# BELARUS CLIMATE FACTS AND POLICY

**89.3** MILLION tCO<sub>2</sub>e **9.4** TONNES PER CAPITA



Sources: National inventory report

- (1990-2014); demographic, energy and
- economic data from World Development
- Indicators of the World Bank:
- http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/

# **POLICIES AND PROCESSES**

### **Policy framework**

National strategy for sustainable socioeconomic development until 2030 State programme on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources for 2016-2020 State programme to mitigate the effects of climate change for 2013-2020 Law on renewable energy sources Concept of energy security

### 2020 targets

8 per cent reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990 Maintain GHG emissions in energy sector at the 2012 level Increase renewable energy sources to 6 per cent of gross energy consumption Reduce GDP energy intensity by 70 per cent compared to 1990 Reduce the share of gas in energy production from 91 per cent to 70 per cent

### 2030 targets and INDC

Mitigation Base year: 1990

Unconditional 2030 target: total GHG emissions reduction of 28 per cent compared to the base year Increase share of renewable energy sources to 9 per cent Reduce GDP energy intensity by 25 per cent compared to 2010 Reduce share of gas in energy production by 50 per cent

#### Adaptation priorities

Forestry and agriculture as the most vulnerable sectors Adaptation measures on territorial and urban development, transport infrastructure, recreation and human health

### GHG inventory of all sectors and gases

National inventory report to UNFCCC Second biennial report to UNFCCC Sixth national communication to UNFCCC MRV and GHG emissions modelling systems being developed and implemented

# **CLIMATE ACTIONS**

### Paris agreement on climate change

Belarus ratified Paris agreement on climate change in September 2016

### **GHG emissions**

2012 total GHG emissions 36 per cent below the 1990 level Regulation of GHG emissions across enterprises High and stable carbon absorption by forest and wetlands

### **Energy-related actions**

50 per cent reduction in energy intensity of GDP from 2000 to 2013 Energy labeling, auditing and certification Special fixed tariffs for renewable energy sources and growing number of renewable energy projects

### Adaptation actions

Approved strategy for forestry adaptation until 2050 Programme on forestry adaptation measures until 2030 Strategy for agricultural adaptation under development

### Local initiatives

Projects on green economy development Growth in electric urban public transport 17 Belarus cities signatories to Covenant of Mayors

# **CLIMATE FINANCE**

# National and international investments in a green economy

Expected US \$600 million by 2020

### **EBRD**

Belarus Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (BelSEFF)

### WB

US \$125 million for energy efficiency for 2009-2017 US \$135 million for forestry sector development and biomass district heating for 2014-2020

### EU

Energy efficiency, renewable energy, green economy, air pollution, peatland management

### GEF

Energy efficiency in residential buildings, wind energy development, green urban development

### UNECE

Climate change adaptation in the Neman River basin

### UNDP

Wind power development, phase-out of ozone depleting substances (GEF), energy efficiency at schools (EU)



### **Policies and institutions**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) is the main responsible body for environmental policies and legislation, including those related to climate change. It oversees the reporting to UNFCCC, and chairs the inter-agency working group on climate change. The Research Centre "Ecology" within the MNREP maintains the national GHG inventory system.

The National strategy for sustainable socioeconomic development until 2030 is the key guidance document for long-term development and a green economy in Belarus. MNREP in cooperation with other ministries is currently developing a national action plan to implement green economy principles for 2016-2020. An inter-agency commission for the transition to a green economy has also been established. The State programme on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources for 2016-2020 defines climate policy until 2020 and covers GHG emission reductions. Belarus is currently developing a framework for reducing the energy and carbon intensity of the national economy. The country has also established a state programme to mitigate the effects of climate change for 2013-2020.

The Concept of energy security until 2020 is focused on energy diversification, energy efficiency and renewables: Belarus plans to reach a 6 per cent share of renewables in energy use, and to reduce the share of gas in energy production. The country expects to complete construction of its first nuclear power plant in 2018.



Heatwaves, infection outbreaks, air and water pollution, drinking water scarcity

### **Belarus scorecard**

- Share of global GHG emissions
- Emissions volume per capita
- Climate change targets

Mitigation commitment:

- Emissions reduction
- Decoupling from population growth
- Decoupling from economic growth
- Renewable energy prospects

### National climate policy actors

**Policy leadership:** Inter-agency Commission for transition to a green economy; Inter-agency Working Group on climate change under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection

**UNFCCC focal point:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection

GHG inventory: Research Centre "Ecology"

**Climate Technology network coordination:** Republican unitary enterprise "Ecology invest"

Adaptation action



### **Climate actions**

In September 2016 Belarus ratified the Paris agreement on climate change. In its INDC, Belarus aims for an unconditional reduction of GHG emissions by a minimum of 28 per cent of the 1990 level by 2030 (exclusive of LULUCF). By 2018 necessary legal provisions and a framework for implementing the commitment are to be developed.

The country managed to significantly reduce GHG emissions in the past, with relatively low marginal costs. In the period of 1995-2005 energy efficiency, energy saving and the promotion of renewables accounted for about 1.6 per cent of GDP, and in 2011-2015, 5 per cent of GDP. The share of state budget funds in these investments was at least 30 per cent, while the rest was covered by external funding sources and aid. In one of the fastest rates of low-carbon development in Europe, the carbon intensity of the economy decreased by almost 70 per cent from 1990 to 2012. Still, significant steps remain to be achieved to make Belarusian economy more energy efficient.

Forests and peatlands play a major role in the absorption of GHG emissions in Belarus: forest cover has increased by 4 per cent since 1990, forest cover being 39 per cent in 2013 and expected to reach 41 per cent by 2030. At the same time, forestry has been identified as one of the most climate-vulnerable sectors, and a forestry adaptation strategy until 2050 has been developed. An adaptation strategy for the agriculture sector is under development. Between 2016 and 2019 the country is planning to draft legislation and an institutional framework for implementation of specific national adaptation measures.

### **Climate finance**

Belarus finances climate change activities both through government programmes and through external donor funding. Modernization of the energy sector, including development of renewables, is identified as a national policy priority, and international agencies such as GEF, World Bank and UNDP support projects on energy efficiency both through grants and loans. EBRD maintains a Belarus Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (BelSEFF) credit line, of which US \$50 million is aimed at renewable energy and energy efficiency in the private sector, and US \$42 million at reforms in housing and communal services. GEF supports a portfolio of energy-efficient housing development and wind energy, and the World Bank has been providing loans for improved energy efficiency for several years.

The European Union funds several energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate adaptation, waste management, green economy and environmental projects. The amount of EU funding in 2012-2020 is expected to reach €37 million. UNECE, through the Environment and Security Initiative, supported the preparation of a climate adaptation strategy for the transboundary Neman River basin.

### Sources of information for the scorecard

Publications, strategies and legislation: the National strategy for sustainable socioeconomic development for the period until 2030; the Law on renewable energy sources; the Energy security concept; the State programme on energy savings; the State programme on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources for 2016-2020; Sixth national communication to UNFCCC, INDC.

Publications and materials of World Bank, EBRD, GEF, UNECE, UNDP, EU ClimaEast project

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