



REPORT

EU

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BY:



MaxiMiser

STRATEGIES FOR A LOW CARBON EU BY 2050

A CLIMATE FOR THE FUTURE

Assessing EU Member States'
Low-Carbon Development
Strategies and lessons for
Energy Union governance

**An update - the outlook
in October 2017**

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MaxiMiseR

STRATEGIES FOR A LOW CARBON EU BY 2050

About Maximiser

The EU and other industrialised countries have pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030, and by 80-95% by 2050. EU Member States must produce 'Low-Carbon Development Strategies' (LCDS) to show how they will do so. Ensuring that these LCDS are ambitious and of a high quality, and are developed in a participative, transparent manner, is key to meeting the EU's emissions reductions goals. Helping this to happen is the aim of the MaxiMiseR project. MaxiMiseR is funded by the EU LIFE Programme for the Environment and the MAVA Foundation.

www.maximiser.eu



About WWF

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. The WWF European Policy Office contributes to the achievement of WWF's global mission by leading the WWF network to shape EU policies impacting on the European and global environment.

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INTRODUCTION



On 30 November 2016 the European Commission published its proposal for Energy Union governance beyond 2020. If agreed by the European Parliament and Council, the proposal will require Member States to produce long-term low carbon strategies - a key commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. However, this would not be the first piece of EU legislation requiring Member States to produce such plans. National 'Low-Carbon Development Strategies' (LCDS) for 2050 are already stipulated by the EU's 2013 Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR). Member States were required to hand in such long-term plans by 2015, and report on their progress in March 2017. However, only a minority of Member States have met these obligations.

The 'MaxiMiseR' project, funded by the EU's LIFE programme and the Mava Foundation, aims to help ensure that all EU Member States produce effective and ambitious LCDS which can deliver an efficient transition to decarbonised economies and societies. In March 2017, MaxiMiseR published the results of the assessment of the LCDS submitted by EU Member States in 2015 under the MMR. MaxiMiseR has given each LCDS a score based on scoring criteria that covering elements such as long-term vision, ambition, credibility and scientific basis, and whether the plan was developed in a transparent and participative manner. Those assessments were based solely on the analysis of the documentation submitted to the European Environment Agency in 2015, in accordance with the obligation in the MMR.

BOX 1: THE MAXIMISER PROJECT DEFINITION OF A LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A Low-Carbon Development Strategy is a country's plan for cutting its greenhouse gas emissions while securing the well-being and prosperity of its citizens. The Paris Agreement aims to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees and drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. A Strategy should set clear goals to at least 2050 and explain how they will be achieved. It should be based on the best scientific understanding and on a transparent process involving stakeholder participation.

Over the second half of 2017, the MaxiMiseR team repeated the analysis. In this round of evaluations, we did not restrict ourselves to officially submitted 'Low-Carbon Development Strategies' but, looked for strategies using other information sources (news articles/government websites). What's more, the team assessed strategies that were produced and/or submitted after the March 2017 MMR deadline¹.

Our research closed at the end of October 2017².

This brief report summarises our findings.

1 For further information on our findings and recommendations, as well as a full description of the MaxiMiseR assessment tool and methodology, please consult the report *-A Climate for our Future- Assessing EU Member States' Low-Carbon Development Strategies and lessons for Energy Union Governance*.

2 The European Commission, in its third State of the Energy Union report published in November 2017, also has details of Member State efforts to produce long term low emissions strategies.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/annex-3-progress-national-energy-climate-plans_en.pdf.

BOX 2: GOVERNANCE REGULATION

The European Commission has proposed a Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union which aims to ensure that the EU's climate and energy policies and measures are coherent, complementary and sufficiently ambitious. This legislative proposal is being scrutinised and amended by the European Council and the European Parliament individually, before these two institutions come together to agree the final law.

The proposal requires EU Member States to produce integrated national energy and climate plans for the period from 2021 to 2030, with subsequent plans covering the subsequent decades. The proposal also requires Member States to prepare and report to the Commission by 1 January 2020 and every 10 years thereafter their long-term low emission strategies with a 50 years perspective. Moreover, the proposal requires both the plans for 2030 and the 50 year strategies to be consistent with one another.

While there is a lot of detail in the proposed Governance Regulation on the content and processes related to the 2030 and subsequent decadal plans, very little is said about what the long-term plans should include or how they should be developed. Article 14 on Long-term low emissions strategies says that the strategies should contribute to fulfilling EU commitments under the Paris Agreement, including the objective of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The experience of the MaxiMiseR project, including the assessments of current Member State long-term decarbonisation strategies presented in this report, has shown the importance of clear guidance on what such strategies should cover, and how they should be developed. The EU institutions and Member States would likely see better delivery and quality of long-term decarbonisation plans if the agreed Governance Regulation included a clear template for the content, development and review of such plans. This reflects the essential elements in the guidance report produced by the Maximiser project.

The Governance Regulation should also adopt a new EU 2050 emissions reduction target that is in line with the goal of the Paris Agreement. The regulation should also require all EU Member States to adopt national 2050 emissions reduction targets which are in line with the new EU target. All of these targets should be legally binding and supported in national legislation.

Key findings and recommendations

Carrying out an update to our evaluation of low carbon development strategies has provided some hope that new Member State strategies (see Estonia for example) will increasingly incorporate the essential elements of strong 2050 climate plans in their 2050 strategies.

However, the overwhelming message from our study is that not much has actually changed in the European LCDS landscape between 2015 and 2017. There is an urgent need for both the EU and Member States to address this, including when legislating for long-term plans under the Governance Regulation, in order for the EU's international climate commitments to be respected. More specifically:

Finding 1

Only thirteen out of twenty-eight Member States have strategies which qualify as LCDS under the MaxiMiseR criteria in 2017. This is four years after they were due to submit them, and seven years after they and other industrialised countries committed to produce such strategies at the 2010 Cancun climate conference³.

Finding 2

Eight Member States did not submit a progress report on their national LCDS to the European Environment Information and Observation Network by March 2017, and MaxiMiseR was unable to find evidence of such documents from other sources. These countries were Poland, Malta, Luxembourg, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia and Sweden. However, we are aware, from other sources, that countries - such as Sweden, Portugal and Spain- are currently developing frameworks for long term climate strategies.

Recommendations

The Energy Union governance regulation must include enforcement mechanisms and regular review. Any framework for long-term strategies, such as the Commission's proposed governance regulation, needs a clear enforcement mechanism which ensures that all Member States deliver their strategies on time. Such a mechanism should also require a Member State to regularly review its strategy – preferably in a way consistent with the five-yearly review processes set out in the Paris Agreement. Such a framework require plans to run to 2050 in order to focus attention on the long (but foreseeable) term. This would allow the benefit of the long-term analyses which have already been done in the EU and elsewhere to be reaped, and it would bring the EU in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement for mid-century strategies.

Climate plans should be binding. In order to provide the stability needed for investors to have confidence in long-term decarbonisation strategies, they should be legally binding, or should be clearly designed to implement long term targets which are enshrined in law. There is a clear benefit to having a single, national, legal framework for 2050 climate plans, including relevant targets and processes.

³ http://unfccc.int/meetings/cancun_nov_2010/meeting/6266.php

Finding 3

The quality of the LCDS evaluated varies enormously with scores of 78% in the case of France and 25% in the case of the draft LCDS from Cyprus (see table 1 below). This is similar to what we found in our previous report on the 2015 LCDS. **The thirteen LCDS submitted or updated in 2017 have an average score of 56%, which is slightly higher than the 2015 average of 50.5%** This improvement is thanks to the quality of the new LCDS as well as the strengthening of some of the updated LCDS.

Recommendations

The European Commission should provide Member States with guidance on their 2050 climate plans.

Clear requirements for these strategies through templates and guidance would help ensure that all Member States produce higher quality strategies. The MaxiMiseR project has delivered detailed guidelines for Member States on the development of high quality long-term climate strategies.

TABLE 1: LCDS QUALITY SCORES AND RANKING-UPDATE OCTOBER 2017

Member State	Rank 2017	Score 2017	Score 2015 (Rank 2015)
France	1	78%	78% (1)
Ireland	2	75%	41% (8)
United Kingdom	3	72%	71% (2)
Finland	4	68%	68% (3)
Netherlands	5	68%	54% (5)
Estonia	6	63%	---
Lithuania	7	58%	58% (4)
Czech Republic	8	52%	---
Germany	9	52%	38% (9)
Portugal	10	49%	49% (6)
Denmark	11	44%	43% (7)
Greece	12	32%	32% (10)
Cyprus	13	25%	25% (11)

Two Member States which had 2050 strategies in 2015 have new LCDS (the United Kingdom and Germany). **Germany's score has considerably increased** (from 38% to 52%) while **the score for the United Kingdom has increased slightly** (from 71% to 72%).

