

May-June 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

Session starts: 08-03-2021 00:00:00 [GMT+1]

Session ends: 01-06-2021 23:59:59 [GMT+1]



Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Lithuania
exported on 02-06-2021 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Pricing agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions

Additional to the agriculture policies listed in the BR4, New Zealand is interested to know whether Lithuania has any plans to price agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions to further incentivise their reduction?

Answer by Lithuania, Thursday, 27 May 2021

At the moment there are no plans to price agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions.

Question by United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: National Waste Management Plan

Could you outline some of the lessons learned in the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan?

Answer by Lithuania, Thursday, 27 May 2021

As the main strategic legal act, the National Waste Management Plan for 2014-2020 sets waste management targets, goals, and concrete measures for waste prevention and environmentally sound management. In the past six-year period, there were some positive changes in waste sorting and recycling, which still need to be improved. Our success story the updated in the 2016 packaging deposit system when the total return rate reached 92%, as the collection rate of plastic waste in 2015, before the system's implementation, was only 55%. (<https://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/current-and-proposed-laws/worldwide/lithuania>).

The Waste Management Programme can enhance financing possibilities for waste

management. The Programme funds are used for the financing of waste management schemes, training, education of and provision of information to the public and the staff of municipalities on the issues of waste management. The Lithuanian Environmental Investment Fund administers funds of the Programme.

National target related to municipal waste – not less than 65% of municipal waste (based on the total amount) is recycled or recovered. In 2018 Lithuania reached this target by the rate of recycled or recovered municipal waste of 65.1%, while in 2011, the rate was only 20.4%. Separate collection infrastructure & sorting possibilities – it has to be ensured that special containers are installed for collecting recyclable waste in compliance with the minimum requirements. In residential districts of the multi-apartment buildings in the municipalities of the 7 largest cities have to be installed at least one recyclable waste collection site per every 600 residents near mixed municipal waste containers or in other places convenient for residents in an aesthetic manner and in compliance with public health safety requirements, and in smaller cities at least one recyclable waste collection site per every 800 residents. For the individual houses' special containers for the collection of packaging and glass waste have to be provided.

According to the State waste management plan for 2014–2020, one of the goals is to ensure the availability of 100% by 2020 for the municipal waste management services in municipalities. The results to reach these targets are good enough – from 94.4% in 2012 to 99.3% in 2018. Lithuania, step by step, is improving the municipal waste collection service and most likely will reach the goal by 2020.

Every year a decreasing amount of mixed municipal waste is generated and disposed of in landfills without pre-treatment. Positive changes occurred since the start of operation of 10 regional mechanical-biological treatment (MBT) facilities in 2016; the biodegradable part from mixed municipal waste was separated and used in composting or landfill coverings. Lithuania also expanded the bulky and green waste sites network (from 70 in 2013 to 98 in the 2020 bulky waste collection sites and 53 green waste collection sites in 2020), opened and modernized recycling facilities, improved a separate collection system. From 2016 to the present, the positive effect occurred with less than 5% of biodegradable waste disposed of in landfills comparing to the baseline amount of waste set in 2000.

Several local authorities have positive incentives by encouraging residents to manage their green waste properly by giving away free compost for those who bring green waste to green waste collection sites.

For food waste prevention, the following measures were taken:

- Legal regulation (amended legislation allowing safe and fit for human consumption food, fresh fruit and vegetables which do not meet market standards to be donated for charity; waste collection and treatment requirements);

- Social responsibility (information booklet for companies where they can donate excess food; Swedish table principle implementation in kindergartens, schools; promoting food collection and redistribution, etc.);
- Public awareness-raising (presented and published information about “best before...” and “use by” definitions, promoting responsible consumption, waste prevention, separate collection of biodegradable waste, etc.).

Annual surveys regarding waste prevention and management system have shown that a positive change has been reached – the number of people who sort all waste increased from 40% in 2015 to 55% in 2020.

Textile waste separated at the source by individuals has to be collected separately via the municipal management system they manage. The biggest municipalities already collect textile waste via containers system.

In addition, municipalities have to ensure door-to-door collection of bulky, hazardous waste at least twice a year, and municipalities must ensure the hazardous, bulky, households waste collection at bulky waste collection sites.

