

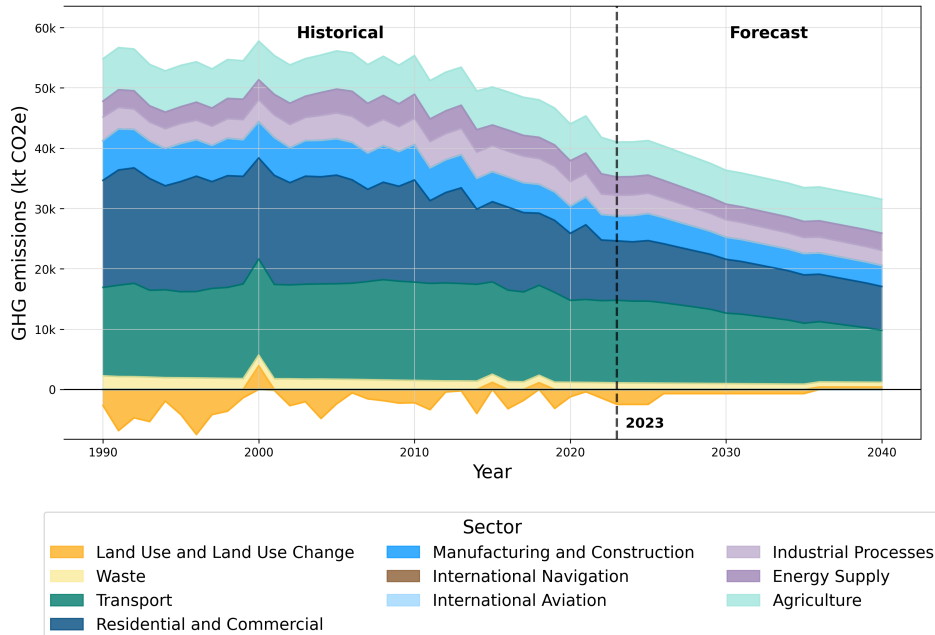


National system for policies and measures and greenhouse gas projections of Switzerland

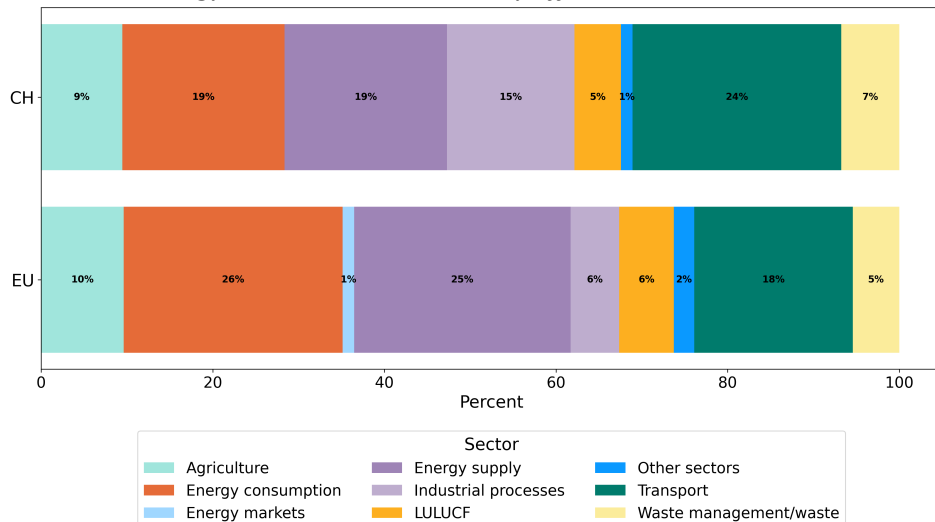
Information reported in 2025

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 Switzerland in 2025, enabled by the national system, as laid out below.

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



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



Institutional and procedural robustness

Institutional arrangements

The Federal Constitution (Swiss Confederation, 1999a) forms the overarching framework for environmental and climate policy in Switzerland. The Swiss government has established a 2030 Agenda steering committee, which defines the priorities for action and oversees implementation and monitoring of progress. The intention is to make sustainability assessments an integral part of decision-making and policy evaluation. Further, by decision of the Swiss Federal Council, an interdepartmental committee on climate of the federal authorities ('IDA-Klima') was established as of 14 April 2008. The committee is responsible for the coordination between different policy areas and assures a coherent climate policy of the Swiss Confederation. The committee, led by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, thus coordinates the activities of all federal offices involved in climate policy. This includes both preparation of reports and reporting on both policies and measures and on projections. As stipulated in Article 39 of Switzerland's second CO₂ Act (Swiss Confederation, 2011) and more generally also in Article 12 of the Ordinance on the Organisation of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (Swiss Confederation, 1999b), the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment is responsible for matters relating to climate protection. The related Ordinance on the Reduction of CO₂ Emissions (Swiss Confederation, 2012), in its chapter 11, details the responsibilities for the implementation of specific measures.