Two Member States without LCDS in 2015 now have LCDS (the Czech Republic and Estonia). Both scored close to the average (the average score is 56%, the Czech Republic scored 52%, Estonia scored 63%).

Three Member States with LCDS analysed in the first MaxiMiseR evaluation have submitted documents/information which we considered as integral to their LCDS and were therefore assessed (Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands). This assessment was integrated into MaxiMiseR's previous evaluation to provide a new quality score. For Ireland in particular (from 41% to 75%) and also for the Netherlands (from 54% to 68%) the increase in LCDS quality has been considerable. For Denmark, this integration has had little impact on the score (from 43% previously to 44% now)

TABLE 2: THE MAXIMISER PROJECT HAS IDENTIFIED TEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A GOOD 2050 CLIMATE AND ENERGY STRATEGY

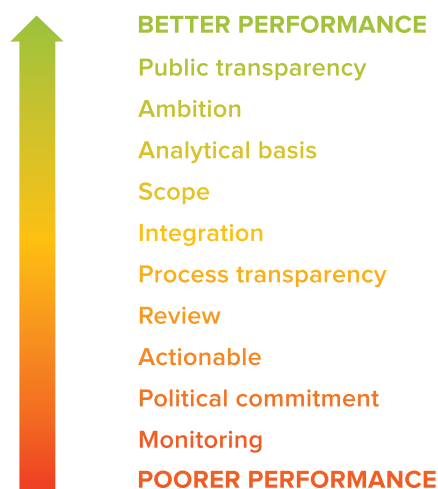
Ambition	Keep global temperature rises below 2°C (pursue 1.5°C limit)
Scope	Be fully cross-sectoral, covering all parts of society and the economy
Actionable	Describe existing and new policies and measures to be taken
Integration	Take account of all relevant strategies and plans
Political commitment	Secure leadership at the highest political level
Monitoring	Provide a clear framework for monitoring, reporting and verifying
Public transparency	Make key information public at all stages of 2050 strategy development
Stakeholder participation	Engage all stakeholders in the development of a 2050 strategy
Analytical basis	Undertake modelling and sensitivity analysis with peer review
Review	Ensure regular review of analytical basis, policies, measures, targets

The MaxiMiseR project has produced guidelines to support Member States in developing their Low Carbon Development Strategies in the report - **Planning to Succeed - how to build strong 2050 climate and energy development strategies**⁴. It is organised around each of these ten criteria and advises on how it can be ensured that adequate attention is given to each of these aspects in an LCDS. A collection of relevant literature is also included in the publication to support further reading.

Overall, Member States LCDSs scored best on public transparency, ambition and analytical basis. The degree to which a plan is actionable, is monitored and benefits from political commitment remain in real need of attention. Figure 2 shows how well Member States do collectively on these criteria, ranking them according to the average scores achieved under each one.

⁴ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57050297356fb0e173a11732/t/593fbb87f5e231cf85bfc01c/1497349039996/WWF+MaxiMiseR_Planning+for+Success+guidance_FINAL.pdf

FIGURE 1 : RANKING CRITERIA FROM BETTER TO POORER PERFORMANCE



Ranking according to average scores

Finding 4

Only seven out of thirteen national LCDSs have emissions reductions targets in line with the pre-Paris Agreement EU goal of 80-95% cuts by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. Since the Paris Agreement raised the level of global ambition, the emissions reductions by developed countries such as EU Member States should also be increased.

Whilst overall ambition is paramount to achieving climate goals, both the literature on, and experience with, low-carbon development strategies point to the fact that it is not just where you want to get to but also how you plan to get there that is important. A high overall quality score for the LCDS and high emission reductions do not necessarily go hand in hand.

Recommendations

EU climate targets are crucial. The EU 2050 Energy Roadmap and other EU climate targets have played a critical - and positive - role in determining the level of Member State LCDS ambition, as well as the strength of their supporting analysis. Therefore ambitious EU targets, accompanied by clear scientifically-based reference scenarios, are central to the ambition of the LCDS developed by Member States.

Climate plans should cover the whole economy. Member States should aim for their LCDS to address the whole economy and to cover emissions of all greenhouse gases, including those from land use and forestry (LULUCF). The strategy should also, separately, include policies and measures aimed at climate adaptation.

TABLE 3: RANKING MEMBER STATES LCDS ACCORDING TO THEIR 2050 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

Rank Member State(s) 2050 emissions reduction target

Economy-wide target

The Netherlands	over 95% reductions in emissions or net-zero goal
Denmark, Finland, The United Kingdom	80-95%
Cyprus, Lithuania, the Czech Republic	80%
Estonia	nearly 80%
France	75%
Portugal	50%

Multi-sectoral target including energy

Germany	GHG neutrality
Ireland	80-95%

Energy sector target only

Greece	60-70%
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NB: Germany & Ireland have a multi sector target including Energy, Greece has a target for the energy sector alone

Finding 5

Our analysis has shown that an LCDS is rarely a single document. In most cases it is a family of documents comprising some of the following;

- 2050 visions,
- legal framework,
- longer and mid-term planning documents,
- shorter term planning documents with details on policies and measures.
- Modelling and/or decarbonisation scenario reports
- Impact assessments
- Reporting frameworks and documents

In some cases this ‘family’ of documents is organised in a simple, transparent and logical manner. In others, there are a number of documents, some more easy to find than others, with significant overlap in both aims and contents (often due to changes in government or a nonsensical division between energy and all other sectors) and as a result there is a distinct issue with the transparency (both in terms of availability and how understandable they are) and communicability of these documents to external stakeholders.

Further Recommendations

- **National 2050 climate targets must be ambitious.** Member States must ensure that they have economy-wide 2050 emissions reduction targets which, at a minimum, are in line with the current EU 2050 emissions reduction goal. Member States should further ensure that their ambition level for 2050 is kept in line with the latest climate science and advancements in technology, including holding global warming to less than 2 degrees and pursuing efforts to keep it below 1.5 degrees.
- **The public must have access to 2050 climate plans.** The European Union should maintain explicit requirements aimed at guaranteeing public access to long term decarbonisation plans and their supporting analyses, data and documents.
- **Climate plans must stretch high and wide.** Member States need to ensure that their long-term decarbonisation strategies take account of broader economic, social and environmental objectives. LCDS implementation should also be shared across government departments as well as the different levels of governance in the Member State concerned. In order to increase the robustness of, and buy-in, into national strategies.
- **Climate plans should be shared.** There is also significant strategic value in sharing plans for decarbonisation with neighbouring countries. The Commission's Governance proposals provide for cooperation of this kind with neighbouring countries, but only with regards to the National Climate and Energy Plans, which are very much focused on the 2030 timescale. There would be benefits in extending such provisions to Long-Term Strategies – if a long-term perspective is not already part of the 2030 planning process in the Member State concerned.
- **Stakeholder involvement should be mandatory in the Energy Union governance regulation.** Member States should ensure that strategy development and implementation processes involve stakeholders fully. The relevant EU legislation should make this a requirement.
- **Monitoring and review is key.** Member States should set up systems which guarantee the regular monitoring and review of their strategies. It is the establishment of these basic mechanisms that turn a country's strategy from a static one-off document into a dynamic decarbonisation process.
- **Climate plans must be action plans.** Member States should state in their strategy the action needed to deliver its targets, including clear timeframes, roles, responsibilities, costs and funding sources for that action. Without this, strategies provide little to no certainty for investors. While providing such details for the full period up to 2050 is challenging, doing so for the shorter-term period (for example as part of a more detailed implementation plan up to 2030) is essential. Facilitating the exchange of best practice on long-term strategies between Member States could be very beneficial in terms of ensuring the quality of long-term climate plans and could help Member States meet the commitment to produce long-term strategies in the Commission's proposals on Governance and under the Paris Agreement.

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY:

A LOOK AT LOW CARBON
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
IN OCTOBER 2017

For more detailed descriptions of the status of low carbon development strategies in Member States in 2015, please refer to the report *A Climate for our Future - Assessing EU Member States' Low-Carbon Development Strategies and lessons for Energy Union Governance*.

