

Session SBI60 (2024)

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Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to – and answers by – [Estonia](#)
exported on 05-06-2024 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by New Zealand at Thursday, 04 April 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Estonia's electricity market auction system

New Zealand was interested to learn about Estonia's electricity market auction system which provides support to producers that generate the cheapest renewable energy. Could Estonia share an update of this policy to date? What impact has this policy had towards Estonia's 2020 emissions reduction target?

Answer by Estonia

With reverse auctions 2019-2025 renewable electricity generation 2,2 TWh is planned (2023 electricity consumption was 8,6 TWh with peak capacity 1514 MW, domestically was produced 4,9 TWh, half of it from renewables in 2023). The purpose of the renewable energy support through reverse auctions is to bring additional electricity produced from a renewable energy source to the market in a calendar year, in order to find the most affordable producers. The volume and schedule of the auctions are correlated with the trajectories of meeting the renewable energy goals (including intermediate goals). Based on the results of the first five reverse auctions with result of 1,3 TWh renewable electricity production it is possible to see that the construction of renewable energy production equipment has become cheaper year by year, and the interest of market participants in reverse auctions has grown over time. Last reverse auction will give in addition 0,78 TWh renewable electricity.

In the end of 2023 Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (now Ministry of Climate) analyzed the market situation and proposed an outlook for the Government whether and to what extent it is necessary to continue or organize technology-specific renewable electricity auctions in order to achieve the 2030 renewable energy goals. Work towards achieving the renewable energy goals are also contributing to Estonian GHG emission reduction targets. Currently 4 TWh onshore production for 2029 and 4 TWh offshore wind production for 2033 via reverse auctions are discussed.

Energy sector is a major source of GHG emissions in Estonia contributing 84.4% of total emissions in 2022, including electricity generation that contributed 43% of the total GHG emissions (without LULUCF) in 2022. According to the latest GHG inventory for years 1990-2022 emissions from electricity generation have decreased 67% in 2022 compared to 1990 levels and are projected to decrease 62% further according to the With existing measures scenario and 78% according to the With additional measures scenario.

Question by United States of America at Friday, 29 March 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Balticconnector gas pipe

How has the opening of the Balticconnector gas pipe contributed to your inventory and affected data in the near term and in the future?

Answer by Estonia

The opening of the Balticconnector gas pipe has not contributed to the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, as international gas transit through Estonia has not been accounted for in the GHG inventory yet, however Estonia is planning to look into the Fugitive emission methodology in the coming years and this information can be taken into consideration at that time. The throughput of the Balticconnector gas pipeline is approx. 7.2 million m³/day and approx. 300,000 nm³/h. The annual throughput of the gas pipeline (including through the LNG terminal) is estimated at 5TWh/a. The planned annual gas transmission capacity is 2 billion cubic meters.

Question by United States of America at Friday, 29 March 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Emission reduction and EU goal

Is Estonia on track to reduce emissions in accordance with the EU goal of 55% by 2030?

Answer by Estonia

Estonia contributes to the EU goal of 55% by 2030 through the EU Emission Trading System

(EU ETS) and goals set by the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) and LULUCF regulation. The ESR establishes binding emission reduction targets for the European Union member states for the period 2021-2030 in sectors outside the scope of the EU Emissions Trading System. According to ESR Estonia's goal is to reduce GHG emissions in the ESR sectors 24% by 2030 compared to 2005. According to the accounting principles applied in the LULUCF regulation, emissions must not be greater than the amount of sequestered carbon in the years 2021-2025 (the so-called no-debit rule). In accordance with the update of the LULUCF regulation, by 2030, compared to the base level (2016-2018 average), GHG sequestration must be increased by 0.434 million t CO₂ eq.

According to the latest 2024 GHG inventory, Estonia has reduced its ESR emissions in 2022 by 11% compared to the 2005 base year and therefore is on track moving towards the 2030 target while acknowledging that continues efforts are needed to achieve the emission reduction goal. Estonia is currently in the process of preparing its first Climate Resilient Economy Act that covers the whole economy to set us on a clear path to meet the climate neutrality target by 2050. LULUCF target for the period of 2030 will be achieved with flexibilities between the Effort Sharing Regulation and LULUCF regulation as well as additional measures foreseen under Estonian Climate Resilient Economy Act, largest impact coming from setting stable felling volume for the forestry sector and reducing emissions from horticultural peat production with the view of 100% emission reduction in the peat Industry by 2050.

