



European Commission

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MAKING SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Nature is an important **ally in the fight against climate change**. It regulates the climate, supports biodiversity, absorbs and stores carbon in forests, peatlands and wetlands.

A circular and sustainable management of these resources will improve our living conditions, maintain a healthy environment, create future-proof and high-quality jobs, and provide sustainable food, bio-products and energy. **New business models** that reward more climate-friendly land management ("carbon farming") will create new income opportunities for farmers and foresters.

A CLIMATE NEUTRAL LAND SECTOR

The revised Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) will help:



Improve the resilience of forests to climate change



Restore degraded ecosystems



Promote the bio-economy while preserving biodiversity



Increase carbon stored in soil and forests



Increase the use of long-lasting wood and bio-products



Support production of sustainable food

New target to restore and expand the EU's natural carbon sinks by 2030:



Old target ⚠️ Too low

Current carbon sink

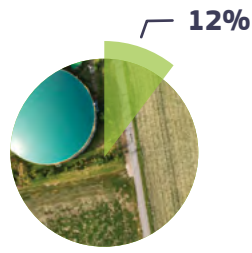
New target

*CO₂eq

SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY

Sustainable bioenergy is a key part of the EU energy mix, alongside other renewable sources. Responsible use of bioenergy **contributes to the phase-out of fossil fuels** and plays an important role in making Europe climate neutral by 2050.

In 2018, the **EU sustainability criteria** for bioenergy were already reinforced, with biodiversity and climate safeguards introduced for forest biomass. Now, the sustainability criteria are **further strengthened** to ensure the health of our forests.



Bioenergy in the total energy mix*



Bioenergy share in the renewable energy consumption*

*Eurostat 2019



Prohibit the sourcing of **biomass for energy production from primary forests**, peatlands and wetlands



No support for forest biomass in **electricity-only installations** as of 2026



Prohibit **national financial incentives for using saw or veneer logs, stumps and roots** for energy generation



Require **all biomass-based heat and power installations** to comply with minimum greenhouse gas saving thresholds



Apply the EU sustainability criteria to **smaller heat and power installations** (equal or above 5MW)

Woody biomass should be used according to its highest economic and environmental added value in the following order of priorities:



NEW EU FOREST STRATEGY FOR 2030

Forests are essential for our health and wellbeing, and the health of the planet. They are rich in biodiversity and are hugely important in the fight against climate change.

The EU Forest Strategy will **improve the quantity and quality** of EU forests by:

- Increasing forest coverage in the EU in respecting ecological principles
- Improving the resilience of forests in the EU



Protect and restore our forests by

- Strictly protecting remaining **EU primary and old-growth forests**
- Establishing legally binding **nature restoration targets** for forests
- **Planting 3 billion** additional trees by 2030
- Creating **payment schemes** for forest owners and managers for the **provision of ecosystem services**



Ensure that forests are managed sustainably by

- Encouraging the **bio-economy** sector to embrace sustainable principles
- Promoting the uptake of **sustainably harvested wood** in the **construction sector**
- Promoting win-win measures for all in **sustainable forest management**



Understand what is happening in our forests by

- Improving the **monitoring of the state of EU forests** including through better remote sensing
- Ensuring Member States develop **Strategic Plans** for their forests
- Encouraging **citizen involvement** through Map-My-Tree, to keep track of the **3 billion trees** roadmap
- Creating an inclusive space for **all stakeholders to discuss**

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