In Lithuania, a comprehensive collection system for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) has been developed, including collective organization schemes, municipal waste collection systems and WEEE distributors.

WEEE collection from households increased in 2012–2015 (4.5 kg/capita in 2012 and 5.3 kg/capita – 2015). In 2016, WEEE was collected less than in 2015, but the collection started to increase again in the following years.

Lithuania constantly fulfilled the targets set out in the Directive 2006/66/EC during 2009-2018. The collection of waste portable batteries and accumulators rate increases each year slightly.

For example, 26.3% of waste portable batteries and accumulators were collected in 2009, and in 2018 reached 47.1%.

To fulfil the targets set in the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, Lithuania gradually established a waste management system directed to collecting, sorting, and treating packaging waste. The data on packaging waste generation and treatment reflect the phases of developing a new waste management system. From 2005 to the present, the municipal waste collecting system has been developed and improved. The collection system for secondary raw materials (paper and cardboard, plastic and metal) has been expanded. The availability of waste sorting containers has been increased, and the Polluter-Pays principle has been implemented.

The application of these measures has led to an increase in packaging waste collection. As a

result, recycling increased from 55% in 2009 to 61.9 % in 2018 while recovery rate – 70.3%. Therefore, the targets set in Directive 94/62/EC have been achieved. Significant packaging waste recovery and recycling in 2016 reveals the start of processing of a deposit and return system for single-use beverage packaging and MBT facilities implementation.

By the directive 94/62/EC requirements, EU Member states should ensure that the annual consumption level exceeds 90 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2019 and 40 lightweight plastic carrier bags per person by 31 December 2025. Very lightweight plastic carrier bags may be excluded from national consumption objectives.

Based on the Environmental Protection Agency analysis, 1 resident per 2018 in Lithuania used 53 lightweight plastic carrier bags and 269 very lightweight plastic carrier bags. To reduce consumption of plastic carrier bags from 2019, lightweight plastic carrier bags are not provided free of charge at the point of sale of goods or products.

To strengthen and improve waste management accounting, the United products, packaging and waste accounting information system (<https://www.gpais.eu/en/>) has been operational since 2018. The goal of the system – automatization of product, packaging, and waste accounting data collection, analysis, monitoring and control processes.

The system's "tracing" the entire waste chain: generation, transfer, shipment and management of waste data are directly linked, verification with other registers made - e.g., whether the company has a permit to perform specific disposal or recovery operation, has a right to issue documentary evidence of product and/or packaging waste management, etc. It's a useful instrument for analysis, prevention and control (through accounting, waste movement entity registration, etc.) and allows seeing a map of "waste" and "waste producers" daily.

Awareness-raising campaigns

Since 2015, annually surveyed residents' opinion regarding the waste management system has shown that the number of people sorting all the waste generated in the household has increased (55%), which is the best result since 2015 (40%). Another 32% indicated that they sort only part of the waste. 13% of respondents do not sort waste at all. It is worth mentioning that this rate is the lowest since 2015 (27%).

The majority (57%) of the respondents' state that in the last 3-5 years, the number of waste sorting containers has increased, the media attention to waste management has increased (43 %), the number of social actions has increased (32 %), the state contribution to waste management has increased (32%).

- From 2015 to 2018, Lithuania has been an active participant in the European waste reduction Week (EWWR). EWWR is an initiative aiming to promote the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management during a single week. There are a lot of positive examples showing that society is very interested in

waste prevention. Participants: governmental institutions, business organizations, universities, schools, kindergartens, communities, day-care centres, NGOs.

- Campaign to reduce the amount of lightweight carrier bags – a voluntary agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and the retail sector. To reduce the amount of lightweight plastic carrier bags generated in Lithuania, the Ministry of Environment organized meetings with representatives from different retail companies, during which it was agreed to create video advertisements and broadcast them free of charge in the supermarkets. Video can be found

here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xvay5u__Huc&list=PLLt1U_DE_70x4-fZyzGnJ6VqMUvzvOsbz&index=9; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaJgQ_vTQHQ&list=PLLt1U_DE_70x4-fZyzGnJ6VqMUvzvOsbz&index=10.