Austria

© Photo: Michele Depraz / WWF



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

An update to information on the situation in 2015 was submitted to the EEA EIONET portal. It reports that a 2050 climate target calculator has been completed and is available on the internet. A Green Paper was developed by the four federal ministries in 2016 and an extensive public participation process was underway at the time of writing, with the aim of completing a White Paper in mid -2017. The resulting Strategy is said to focus on compliance with the 2030 objectives and will also give prospects for 2050.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

A report on Austria's progress towards developing a National Low Carbon Development Strategy was submitted to the EEA EIONET in January 2015. The reporting document gives a link to a study 'Energieautarkie für Österreich 2050' (Energy Autonomy for Austria 2050). At the time of submission, no national targets went beyond 2020. The submission stated that following on from the definition of 2030 objectives, Austria was developing a 2050 strategy, in consultation with experts, but no timeline was given regarding its completion.

Belgium

© Photo: Wild Wonders of Europe / Maurizio Biancarelli / WWF



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

The update has included information on interesting developments by the Federal State and the three Regions which are responsible for separately developing their 2050 strategies. We are aware that since 2016 Flanders has been working on a multi-sector stakeholder process aimed at the adoption of a Flemish Climate Vision 2050 and a Flemish Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 in 2018. The Walloon Region has approved its five year emissions budget for the 2016-2022 period. The Brussels Capital Region is developing their 2050 strategy based on the 2050 strategy scenarios which they have already delivered. It is unclear from this update as to whether the final strategies (none of these undertakings appear to be fully-fledged 2050 strategies yet) will be merged into a single strategy.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Belgium did not have an LCDS at the time of submission. Belgian Federal Law states that Belgian greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced domestically by at least 80 to 95 percent in 2050, compared to their 1990 level (Federal State long term policy vision for sustainable development 2013). The Federal State and the three Regions have a shared competence regarding climate change. The vision and the scenarios on which the future LCDS will be based were illustrated in the document submitted in 2015. The National Climate Commission had mandated its Working Group 'Policies and Measures' to further develop the Belgian LCDS in view of its submission by 2017.

Bulgaria



© Photo: Michael Gutthner / WWF

Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

In the update submitted to the EEA EIONET portal, the NAPCC has been submitted once again as the country's LCDS. It is described in detail in the reporting template. The first official report on the implementation of the Plan is set to be drafted in 2017 and the second in 2021.

The interinstitutional working group (IWG) is said to have been set up to assess the need for revision/update of the NAPCC and will make appropriate recommendations for updating (along with specific deadlines). However, there is no information on when this might be updated to cover periods beyond 2020.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

The Third National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) for the period 2013-2020 was submitted as an LCDS though according to our definition did not qualify as an LCDS and was therefore not scored. The submitted document consisted of an Excel file which gives in-depth detail on the implementation of the specific plans and measures which are part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The template reported that there was no fixed schedule for an official update of the Third National Plan on Climate Change 2013-2020.

Croatia

© Photo: Crtomir Just / FRANCEFRANC



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report given. Anecdotal evidence has suggested that the LCDS is due to be finalised in 2017.

Situation in 2015

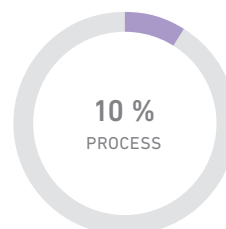
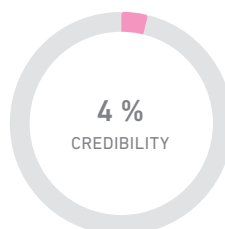
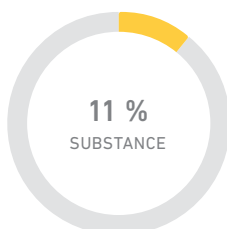
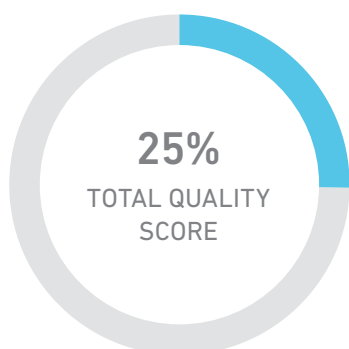
No LCDS submitted

Croatia submitted its Croatian Transition to Low Carbon Development: framework for the Low Carbon Development Strategy. Though not an LCDS, we considered it an excellent precursor to an LCDS both in terms of the breadth of the document and the process which has been undertaken with stakeholders. At the time of submission, preparation of the LCDS was underway. It was said to include further analyses, modelling, projections and target proposals, as well as cost-effective measures for the period until 2030, and long-term targets (to 2050). The strategy was due to be published in 2015.

Cyprus

Ranked
13th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

© Photo: Wild Wonders of Europe / Peter Lufja - WWF / WWF



SCORED WELL ON

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Public transparency
Process transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Ambition
Scope
Actionable
Integration

Political commitment
Monitoring
Analytical basis
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES (low detail)
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	INADEQUATE INFO
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS (draft version submitted)

- Quality evaluation score: 25% (average score of 56%).
- 13th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

No progress report was submitted and there is no further knowledge about the process.

Situation in 2015

LCDS (draft version submitted)

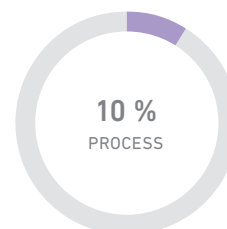
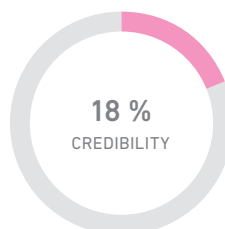
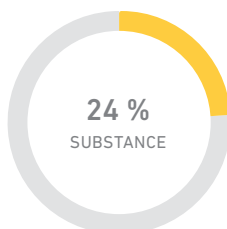
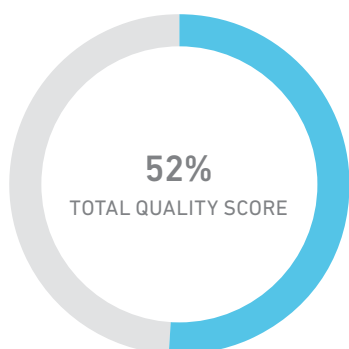
- Quality evaluation score: 25% (average score of 50.5%).
- 11th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

A draft Low Carbon Development Strategy for Cyprus was submitted. This was drawn up in 2014. It is a very general top-line document which references international and EU commitments. What precisely Cyprus has taken on as its 2050 target is not set out clearly, though the document states that 'this strategy sets out a long-term vision for the reduction of net emissions of greenhouse gases by introducing appropriate additional policies and measures' and cites that 'this policy goal is based on...the European council agreed milestones...80% by 2050. The intention was for the strategy to be adopted by the Council of Ministers. According to the information submitted, it was to undergo approval in 2015.



Czech Republic

Ranked
8th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated



SCORED WELL ON

Actionable
Public transparency

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Scope
Analytical basis
Review

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Ambition
Integration
Political commitment
Monitoring
Process transparency

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (very high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	INADEQUATE INFO

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 52% (average score of 56%).
- 8th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

The Climate protection policy of the Czech Republic (the LCDS) was adopted by the government on 22nd March 2017. It is the first government document to incorporate a 2050 perspective and is based on a trajectory set to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. It sets primary emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2030 and indicative targets for 2040 and 2050. A separate adaptation plan approved this year is cross-referenced. Policies and measures are reported detailing responsibilities and funding sources. The Policy mentions the establishment of an interdepartmental working group for climate protection and a further coordinated system for monitoring and control. Implementation of the policy will be evaluated in 2021 and on the basis of such evaluation the Policy will be updated by 2023.

