



Europe's environment 2025 – preview and main findings

Every five years, as mandated in its founding regulation, the European Environment Agency (EEA) publishes its flagship report on the state of Europe's environment. *Europe's environment 2025* provides decision makers at European and national levels as well as the general public with a comprehensive and cross-cutting assessment on environment, climate and sustainability in Europe. [Europe's environment 2025](#), to be released 29th September, is the seventh state of the environment report published by the EEA since 1995.

The data underpinning the report comes from, and is validated by, 38 countries (EU and EEA member and cooperating countries). The EEA works with more than 600 national partner institutions to ensure robust and reliable data and analysis. The findings of the report will be presented and discussed from the end of September onwards, at a series of high-level policy events in Brussels, Belgium, and across Europe.

About *Europe's environment 2025*

Europe's environment 2025 draws on the latest scientific evidence and is underpinned by the most comprehensive data on environment, climate and sustainability available in Europe.

The overall package consists of three parts:



Main report

An integrated narrative examining the central and vital role that the climate and natural environment play in ensuring health, resilience and prosperity for people, anchored in the EU's vision for a sustainable Europe by 2050.



Thematic briefings

A concise and comparable overview of past trends, future outlook and progress towards EU policy targets for 35 topics covering environment, climate, human health and the transition to sustainability.



Country profiles

Concise, country-level assessments on key trends in environment, climate and socio-economic developments, examining core systems such as energy, mobility and food in the 38 EEA member and cooperating countries.

Key findings of the main report

Summary

Europeans face turbulent times. The European Union (EU) has responded to this volatile and insecure global context through its strategic policy framework to 2029 — the [Competitiveness Compass](#) and the [European Preparedness Union Strategy](#) and has reaffirmed its commitment to implementation of the environment and climate policies agreed under the [European Green Deal](#) (EGD).

Nature is key to ensuring human health, security and prosperity. Our environmental assets — things like land, soils, water, biodiversity and a stable climate — underpin the provisioning systems we rely on, such as energy, homes, food and mobility. These assets are being depleted, and without them we will not have the security, health, prosperity and competitiveness that we strive for as a society.

Important progress is taking place within climate change mitigation, while there is mixed progress around reducing pollution and transitioning towards the circular economy. The greatest challenges exist around reducing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, as well as adapting to accelerating climate change. However, progress on a range of factors that enable the shift towards sustainability — such as innovation, green employment and sustainable finance — gives cause for hope.

Findings

Biodiversity is declining across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in Europe due to persistent pressures driven by unsustainable production and consumption patterns, most notably the food system. The degradation of our natural world jeopardises the European way of life. Europe's water resources are under severe pressure; water stress currently affects 30% of Europe's territory and 34% of the population.

Efforts to restore habitats through nature-based solutions will, over time, build resilience in natural systems and enable both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

Important progress has been made towards mitigating climate change, with the EU being a world leader in this area. The EU's carbon sink related to land use, land use change and forestry has declined by about 30% compared to the last decade.

In the energy system, all EU Member States have successfully reduced their reliance on fossil fuels and shifted towards more sustainable energy sources over the last decade, while increased energy efficiency has also brought down demand.

There has been progress in the EU's industrial system, where GHG emissions fell by more than 35% from 2005 to 2023. In the built environment, GHG emissions from EU buildings also fell by more than 35% between 2005 and 2023. In contrast, the picture for the mobility system and the food system remains challenging.

Europe is the fastest-warming continent on the planet; our climate is changing at an alarming rate, threatening security, public health, ecosystems, infrastructure and the economy.

As climate change accelerates the costs are growing, with the average annual economic losses associated with weather- and climate-related extremes in the 2020-2023 period being 2.5 times as high as in the preceding decade from 2010 to 2019.

The increasing frequency and magnitude of climate-related disasters, as well as the knowledge that the climate will continue to change even with the EU's ambitious mitigation efforts, underscores the urgent need to adapt European society and the economy, while at the same time ensuring that no one is left behind.

Local and regional authorities have a critical role in implementing environment and climate legislation and translating policies into change on the ground. Despite well-developed governance frameworks, implementation of adaptation measures lags substantially behind the rapidly increasing risk levels. This is due to challenges related to regional and local coordination and limitations in financial, technical and human capacities.

Significant progress has been made in reducing pollution in Europe. Nevertheless, pollution continues to reduce quality of life in Europe significantly; millions of years of healthy life are still lost each year due to pollution and at least 10% of premature deaths in Europe are driven by exposure to polluted air, water and soil, noise and harmful chemicals.

Increasing environmental pressures, together with geopolitical instability, make it vital to rethink how we source and consume natural resources. Material consumption within the EU is unsustainable and much higher than in most other world regions per person. Transformative change to production and consumption systems — decarbonising the economy, shifting towards circularity, reducing pollution and exercising responsible stewardship of natural resources — is urgently required to maintain prosperity and living standards in Europe over the long term.

Increasing circularity and decarbonising production have the potential to reduce our dependencies on imports of energy and materials and therefore enhance Europe's strategic autonomy.

Among European businesses and companies, there is a growing recognition that a failure to account for, mitigate and adapt to nature and climate risks threatens business models and financial stability.

Europe's competitiveness depends not only on the price, quality and sustainability of products but also on the resilience of European society. Looking ahead, Europe's sustainability challenges remain complex and systemic.

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