Roadmap for a low carbon economy by 2050

General Information	
1) Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or institution?	I am answering on behalf of an organisation or institution (NGO, public authority, ...)
Please select the option which is the best description of your organisation	other type of organisation
Please enter the name and type of your organisation (NGO, public authority, industry, institution, interest group, ...). Please briefly describe which stakeholders (or members) you represent. If you are registered in the *Register of interest representatives* please indicate your indentification number.	
EUROCITIES EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. We bring together the local governments of more than 140 large cities in over 30 European countries. Registered organisation 12493392840-79	
Received contributions, together with the identity of the contributor, may be published on the Commission's website. However, the contribution may be published in anonymous form. Do you want your contribution to be anonymous?	No, you can publish this contribution under the name indicated.

Section A: Questions for the general public in the EU	
2) Implementing the climate and energy package (achieving a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and 20% renewable in energy in 2020) has been estimated to cost an average household in the EU approximately 12€ per month in 2020. Avoiding dangerous climate change requires investments, by you as a consumer, by firms, and by governments. How much extra (on the total of your household costs) would you be prepared to pay on a monthly basis to build the future low-carbon society?	

3) Reducing emissions and saving energy is possible through your daily choices as a consumer. What do you already do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	
Reductions to your energy bill: roof insulation, window replacement, maintainance or upgrading of heating or air conditioning systems	
Choosing the most efficient appliances — with energy labels A(+) when replacing your fridge, dishwasher, washing machine, TV, computers	
An energy audit of your house or company	

Switching to a provider of renewable electricity or installing your own renewable energy generation system	
Checking your real-time CO2 consumption with an IT application	
Commute to work on foot, cycling or by public transport (bus, train, metro)	
Using electric cars	
Using biofuel-blended petrol or diesel	
Diversify your weekly diet to reduce emissions in food production (e.g. replace meat for some meals)	
Buy locally-produced food and seasonal fresh products more often	
Encourage actions that reduce deforestation worldwide (e.g. buying products from certified forests…)	
Check your holiday plans and opt for the best transport connections which would reduce your CO2 emissions	
Compensating for your greenhouse gas emissions by buying carbon offsets, i.e. financing projects to reduce emissions somewhere else in the world	
Get your neighbourhood / friends / family to make a pledge / take part in local challenges to reduce emissions	
Create or invest in a company putting new low carbon or energy-efficient product and services on the market	
Develop your skills so that you can get a job requiring knowledge or know-how about reducing emissions	
Find out what your local government does to save energy and money	
Reduce waste, recycle and reuse	
4) What else do you think you could do?	
5) What do you think are the main obstacles to reducing the EU's greenhouse gas emissions? You can pick up to three of the options below.	
6) Rich and poor countries have to act together to avoid dangerous climate change. Developing countries want us to help them with two things: cutting their greenhouse gas emissions and adapting	

to climate change (e.g. building better flood defences and switching to more drought-resistant crops). What do you think the priorities should be for helping developing countries with these challenges? If we support them, what should the terms be?

Section B: Questions for organizations

7) The EU has put in place a regulatory framework related to climate and energy. Which of the following EU legislations you expect to be the most effective in terms of delivering emission reductions by 2020 and beyond? (select maximum 4)	EU ETS (European Emission Trading Scheme) Directive Directive on end-use energy efficiency and energy efficiency services (ESD) Recast Energy performance of Buildings Directive Regulation to reduce CO2 emissions from passenger cars

8) Do you have any comments on the policies evaluated in the previous question? Do you have any comments on any other policies?

- On EU Emissions Trading Scheme – we would like to see a proportion of the revenues made available to finance local actions. Such a mechanism would help secure long term financing to fund local climate change actions in our big cities, where a substantial proportion of the emissions are created, and where a major contribution to meeting the 2020 targets can be made. - The Renewable Energy Directive is clear on its targets with regard to 2020. However cities would like greater energy efficiency at the end use. - In the field of transport, the objective should be a modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transport, including improved public transport and support for other modes, such as walking and cycling.

9) The EU will need a diverse portfolio of technologies to build a low-carbon future. Some examples of potential technologies and energy efficiency solutions are carbon capture and storage, renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, fuel cells, smart grids, heat pumps, cogeneration, next generation nuclear power, zero emission buildings, etc. Which technologies do you think will be the most important in achieving a low carbon economy by 2050 and how can the EU foster their development and deployment?

