



EU Sets New Climate Goal for 2040

Source: DTE

The [European Union \(EU\)](#) has recently introduced its new proposed **2040 climate goal**, outlining a [net emissions reduction target of 90% by 2040](#) compared to the 1990 baseline levels.

- EU's previous goal set in September 2020 aimed at cutting [greenhouse gas emissions \(GHG\) by 55% below 1990 levels by 2030](#), which was later enshrined in the EU Climate Law along with a commitment to **achieve [carbon neutrality by 2050](#)**.
 - To accompany the target, the European Commission released a [“Fit for 55” package in 2021](#), which provided a set of proposals to achieve the 2030 reduction target.
- The latest 2024 proposal is an interim step required by the EU Climate Law, which outlines a process to develop a 2040 target within **six months of the first [Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#)**, which concluded at the [28th CoP to the UNFCCC in Dubai](#).
 - The proposal highlights the need for a **significant reduction in [coal](#) usage by 2040**, with [natural gas](#) expected to decline rapidly, and [oil](#) being the last to be phased out. However, some [fossil fuels](#) will remain in use for non-energy purposes and long-distance transport.
- Critics argue that the proposed targets fail to address the **EU's historical emissions burden adequately**.
- Heavy reliance on [carbon capture and CO₂ removal technologies](#) raises concerns about the ambition and effectiveness of the target.

Read more: [28th Conference of Parties To the UNFCCC, European Union \(EU\)](#)

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