- Awareness-raising campaign to reduce the number of composite cups on the screens of public transport (in the buses, trolleybuses) in major cities, and on the cinema theatre screens. The campaign started on 1 September 2018 and can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/aplinkosministerija/videos/1120953308068883/>.

- The initiative “Sustainable Homes” – a project which promotes public awareness of responsible consumption, waste prevention and climate change. More information: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/projektas.darnus.namai/posts/>.

- European Plastics Pact – is a voluntary initiative that accelerates the shift toward the reuse and recycling of single-use plastic products and packaging. In 2020 Lithuania, with 13 other EU Member States, 72 companies, 22 organizations and business associations and 3 NGOs, joined the Pact.

Question by United States of America at Monday, 05 April 2021

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Domestic MRV lessons

Could you describe some of the lessons learned from the successful implementation of the arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving, and evaluation of policies and measures?

Answer by Lithuania, Thursday, 27 May 2021

The GHG reduction commitments are set in the Strategy for National Climate Change Management Policy for 2013–2050 adopted in 2012 by the Parliament. The Ministry of Environment implements the goals set in the Strategy, together with the Ministry of Energy,

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and municipal and other institutions within their remit. The Ministry of Environment coordinates the implementation of the Strategy. Thus, the Inter-institutional Action Plan for the implementation of the goals and objectives for the period of 2013-2020 of the Strategy for National Climate Change Management Policy was approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 23 April 2013. The Action Plan consists of general provisions, targets, objectives, measures, financial resources, implementing institutions, assessment criteria and values. Following the Strategic planning methodology approved by the Government, the plan is prepared for the three years and is updated annually by adding one more year. Besides that, ministries and other governmental institutions are obliged to mainstream the goals and objectives into sectoral policies and plans as set forth by the Strategy. They are also obliged to establish implementation measures and to ensure close inter-institutional cooperation while developing the strategies, their implementation plans and programmes of individual sectors of the economy.

State and municipal institutions which are engaged in the implementation of the Strategy and the Inter-institutional Action Plan report to the Government via Monitoring Information System. Also, provide the Ministry of Environment with information about the progress in implementing the Strategy and its implementation plan by submitting annual activity reports. The progress of the Strategy implementation is evaluated by the set of criteria established in the Inter-institutional Action Plan. In order to comply with annual GHG emission reduction targets in non-ETS sectors, quantitative yearly GHG emission reduction targets in million tonnes CO₂eq determined for transport, agriculture, waste management, non-ETS industries and other sectors are set as assessment criteria in the Action Plan.

Also, the goals and objectives of the Strategy are implemented by planning documents for the country's specific economic sectors, such as the National Progress Programme, sectoral development programmes or short-term planning documents. The implementation of the Action Plan is funded from the funds of the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania, municipal budgets, EU structural and investment funds and other sources.

If we exceed the ESD annual quotas (in the non-ETS sector), the following actions against non-compliance according to EU decision No 406/2009 7 article (Corrective action, Art 7) shall be taken:

“1. If the greenhouse gas emissions of a Member State exceed the annual emission allocation specified pursuant to Article 3(2), taking into account the flexibilities used pursuant to Articles 3 and 5, the following measures shall apply:

(a) a deduction from the Member State's emission allocation of the following year equal to the amount in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of those excess emissions, multiplied by an abatement factor of 1,08;

(b) the development of a corrective action plan in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article; and

(c) the temporary suspension of the eligibility to transfer part of the Member State's emission allocation and JI/CDM rights to another Member State until the Member State is in compliance with Article 3(2).

2. A Member State covered by paragraph 1 shall, within three months, submit to the Commission an assessment and a corrective action plan that includes:

(a), action that the Member State will implement in order to meet its specific obligations under Article 3(2), giving priority to domestic policies and measures and the implementation of Community action;

(b), a timetable for implementing such action, which enables the assessment of annual progress in the implementation.

The Commission may issue an opinion on the corrective action plan of the Member State in question.

Before issuing that opinion, the Commission may submit the corrective action plan to the Climate Change Committee, referred to in Article 13(1), for comments.”

The monitoring system for compliance still needs to be improved. In the upcoming period, we are planning to monitor the implementation of separate or group of measures. Currently, we are developing the main indicators and the list of the data needed to build the PaMs monitoring system.

