

Policy Recommendations

1. Show Leadership

The EU can and should take a leadership role to address climate change and keep global temperatures to below 2°C.

The move to a 30% domestic target should be seen as a first step towards an emission reduction target of at least 40% by 2020 for all industrialised countries, consistent with keeping global temperatures to well below 2°C as suggested by the IPCC.


2. Make health central to discussions

EU leaders should formally commit to a domestic target of reducing emissions by 30% by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels) and acknowledge the public health co-benefits of such a move arising from the reduction in emissions of regional air pollutants linked to the cut in GHGs.

3. Act Now!

By starting immediately to implement the 30% target, the EU can increase the health co-benefits by 250% as compared with action in five years' time or later.

The report shows detailed figures on the cost savings for eight Member States. Among these countries five (France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the Netherlands) are estimated to benefit most. Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom are expected to benefit by up to €900 million per year by 2020.



Premature deaths, healthcare and medication associated with air pollution are estimated at the equivalent of 1.5 - 4 per cent of EU Gross Domestic Product.