

# INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION <sup>1</sup>					
COUNTRY	LONG-TERM TARGETS	CARBON BUDGET	INDEPENDENT BODY	PLANNING AND REPORTING	
				ADAPTATION	MITIGATION
United Kingdom <sup>2i</sup> (HAC) member	Statutory net zero by 2050 target. <sup>ii</sup>	Statutory 5-year carbon budgets, set 12 years in advance.	Committee on Climate Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommends carbon budgets.</li> <li>• Advises on policies and impact reports.</li> <li>• Monitors adaptation and mitigation via progress reports.</li> </ul>	Impact reports tabled in Parliament every 5 years. Adaptation programmes tabled in Parliament after impact reports. Progress reports on implementation of adaptation programmes tabled in Parliament every two years.	Action plans every 5 years. Annual CCC progress reports tabled in Parliament. Government must respond to CCC's reports.

<sup>1</sup> This is not a comprehensive list. National climate change legislation generally has grown twenty-fold over the past 20 years. Updated March 2020.

<sup>2</sup> We have indicated where countries are members of the “High Ambition Coalition” – a group of countries sharing the highest level of ambition in the international climate talks. Canada is a member of the High Ambition Coalition. Most recently, Canada is one of 26 members of the High Ambition Coalition to issue a “Statement on Stepping Up Climate Ambition” dated December 12, 2018 in response to the IPCC’s Special Report on 1.5°C. Canada is the only member of the HAC developed nations to sign that letter without a climate accountability framework.

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New Zealand <sup>iii</sup> (HAC member)	Statutory commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050; and</li> <li>• Reduce emissions of biogenic methane to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10% below 2017 levels by 2030, and</li> <li>- 24–47% below 2017 levels by 2050.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5-year budgets, set 10-15 years in advance.  Budgets can only be revised if recommended by the Climate Change Commission.	Climate Change Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews the 2050 target and makes recommendations.</li> <li>• Advises and makes recommendations on emissions budgets and emissions reduction plan.</li> <li>• Monitors and reports on progress towards emissions budgets and 2050 target.</li> <li>• Prepares national climate change risk assessments</li> <li>• Prepares reports on the implementation of national adaptation plan.</li> </ul>	Risk assessment report at least every 6 years.  National adaptation plan no later than 2 years after risk assessment reports.  National adaptation plan progress reports every 2 years.  Minister can require some govt orgs and “lifeline utility providers” to produce adaptation reports.	Action plan for each budget set 10 years ahead.  Annual progress reports from Climate Change Commission.