[Question by](#) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Thursday, 01 April 2021

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Strategy for the National Climate Change Management Policy update

Lithuania’s Biennial Review notes that the “Strategy for the National Climate Change Management Policy” was being updated at the time of BR submission. Can Lithuania provide an update on this and any changes to mid-term and long-term mitigation targets and policies?

[Answer by](#) Lithuania, Thursday, 27 May 2021

In the updated National Climate Change Management Agenda, Lithuania has set a climate change neutrality goal by 2050. The 2030 target has also been updated to a more ambitious GHG reduction (Reduce total GHG emissions by 30 % by 2030 compared to 2005). The 2040 targets were increased accordingly. The updated targets are shown in the table below.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|------|
| GHG reduction targets | Lithuania | | |
| | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| Compared to 1990* | -70% | -85% | -100% |
| Compared to 2005* | -30 % | - | - |
| EU ETS sector compared to 2005 | -50 % | - | - |
| EU non-ETS sector compared to 2005* | -25 % | - | - |

*including LULUCF

[Question by](#) New Zealand at Thursday, 01 April 2021

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Multi-apartment Building Renovation (Modernization) Programme.

New Zealand reads with interest about the Multi-apartment Building Renovation (Modernization) Programme. Can Lithuania please share any lessons learned from the programme? Were any adjustments needed and how did these improve the programme?

[Answer by](#) Lithuania, Thursday, 27 May 2021

The main goal of the programme is to increase energy efficiency in multi-apartment buildings built according to the normative technical construction documents valid until 1993. Program objective until end of 2020: renovate at least 4000 multi-apartment buildings, reduce heat (fuel) consumption in renovated buildings by not less than 20 per cent, achieve annual heat savings of no less than 1000 GWh, and reduce CO2 annual emissions by not less than 230 thousand tons compared to 2005.

The renovation process under the Programme started in 2005. However, the activity got higher in 2010, with projects initiated just before the recession. The activity then slowed down due to the recession and increased again from 2014 and especially during the years 2015 and 2016.

During 1996–2004 the government with the partnership of the World Bank, the Danish Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented an Energy Efficiency/Housing Pilot Project (EEHPP). This was one of the first projects to target energy efficiency financing through a credit line for homeowners and homeowners' associations. At the time, the residential sector lacked access to energy efficiency financing because government grants and credits for energy efficiency investment projects were limited.

Homeowners and homeowners' associations could apply for loans through a commercial bank. These loans were offered at an 11 per cent interest rate, a minimum 10 per cent down payment and a maximum 10-year maturity. There was a state grant for 30 per cent of the

loan principal, not to exceed 14.50 Eur per m² of living area.

700 multi-apartment buildings and 25 single-family buildings were renovated by 2005 during this project.

The experience gained during the project was used to design a Multi-apartment building renovation (modernization) programme. The main barriers of this Programme are that about 66% of the population lives in multi-apartment buildings that were built before 1993 and 97% of those multi-apartment buildings are privately owned. This means a majority vote by the homeowners is needed to begin the renovation of the building. Homeowners often lacked the experience or financial capacity to implement renovations.

And the main drivers are that around 60% of the more than 38,000 multi-apartment buildings in Lithuania required energy refurbishment due to having inefficient heating systems and equipment and poor building insulation and state subsidy could encourage homeowners to invest and improve energy efficiency.

The programme has been modified several times since 2004. The Program attracted commercial banking sector loans alongside state subsidies, which, although initially rising from 15 per cent to 30 per cent to 50 per cent, could not be sustained. State subsidized renovation programme ran out of money in late 2007. In addition, commercial banks were not keen to take risks and issue renovation loans from their own resources, particularly after the financial crisis began.

Therefore in 2009, Lithuania established a lending mechanism using funds from JESSICA. This allowed Lithuania to provide low-interest loans without burdening the state budget. The interest rate on the loan was fixed at 3 per cent, the period of the loan was up to 20 years.

However, because of homeowners unwillingness to take long-term financial commitments, the fact that they became borrowers even when they voted against renovation and lack of sufficient incentive for low-income homeowners to improve energy efficiency (because these households were eligible for heating costs compensation) the take-up rate was low.

