

Ministry of Environmental
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Republic of Latvia

Development and Implementation of Climate Change Adaption Policy in Latvia

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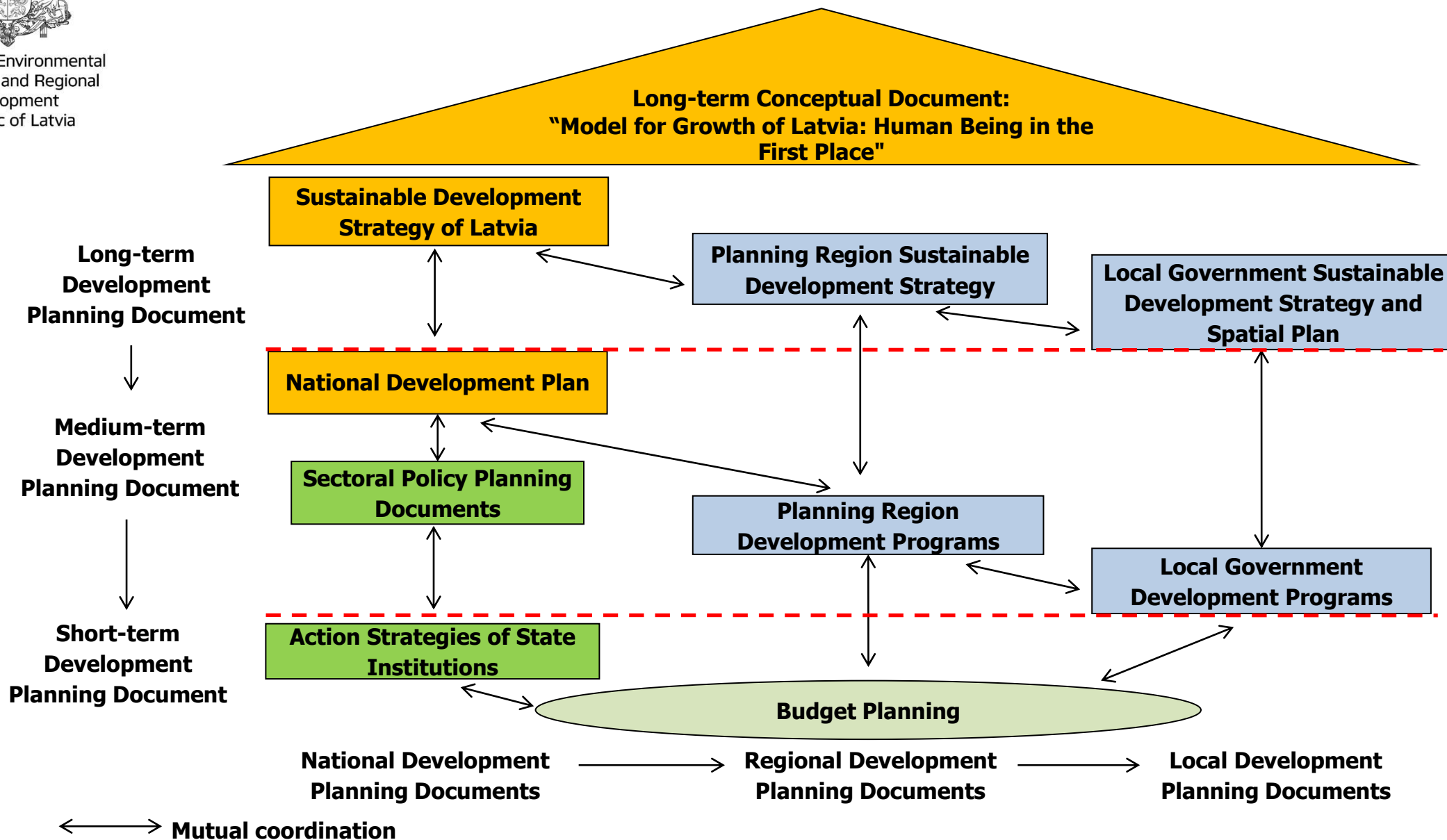
9 November 2022