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<p>European Union<sup>iv</sup> (HAC member)</p>	<p>40% reduction by 2030 based on 1990 levels 80-95% reduction by 2050 based on 1990 levels.</p> <p>The proposed regulation<sup>v</sup> includes a target of carbon neutrality by 2050, and a requirement that the 2030 target be reviewed to “explore options for a new 2030 target of 50 to 55% emission reductions compared to 1990”.</p>	<p>Binding targets established for Member States with respect to non-ETS sectors for 2013-2020 and 2021-2030 periods.<sup>vi</sup></p> <p>The proposed regulation allows the European Commission (EC) to set out a “trajectory” to achieve the 2050 target. This trajectory must be reviewed after each global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>The trajectory must start from the EU’s 2030 target.</p>	<p>Independent oversight by the EC and European Environment Agency.</p> <p>European Environment Agency assists the EC by preparing annual reports on the EU and Member States’ GHG emissions and progress towards targets.</p>	<p>EU countries are required to report on their national adaptation planning and strategies every 4 years.</p> <p>Under the proposed regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member states must develop and implement adaptation strategies and plans that include comprehensive risk management frameworks.</li> <li>• The EC must assess and report on the collective progress made by Member States regarding adaptation every 5 years.</li> <li>• The EC must review the adequacy of EU adaptation measures every 5 years.</li> <li>• The EC must assess and report to European Parliament and Council on the adequacy of national adaptation measures every 5 years, and if inadequate, may make recommendations to the applicable Member State.</li> </ul>	<p>EU countries are required to develop integrated national energy and climate plans (NECPs) for the period of 2021 to 2030, and every subsequent 10 years.<sup>vii</sup></p> <p>Biennial progress reports on implementation of NECPs by EU countries.</p> <p>Under the proposed regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EC must assess and report on the collective progress made by Member States towards the 2050 target and the trajectory every 5 years.</li> <li>• The EC must review the consistency of EU measures with the 2050 target and trajectory every 5 years.</li> <li>• Draft measures or legislative proposals must be assessed in light of the 2050 target and the trajectory.</li> <li>• The EC must assess and report on the consistency of national measures with the 2050 target and the trajectory, and if inconsistent, may make recommendations to the applicable Member State.</li> </ul>
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Sweden <sup>viii</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	Target of net zero by 2045; thereafter, negative emissions.		Climate Policy Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advises on and evaluates climate policies.</li> </ul>	National Adaptation Strategy includes monitoring, evaluation and review of climate change adaptation.  National and regional authorities must report on adaptation work yearly.  National Adaptation Strategy evaluated in 5 year cycles.	Climate Action plans submitted to Parliament every 4 years.  Annual progress report from the government.
Norway <sup>ix</sup> (HAC member)	Statutory 2030 target of at least 40% below 1990 and 2050 target of 80-95% below 1990.	Climate targets submitted in 2020 and every five years thereafter.		Annual climate change adaptation reports from government.	Annual progress reports from government.  Government must evaluate climate impact of the annual budget.
Finland <sup>x</sup> <i>See EU</i>	Commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2035.  Previous legislated target 80% below 1990 by 2050.			National Strategy adopted 2005, revision in 2014.  Climate change adaptation formally incorporated into all sectors and actions.  Risk review conducted and approved every 10 years.  Strategy forms part of planning system of <i>Climate Change Act</i> passed in 2015.	Medium-term plan for climate change policy approved once every government term.  Long-term plan for climate change policy approved at least every 10 years.

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Germany (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	Enshrines 2030 EU targets into law (55% below 1990 levels by 2030).  Aims to cut GHGs by 80-95%, and to be largely GHG neutral by 2050.	Germany's climate target divided between economic sectors.  Sectoral targets divided into annual emissions budgets.	Independent expert council for climate issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examines and evaluates emissions data.</li><li>• Assesses GHG reduction effect of proposed measures.</li><li>• Advises on changing annual emissions budgets and climate action programmes.</li></ul>	Action plans of the German Adaptation Strategy updated every 5 years with progress reports, and adopted by Cabinet.  Federal institutions must explain how their capital investments take account of climate change risks.	Ministry most responsible for sector responsible for reaching sectoral target.  Ministries must introduce measures to achieve reductions in their respective sectors.  Annual climate action report (with emissions data, status of implementation of climate action measures, and effectiveness).
Netherlands <sup>xi</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	49% below 1990 levels by 2030;  95% below 1990 by 2050; and  100% GHG-neutral electricity by 2050		Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitors via progress reports.</li></ul>	National Climate Adaptation Strategy reviewed periodically.  Delta Programme (flood risk management, etc) reviewed yearly.	Climate Plans every 5 years.  Agency provides annual progress report.  Government responds to progress report.

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Mexico <sup>xii</sup> (HAC member)	Statutory target to reduce emissions 22% below baseline in 2030		National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluates compliance</li> <li>• Advises on policies</li> </ul> Climate Change Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises on policies</li> </ul>	Government must include adaptation actions in the design of public policies. National climate change policy regarding adaptation evaluated every 2 years. All levels government must coordinate efforts on climate change.	Action plans evaluated every 2 years. Medium- and long-term action plans updated periodically. Federal, state, and municipalities must coordinate efforts on climate change.
California <sup>xiii</sup>	Statutory 2020 target of 1990 levels. Statutory 2030 target of 40% below 1990 levels. 2045 target of carbon neutrality (Executive Order)		California Air Resources Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises on policies</li> <li>• Adopts regulations</li> <li>• Monitors via progress reports.</li> </ul>	Climate adaptation strategy updated every 3 years. Local governments must include adaptation and resiliency strategies in general plans. State agencies required to account for climate change planning new infrastructure.	Action plans every 5 years. Annual progress reports by the California ARB.