Situation in 2015

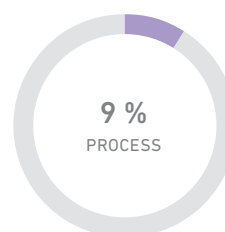
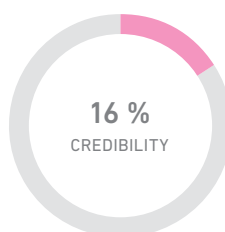
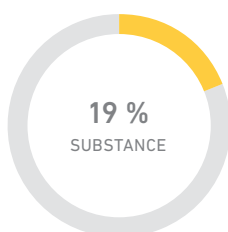
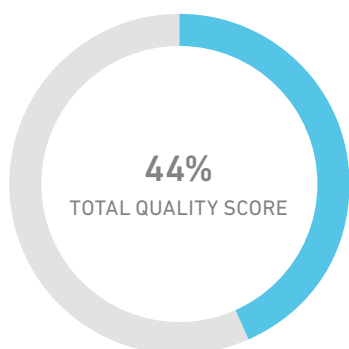
No LCDS submitted

The National Program to Abate Climate Change Impacts in the Czech Republic was submitted as the country's LCDS. As it is essentially a comprehensive 2020 plan it did not qualify as an LCDS according to our criteria and was therefore not evaluated with the MaxiMiseR tool. The template stated that the Ministry of the Environment planned to submit the new national Climate Protection Policy for approval to the government, by the end of 2015.



Denmark

Ranked
11th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated



SCORED WELL ON

NEEDS TO WORK ON

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Ambition
Scope
Political commitment
Monitoring
Public transparency

Actionable
Integration
Process transparency
Analytical basis
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (low detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	INADEQUATE INFO

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 44% (average score of 56%).
- 11th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

In March 2017, Denmark submitted a memorandum - Denmark's update on the national system for policies and measures and projections, the low-carbon development strategy, climate policies and measures, greenhouse gas projections and LULUCF actions to the EC. Annex 0a of this document gives an update on the LCDS in Denmark. Denmark's LCDS is said to be the government's long-term goal for Denmark in 2050, which is to have a low emission society independent of fossil fuels. It also states that Denmark's long term 2050 goal is to ensure that Denmark complies with the EU target of 80-95% reduction of GHGs by 2050.

The Danish government formulated this 'strategy' in the 2016 Government Platform, highlighting the importance of support to the green transition with a focus on offshore wind, a support system for renewables and smart energy, amongst others.

The document clearly references the temperature limits in the Paris Agreement. Yearly GHG emissions reports are delivered by the Climate Change Minister to the Parliament. New targets must be determined every 5 years and have a 10 year perspective which aligns with the 2050 target.

Whilst the Annex on LCDS is embedded in a very detailed document reporting on policies and measures up to 2020, there is actually very little in the LCDS section and in the Government Platform document giving finer details on exactly how the 2050 target will be reached or who is responsible for any actions to be undertaken. We imagine that these details will be in the forthcoming climate change plan though whether they go beyond 2030 is unclear.

Situation in 2015

LCDS

- Quality evaluation score: 44% (average score of 50.5%).
- 7th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

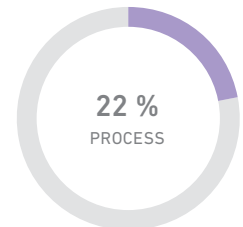
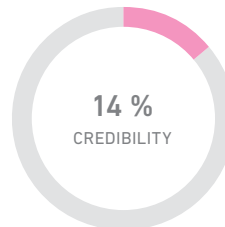
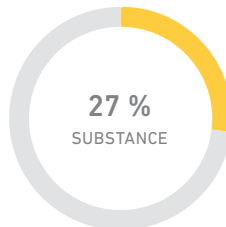
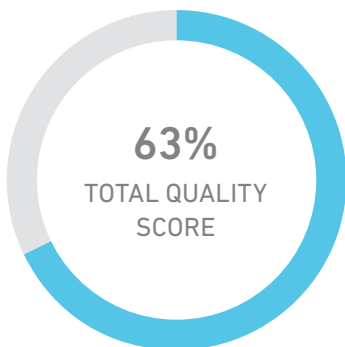
The Danish Low Carbon Development Strategy consists of a series of consecutive documents, Plans and Acts. In 2011, the Danish government formulated Denmark's LCDS as a set of ambitious targets for climate and energy policy in Denmark in the 2011 Government Platform. This was followed-up by the energy plan "Our Future Energy" in 2011, the political agreement in 2012 and "The Danish Climate Policy Plan – Towards a low carbon society" in 2013. The Climate Change Act was approved in 2014. Whilst the documents give a sense of the country's ambition regarding tackling climate change, it was hard to get a sense of the underlying data or scenarios up to 2050, monitoring, review or of the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the strategy. The Climate Change Act requires the incumbent Minister for Climate, Energy and Building to propose national greenhouse gas reduction targets once every five years. These greenhouse gas reduction targets will have a ten-year perspective and a level of ambition in alignment with 2050. The next targets should be established before the end of 2018.



Estonia

Ranked
6th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

© Photo: Mauri Rautkari / WWF



SCORED WELL ON

Scope
Public transparency
Process transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Ambition
Integration

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Actionable
Political commitment
Monitoring
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (low detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 63% (average score of 56%).
- 6th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

On April 5, 2017, the “Basic Fundamentals of Climate Policy until 2050” – the Estonian LCDS- was approved by the Riigikogu (the Estonian Parliament) following approval by the Cabinet in 2016. A draft of the document was submitted to the EC in March 2017. The strategy has a target of almost 80% emission reductions (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. It appears to be a 2050 vision based on substantial analysis. It is cross economy in focus and also delves specifically into five sectors (including forestry and land use). It comes up with sectoral guidelines and principles based on the assessments without, however, going in depth into the specific policies and measures. It clearly references temperature targets cited in the Paris Agreement and describes the in-depth stakeholder involvement. The Ministry of the Environment website hosts all of the report documentation including notes from all of the stakeholder meetings. The report will be updated every four years.

Situation in 2015

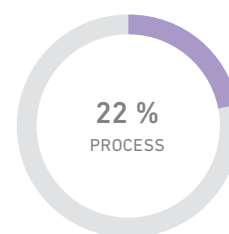
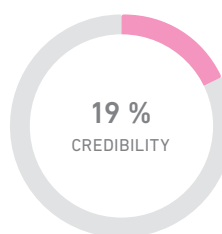
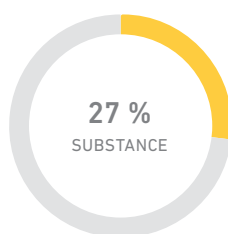
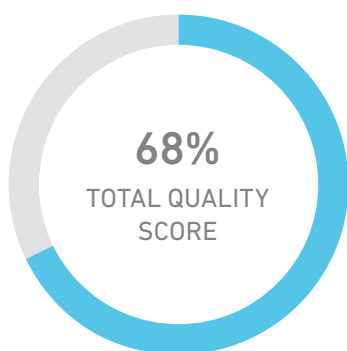
No LCDS submitted

The Estonian Low Carbon Development Strategy was not available at the time of submission in 2015. The template submitted stated that the document Fundamentals of Estonian Climate Policy - Estonia's LCDS - would be a short high-level document adopted by the Parliament aimed at providing input into many relevant sectoral development documents. At the time of submission the adoption of Estonia's LCDS was planned to take place in 2016.

Finland

Ranked
4th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

© Photo: Krista Sormunen / WWF



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Scope
Integration
Process transparency
Public transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Political commitment

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Actionable
Monitoring
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (low detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - no new data

- Quality evaluation score: 68% (average score of 56%).
- 4th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

In the template submitted to the EC Finland states that there Energy and Climate Roadmap 2050 has not been updated. However, it should be noted that planning and implementation of measures to achieve the targets set take place through more short term documents, namely the National energy and climate strategy for 2030 and the (2016) and the medium term climate change policy plan for 2030, released in September 2017, by the Ministry of the Environment. Whilst these two documents have been examined as part of the overall constellation of planning tools Finland is using to govern climate change, they have not been assessed with the MaxiMiseR evaluation tool. The forthcoming Long term Plan for Climate Change policy, to be drawn up in the next parliamentary period (2019-2023), should be the object of such an assessment. It will play a vital role in determining the exact emissions reductions goal in line with the objective of carbon neutrality by 2045.

