

Open Public Consultation on the European Climate Pact, within the European Green Deal

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Green Deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's health and quality of life, caring for nature, and leaving no one behind.

The transition to a society which is climate-neutral (i.e. does not produce more greenhouse gases than it absorbs) and protects the environment is both an urgent challenge and an opportunity to build a better future for all. It is about people and their daily lives: how we produce and consume, use transport, work and live together. Alongside government policies and regulation, there is a role to play for citizens, communities and organisations in all sectors of our society and economy.

To this end, as part of the Green Deal, the Commission will launch a European Climate Pact to give citizens and stakeholders from all parts of society a voice and role in designing new climate actions, sharing information, launching grassroots activities and showcasing solutions that others can follow. Please note that 'climate action' refers to all actions to address climate change, environmental degradation and sustainability at large

The European Climate Pact aims to inform, inspire and foster cooperation between people and organisations ranging from national, regional and local authorities to businesses, unions, civil society organisations, education organisations, consumer groups, research and innovation organisations, as well as individual citizens, including youth.

We are not starting from scratch. The European Climate Pact will build on and facilitate existing activities as well as trigger and embrace new ones, acting as an 'umbrella' initiative offering opportunities for learning, exchange, co-creation and collaboration.

The European Climate Pact will encourage broad societal engagement on the road to climate-neutrality by:

1. *Talking about climate change.* Through communication activities and events, and by using multiple channels and tools, the Pact will raise awareness and build understanding of climate change based on reliable scientific evidence, inspire people and organisations to become involved and encourage sustainable behaviours.
2. *Triggering action.* The Pact will encourage people and organisations to commit to concrete climate-friendly actions, designed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to the inevitable climate change impacts. The Commission will promote pledges (public commitments around climate

change-related actions) and support relevant initiatives with knowledge/capacity-building, to boost their impact, and inspire further action across Europe and globally.

In selected areas, the Commission could provide targeted support. In the first instance, this could focus on three areas, namely: 1) energy efficiency of buildings, e.g. stimulating advisory services, facilitating smart financing and assisting local authorities; 2) low-carbon mobility, e.g. supporting cities and towns with knowledge, raising awareness, and possibly targeted financial support for sustainable urban mobility plans; and 3) initiatives for tree-planting, nature regeneration and urban green areas.

3. *Working together.* The Pact will provide opportunities for communication, learning and networking, online and offline. It will help to bring together people and organisations to share ideas and experience, and work together on climate. Direct citizen consultations could be organised on climate issues, using formats such as citizen dialogues, citizen assemblies, and more. As appropriate, these platforms will link to existing initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or “CITIZENV” dialogues with young people across Europe.

Guidance on the questionnaire

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

We want to hear your views on how to make the European Climate Pact as effective, inclusive and ambitious as possible. Share with us your ideas, advice or practical examples related to the activities proposed by us, existing activities you know of or are already involved in, and possible new activities.

All replies to the questionnaire as well as uploaded position papers and policy briefs will be published online. Please read the privacy statement on how personal data and contributions will be processed.

Following some introductory questions about yourself, the questionnaire continues with questions about the European Climate Pact. The estimated time for completion is 25 minutes. The questions cover the following topics:

1. Talking about climate change and environmental crisis: Awareness and information
2. Triggering action: pledges and initiatives
3. Working together: platforms
4. Ideas and suggestions for further development
5. Your climate actions and interest in the Pact

About you

* Language of my contribution

English

* I am giving my contribution as

Business association

Scope

International

First name

Michael

* Surname

Villa

Email (this will not be published)

Michael.villa@smartEn.eu

* Organisation name

smartEn - Smart Energy Europe

* Organisation size

Micro (1 to 9 employees)

Transparency register number

#569379418624-07

* Country of origin

Belgium

Please indicate the sector you are active in

Electricity, Gas and Water Supply

We would like to ask you a couple of more questions about you, to have more information for the analysis of the survey.

* Publication privacy settings

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Questions

1 - Talking about climate change and environmental crisis: awareness and information

The European Climate Pact aims to increase awareness and understanding of climate change, and explore ways in which European citizens and all types of organisations can take climate action.

