities in areas such as rational use of energy, 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 fiscal policy. It is also responsible for product policies (norms, 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 territorial waters, which implies that it is also responsible for the development of offshore wind farms.

In order to ensure consistency between climate policies put in place by the different authorities and promote cooperation between these authorities, a Cooperation agreement was adopted on 14 November 2002. This cooperation agreement was set up to establish a National climate plan, and make sure that Belgium commits to its reporting obligations in the context of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto protocol and the EU governance regulation. It has established a National Climate Commission, which has overall responsibility for the execution of the cooperation agreement and for the establishment and follow-up of the climate policy in the National Energy and Climate plan. It is assisted by a permanent secretariat. In particular, the National Climate Commission has the following responsibilities:

- Ensure the exchange of information and reports between the parties (Federal state and Regions) on progress in implementing policies and measures contained in the National climate plan;
- Undertake the reporting obligations in the context of the governance regulation and the UNFCCC, in collaboration with the relevant departments and the Coordination Committee for international environmental policy (CCIEP);
- Make sure that methodologies, procedures, data analysis, projections used by the Parties to the agreement are compatible and, if possible, harmonized.
- Evaluate, in the last quarter of each year, the federal and interregional coordination and cooperation as well as the level of execution and impact (ecological, social and economic) of the policies and measures taken on the basis of the National Climate Plan. The results, reductions and projections will be compared to targets. On this basis, the National Climate Commission makes its proposals to the Extended Interministerial Conference for the Environment to improve cooperation and correct the National Climate Plan.

This cooperation agreement also contains specific provisions and obligations for the Federal state and the Regions in relation to data collection and exchange, and the establishment of reports:

- Regions are committed to submit every year to the National Climate Commission a report containing the required information allowing the federal government to report data in accordance with guidelines under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol, and with the provisions of the EU

governance regulation.

- The Federal state is committed to submit an annual report to the National Climate Commission on relevant socio-economic indicators, including basis statistics.
- The Federal state and the Regions are committed to submit annually and in an harmonised manner a progress report to the National Climate Commission on the implementation of the policies and measures contained in the National climate plan, which are relevant to their competences.

Alignment with other reporting frameworks

GHG inventory reporting

It is the responsibility of the different entities to ensure consistency with the greenhouse gas inventory. In addition, the Belgian compilation is also double-checked with the Belgian inventory and consultation and exchange of information (including the inventory) takes place within the National Climate Commission on a continuous basis between the various working groups.

Article 17 of the Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (NECPR)

It is the responsibility of the different entities to ensure coordination between climate and energy reporting. The energy and climate administration in the three regions has been merged or work closely together. This automatically results in greatly improved cooperation and internal coordination of the climate and energy reports.

For the purpose of preparing National Energy and Climate Plans and related progress reporting in implementation of the Governance Regulation, a CONCERE-NCC joint steering committee has been set up. The preparation and approval of the PAM progress reporting is done in cooperation between NCC and CONCERE. The preparation and approval of the national projections of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions is the responsibility of the NCC.

Accountability and transparency

Quality control activities

The objectives of QA/QC activities are to improve transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness, accuracy and timeliness in national projections.

- Transparency means that the assumptions and methodologies used should be clearly explained to facilitate assessment by users of the reported information.
- Consistency means that projections should be internally consistent in all elements over a period of historic and future years.
- Comparability means that estimates of emissions and removals reported should be comparable among Regions.
- Completeness means that all required information is reported.
- Accuracy means that projected estimates should be accurate in the sense that the reported trends are plausible as far as can be judged based on historic trends and surrogate datasets if available and that uncertainties inherent to the methodology and input data are reduced as far as practicable.

The Working group PAMs and the Working Group Projections of the National Climate Commission are responsible for the implementation of the QA/QC activities.

1.8.1 Projections

Quality assurance and control procedures are performed at several stages during the preparation

of the national GHG projections.

Firstly, quality control checks of national GHG projections are performed by the Working Group Projections during the compilation. These QC checks aim at maintaining the quality of regional projections as they are being compiled and ensure the completeness and consistency of the projections. To ensure completeness, all regions make use of the import template (downloaded from Reportnet) to report their GHG projections to the Working Group Projections. The QC checks include internal time series consistency, accurate aggregation of sectors, proper allocation of different sources and sink categories by gas and cross-checks of the compiled data by the different regional experts within the Working Group.