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Hierarchy of Development Planning Documents in Latvia





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Status of Strategies for Sustainable Development and Development Programmes of Municipalities (November 2022)

	Strategy for Sustainable Development	Development Programme
In force (approved before the ATR* in 2021)	8	4
In force (approved after the ATR* in 2021)	21 (incl. 2 mutual SSD)	25 (incl. 2 mutual DPs)
In development	9 (incl. 3 mutual SSD)	9 (incl. 3 mutual DPs)

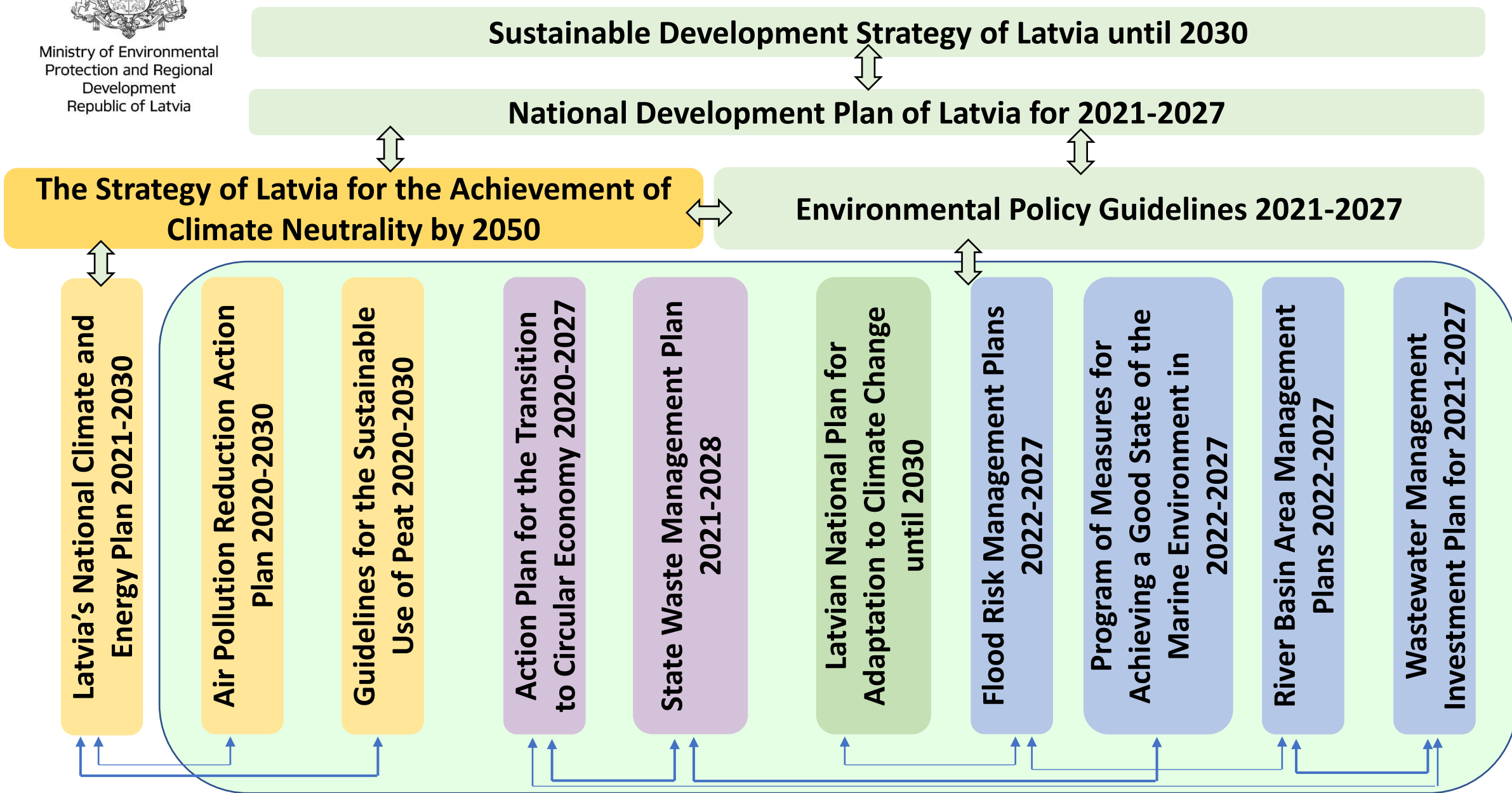
***Administrative-territorial
reform**

Territory development planning information system(TAPIS) data



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Main National Documents Regarding Environmental and Climate Policy



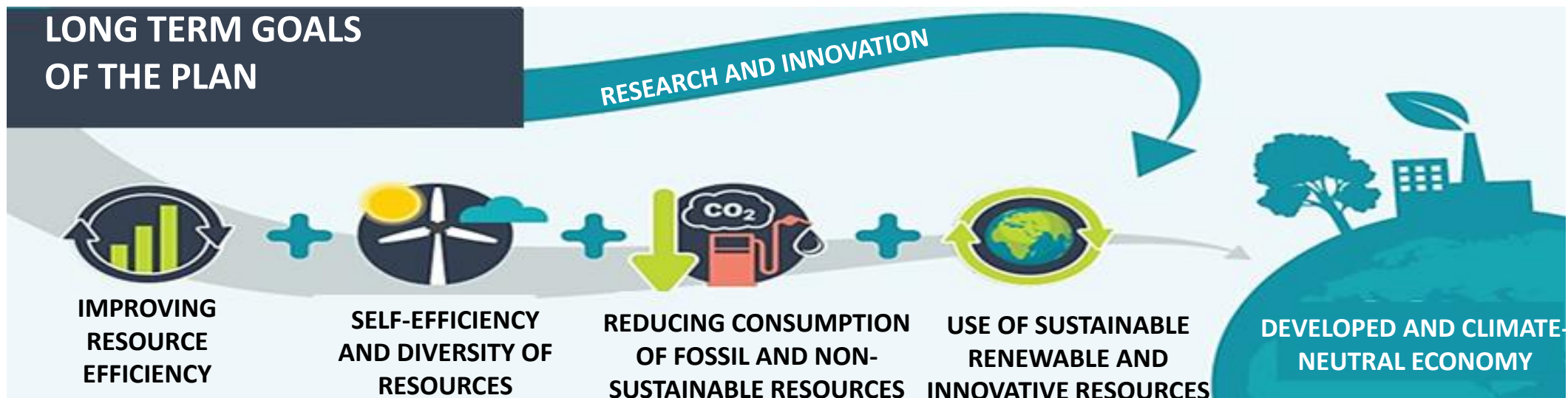


Latvia's Climate Policy and Goals

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All sectors and all levels of governance, including local governments, must contribute to achieving the goals of Latvia's climate policy.

- **The Strategy of Latvia for the Achievement of Climate Neutrality by 2050 (2019) envisages a 100% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, the irreducible GHG emissions are compensated by attraction in the LULUCF sector.**
- **The National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030 (2020) is a long-term energy and climate policy planning document, the long-term vision of the plan is to promote the development of a sustainable national economy in a competitive and secure way.**





Latvia's Climate Policy and Goals (II)

Environmental Policy Guidelines 2021-2027 (2022) – the framework of the national environmental policy, determining objectives of the environmental policy.