- Exploit the huge potential available in integrated actions in big cities: targeted investment in city/city-neighbourhood pilots, providing critical mass testbeds; transnational exchange between cities can then foster further deployment and joint procurement. In particular, support the conversion of the large amounts of waste and biomass produced in cities to energy for vehicles (biogas), buildings and industry. - The EU should stimulate smarter energy modelling which is managed in a smarter way. Digital technologies will be key to this. - Seek models to integrate energy demand and supply on a city level. - Technical assistance for capacity building around city governance and integrated planning, including energy planning - Better information on energy consumption from a consumer perspective which can also be linked to an integrated transport system - A greater emphasis on district heating and cooling - Decentralised energy production and the development and linking up of smart grids

10) What are in your opinion the most important initiatives the EU should pursue in the next five to 10 years to secure a successful transition towards a low carbon economy by 2050?

- The EU should ensure that the flagship initiatives developed under Europe 2020 are rooted in the reality of the local level. Multi-level governance, better coordination between levels of government and harnessing the potential of Europe's cities and metropolitan areas are essential. Further explore financial engineering and new mechanisms and partnerships to ensure the required funding is available, particularly given public sector austerity budgets. In particular, gap funding is crucial to bridge the upfront costs of investment and the long payback time for carbon reduction measures. The contribution of public-private partnerships and energy service companies can be much supported through gap funding as well. Target available funding through initiatives that can achieve the greatest impact, lever in additional resources, create green jobs, and provide the examples, lessons and momentum to drive forward the innovation necessary to achieve this objective.

11) The EU Emissions Trading Scheme is a central element of EU climate policy. The EU wants to foster international climate action by reinforcing international carbon markets, e.g. by making links among emissions trading systems and by further developing crediting systems. What elements do you think should go into the EU low-carbon roadmap? (e.g. bilateral agreements to recognise international allowances and credits, sectoral crediting systems, separate financing mechanism for the purchase of international credits from developing countries, etc.)

- Cities account for up to 80% of global energy consumption. We would like to see a greater clarity on how the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the revenues it generates can help support investment to reward demonstrable carbon emission reductions in our cities.

12) Achieving a low-carbon future means investing in the medium to long-term. How can the EU roadmap help to create a stable environment to encourage investment in low carbon technologies? Would it be a good idea to consider a mid-term objective for 2030 and, if so, in what form?

- The idea of a mid-term objective in 2030 could be helpful. In addition, we believe it is also essential to recognise that cities, as the major users of energy and sources of GHG emissions must have a more central role in leading the way to a low carbon economy in 2020 and 2030.

13) We want to cut emissions in the EU by 80% to 95% by 2050. Some of the measures needed to achieve this could bring about more sustainable growth, extra jobs, accelerated innovation, cleaner air, increased energy security and lowering our vulnerability to external energy shocks. Which of these do you think should be top of the list? What should the EU do to maximise the benefits you think should be delivered in priority by future climate action?

- Top of the list of priorities should be increasing energy security and lowering our vulnerability to external energy shocks. This should be followed by accelerated innovation, extra jobs and sustainable growth. Followed by cleaner air. - In order to maximise the benefits the EU should reduce the demand and generate as much energy within Europe as possible. A clear strategy and approach are needed for how to reduce energy demand and stimulate more renewable energy. Localized energy generation should also be a priority.

14) What sectors do you think may be most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, and what policies do you think the EU should pursue to help them to adapt? Do you have any suggestions on the integration of adaptation policies in the Common Agriculture Policy, civil protection, environment, energy, transport, research and development policies?

- Most vulnerable sectors are water, energy and transport infrastructure and health. - Encouragement and support for initiatives in cities to guarantee their own water and energy security. - Localized energy generation to reduce the length, and thereby the vulnerability of transmission networks

15) Do you have success stories that could lead to new initiatives for steering EU transition to a low-carbon economy you wish to highlight? Please add other further comments or suggestions here if you wish.

- The EUROCITIES Declaration on climate change, signed now by 89 cities, presents a vision for addressing climate change in an integrated way at city level, including areas such as energy efficiency, sustainable urban transport, renewable energies, sustainable urban planning and international cooperation. It is available at http://www.eurocities.eu/include/lib/sql_document_card.php?id=8322 - Cities are continuously implementing a multitude of actions in the areas mentioned above. You can find a selection of them in our publication on "Cities 4 Climate", available for download (25KB) at http://www.4shared.com/document/bLccsVfU/Cities4Climate_final_reduced.html

Additional Comments

Please insert text (max 5000 characters) or upload a document (1 document, max 1 MB). You can also send us documents via email (CLIMA-ROADMAP2050@ec.europa.eu). Please, if possible, do not submit lenghty documents.

Meta Informations

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