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Denmark <small>xiv</small> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	Statutory targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% emissions reduction by 2030.</li> <li>• Net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.</li> </ul>		Danish Council on Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assesses whether the initiatives in the Climate Action Plan are sufficient to reduce emissions.</li> <li>• Provides recommendations on climate initiatives.</li> </ul>	National Adaptation Plan adopted.  Planning Act requires municipalities to identify flooding and erosion risks and ensure remediation measures in their plans.  Climate Act establishes the Committee for the Green Transformation to ensure that climate considerations are taken into account for every major political decision.	Government must set a legally binding target with a 10-year perspective every 5 years.  Government to provide annual Climate Action Programmes with initiatives to decarbonize each sector.  Climate Act establishes the Committee for the Green Transformation to ensure that climate considerations are taken into account for every major political decision.  Government must separately report on Denmark's impact on international emissions, including shipping and aviation.  Government must form an annual global climate strategy.

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France <sup>xv</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	Statutory commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.	3 series of carbon budgets: 2015-2018; 2019-2023; 2024-2028;	High Council for Climate (HCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluates compliance with international commitments.</li> <li>Advises on policies.</li> </ul>	National Adaptation Plan revised every five years.  HCC can commission studies on specific topics as required.	HCC publishes annual reports including policy advice.  HCC publishes report every 5 years re long-term National Low Carbon Strategy.  Prescribed measures for building renovations, energy efficiency, clean transport development, waste reduction, renewable energy development and nuclear energy.
Luxembourg <sup>xvi</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	55% below 2005 by 2030  40% below 1990 by 2050 (EU NDC)			National Adaptation Plan being implemented between 2018 and 2023.	Adopting sector based measures  Cooperation with municipalities
Monaco <sup>xvii</sup> (HAC member)	Carbon neutral by 2050  30% below 1990 levels by 2020; 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050				



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Portugal <sup>xviii</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	40% below 1990 by 2030 (EU NDC).  Announced (COP 22) national objective carbon neutrality by 2050.			Strategic Framework for Climate Policy incorporates National Adaptation Strategy.  Biennial interim reports; reports will guide the revision of the National Adaptation Strategy.	
Spain <sup>xix</sup> (HAC member) (not passed) <i>See EU</i>	Proposed carbon neutral by 2050.  At least 20% below 1990 by 2030 and 90% below 1990 by 2050.			National Adaptation Plan developed through Work Programs and sectoral plans and reviewed periodically.	Require new subsidies to fossil fuel developments to be justified
Italy <sup>xx</sup> (HAC member) <i>See EU</i>	40% below 1990 by 2030			National Adaptation Strategy adopted 2015. Italian Climate Adaptation Plan elaborated 2016–2017.	

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Victoria (Australia) <small>xxi</small>	Legally binding target of “net zero” by 2050.	5-year interim targets, set 12 years in advance.  Sectoral and Government reduction pledges.	Qualified Independent Experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on interim targets and trajectory to 2050 target.</li> <li>• Advises on cost effective opportunities to achieve interim targets.</li> <li>• Ad-hoc advice on request by Minister.</li> </ul>	Strategy every 5 years.	Annual emissions report.  Report at end of each 5-year interim target period.
Scotland <small>xxii</small>	2020 target of 56% below 1990 levels. 2030 target of 75% below 1990 levels. 2040 target of 90% below 1990 levels. 2045 target of net-zero.	Annual carbon budgets, with binding targets for each 5-year period set 12 years in advance.	Committee on Climate Change (same as UK).	Same as UK.	Government makes annual climate report response statement to Scottish Parliament.  Ministers must prepare a climate change plan every 5 years, setting out proposals and policies for meeting targets. Annual climate change plan progress reports submitted to Parliament.