Question by United States of America at Friday, 29 March 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Targets

The reports states emission trends from 1990 to 2020 emissions without LULUCF decreased by 71.24%, but the GPCP 2050 established a reduction target of 70% by 2030. Does this mean you've already met your targets? If not, how do they differ?

Answer by Estonia

Proposal to amend the long-term target of Estonia to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases by 2050 by 80% set in the GPCP 2050 according to the 2050 climate neutrality goal set

in Estonia's long-term strategy Estonia 2035 and remove interim targets for the 2030s and 2040s was sent to the Parliament in March 2022. Parliament approved the amendment to GPCP 2050 on February 8, 2023. Therefore as of 2024 Estonia does not have a separate 2030 GHG emission reduction target anymore. Estonia 2035 current action plan was approved by the Government on May 11, 2023.

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Thursday, 28 March 2024

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Question to Estonia on their strategy reviews

Thank you, Estonia for the opportunity to comment on your 5th Biennial Report and 8th National Communication. We note that once a year members of the government review your long term strategy (Estonia 2035) to ensure trends in their policy areas are reflected. Does a similar exercise take place with the public?

Answer by Estonia

Estonia is implementing the strategy 'Estonia 2035' with the help of an action plan, which can be contributed to by everyone through our various co-creation projects during the annual renewal process. There are different ways to be involved. For participation and staying informed the suggestions and thoughts on the kind of Estonia you want to live in by 2035 are welcome at: eesti2035@listid.rk.ee. Monthly news and newsletters are compiled on the strategy's website. The news about the 'Estonia 2035' strategy are made available on the government's website and also on the 'Estonia 2035' social media page on Facebook.

Various organizations are also involved in different forms of cooperation. Umbrella organizations include partners who possess expertise and advocacy interest in the needs and development perspectives of various fields from a national perspective. Sector-specific partners and experts are defined as those partners who primarily have a specific field view and experience. Cooperation partners include organizations with whom Government Office collaborate and who directly contribute to the creation of the strategy with their own Resources.

In November of last year, the Government Office, together with the Growth Platform team, invited people from every corner of Estonia to discuss topics that we can address together to improve life in Estonia. During the month-long Opinion Journey, nearly 140 discussions were held, involving over 1,000 people, who collectively submitted nearly 800 ideas and proposals across 12 topics for the improvement of national and local life

Question by Australia at Wednesday, 27 March 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Q2

Australia applauds Estonia's initiatives to reduce emissions from Central and Local Government buildings (BR5, pg. 40). **How is Estonia working to reduce these emissions, and which actions have been most effective to date?**

Answer by Estonia

Estonia is planning to reduce the emissions from buildings through saving energy by supporting renovation of different building types, transition district heating to renewable fuels and reduce losses in district heating networks. In 2020, the government approved a long-term reconstruction strategy, the main goal of which is to completely renovate all buildings built before 2000 in Estonia by 2050. For example, with the help of the Central Government building reconstruction support, the total area of buildings reconstructed or replaced in the period 2020-2023 is nearly 57,000 m², as a result of these support programmes, the area of buildings that do not meet the requirements of the public sector will decrease and energy efficiency will be improved.

Question by Australia at Wednesday, 27 March 2024

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

Type: Before 04 April

Title: Q1

Estonia's 8th National Communication identifies a planned project to build a solar power station in the territory of the Estonia mine (pg. 12, 31). **Can Estonia provide an update on the status of this project, and comment on the expected benefits it will deliver?**

Answer by Estonia

The beforementioned project was planned and implemented by Eesti Energia AS, a public limited energy company in Estonia. In december 2023 Enefit Green, owned by Enefit Power, opened a 3-MWh solar park, with more than 9,000 panels, on the industrial site of the Estonia mine in Ida-Viru County. The electricity produced by the Estonia mine solar power plant will be used to supply the Estonia mine, which is expected to consume most of the electricity produced for its own use. The Estonia mine's solar power plant is unique precisely because of its location, as it is the first solar park in Estonia to be located on a 27-metre-high gangue structure. This is the second solar farm that Enefit Green has built on an industrial site. In May 2019, the Laaskõrve solar farm was completed near Kohtla-Nõmme in Ida-Viru County. Solar production in 2020 was 0,1 TWh (110 MW) and via reverse auction production increased rapidly, 2023=0,7 TWh (812 MW), thus every new solar park will create additional generation to increase share of renewables in consumption.

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