Swiss Confederation, 1999a: Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 18.04.1999). Swiss Confederation. <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 1999b: Ordinance on the Organisation of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of 06.12.1999. Swiss Confederation. <https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19996045/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 2011: Federal Act on the Reduction of CO₂ Emissions (Second CO₂ Act) of 23.12.2011. Swiss Confederation. <http://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20091310/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 2012: Ordinance on the Reduction of CO₂ Emissions (CO₂ Ordinance) of 30.11.2012. Swiss Confederation. <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20120090/index.html>

Switzerland's first biennial transparency report under the Paris Agreement, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Bern, Switzerland, December 2024. <http://www.climatereporting.ch>

Procedural and administrative arrangements and timescales

In practice, National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports under the UNFCCC are prepared involving a wide range of government and scientific community experts knowledgeable in the topics covered (see the imprint of the Swiss National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports).

On behalf of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) all relevant Offices are asked for their contributions about a year before the due time for National Communication or Biennial Transparency Report. Experts of each Office are defined and provide necessary input, while coordination is granted by an expert of FOEN. All experts are responsible for QA/QC measures to ensure timeliness, transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability and completeness.

An internal review is conducted with all reviewers reviewing only parts, which have been prepared by other colleagues. Accordingly, a four-eyes principle is applied.

Specific arrangements concerning each criterion:

1. Timeliness

Well established schedule.

Clear and timely communication with involved people.

2. Transparency

Clear documentation of methodologies, assumptions, and sources used in both PaMs and projections.

Use of standardized reporting templates provided by the EEA.

Invite relevant stakeholders to participate in the reporting process.

3. Accuracy

Implementation of QA/QC procedures, including reviews and expert validation.

Use of up-to-date and verified data (latest BTR).

Calibration of models with historical data and cross-checking with emissions inventories.

Training and capacity-building for new staff, provide manuals, explanations and/or checklists.

Periodic external review.

4. Consistency

Harmonization with national greenhouse gas inventory methods (IPCC 2006, 2019 Guidelines).

Central coordination team to oversee consistency between various submissions (e.g. GHG inventories, projections).

Archiving past reports for traceability and reference.

5. Comparability

Adherence to EEA and UNFCCC reporting guidelines to allow cross-country comparison.

Use of common reporting formats and units.

Explanation of national circumstances or deviations where relevant to contextualize differences.

6. Completeness

Comprehensive mapping and inclusion of all relevant sectors and GHGs (IPCC 2006, 2019).

Cross-checking against national climate strategies, energy plans, and legal obligations to ensure the most important policies or measures are included.

Maintenance of a central spreadsheet of PaMs to track all relevant developments over time.

Internal reviews to verify that both qualitative and quantitative data are fully reported to the extent possible.

The content of National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports is subject to review by "IDA-Klima", an interdepartmental committee on climate of the federal authorities.

Reporting on policies and measures (PaM) and projections to the EEA relies on the information given in the latest National Communication and Biennial Transparency Report. Hence, Swiss reporting on PaM and Projections is based on the most recent but already published data.

Switzerland's first biennial transparency report under the Paris Agreement, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Bern, Switzerland, December 2024. <http://www.climatereporting.ch>

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

The national inventory system supervisory board (NISSB) is responsible for the official consideration of Switzerland's National Inventory Report and also National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports. The board is as well responsible for the recommendation for official approval by the directorate of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. The same procedures

apply concerning official consideration and approval of the national system. Policies and measures and projections are parts of National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports, which are also circulated in an interdepartmental committee on climate of the federal authorities (“IDA-Klima”) for review before official consideration and approval.

Description of the information collection process

Switzerland collects the information needed for the reporting on policies and measures within the cycles of National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports. Under the auspices of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment all relevant federal offices are consulted and the respective sectoral experts update the reporting with regard to changes to existing policies and measures. Thereby, recently added policies and measures are included and the estimates of mitigation impacts of all policies and measures are updated. Arrangements to update the reporting on projections are similar.

National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports are subject to review by an interdepartmental committee on climate of the federal authorities (“IDA-Klima”). Next, reports are consulted within Switzerland’s National Inventory System Supervisory Board (NISSB) and approved by the directorate of the Federal Office for the Environment.

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment is also responsible for the reporting on policies and measures and projections to EEA. To maintain consistency, information from Switzerland’s reporting obligations to the UNFCCC is used to the extent possible.

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

All contributing experts are responsible for selecting assumptions, methodologies and models in an appropriate way, hence it is:

- based on comprehensible and transparently documented principles,
- based on scientifically sound findings,
- following the binding methodological requirements for climate reporting (EEA, IPCC, UNFCCC guidelines),
- following the time schedules of preparations of various reporting obligations.