In addition to the Working Group checks, prior validation and verification work is done upstream by each region. This work consists in trends analysis and cross-validation by different regional actors. For instance, in Brussels Capital Region, trend analysis is done for the activity data and the resulting emissions to identify and correct outliers, there are also a series of crossed validation check done between the members of the projection team. The projected emissions of energy production, industry, commercial, residential, railways and inland navigation are calibrated with the regional energy balance. Moreover, all projected emissions are established in accordance with the regional emission inventories methodologies in order to assure consistency between the 2 data sets. Finally, mobility projections are compared with other existing projection models developed in the region to assure coherence of the calculation.

Secondly, quality assurance checks of the Belgian GHG projections are carried out by the EEA's ETC/ACM to review the quality of the reported projections against quality criteria as specified in the Union System for Policies and Measures and Projections and the Quality Assurance and Control (QA/QC) programme as required under governance regulation.

An additional quality check to ensure accuracy consists of the comparison of the compiled regional bottom-up projections with national projections calculated by the FPB based on a macro-sectoral top-down econometric model (HERMES) (to the extent that HERMES projections are available, see "Procedural and administrative arrangements").

The top-down projections differ from the bottom-up projections in the way emissions are allocated and in the selected approach following the IPCC inventory guidelines (for example used tier levels).

1.8.2 Policies and measures

The quality improvement of the PAMs monitoring is linked to the estimate of PAMs impacts on the GHG emissions. It depends on:

- The quality of the collected data: availability, pertinence, dispersion of values, uncertainty/accuracy;
- Assumptions needed to model and calculate the impacts of PAMs on GHG emissions;
- Coherence and harmonization of data and assumptions used in the climate policy framework and in other domains (i.e. Energy efficiency).

The following information is added specifically for the federal evaluation of the impact of PAMs:

Evaluation studies conducted for the Federal administration of environment assess the impacts of sets of measures. In the context of those studies data quality and coherence of assumptions are also documented, estimated and discussed among the partners in the WG PAMs www.climat.be/evaluation-PAMs. The improvement of the quality of the impact evaluation of PAMs is ensured by successive and recurrent evaluation cycles (see 'procedural and administrative arrangements' and 'description of the information collection process').

Public participation

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement falls under the responsibilities of the different entities. In general, it can be noted that stakeholder consultation is provided for in various ways in the preparation of new policies/policy plans, including the expected impact and projections, in line with the EU regulations on those aspects. The following stakeholders are consulted:

- Advisory councils of different sectors.
- Structural consultations with civil society organizations, companies, local authorities, and research institutions. These consultations can be thematic (about for ex. renewable energy, energy efficiency, flexibility or data) or more transversal informing the stakeholders about the overall process of monitoring and updating the Energy and Climate Plan of the entity. During these consultations, stakeholders have the opportunity to give their input.
- Public consultations targeting citizens.

For example, consultations carried out within the framework of the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 are described in the Plan.

Contact information for entities with overall responsibility for National Systems

The National system for policies and measures and projections and the quality assurance and control programme currently in place in Belgium in application of the Governance Regulation has been prepared by the following entities:

Walloon Agency for Air and Climate (AWAC)
Av. Prince de Liège 7/2 5100 Jambes Belgium
Telephone +32 (0) 81-33 59 54
<http://www.awac.be/index.php>

Flemish Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA)
Postadres: Koning Albert II-laan 15 bus 460, 1210 Brussel
Bezoekadres: Havenlaan 88, 1000 Brussel
<https://www.vlaanderen.be/veka>
E-Mail: margot.vancauter@vlaanderen.be

Brussels Environment
Avenue du Port 86C/3000 B-1000 Bruxelles – Belgium
Telephone +32 (0)2 563 43 38
<http://www.environnement.brussels/>
E-Mail: mcadena@environnement.brussels

Federal Planning Bureau
Avenue des Arts, 47-49 – 1000 Brussels – Belgium
<http://www.plan.be>
E-Mail: Ingrid.Bracke@plan.be

Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and the Environment
DG Environment - Climate Change
Avenue Galilée, 5 Box 2
B-1040 Brussels - Belgium
<http://www.climatechange.be>



E-Mail: climate@health.fgov.be

The overall responsibility is borne by the National Climate Commission (see also institutional, legal and procedural arrangements in place for preparation of reports).