In the field of climate change, two sub-goals have been set:

- 1) ensure Latvia's progress towards achieving climate neutrality
- 2) promote climate resilience and adaptation to climate change

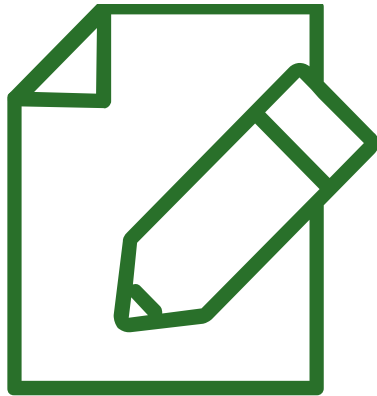
PR3.2. Policy result: Promoted climate resilience and adaptation to climate change

Policy result (PR)	Data source	Unit	2024	2027
3.2.1. Developed and fully or partially implemented local climate change adaptation strategies	MoEPRD	Amount	All coastal municipalities	All municipalities
3.2.4. Residents with access to new or improved green infrastructure	MoEPRD	skaits	6 000	18 000



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Climate Law and the Role of Local Governments



Draft project of the **Climate Law** has been developed to improve and update the regulation of climate policy, outlining all the necessary requirements in one place.

The purpose of the law is to promote the adaptation to climate change and its negative consequences in Latvia, ensuring progress towards climate neutrality and promoting climate resilience, determining the role of various sectors of the economy, in areas related to:

- **reduction of GHG emissions**
- **carbon dioxide capture**
- **adaptation to climate change**

Chapter IX of the Law determines the competence of planning regions and municipalities in climate policy planning and implementation - municipalities envisage and implement climate change reduction and climate change adaptation measures in their sustainable development strategies, development programmes and territorial plans



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Methodological Suggestions (guidelines) for Local Governments in the Field of Climate Change Policy

Outlines:

- 1) Main international requisites;
- 2) Main framework;
- 3) National level climate change policy planning documents;
- 4) The role of local governments;
- 5) Climate change policy planning in local government development programmes;
- 6) MoEPRD structural units for consultation.





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Climate Change Policy in Local Government Development Programmes



(1) **Assess the current climate situation**, incl. determining the amount of GHG emissions in all sectors of the economy – energy, transport, production, agriculture and waste*



(2) **Set appropriate goals and define outcomes aimed at reducing and preventing/compensating GHG emissions in all sectors of the economy**, sequestering CO₂ and other GHGs, as well as adapting to climate change



(3) **Assess the impact of planned actions and investment projects on the climate situation**, incl. if necessary, identifying additional GHG emission mitigating or compensating measures



(4) **Regularly monitor changes in the climate change situation**, including information on the investments made in the annual report, as well as the indicators achieved as a result of the investments. The information should reflect the reduction and prevention/offsetting of GHG emissions in all sectors of the economy, CO₂ and GHG sequestration, as well as adaptation to climate change

** Within the framework of the project "Integration of climate change policy into sectoral and regional policy" defined by NFI, an activity on the development of a regional data collection and reporting system is being implemented*



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Main Directions of Climate Policy and Planned Funding Sources for the Implementation

Main directions of climate policy:

- Mitigation of climate change (reduction of GHG emissions)
- Adaptation to climate change (reduce the vulnerability of people, economy, infrastructure and nature to the effects of climate change)

Funding towards the solution of the mentioned issues:

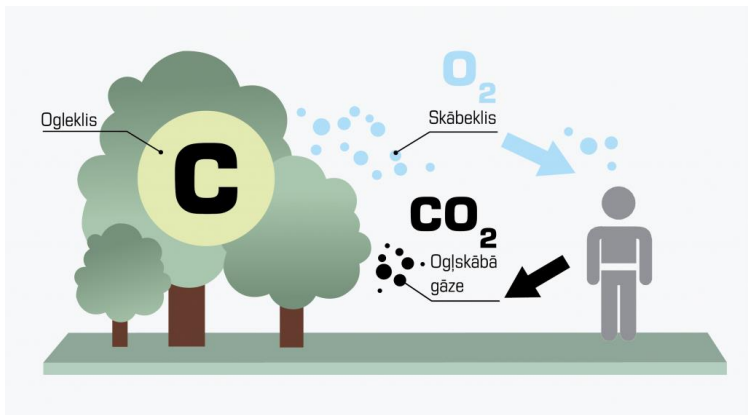
- EU funding (ERDF, CF, ESF, INTERREG, LIFE, RRF, JTF, Modernisation Fund)
- State budget, e.g., loan programmes, Emission Auction Allowance Instrument, Latvian Environmental Protection Fund)
- **Municipal funding**
- Other funding (EEA, NFI, EUKI, EUCF)