Situation in 2015

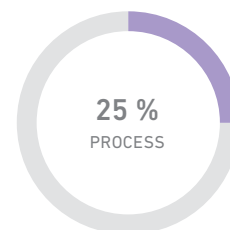
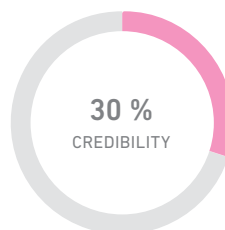
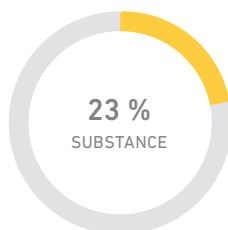
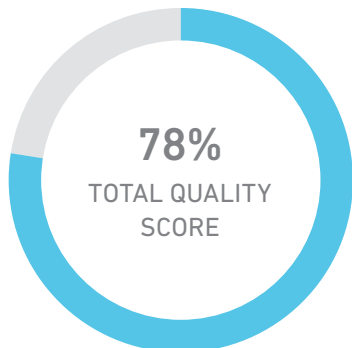
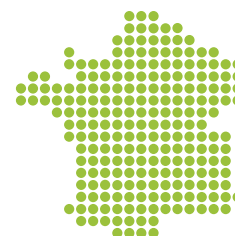
LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 68% (average score of 50.5%).
- 3rd out of 11 climate plans evaluated

In 2015 Finland had a strategic 2050 Roadmap which broadly explores scenarios to keep the average global surface temperature rise to below 2°C by 2050 and has been developed with broad stakeholder involvement. It is strongly linked to the National Climate Act with a legally binding emissions reductions target and the National -shorter term-Energy and Climate Plan. The 2014 Roadmap 2050 is a strategic level guide and does not choose a single path to ensuring temperature rise is kept to well below 2°C by 2050. Instead it explores four alternate low carbon scenarios. Whilst the Roadmap broadly explores the country's strengths and weaknesses in line with these scenarios, the National Strategy sets out the 2020 targets and the general policies and measures that will be developed in order to meet them (with some reflections on the 2050 target too). The Climate Change Act of 2014, which makes reference to a legally binding 80% reduction by 2050 is also referenced in the document. The template stated that a medium-term plan for climate change would be drawn up during the next electoral term. Furthermore, the Energy and Climate Roadmap 2050 is meant to guide policy-making in the future, and thus its implementation would include preparing new energy and/or climate strategies.

France

Ranked
1st
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated



SCORED WELL ON

Scope	Monitoring
Actionable	Public transparency
Integration	Analytical basis
Political commitment	Review

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Ambition
Process transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (very high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - no update

- Quality evaluation score: 78% (average score of 56%).
- 1st out of 13 climate plans evaluated

The template submitted states that revision of the LCDS will be initiated mid 2017 for adoption early 2019 and will take place at the same time as the revision of the multiannual energy programme (comprising the policies and measures for each period).

It should be noted that in July 2017, the French government outlined a 'plan' to become fossil fuel free and carbon neutral by mid-century and also to advance measures which support workers and citizens in the transition.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 78% (average score of 50.5%).
- 1st out of 11 climate plans evaluated

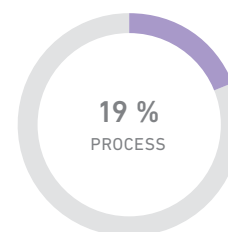
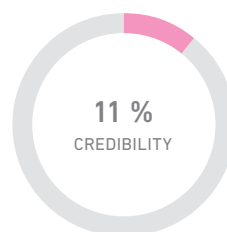
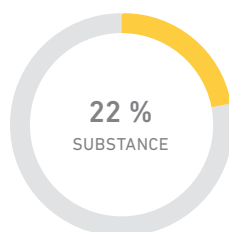
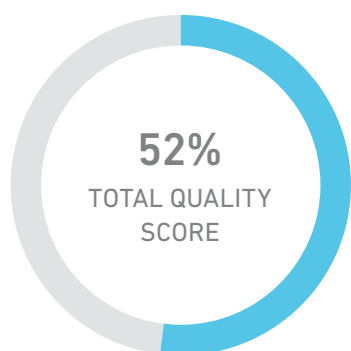
The French Low Carbon Development Strategy was established in August 2015 through the Energy Transitions Act. This is a new strategy which has been inspired by the national debate that took place in 2012-2013 in France to delineate France's national energy and ecological transition for sustainable development. This is an extremely positive example of an LCDS.

The strategy sets carbon budgets for the periods 2015-2018, 2019-2023, 2024-28 and 2030 and reports how these budgets are based on work by the 2020-2050 trajectory committee and studies by French environment agency Ademe. Before each update of the strategy, a committee of experts checks that any measures put in place are consistent with the carbon budgets. Policies and measures for all sectors are described in detail. The template stated that an update to the LCDS could be expected in 2019.

Germany

Ranked
9th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

© Photo: WWF



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Process transparency
Review

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Public transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Scope
Actionable
Integration
Political commitment
Monitoring
Analytical basis

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - new data

- Quality evaluation score: 52% (average score of 56%).
- 9th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

The German Climate Plan 2050 was adopted by the cabinet in November 2016 following a dialogue and participative process with citizens and different levels of government. The overall target is for extensive greenhouse gas neutrality in Germany by the middle of the century.

Based on the climate targets for 2050, the Climate Action Plan formulates guiding principles, milestones and measures for all areas of action. Key elements of the "Klimaschutzplan 2050" are:

- Long-term target: based on the guiding principle of extensive greenhouse gas neutrality in Germany by the middle of the century.
- Guiding principles and transformative pathways as a basis for all areas of action by 2050.
- Milestones and targets as a framework for all areas of action up to 2030 accompanied with an impact assessment allowing adjustments to the sectoral targets in 2018.
- Strategic measures for every area of action.
- Establishment of a learning process which enables the progressive raising of ambition envisaged in the Paris Agreement.

The plan will be implemented through programmes of measures which will be drawn up in collaboration with the German Federal Parliament. The first programme will be adopted in 2018. The programmes of measures will be followed by the existing Climate Action Alliance with representatives of civil society. The work will include assessing economic, social and ecological impacts of suggested measures. The status of implementation of the respective programmes of measures will be presented in the annual climate action report thus allowing swift policy adjustments to be made if necessary.

Situation in 2017

The plan has good coverage, but lacks detail which has contributed to its lower quality score. This lack of detail is in part caused by the fact that different departments and levels of government in Germany have separate plans and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and it is not always clear how they interact. An overarching federal legal framework for Germany's long-term climate and energy policy would help to address shortcomings.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 38% (average score of 50.5%).
- 9th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

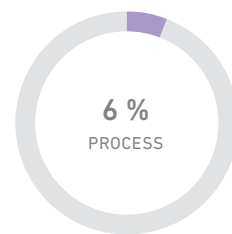
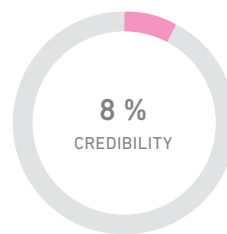
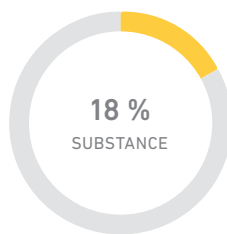
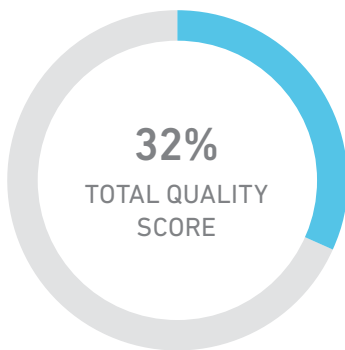
The German LCDS submitted in January 2015 was the Energy Concept for an Environmentally-Friendly, Reliable and Affordable Energy. Though economy-wide national targets are referred to, this document focuses on transformation of the energy sector with references to both buildings and transport. 180 measures are foreseen, including legislative ones. The template stated that the German government would develop a "Climate Action Plan 2050" by 2016 that built on the "Energiekonzept" and would include measures related to all relevant sectors, sources and greenhouse gases.



Greece

Ranked
12th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

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SCORED WELL ON

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Public transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Ambition	Political commitment
Scope	Monitoring
Actionable	Process transparency
Integration	Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (low detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	INADEQUATE INFO

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - no update

- Quality evaluation score: 32% (average score of 56%).
- 12th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

No progress reported and no further knowledge about the process.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

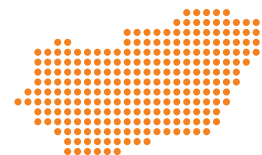
- Quality evaluation score: 32% (average score of 50.5%).
- 10th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

The LCDS submitted by Greece only concerns the energy sector. The template included information on specific actions which have been implemented, adopted or planned in other economic sectors that have not been included in the LCDS but they are not addressed in a coherent manner through a single strategy. The Roadmap was an analysis of existing policies and included data from three scenarios. It was unclear from the template what the next steps would be.



