



C4ET

factsheet

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The Sustainable Development Goals 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change

The year 2015 was key to building-up more sustainable societies, with the Paris Agreement on Climate in December 2015 and the adoption by the United Nations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. These new development goals for the 2015-2030 period are taking over the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, period 2000-2015), with a more global approach.

The SDGs aim to provide a holistic response to the issues we collectively face, no matter that we live in a developed, developing or emerging country. The 17 objectives are complementary and cover a wide range of issues. Among the 17 SDGs, one focuses specifically on climate change, the SDG 13. It aims to *“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”*.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

GOALS

“Climate change is a global challenge that does not respect national borders. Emissions anywhere affect people everywhere. Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts.”

Source: United Nations 2015, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>



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SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”

The SDG 13 aims to promote and strengthen the countries’ resilience and adaptation capacities facing climate change and its consequences. It also aims to promote all mitigation (the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at the origin of climate change) measures. The link with the Paris climate agreement, established during COP21 in Paris in December 2015, is highlighted. In this context, developed countries Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) pledged to mobilize \$ 100 billion per year by 2020 for developing countries to support the implementation of their climate policies (through the Green Fund for Climate).

Implementation

For the implementation, the SDG 13 involves the incorporation of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. There are also provisions for education, awareness raising on individuals and building institutional capacities for adaptation to climate change. The Green Fund for Climate must be operational through dedicated financial means. Finally, the SDG13 aims to “*promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities*”.



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Understand the issues

- From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased **by 0.85°C**. Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and sea level has risen.
- The objective set in the Paris agreement is to contain global warming to well below **2°C and to pursue efforts to maintain 1,5°C** by 2100 above pre-industrial levels, which is a great challenge (it would require to leave 2/3rd of fossil fuels reserves underground/untouched).
- Some effects of climate change will persist **for many centuries**.
- Overall CO₂ emissions have increased by **almost 50%** since 1990 and more rapidly between **2000 and 2010** than in each of the previous three decades.

What you should retain: whether it is for SDG13 or for the SDG programme as a whole, the success of this great collective dynamic cannot be achieved without each citizen’s and stakeholder’s involvement and without a deep change in our consumption and production patterns.

To go further (references):

United Nations, 2015, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, p. 20 (SDG 13)

http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf

United Nations, SDG 7, Keys and figures on energy in the world <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/ENERGIES 2050, 2016, Sustainable Development Goals, a guide for citizens>

<http://energies2050.org/2016/11/23/les-guides-pour-agir-3-les-objectifs-de-developpement-durable/>