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Recommendations for Determining Priority Projects



Promotion of
GHG
sequestration

Improvement of
energy-efficiency



Promotion of
alternative energy
resources

Adaptation to climate
change



The guidelines provide practical examples of how to promote the achievement of climate sustainability in all autonomous functions of local governments, such as provision of communal services, improvement of the territory, in the field of education, planning and construction of the territory, organization of public transport services, promotion of economic activity, etc.



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Good Practice of Local Government Climate Policy Action Plans in Latvia



- Daugavpils City Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2022-2027
- Olaine Municipality Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan Until 2030
- Jelgavas City Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2021-2030
- Alūksne Municipality Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan Until 2030
- Smiltene Municipality Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2020-2030



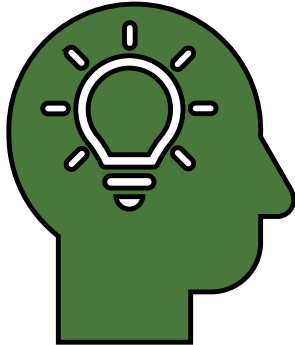
Examples of Projects Included in Local Government Climate Policy Action Plans and Development Programmes



- **increasing energy efficiency**, building insulation, construction of ventilation systems
- **reconstruction of heat supply networks**, switching to renewable energy resources - construction of wood chip fueled or pellet boiler heating
- **renovation of sewage networks**, wastewater treatment facilities, reconstruction, restoration of melioration systems
- **improvement of green and blue public infrastructure** (parks, squares, beaches, etc.), revitalisation of degraded areas
- **construction of bicycle infrastructure** (bicycle paths, bicycle sheds, etc.)



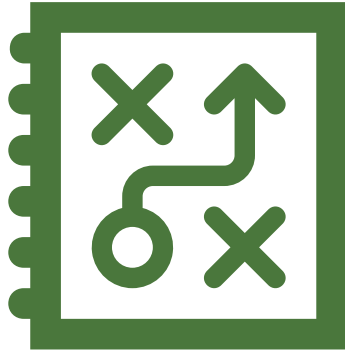
Examples of Projects Included in Local Government Climate Policy Action Plans and Development Programmes (II)



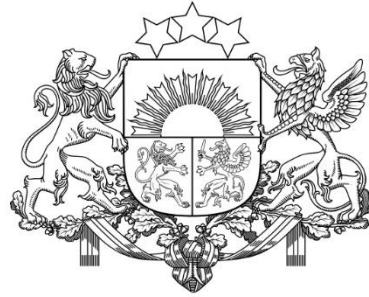
- **zero-emission transport** for municipal purposes, installation of charging points
- **environmentally friendly public transport**
- **installation of environmentally friendly lighting**, introduction of smart technologies
- **installation of solar panels/collectors** to produce energy for self-consumption in municipal institutions
- **creation of waste sorting areas**, improvement of waste management infrastructure
- **conservation of protected natural areas**, management of public bodies of water (cleaning, shore strengthening, replenishment of fish stocks)



Challenges in Development Planning and Implementation



- **Climate issues "dissolve" or become a formal measure**
 - they are not always a priority nor a solution through which the overall development of the territory is assessed
- **Solutions at the national and regional planning level do not always reach the local level**
 - planning region does not always define conditions for local planning, for example, it does not set requirements for territorial planning
- **Linking planning and budgeting at the local level**
 - decisions on the use of the budget are not always based on the priorities determined in the planning process



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Thank you!

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