Hungary

© Photo: John E Newby / WWF



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

The template submitted reports that as part of the second National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS II) the Low Carbon Development Strategy (the timeline of the LCDS is between 2017 and 2030 with an outlook until 2050) was submitted in 2015 to the Hungarian Parliament, but a parliamentary discussion on it did not take place. In 2016 the NCCS II was reviewed in conjunction with the Paris Agreement and its public consultation started on 1 March 2017. The reviewed NCCS II was approved by the Hungarian Government and was re-submitted to the Hungarian Parliament on 23 May 2017. After parliamentary approval, which is expected to happen during the autumn session of the Hungarian Parliament, the Low Carbon Development Strategy will be published. Following the adoption of the NCCS II – including the LCDS – an Action Plan for 2018-2020 and a Monitoring System will be developed. The LCDS Action Plan will be reviewed every third year.

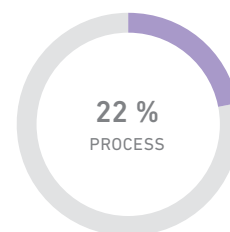
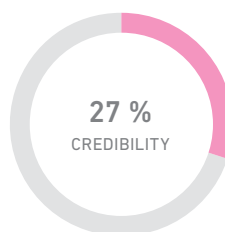
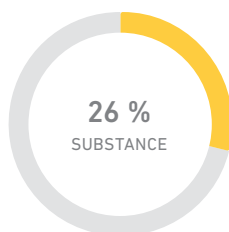
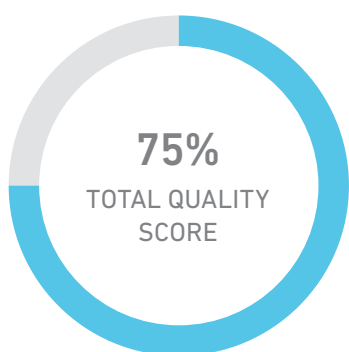
Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

The Hungarian Low Carbon Development Strategy was not yet available in 2015. The template stated that the LCDS would be accepted by the Hungarian Parliament in 2015 as the part of the second National Climate Change Strategy (2013-2020, with a 2050 perspective). In an update sent to the EEA on the 13th of April 2015, following adoption, the strategy was to be elaborated by the Climate Change Action Plan, after which it would be possible to report on the implementation of – and progress on - the goals of the strategy.

Ireland

Ranked
2th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Actionable
Integration
Political commitment

Public transparency
Analytical basis
Review

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Scope
Monitoring
Process transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (very high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	NO

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - re-evaluated with new documentation

- Quality evaluation score: 75% (average score of 56%).
- 2nd out of 13 climate plans evaluated

In Ireland the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 was the landmark national climate change policy measure adopted in 2015. At the core of the Act is a statutory recognition of the 'national transition objective' – the goal of pursuing a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. The 2015 Act provides for the development and submission to Government for approval of successive national Mitigation Plans (NMPs). The primary objective of the mitigation plan will be to track the implementation of measures already underway and identify additional measures in the longer term to reduce GHG emissions and progress the overall national vision for a low carbon transition agenda to 2050. Since our assessment of the 2015 submission Ireland established, the Climate Change Advisory (in 2016). The National Mitigation Plan was published in June 2017.

As the National Mitigation Plan is in fact a further articulation of the National Low Carbon Development strategy we have integrated our earlier analysis of the 2015 submission with additional information resulting from our reading of the National Mitigation Plan.

This integration has resulted in a considerably higher score largely due to the detailed information given on policies, measures, responsibilities and financing which was not part of earlier documents.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 41% (average score of 50.5%).
- 8th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

At the time of submission of the template in January 2015, Ireland had a National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development (April 2014). This sets out Ireland's high-level, longer-term transition objective for 2050, and clarifies both the level of greenhouse gas mitigation ambition envisaged, and the proposed process to pursue and achieve the overall objective. The templates state that Ireland's LCDS would culminate in a National Mitigation Plan and that the Climate Action Low Carbon Development Bill - which sets the legal framework for the LCDS- has been approved. The Bill contains the statutory obligations for successive five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to be developed.

The Bill foresees that a five-year national mitigation plan (with details on how to achieve long term targets) is published within 24 months.



Italy

© Photo: Črtomir Just / FRANGERANC



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report submitted. It is known that a new National Energy Strategy has been open to public consultation and is due to be finalised on the 10th of November.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

At the time of submission, Italy did not have a 2050 strategy according to our criteria. The document submitted - the National Energy Strategy - is a 2020 strategy which has dedicated a chapter to 2050 that is more a generic list of wishes than a strategy. The template submitted by Italy claims this chapter as the Italian LCDS. However, we have found the contents of this chapter to be closer to scenario work for 2050 than an LCDS. It was therefore not scored with our evaluation tool.

Latvia

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Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

Latvia has provided a paragraph on LCDS work in a report on obligations in articles 13 and 14 of the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation. It states that Latvia is currently drawing up the low-carbon development strategy 2050 and has carried out 5 interactive workshops with stakeholders in regions of Latvia on climate change and low carbon development up to 2050. No indication is given of when the strategy might be finalised.

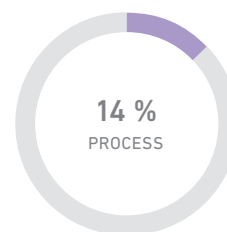
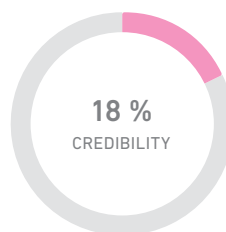
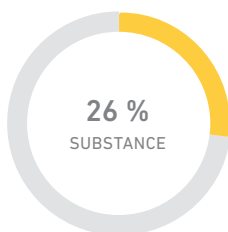
Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

At the time of submission the Latvian LCDS was still under development. The template cites other policy documents containing elements and steps toward LCD, such as the Environment Policies Strategy 2014-2020 that includes directions for low-carbon policies development low-carbon technology implementation and sustainable land management in farming. As it is essentially a 2020 plan it did not qualify as an LCDS according to our criteria and was not evaluated with the MaxiMiseR tool. No indication was given of when the LCDS would be published or the processes which are involved in its development.

Ranked
7th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

Lithuania



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Integration
Public transparency

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Scope
Review

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Actionable
Political commitment
Monitoring
Process transparency
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (low detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - no update

- Quality evaluation score: 58% (average score 56%).
- 7th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

Lithuania reports that the action plan to implement the LCDS is updated annually, action plans are for periods i.e. 2015-2017, 2016-2018, 2017-2019, etc. State and municipal institutions engaged in the implementation of the Strategy and the Inter-institutional Action Plan report to the Government via a Monitoring Information System and provide the Ministry of Environment with information on progress by submitting annual activity reports. Progress is evaluated against a set of criteria established in the Inter-institutional Action Plan. The update of the Strategy for National Climate Change Management Policy is planned for the end of 2019, in which indicative mid-term (for 2040 and 2050) and long-term (till 2070) GHG emission reduction targets will also be determined.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 58% (average score of 50.5%).
- 4th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

Lithuania submitted the Strategy for the National Climate Change Management Policy by 2050. It strategy covers adaptation and mitigation policies and sets binding short-term (by 2020), indicative medium-term (by 2030 and 2040) and long-term (by 2050) climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and objectives.

Luxembourg



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report given and no further knowledge about the process.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

A template was provided in 2015 which states that an LCDS would be available in 2016. No indication was given of the processes involved in its development.

Malta



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report given and no further knowledge about the process.

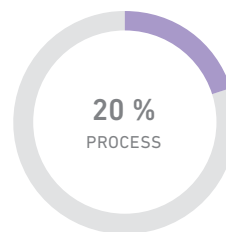
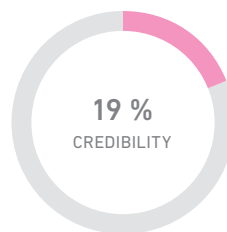
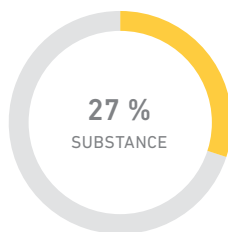
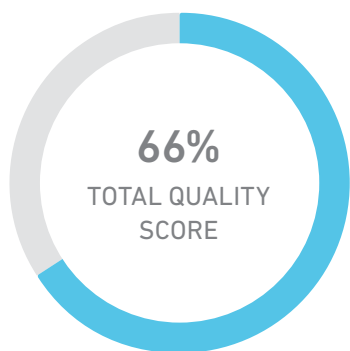
Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Malta submitted a report on the status of implementation of low carbon development policies and strategies, which highlights the status of ongoing cross-sectoral strategies, policies and measures that contribute to achieving low carbon development in Malta. No target is cited for 2050 but 2020 EU targets are mentioned. The policies and measures reported on have a 2020 horizon. The document sets out the time frame and steps for producing a high-level low carbon development vision in 2016, followed by a National low carbon development strategy to be finalised and approved mid-2017.

