

#BE THE WAVE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What has the EU done to fight climate change?

The EU has a strong record for fighting climate change. It has adopted several important policies and funding schemes, including an emissions trading scheme for reducing the carbon footprint of the power sector, energy-intensive industries, and aviation. The EU has also implemented policies that set new emission standards for vehicles, boost the use of renewable energy, and promote the development of low-carbon technologies. As a result of these actions, the EU is on track to meet both its own 2020 targets for reducing emissions and its Paris Agreement commitments.

What is the European Green Deal?

The Green Deal is one of the defining priorities of the European Commission and is the EU's answer to the millions of citizens demanding climate action. It aims at making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. To do this, it proposes an ambitious package of measures that includes cutting greenhouse gas emissions, restoring biodiversity, moving to a circular economy, investing in research and innovation, and preserving Europe's natural environment.

But isn't climate change a global challenge?

Tackling climate change is a global problem that requires a global response. As the EU accounts for just 7.5% of global emissions, action by others is critical for addressing the challenge in a meaningful way.

What is the EU doing to promote climate action around the globe?

The EU is a leading player on the international stage, working with other countries and international bodies to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, promoting bilateral cooperation, and financing developing countries' work to tackle climate change. For example, the EU is a strong supporter of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which aim at keeping global temperature rise this century below 2 degrees Celsius and, if possible, below the 1.5 degrees stated in the Paris Agreement.

We also work with our G20 partners, small island developing states (SIDS), the least developed countries (LDC), and developing countries. This work includes negotiating bilateral agreements to promote the development of low-carbon technologies and sustainable business relations with such countries as Japan, South Korea, Brazil, and India.

Does the Green Deal address the global aspect of climate change?

The Green Deal is a unique opportunity for EU global leadership in climate change. It establishes that the EU will develop stronger 'green deal diplomacy' focused on convincing and supporting others to promote more sustainable development. By setting a credible example and following up with diplomacy, trade policy, development support, and other external policies, the EU will be an effective advocate for more ambitious climate action.

Can you provide an example of 'green diplomacy' in action?

The EU, together with its Member States and the European Investment Bank (EIB), are the world's biggest climate donor, having provided EUR 21.7 billion in public climate finance in 2018 alone. Much of this funding is used to support climate change adaptation abroad. For example, in Vanuatu, the EU is gathering data on changing weather patterns to help the country adapt and better resist the extreme events and natural disasters that are happening with increased frequency. In Indonesia, the EU is helping restore over 20 km of vulnerable coastline. Similar initiatives are happening in Gaza, Maldives, Cuba, Tanzania, Kenya, Indonesia, and other parts of the world.

Where does the #BeTheWave campaign fit into these efforts?

#BeTheWave is a simple, interactive, and socially driven way to show how small actions can lead to big changes. By empowering already engaged and socially active young people to take concrete actions at the local level, the EU further contributes to the implementation of both its own climate actions, including the Green Deal, and the UN's climate-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Learn More

- [#BeTheWave Campaign](#)
- [European Green Deal and EU climate action](#)
- [Tips for everyday climate action](#)
- [Our planet, our future – online magazine for young people](#)
- [European Climate Pact](#)

Contacts

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