

Helping rural Europe become Fit for 55

The EU's 'Fit for 55' package is helping Member States significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2055. The ENRD has produced a wide range of useful information about climate action that can help rural Europe achieve climate-neutral ambitions.

Launched in July 2021 as a European Green Deal initiative, the Fit for 55 Package is a high-level strategic reform aimed at cutting net greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. It focuses on adapting EU policies covering land use, energy, transport, and taxation.

EU policies in these areas will be strengthened through the Fit for 55 package's foci on reforming existing legislation and establishing new proposals. These measures are backed by impact assessment analysis and represent "a careful balance between pricing, targets, standards and support measures" (see table).



Pricing

[New Carbon Border adjustment Mechanism](#)

[Strengthened Emissions Trading System](#)

[Reformed Energy taxation Directive](#)

[Expanding Emissions Trading to maritime, road transport, and buildings](#)



Target

[Reformed Land Use Land Use Change and Forest Regulation](#)

[Reformed Renewable Energy Directive](#)

[Reformed Energy Efficiency Directive](#)

[Reformed Effort Sharing Regulation](#)



Standards

[Enhanced CO₂ performance for vans and cars](#)

[New infrastructure for alternative fuels](#)

[Cleaner maritime fuels](#)

[Increased use of sustainable aviation fuels](#)



Support Measures

A new [Social Climate Fund](#) combined with updates to the [Modernisation Fund](#) and [Innovation Fund](#) complement the substantial mix of support measures available from other EU sources - including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Cohesion Policy, Maritime Policy, Horizon 2020, LIFE, and European Investment Bank Group's climate action finance. Rural Europe can deploy all these support measures.

CAP climate action

[Land-based sectors including agriculture and forestry](#) can collectively make very useful contributions to the Fit for 55 package. Recent conclusions from the European Environment Agency reinforce this, noting for example that Agricultural emissions are covered under the [EU Effort Sharing Decision](#) and [Effort Sharing Regulation](#) which set annual targets for Member States covering 2013-2020 and now 2021-2030.

CAP is an effective tool for tackling agricultural emissions through its aid for the agri-food and forestry sector. CAP can help farmers be Fit for 55 by supporting climate-friendly productivity as well as by finance that fixes carbon through afforestation or other plant-based products.

Proposals in the new CAP contain many different funding opportunities that can support Member States' greening ambitions. The ENRD Contact Point has already produced a large amount of useful work on this topic through thematic networking, [publications](#) and [videos](#). Both [EIP-AGRI](#) and the [Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development](#) have also dedicated large efforts to create useful tools and techniques that can complement Fit for 55 goals. You can see and share this material in order to help CAP stakeholders foster a more climate-friendly future for rural Europe.