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Wales <sup>xxiii</sup>	<p>2050 target of 80% below baseline.</p> <p>The baseline is 1990 levels for CO<sub>2</sub> and 1995 for certain other GHGs.</p>	<p>Interim emission targets set for 2020, 2030 and 2040.</p> <p>Welsh Ministers required to set carbon budgets, which sets limits on the total amount of emissions. The first budgetary period is 2016-2020, and then every 5 years until 2050.</p> <p>Carbon budgets must be consistent with meeting the interim targets and 2050 target.</p>	<p>Advisory body reports on progress being made for each carbon budget and target.</p> <p>Welsh Ministers must obtain advice from advisory body before setting or amending interim targets or carbon budgets.</p>		<p>For each 5 year carbon budgetary period, Welsh Ministers must publish a report setting out their proposals and policies for meeting the carbon budget for that period.</p> <p>Welsh Ministers must publish a statement after each budgetary period and target, including whether they have met the budget/target and an estimate of emissions from the consumption and use of goods and services in Wales.</p>

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Ireland <sup>xxiv</sup> <i>See EU</i>	<p>National transition objective: “a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of year 2050”.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2019 includes commitment to establish 2050 net zero target in law.</p>	<p>Climate Action Plan 2019 includes following commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the adoption of carbon budgets a legal requirement</li> <li>• Require government to set decarbonisation target range for each sector</li> </ul>	<p>Advisory Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises on national climate plans and policies.</li> <li>• Monitors through annual review of government progress.</li> </ul> <p>Has statutory mandate to act independently.</p> <p>Note: per Climate Action Plan 2019 will establish Climate Action Council to succeed Advisory Council.</p>	<p>National adaptation framework must be approved and reviewed/ updated every five years.</p>	<p>National mitigation plans must be approved and reviewed/ updated every five years.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2019 commits to establishing a Long-Term Climate Strategy for the periods of 2021-2035, and a longer-term perspective to 2050. It is intended that the Long-Term Climate Strategy will be a statutory successor to the National Mitigation Plan.</p>

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Chile <sup>xxv</sup>	Preliminary draft bill includes legislated goal of emissions-neutrality in 2050. This goal can be increased if necessary to achieve the 1.5 degree goal or comply with international commitments.			Preliminary draft bill proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sectoral adaptation plans</li> <li>• Creation of a National Finance Strategy Against Climate Change to finance projects under the Long-Term Climate Strategy</li> </ul>	Preliminary draft bill proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-Term Climate Change Strategy, which outlines guidelines, intermediate targets, and integration of sectoral and regional policies over a 30-year timeframe, including an emissions pathway towards carbon neutrality by 2050 and means of implementation.</li> <li>• Sectoral mitigation plans under the Long-Term Climate Strategy.</li> <li>• National Report on Climate Change, to monitor the implementation of policies and actions.</li> <li>• National Finance Strategy Against Climate Change to finance projects under the Long-Term Climate Strategy.</li> </ul>

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British Columbia <sup>xxvi</sup>	<p>2030 target: 40% below 2007 levels.</p> <p>2040 target: 60% below 2007 levels.</p> <p>2050 target: 80% below 2007 levels.</p>	<p>Minister must establish a GHG emissions target for a specified year that is earlier than 2030.</p> <p>Minister may establish GHG emissions targets for other years or periods.</p>	<p>Minister must appoint an advisory committee to provide advice to Minister on climate change matters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Plans and actions to achieve legislated targets</li> <li>•Plans and actions to mitigate and manage climate change risks</li> <li>•Opportunities for sustainable economic development and job creation during transition to low-carbon economy</li> <li>•Effects on individuals and businesses of actions to address climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Minister must prepare an annual report that includes, among other things, a description of actions and proposed actions to reduce emissions and manage climate risk.</p> <p>In 2020 and every 5<sup>th</sup> year after that, the report must include a determination of climate change risks.</p> <p>Public sector organizations must manage the risks to the public sector organization that could reasonably be expected to result from climate change.</p>	<p>Minister must establish sectoral GHG emissions targets by March 2021, and may establish other GHG emissions targets for individual sectors after March 2021.</p> <p>Minister must review sectoral targets by end of 2025, and at least once every 5 years after the first review.</p> <p>Minister must prepare an annual report that includes a description of actions and proposed actions to reduce emissions and manage climate risk, and plans to meet the legislated GHG targets.</p> <p>Public sector organizations must be carbon neutral. Public sector organizations must prepare “carbon neutral action reports” and “climate change accountability reports”.</p>

