

COOL TOWNS - ROADMAP

Climate policy



BELGIUM

National Energy and Climate Plan (2021-2030) / Nationaal Energie en Klimaatplan (2021-2030)

- The most important measures at the federal level to reduce emissions, concern fiscality, energy and transportation.
- The plan aims the transition to a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy system, according to the 5 pillars of the European energy-union (Europese Energie-Unie) and in accordance to the goals that are set for 2030: a low carbon EU (reduction of GHG-emissions and development of renewable energy), energy-efficiency, guaranteed supply, internal energy market, research, innovation and competitiveness.

National Adaptation Strategy (2010)

Description of the foremost impacts of climate change in Belgium and the existing adaptation measures. Three main goals are put forward :

- Better coherence between existing adaptation activities (evaluation of impact of and vulnerabilities to CC and already implemented adaptive measures.
- A better communication on national and international level. Development of a national adaptation plan.

National Climate Adaptation plan (2017)

- Provide clear and concise information about the adaptation policies and their implementation in Belgium
- Identifying the national measures reinforcing collaborations and creating synergies between the different governments when it comes to climate adaptation.

This contribution aims to activate several levers and instruments for adaptation in a variety of sectors in order to have a coordinated adaptation strategy on the federal level. Therefore 12 measures are listed to:

- Reinforce capacity to better evaluate, anticipate and react to risks attributed to climate change (knowledge building).
- Anticipate the risks and mitigate and reduce them while also maximising the benefits.
- Adaptation is integrated in two main sectors: transportation and crisis management.
- The plan includes transversal measures concerning the coherent integration of adaptation in different domains/policies, sensibilisation and insight in the challenges.

Flemish Climate policy 2021-2030

This policy gives the outlines for the period 2021-2030. It includes action plans and policies for several sectors, including the estimated impact of implementing these policies. See below for more information.

The Flemish Climate policy can be updated in 2023-2024.

Flemish adaptation plan

- Is part of the Flemish Climate policy 2013-2020.
- Aims to get a view on the vulnerabilities of Flanders when it comes to CC, to increase the resilience against the impacts of CC, and to adapt Flanders as well as possible to the expected impacts.

The plan effects other policies and management plans (stroomgebiedbeheerplan, code van goede praktijk voor rioleringen,...)

The Flemish government supports municipalities in the development and implementation of adaptation measures, e.g. by supplying good examples (klimaatruimte.be, blauwgroenvlaanderen.be) and the launching of a climate portal (klimaatportaal) which provides maps about heat stress, UHI, floodings, droughts and sea level rise, both at the current moment and as a projection towards 2100 (<https://klimaat.vmm.be/nl>).

Provincial Climate plan (2015)

The province of East-Flanders has two main goals set out by 2050. 1) to mitigate CC by reducing emissions to a net result of zero emissions by 2050 and 2) to make its' territory more climate resilient by 2050 through adaptive measures. The plan has 5 pillars:

- Green energy
- Climate healthy living area
- Less polluting kilometres
- Climate proof landscape
- Circular economy

A very important group to achieve these goals are the 60 municipalities of the province. The province supports municipalities that are willing to step up and integrate CC in their local policies. The province of East-Flanders is the territorial coordinator for the covenant of mayors and supports its municipalities to write and implement local mitigation and adaptation plans (SECAP).

Provincial Climate action plan (2015-2020)

This action plan consists of a list of actions to be taken in order to reach the goals of the provincial climate plan (see above). Actions concerning heat can be found in the pillars

- Climate healthy living area
- Climate proof landscape

Provincial Climate action plan (2020-2025)

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Spatial Planning policy / Beleidsplan Ruimte (expected in 2021)

The province of East Flanders is currently in the progress of writing a policy concerning spatial planning in its territory by the name of "Make room for East-Flanders 2050". This policy will replace the current "Provinciaal ruimtelijk structuurplan" (Provincial spatial structure plan) and will uphold several climate adaptive principles in spatial planning.

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<https://oost-vlaanderen.be/wonen-en-leven/ruimtelijke-planning/beleidsinstrumenten/maak-ruimte-voor-oost-vlaanderen-2050.html>

Climate adaptation plan / Gemeentelijk klimaatadaptatieplan (2015)

The lion's share of the municipalities in East Flanders has an adaptation plan already. Most of the other municipalities aim to write an adaptation plan within the next 2 years, all within the context of the covenant of mayors. This document is not legally binding, but does set out lines for the local policies.

Heat stress and how to mitigate it is among the main focus points of this programme. Other focus points are drought, flooding, biodiversity loss, ...

The plans contain several adaptation measures for the municipality to implement/carry out. These measures include greening, forestation, breaking up and greening paved areas, providing more space for water (incl. infiltration), ... and take place in both urbanized and open landscapes. To implement these measures and achieve the wished results, the municipalities make use of several spatial planning instruments, communication, sensibilisation, and the overall policies and regulations concerning licences and permits (verkavelingsvoorschriften, RUPs,...).