In 2013 some lessons were learnt and corrective measures were taken:

- Municipalities were instructed to draw the list of the worst-performing buildings;
- Municipalities have appointed renovation administrators;
- Administrators borrow on behalf and for the need of home-owners;
- The loan remains off-balance-sheet for the Administrator;
- Amendments to the legal basis related to heating bill compensations (1 June 2013 amendments to the Law: where a community decides to renovate the multi-apartment block, those who have declined participation in the decision-making process would receive a 50 per cent smaller compensation for the heating bills during the proximate heating season and no compensation from the next heating season until the block renovation project is completed but no longer than 3 years). Such provision encouraged low-income persons to become more active and vote in favour of renovation.

New implementation accelerated the renovation of multi-apartment buildings across Lithuania.

After the programme gained popularity since November 2017 state subsidy was decreased

to 30 per cent with additional support when the renovation project involves installation or modernization of a separate non-automated heating station in an apartment building, the installation of balancing valves on the stands and/or reorganization or replacement of the heating system by the installation of individual heat meters and/or thermostatic valves (additional compensation of 10 per cent of the cost of implementing these measures).

For faster procurement of all services related to renovation, it was implemented that they are conducted electronically via the electronic catalogue of the Central Purchasing Organization (CPO). This ensures a more transparent procurement process.

The strength of this programme is that the administrator or municipal entity receiving a modernization loan on behalf of homeowners, or on their own behalf but for the benefit of apartment owners removes the burden of personal loans from the homeowners. And the main weaknesses are that multi-apartment building renovation (modernization) is a long process; after the programme gain popularity the need for investment has increased, sometimes unclear commercial banks funding conditions.

The main lessons learned:

- It is important to raise public awareness of the benefits of renovations so that homeowners would become more engaged.
- Home-owners need a clear and understandable subsidy scheme in order to enter into energy efficiency investments.
- Government needs to be persuasive, transparent and supportive when informing their citizens.
- According to a survey conducted in 2017 residents of renovated apartments find not only lower heating costs to be the main benefits of renovation but also changed the quality of life, comfortable air temperature in an apartment, improved.
- According to a recent survey, the majority of homeowners (62 per cent) support current renovation processes.

[Question by](#) New Zealand at Thursday, 01 April 2021

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 05 April

[Title:](#) Energy Efficiency Law

Can Lithuania please provide additional information on how it expects consumer behaviour will be changed by the Energy Efficiency Law?

[Answer by Lithuania](#), Thursday, 27 May 2021

Increasing energy efficiency in Lithuania is promoted not only by technological or procedural measures. Preliminary estimates showed that changing end-user behaviour can save up to 10 per cent in energy use. The provisions of Article 8 of the Law on Improving Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Lithuania were approved to promote consumer awareness and implement the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requirements. These provisions oblige all Lithuanian energy companies to educate and advise consumers on energy-

saving measures and solutions that change consumer behaviour and habits by increasing energy efficiency.

Lithuania applied the existing system in Finland to develop a model of education and counselling focused on consumer behaviour. Currently, 64 energy companies have taken on the responsibility of educating and advising energy consumers.

[Question by New Zealand](#) at Thursday, 01 April 2021

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Road transport emissions

New Zealand reads with interest that the population is reported as declining over time, however the number of vehicles for private passenger use would increase to 2035 and from 2035-2040, light passenger vehicles are projected to decrease, and road kilometres travelled are also projected to increase. Can Lithuania please clarify the interaction and impact of population assumptions on other assumptions used to calculate road transport emissions in the target period?

[Answer by Lithuania](#), Thursday, 27 May 2021

Since 2009, the population of Lithuania was declining, but the number of road vehicles was increasing. Therefore, the assumption of the population was included for calculating the number of passenger cars only from 2030. An annual increase of passenger cars for 2009-2018 in towns implementing Sustainable Mobility Plans (SMP) was +2.65% and in other territories separately +3.39%. An assumption was made that number of cars will grow following the same trend until 2023 (until towns implement measures stated in SMPs), and the trend will be -1.43% in SMP towns in the 2023-2030 period, while in other territories, the increase of a number of cars will remain stable (+3.39%). For the period 2030-2040, the number of passenger cars will decrease -0,3% annually, taking into account the demographic

situation.



May-June 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

Session closes at 01-06-2021

UNFCCC - LAST PAGE OF EXPORT