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Nova Scotia <sup>xxvii</sup>	<p>2020 target of at least 10% below 1990 levels.</p> <p>2030 target of at least 53% below 2005 levels.</p> <p>2050 target of net zero.</p>		<p>Round Table Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The Round Table Advisory Committee must carry out a public review of the legislation within 5 years of the Act coming in to force.</p>	<p>Minister may establish programs and measures related to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Government required to create a strategic plan by the end of 2020 (“Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth”) which must address climate change adaptation and building climate resiliency.</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund to be used to help communities in their mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>	<p>Annual report by Minister on progress made toward the long-term goal of sustainable prosperity.</p> <p>Round Table to conduct public review of Act after 5 years.</p> <p>Government required to create a strategic plan by the end of 2020 (“Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth”) which must address how the province will address its GHG emissions targets.</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund to be used to help communities in their mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>

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Manitoba <small>xxviii</small>	<p>No legislated target, but Minister must establish a reduction goal for 2018-2022 and subsequent 5 year period.</p> <p>Minister must consider advice and recommendations of Expert Advisory Council in establishing each reduction goal.</p>	<p>“Carbon savings account” keeps a running balance of the GHG emissions reductions achieved in previous five-year periods as compared to the emissions reduction goals.</p> <p>Any shortfall added to next 5 year goal.</p>	<p>Expert Advisory Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises on content of plan.</li> <li>• Review progress.</li> <li>• Advises on changes to plan.</li> <li>• Advises on reduction goals.</li> </ul>	<p>The climate plan must include programs, policies or measures to address the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Minister conducts annual review/assessment of programs, policies and measures and annual report.</p>	<p>Minister develops climate plan taking into account recommendations by Council.</p> <p>Minister conducts annual review of programs etc. to assess progress.</p> <p>Minister prepares annual report.</p>
New Brunswick <small>xxix</small>	<p>Emissions not exceed:</p> <p>14.8 MT in 2020,</p> <p>10.7 MT in 2030,</p> <p>5 MT in 2050.</p>			<p>Minister prepares action plan to increase resiliency to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Action plan reviewed at least every 5 years.</p> <p>Annual progress report.</p>	<p>Minister must prepare action plan, reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>Annual progress report.</p>



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Prince Edward Island <sup>xxx</sup>	Legislated target of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 (1.2 megatonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> eq per year by 2030).				

<sup>i</sup> *Climate Change Act 2008* (UK), c 27, [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga\\_20080027\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf);

Grantham Institute for on Climate Change and the Environment, “10 years of the UK Climate Change Act,” (2018), [http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/10-Years-of-the-UK-Climate-Change-Act\\_Fankhauser-et-al.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/10-Years-of-the-UK-Climate-Change-Act_Fankhauser-et-al.pdf).

<sup>ii</sup> Amended from at least 80% below 1990 levels in June 2019 – see “Britain's new net zero emissions target becomes law”:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-change-britain/britains-new-net-zero-emissions-target-becomes-law-idUSKCN1TS155>

<sup>iii</sup> Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill: Summary: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill-summary.pdf>; Climate Change response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2019/0061/latest/LMS183736.html>

<sup>iv</sup> Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, “European Union – 2030 framework for climate and energy policies”

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/law/2030-framework-for-climate-and-energy-policies-strategic-document/>; European Council conclusions on the MFF, climate change, disinformation and hybrid threats, external relations, enlargement and the European Semester, 20 June 2019,

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/20/european-council-conclusions-20-june-2019/>; *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law)*, 2020/0036 (COD), [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020_en.pdf).

<sup>v</sup> *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation EU (2018/1999) (European Climate Law)*, 2020/0036 (COD), [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020_en.pdf).

<sup>vi</sup> *Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013*, Article 4, Annex I, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2018.156.01.0026.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.156.01.0026.01.ENG); *Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union*

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level relevant to climate change and repealing Decision No 280/2004/E, Article 15, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1563464095086&uri=CELEX:32013R0525>.

<sup>vii</sup> European Commission, National Energy and Climate Plans, <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-strategy-and-energy-union/governance-energy-union/national-energy-climate-plans>

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