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

As a non-member state Switzerland is not obliged to domestic implementation of the EU’s nationally determined contribution (NDC).

Switzerland’s NDC is available: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

Switzerland’s long-term strategy is available: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies>

Formality

Legal arrangements

As a non-EU member state Switzerland reports on a voluntary basis on policies and measures and on projections. Switzerland's climate policy is based on the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, in particular Article 74 (environmental protection) and Article 89 (energy policy). Additionally, the most relevant Acts and Ordinances are given here (CO2 Act and Climate Act).

Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 18.04.1999. Swiss Confederation. <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 2011: "CO2 Act": Federal Act on the Reduction of CO2 Emissions (Second CO2 Act) of 23.12.2011. Swiss Confederation. <http://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20091310/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 2012: Ordinance on the Reduction of CO2 Emissions (CO2 Ordinance) of 30.11.2012. Swiss Confederation. <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20120090/index.html>

Swiss Confederation, 2022: «Climate Act, Law on climate protection, innovation and strengthening energy security": Bundesgesetz über die Ziele im Klimaschutz, die Innovation und die Stärkung der Energiesicherheit (KIG) 814.310, 30.09.2022 <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2023/655/de>

Swiss Confederation, 2024: Verordnung zum Bundesgesetz über die Ziele im Klimaschutz, die Innovation und die Stärkung der Energiesicherheit (Klimaschutz-Verordnung, KIV), 814.310.1, 27.11.2024 <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2024/772/de>

Alignment with other reporting frameworks

GHG inventory reporting

The reporting concerning National Communications, Biennial Transparency Reports and National Inventory are based on the same National System. There is only one data base used. Data are perfectly aligned.

Detailed information on the National Inventory System is documented in FOEN 2024a.

FOEN 2024a: Switzerland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990–2022: National Inventory Document and reporting tables (CRT). Submission of April 2024 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Paris Agreement. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. <http://www.climatereporting.ch>

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

Switzerland, as a non-member state, is not required to report under Art. 17 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

The aforementioned interdepartmental committee on climate of the federal authorities ('IDA-Klima') is responsible for the coordination between different policy areas and assures a coherent climate policy of the Swiss Confederation.

The national energy policy and the national climate policy are strongly linked, and the Swiss Federal Office for Energy (SFOE) and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) have a well-established collaboration. Policies and measures that address energy and climate issues are implemented jointly by both offices.

Accountability and transparency

Quality control activities

All contributing experts are responsible for taking necessary QA/QC measures. Preparation of data and internal review activities are split, so that a four-eyes principle is applied.

The quality management system (QMS) for policies and measures and projections is leaning on the system set up for the national greenhouse gas inventory, as the reporting on policies and measures and projections is coordinated by the same team as the greenhouse gas inventory. However, the QMS for PaMs and projections is much less formalised.

The national inventory system has an established quality management system (QMS) that complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. Certification has been obtained in 2007 and is upheld since through annual audits. The quality management system is designed to comply with the revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.3) to ensure and continuously improve transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness, accuracy, and confidence in national greenhouse gas emission and removal estimates. A detailed description of the QA/QC procedures, including verification plans, is given in FOEN 2024a (see section 1.2. National circumstances and institutional arrangements) and in the quality manual (FOEN, 2024b).

FOEN 2024a: Switzerland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990–2022: National Inventory Document and reporting tables (CRT). Submission of April 2024 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Paris Agreement. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. <http://www.climatereporting.ch>

FOEN, 2024b: Qualitätsmanagement Treibhausgasinventar – Handbuch. Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. [confidential/internal]

Public participation

Stakeholder engagement

The Swiss political system offers far-reaching possibilities to interested stakeholders for participation in policy-making and policy review processes (see section II.A National circumstances and institutional arrangements of BTR1). In Switzerland, the preparation of National Communications under the UNFCCC is not considered an element of policy-making or policy review. Rather, National Communications serve as a means to give account of policy implementation towards an international audience.

In view of this and given the presence of three official languages in Switzerland (none of which is English), public participation in the preparation or domestic review of national communications – and hence of policies and measures and projections – under the UNFCCC is considered neither particularly useful nor necessary. The original report itself is brought to the attention of the public by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. They may be downloaded via the website of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (e.g. at <http://www.climatereporting.ch>) or ordered from the Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics.

See e.g. “Switzerland's climate policy”, 2018, <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/climate/publications-studies/publications/klima-politik-der-schweiz.html>

BTR1:

Switzerland's first biennial transparency report under the Paris Agreement, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Bern, Switzerland, December 2024. <http://www.climatereporting.ch>



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