

Get CLIMATE-SMART

VIENNA'S EFFORTS



Mr Clever

THE "GLOBAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT" (PARIS AGREEMENT 2015)

In December 2015, the international community of states adopted a landmark climate change agreement in Paris. It has already been ratified by many countries, among them Austria, and entered into force in early November 2016.

What are the essential elements of the global climate agreement?

- Long-term goals: The global temperature rise this century is to be kept well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, if possible even below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A large majority of environmental scientists warn that if global temperatures rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the consequences will be severe and, in some cases, irreversible.

- All countries – developed and developing countries – have to contribute to achieving the goals of the climate agreement.
- Greenhouse gas emissions shall be reduced as quickly as possible. In the second half of this century, a balance shall be achieved between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gas emissions, such as restoration of forests ("net zero emissions").

In practice, this means to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, like those from fossil-fuelled vehicles and factories (coal, natural gas and oil), as close to zero as possible. ("decarbonisation").

- Each country shall regularly provide a national inventory report of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The parties to the agreement shall take stock of the implementation of the agreement every five years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the agreement.
- Developed countries shall provide financial resources to assist developing countries in the fight against climate change.

Vienna's long-term climate protection targets are outlined in the Smart City Wien Framework Strategy: Human-caused greenhouse gas emissions in Vienna shall be reduced by 35 percent per capita by 2030, and by 80 percent per capita by 2050 (from 1990 levels).

The climate protection measures of the City of Vienna are outlined in the Vienna Climate Protection Programme (KliP Wien) in detail. Here are some examples:

- Good insulation of buildings (thermal insulation of existing buildings, high thermal quality of new buildings)
- Switching heating installations to district heating and renewables
- Expanding renewables (e.g. solar power, wind power, hydropower, geothermal energy)
- Expanding public transport and making it more attractive
- Measures to promote cycling and walking

Through the implementation of the Vienna Climate Protection Programme (KliP Wien), per capita emissions have already been reduced by 34,8 percent from 1990 levels. The global climate agreement adopted in Paris is a strong incentive for the City of Vienna to continue and increase the successful climate protection measures together with the Viennese population.

Ms Smart



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www.klimaschlau.wien.at