Session SB65 (2026)

Session starts: 09-08-2026

Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to – and answers by – **Estonia**
Exported on 13-10-2026 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Title: Research relating to methane emissions from ruminants

Question From Party: New Zealand

Question raised on: 08.09.2026 CEST

Question Category: National inventory report

Question: In its 2024 National Inventory Document (pg 206), Estonia stated they are “planning an inventory development project to measure CH4 emissions for the most represented ruminants”. Would Estonia be able to provide any further details on this research and the findings obtained so far? Has the research investigated the impact of feed additives or other technologies that could reduce emissions from ruminants?

Answer:

Thank you for your question! The improvement mentioned in the NID 2024 was in the preparation phase during the 2024 submission. As of 2026, Estonia is already conducting the development. To conduct the study, a dedicated measurement device (GreenFeed, C-Lock Inc.) was installed in 2025 at a experimental dairy farm of the Estonian University of Life Sciences to continuously measure in real time, the amount of methane released from enteric fermentation in dairy cattle. The project timeline is planned to be 2024-2027 and the aim is to measure CH4 emissions for the most represented ruminants (more specifically cattle) in Estonia and thus develop county-specific methane conversion factors. These details will be included in the future inventory reporting.
As for the impact of feed additives or other technologies that could reduce emissions from ruminants - the impact of feed additives is covered with another development that is waiting to be approved. In more detail - Estonia will be conducting an inventory development project in the period of 2026–2028 to quantify the effect of methane-reducing feeding strategies on enteric CH_4 emissions from dairy cattle and to develop the parameters needed to reflect these measures in the national GHG inventory. The study will measures individual feed intake and CH_4 emissions under control and treatment conditions, including the use of 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) and modified feed materials. Based on measured methane emissions, feed intake and feed composition, treatment-specific methane conversion factors (Ym) and emission factors will be derived and their applicability in Estonia’s Tier 2 inventory methodology will be assessed.

Title: Reflection of CCUS in Projections

Question From Party: Japan

Question raised on: 08.09.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: According to the projections for the energy sector in Estonia presented in BTR1 (p. 78), Estonia anticipates a reduction in GHG emissions through CO_2 capture at oil shale plants between the years 2040 and 2050. Could Estonia clarify how the captured CO_2 is expected to be utilized or stored? In addition, if

there are any planned or proposed long-term strategies for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), could Estonia provide information on them?

Answer:

At present, the relevant technologies and company-level plans are still at an early stage of development and therefore it is not yet possible to provide detailed information on how captured CO_2 would be utilized or stored. More specific information on the possible role of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), including potential utilization or storage pathways, is expected to become available as the relevant companies further develop and specify their investment and technology plans. The assumptions related to CCUS will therefore be reassessed and, where appropriate, updated in future projections as more concrete information becomes available.

Title: Increasing electricity demand from data centres

Question From Party: Japan

Question raised on: 08.09.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: Estonia is widely known for the rapid growth of its ICT sector and is actively developing data centre infrastructure. In the projection, how is the potential increase in electricity demand from data centres taken into account? In addition, should there be a significant rise in electricity demand from data centres in the future, could Estonia share detailed information on how the Government plans to address and manage this increased demand?

Answer:

The potential increase in electricity demand from data centres was not considered as a separate demand category in the projections presented in Estonia's BTR1. Data centre development is an emerging driver of electricity demand in Estonia, but significant uncertainties remain regarding the scale, timing and location of future projects.
Electricity demand and supply adequacy are regularly reassessed by the Estonian transmission system operator, Elering. As more concrete information on planned data centre projects, such as news on taken investment decisions and their electricity demand become available, these developments can be incorporated into updated demand forecasts and taken into account in future electricity system planning and GHG projections. At the moment, we have two planned data centres with total electrical capacity around 200 MW, that may be included in updated demand forecasts.
Should data centre electricity demand increase significantly, its implications for system adequacy, grid development and electricity supply will be assessed as part of the annual update of Estonia's electricity-system planning.