Ranked
5th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

Netherlands



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Integration
Public transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Scope
Process transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Actionable
Political commitment
Monitoring
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - re-evaluated with new documentation

- Quality evaluation score: 68% (average score of 56%).
- 5th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

The Low Carbon Development Strategy of the Netherlands has progressed through the addition of a new process and associated document - the Energy Agenda (December 2016). The Agenda has been drawn up by the government with a view to outlining a clear and ambitious plan for the Netherlands' transition to a low-carbon as well as reliable, affordable and safe energy supply in 2050'. To achieve this transition, the government will aim to cut carbon emissions to virtually zero by 2050. By proposing a clear long-term perspective that offers security to enterprises whose investments will be needed, to officials who will have to take decisions, and to citizens facing important choices, the government seeks to shape a gradual transition that avoids economic upsets and maximises economic opportunities. The Energy Agenda follows on from the Energy Agreement concluded with 47 signatories (employers, trade unions and environmental organisations) in 2013, containing agreements over the period until 2023. Over 2017 this agenda will be fleshed out into transition roadmaps covering the period until 2050 and actions for individual energy functions covering the period until 2030. This will in turn form the basis for the draft Energy and Climate Plan that must be presented to the European Commission before 1 January 2018. Monitoring of energy and climate related progress takes place through annual National Energy Outlook Reports. It should be noted that the projections monitored against reach 2035 for now (these are based on a longer term 2050 scenario).

We have integrated our earlier analysis of the 2015 submission with additional information resulting from our reading of the Energy Agenda and template which has resulted in an increase in the overall quality score attributed to the Netherlands' LCDS process.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

Quality evaluation score: 54% (average score of 50.5%).

5th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

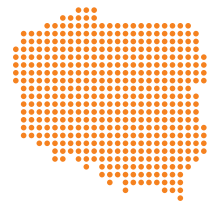
The Netherlands submitted information on the Climate Letter 2050: Roadmap to a climate neutral economy by 2050, and the Climate Agenda: Resilient Prosperous and Green. The Climate Letter, which contains the Netherlands' 2050 targets, was published in 2011 and states that in accordance with the European 2050 Roadmap (2011), with its goal of 80-95% reductions, the Netherlands could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% in 2050 (4045 Mt CO₂ equivalents in 2050) compared to 1990 levels. The Climate Agenda, which is a more detailed plan up to 2030 was agreed and published in December 2013, and has a mid-term 2030 goal organised around three themes that have one or more action lines. The Action themes are 1) broadly-based coalitions for approaching the climate; 2) adaptation; and 3) mitigation.

The template states that at the end of 2015 the first biennial progress report of the Climate Agenda was expected. In the Climate Letter 2050, the cabinet invites other sectors and stakeholders to develop 2050 carbon neutral plans.





Poland



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report submitted. We are aware from other sources that since 2015 there has been a process for the development of Poland's energy policy until 2050. This has been open to public and to inter-ministerial consultation. In addition, the national strategy for sustainable development contains some elements pertinent to long term climate change mitigation and adaptation.

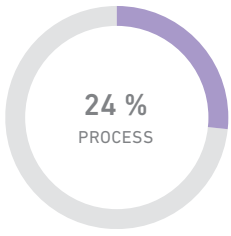
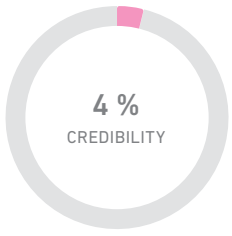
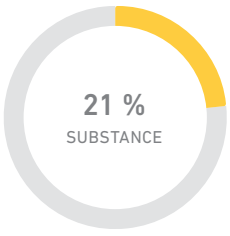
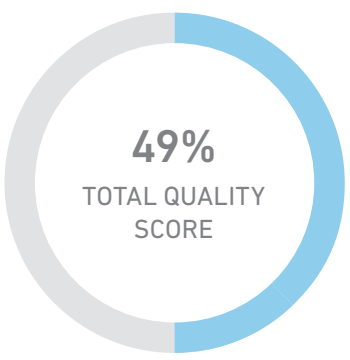
Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Poland did not have an LCDS at the time of submitting the templates in early 2015, but the template states that Poland expected to adopt its LCDS in 2015. At the time of reporting to the European Environment Agency (EEA) Poland's LCDS, 'The National Programme for the Development of Low-Carbon Economy', was still under development by the Ministry of Economy.

Ranked
10th
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated

Portugal



SCORED WELL ON

Process transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Ambition
Public transparency

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Scope
Actionable
Integration
Political commitment
Monitoring
Review

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	NO
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	YES

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - no update

- Quality evaluation score: 54% (average score of 56%).
- 10th out of 13 climate plans evaluated

In their report on policies and measures, Portugal reported that a new 2050 modelling exercise was underway aiming at the identification and analysis of the implications associated with cost-effective trajectories to pursue the national objective of GHG emissions neutrality in 2050, as well as to identify the main decarbonisation vectors associated with the development of the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050 in Portugal. This should take place during 2017-2018.

In October 2017, Portugal launched its project to deliver a Roadmap to 2050 Carbon Neutrality. The Roadmap will be drawn up by a consortium of private sector and university consultants in an 18 month project. The Prime Minister Antonio Costa pledged to phase out all coal-fired power generation by 2030 and promised “an alignment of the fiscal system with the decarbonisation objectives”, including the elimination of subsidies for fossil fuels, a revision of tax on fossil fuels in 2018 and a “revitalisation” of the carbon tax.

Situation in 2015

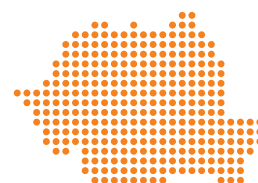
LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 54% (average score of 50.5%).
- 6th out of 11 climate plans evaluated

Portugal's Low Carbon Roadmap 2050 is a long term guidance document for climate policy. Its main purpose is to study the technical and economic viability of greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2050. It covers all economic sectors, and concludes that there are several benefits of a low carbon economy including improvements in public health, reduced energy dependence, jobs and more. The Roadmap clearly provides a good analytical basis for the country's mid- and long-term strategies through its detailed exploration of scenarios across all sectors. In the template Portugal states it has been preparing a revised Climate Change Policy Framework that will include an overall climate change strategy which addresses adaptation and mitigation as well as the issues of financing, reporting and monitoring. When this will be released is not stated.

Romania

© Photo: Michel Gunther / WWF



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

In October 2016 the Romanian Government adopted Romania's National Climate Change Strategy based on low carbon economic growth. The main objective of the Strategy is to mobilize and enable private and public actors to reduce greenhouse gases emissions (GHG) from the economic activities in line with EU targets and adapt to climate change impacts, both current and the future. Romania will guide actions related to climate changes and development with low carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, representing an update and extension of the 2013-2020 National Strategy on Climate Change made in the light of recent developments. This document provides important input for updating the national strategy on climate change 2013-2020, covering in detail the period from now until 2030. It claims to draw a roadmap for 2050.

However, this strategy has not been analysed using the MaxiMiseR tool as we maintain that rather than a roadmap for 2050, some scenario work has been developed in relation to this long-term objective with a view to supporting planning up to 2030.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Romania delivered its National Climate Change Strategy (2013-2020). Due to the lack of long-term perspective, this document does not qualify as an LCDS according to our definition and therefore was not scored. A review and update of the strategy's objectives was due to take place in the first half of 2015 and during 2020.

Slovakia



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

Slovakia has provided an update on their LCDS development. They are currently working on the low carbon development strategy of the Slovak Republic, in close cooperation with the World Bank (agreement signed in November 2016). There are two main objectives for this co-operation project: 1) Development of economic and energy modelling tools, including capacity building in modelling for sustainable growth in Slovakia;. 2) Preparation of low-carbon study with deep and direct involvement of our expert and analytical capacities will serve as a basis for to the Slovak strategy in line with the 2030 EU energy and climate policy framework and the path towards 2050. All relevant activities will be coordinated and cooperated closely with sectoral experts from other ministries and agencies. The World Bank will also provide training activities in economic and energy sector modelling to dedicated group of experts from the public administration.

