

The need for a binding 2030 energy savings target alongside binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energies

The debate is heating up: what should Europe's post-2020 climate and energy targets be?

Friends of the Earth Europe and Climate Action Network Europe believe that the 'combined' approach adopted for 2020 – with targets for greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies and energy savings – is best and must be repeated. But with one fundamental difference. **If the EU is serious about tackling climate change and decarbonising its energy system, energy savings targets for 2020, 2030 and beyond must be legally binding.** Legally binding targets will ensure:

- **Ambitious emission reductions:** The Commission's '*Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050*' shows that reduced energy consumption is a precondition for meeting the EU's mid to long-term emission reduction objectivesⁱ. All decarbonisation scenarios in the Commission's '*Energy Roadmap 2050*' rely on very significant reductions in energy useⁱⁱ. Similarly, the International Energy Agency estimates that already by 2035, half of the EU's emission cuts must be delivered through energy savings policiesⁱⁱⁱ.
- **Balanced budgets:** Can the EU afford not to save energy? Dutch research group ECOFYS estimates that meeting the EU's 20% by 2020 energy savings target would deliver €200 billion net savings per year^{iv}. Similar or higher annual savings can be expected by 2030, provided effective energy savings policies are put in place.
- **Energy security, businesses opportunities and new jobs:** The EU spends over €400 billion per year on energy imports^v. This is one of the greatest transfers of wealth in the world. Putting this money towards measures to reduce energy consumption would not only eliminate import dependency, it would be a huge stimulus for European businesses and jobs.
- **Resource efficiency:** Quite apart from its financial and environmental costs – including air pollution and climate change – the EU's energy consumption represents an unsustainable use of natural resources. Saving energy is key if we are to stop using more resources than the earth can sustainably provide.



The EU cannot afford not to reduce energy use. **But even though efficiency measures are cost-effective, they are not automatic.** Even a very high carbon price would not be enough to ensure savings happen. Innovation and investment are needed to overcome the barriers to saving energy, and experience shows that, when it comes to climate and energy policy, change doesn't happen without binding targets. Indicative goals, such as the EU's 20% by 2020 energy savings target, have proved entirely ineffective^{vi}.

The European Commission is currently making key decisions on its 2030 climate and energy policy and needs to act fast to get it right. It is crucial for the Commission to deliver a credible EU climate and energy policy and recognise that energy savings targets for 2020 and 2030 must be legally binding.

Contact:

Brook Riley, Friends of the Earth Europe
brook.riley@foeeurope.org, +32 (0)2 893 1030

Erica Hope, Climate Action Network Europe
erica@caneurope.org, +32 (0)2 894 4671

ⁱ EU Commission: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0112:EN:NOT>. See page 5 : *'If the EU delivers on its current policies, including its commitment to reach 20% renewables, and achieve 20% energy efficiency by 2020, this would enable the EU to outperform the current 20% emission reduction target and achieve a 25% reduction by 2020'*

ⁱⁱ EU Commission: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0885:EN:NOT>. See 'graph 3' page 8, or the following extract page 7: *'Very significant energy savings would need to be achieved in all decarbonisation scenarios'*

ⁱⁱⁱ 2012 presentation from International Energy Agency to the Coalition for Energy Savings. Presentation is available on request

^{iv} ECOFYS: http://www.ecofys.com/files/files/ecofys_can_foe_2012_saving_energy.pdf. See page 11: *'for every €1 of direct energy cost savings, an additional €1 could be saved due to lower energy prices. Therefore, net additional annual cost savings of the order of €100 billion can be expected on top of the €107 billion that will result from implementing cost-effective energy savings measures'*.

^v 2012 presentation from International Energy Agency to the Coalition for Energy Savings. Presentation is available on request

^{vi} EU Commission: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0109:EN:HTML:NOT> ; page 2: before the 2012 Energy Efficiency Directive it was estimated that the EU would achieve roughly 10% savings in 2020, compared to its stated objective of 20% savings.