No information is given on when the LCDS can be expected.

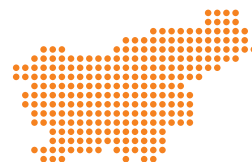
Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

In 2015 Slovakia published a background document on the preparation of a LCDS that highlights a timeframe of 'up to 2030'. The submitted background document does not contain any information on ambition levels, on sectoral coverage, or have much information on foreseen policies and measures. .

Slovenia

© Photo: Samo Tanacek / FRANCFRANC



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

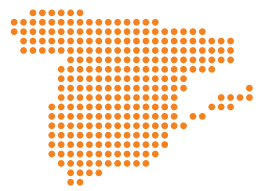
No progress report delivered. However, the document submitted on policies and measures.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Slovenia submitted its 2020 programme of measures in place of a Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), which has no legal form but does include legally binding targets set at EU level for 2020. There are no targets for 2050, although as part of the 2020 plan modelling up to 2050 has been included as a measure to be carried out. There is also a table of measures that lists the ministry responsible for implementing said measure, but does not include a timeframe. It does reference the 2050 EU roadmap, but only the lower end (80%) of the indicative EU 2050 target (80-95%).

Spain



Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

The template submitted states that the Spanish Climate Change and Clean Energy Strategy: Horizon 2007-2012-2020 is being updated.

Of particular interest is that other sources have stated that the Spanish government is set to finish the draft bill for climate change and energy transition in 2018. It is said to include “practically all ministries,” and is aimed at complying with the Paris Agreement.

Situation in 2015

No LCDS submitted

Spain reported on the Spanish Climate Change and Clean Energy Strategy: Horizon 2007-2012-2020. The strategy emphasises short-term goals (2008-2012). A clear strategy for Spain has been hard to identify. There are several documents. Targets, policies, measures and timelines are spread out across these individual documents, making it more a framework than a strategy. The strategy contains a low amount of information on policies and measures, some of which contain timelines, whilst others do not. Many of the goals and targets are short-term (2009-2012) and so were outdated at the time of submission.

This strategy was being updated at the time of submission. The first steps of which were taken via the adoption of a 2020 Roadmap (“Hoja de Ruta 2020”). Moreover, there was a clear statement that following the conclusions of the Horizon 2030 report on Energy needs, the strategy would need to be adapted.

Sweden

Situation in 2017

No LCDS submitted

No progress report submitted. From other sources we are aware that in June 2017 the Parliament approved the introduction of a climate policy framework for Sweden containing new climate goals, a Climate Act and plans for a climate policy council. The purpose of the framework is to create a clear and coherent climate policy. The framework is based on an agreement within the Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives. The reform is a key component of Sweden's efforts to comply with the Paris Agreement. The main goal is that by 2045, Sweden will have net zero emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and should thereafter achieve negative emissions. The Climate Act establishes that the Government's climate policy must be based on the climate goals and specifies how work is to be carried out. The Government is required to present a climate report every year in its Budget Bill. Every fourth year, the Government is required to draw up a climate policy action plan for how the climate goals are to be achieved. The new Climate Act will enter into force on 1 January 2018.

The third pillar of the framework is a climate policy council tasked with assisting the Government by providing an independent assessment of how the overall policy presented by the Government is compatible with the climate goals. The council will evaluate whether the direction of various relevant policy areas will increase or reduce the likelihood of achieving the climate goals.

Situation in 2015

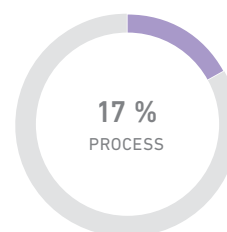
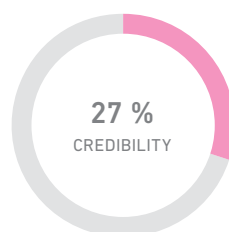
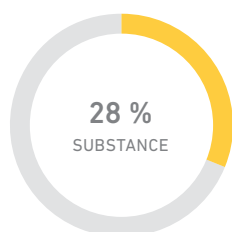
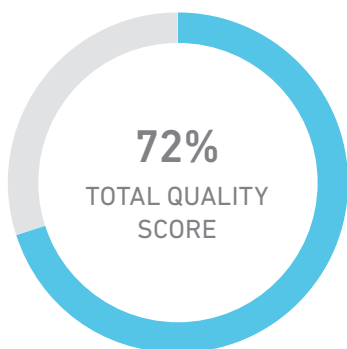
No LCDS submitted

Sweden did not have an LCDS at the time of submission. A report was delivered regarding their plans to prepare an LCDS. The Swedish parliament adopted a vision to be net zero by 2050 in 2010. Sweden is currently preparing an LCDS in line with its goal on climate change, which is based on limiting the temperature increase to 2°C. A number of steps are reported to have taken place between 2012 and 2015. The template states that in February 2016, Sweden would have published a strategy on implementing a net zero approach by 2050, the scope of which includes information on a long-term objective to 2050, a pathway and milestones up to 2050 including sector contributions, and a framework for climate policy including monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate policy.



United Kingdom

Ranked
3rd
out of 13
climate plans
evaluated



SCORED WELL ON

Ambition
Scope
Actionable
Integration

Political commitment
Public transparency
Analytical basis

NEEDS TO WORK ON

Monitoring
Review

NEEDS TO WORK A LOT MORE ON

Process transparency

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN LCDS

Does the LCDS cover a period of time to at least 2050?	YES
Does the LCDS include references to envisaged or already existing policies and measures?	YES (very high detail)
Was the LCDS developed using an analytical assessment?	YES
Were stakeholders frequently engaged in the process of developing the LCDS?	INADEQUATE INFO

Situation in 2017

LCDS submitted - updated data

- Quality evaluation score: 72% (average score of 56%).
- 3rd out of 13 climate plans evaluated

The UK published their new LCDS- the Clean Growth Strategy- in October 2017. The UK Climate Change Act established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below base year levels by 2050, to be achieved through action at home and abroad. To drive progress and set the UK on a pathway towards this target, the Act introduced a system of carbon budgets which provide legally binding limits on the amount of emissions that may be produced in successive five-year periods, beginning in 2008. The fifth carbon budget which brings the government's commitments up to 2032 was approved in June 2017 (57% emissions reductions compared to 1990 levels).

The strategy recognises that acceleration in the pace of decarbonisation is needed in order to meet the 4th and 5th carbon budget. Innovation is placed at the heart of progress and policies are set out aimed at supporting it through green finance and a £2.5 billion injection of public spending, improving business and industry efficiency, homes, transport and flexible and smart energy solutions (amongst others).

The strategy states it will manage the impact of leaving the EU and interestingly makes no specific reference to the EU Roadmap, although the original 2050 target enshrined in the climate change Act was largely inspired by this.

Whilst once again commendable in its use of carbon budgets, transparency and potential replicability of the underlying assessment, our evaluation has encountered some more negative aspects. No absolute target in mt CO₂ eq is given in this strategy for 2050 (whilst it was in the 2010 strategy) and though the strategy itself invites comments up until the end of 2017, it is not clear at all if stakeholders have been involved to date in the formalisation of the strategy. The Actions and milestones are somewhat less clearly defined than those set out in the earlier plan.

Situation in 2015

LCDS submitted

- Quality evaluation score: 71% (average score of 50.5%).
- 2nd out of 11 climate plans evaluated

The Carbon Plan (2011), the UK's Low Carbon Development Strategy submitted to the EC in 2015, sets out proposals and policies for meeting the first four carbon budgets. All sectors are covered by the plan apart from shipping and aviation. The 2008 Climate Change Act establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below base year levels (1990) by 2050 (at most 156.6 MtCO₂e by 2050). The Act introduced a system of carbon budgets which provide legally binding limits on the amount of emissions that may be produced in successive five-year periods, beginning in 2008. The first three carbon budgets were set in law in May 2009 and require emissions to be reduced by at least 34% below base year levels in 2020. The fourth carbon budget, covering the period 2023–27, was set in law in June 2011 and requires emissions to be reduced by 50% below 1990 levels. The strategy was exemplary in many ways yet failed to give information about stakeholder involvement in the process to develop the LCDS which, inevitably, influenced the overall quality score.