What **information** would be useful for you or your organisation under the European Climate Pact?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four types that are the most relevant for you.

- Climate change and environmental crises and their impacts
- Climate change and environmental policies and action
- Concrete actions that I or my organisation can take to become more climate-friendly
- Advice and support that are available to help me or my organisation to take action
- Support available to cope with the effects of mitigation measures (e.g. closures of coal mines, increases in fuel/energy prices)
- The costs of (in-)action and its social impacts
- Information on climate risks (e.g. consequences on the food chain, water availability, health...) and ways and means to prepare for those
- Support available to cope with the effects of climate change
- What others are doing (e.g. individual actions, collective initiatives)
- How to identify false or misleading information and how to best engage with sources that spread reliable information, e.g. via online social media or in my social network.
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

The European Climate Pact should go beyond the mere environmental and climate scope, and cover integrated climate and energy policies and actions. In particular, the Pact should raise awareness among energy consumers, notably households, on the importance and benefits of demand-side flexibility for themselves and the climate. As recently demonstrated in a 2020 survey on the Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI) for buildings, citizens are not familiar with the concept of demand-side flexibility.

What would be your preferred **sources** for information about climate change and how you can take action?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant sources for you.

- Scientists/experts/think tanks
- National authorities
- Regional and/or Local authorities
- EU institutions/International organisations
- Businesses
- Universities/Schools
- Civil society organisations/climate activists
- Youth organisations
- Celebrities/Influencers/Family and friends, people I know
- "Climate Pact" ambassadors in various sections of the society
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

What **channels and tools** would you find useful for awareness raising under the European Climate Pact?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant for you.

- Websites
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube)
- Traditional media (e.g. newspapers, television, radio)
- Advertising
- Games/serious games/interactive platforms/apps
- EU-level events
- National, regional events
- Local events
- Conversations with citizens on specific policy topics (citizens' dialogues /assemblies)
- Grassroots initiatives
- Educational programmes at schools
- Creative events/films
- Local helpdesks for consultancy and practical advice
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Beyond events and social media campaigns, SEAPs developed by local authorities part of the Covenant of Mayors should integrate awareness raising campaigns, notably on the concept of demand-side flexibility and opportunities to become active customers/prosumers. Local helpdesks for consultancy and practical advice set up by local authorities could provide ad hoc support to energy consumers, outline innovative business models and financing schemes.

What types of **face-to-face events** would you find interesting to attend?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant for you.

- Large events
- Workshops on specific topics or initiatives (Citizens' dialogues, training sessions)
- Participatory sessions, think tank events
- Networking events, opportunities to meet like-minded people
- Theatre, libraries and museum events
- Local meetings in my neighbourhood with family, friends
- Other
- Not interested

* Please specify

Although large events might raise awareness on the potentials of an active participation of energy consumers to the clean energy transition by fostering demand-side flexibility, the value of local helpdesks for consultancy and practical advice should be the key feature of a coordinated European Climate Pact.

2 - Triggering action: pledges and initiatives

We can only halt climate change if we act together. Therefore, the European Climate Pact encourages individuals, organisations and institutions to commit to specific climate action goals by making pledges that go beyond legislation goals.

For example, individuals could pledge to start or increase a climate-friendly behaviour (such as using public transport more or cycling/walking, insulating their home and installing solar panels, consuming locally/more plant-based food). Individuals could also pledge to call for governmental action (e.g. to increase public transport in cities, to maintain/create green areas).

Organisations could pledge to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or prepare for the impacts of climate change. For example, a Business could pledge to switch to 100% renewable energy or reduce the emissions from its operations by a specific amount and within a given timeframe. Financial institutions could pledge to transition their activities increasingly towards sustainable finance.

* Would you or your organisation be **prepared to pledge** concrete climate action under the European Climate Pact?

- Yes, I have already made a climate action commitment and would be interested in building on it
- Yes, I am already considering making a climate action commitment and would be interested in engaging in this aspect
- Yes, but I would need information or non-financial support to take action (e.g. guidance, good practices).
- Yes, but I would need help to gather wider support and acceptance.
- Yes, but I would need financial support.
- Yes, but I would need ...
- No, I am not interested in contributing to the Pact.
- No, I am not interested in engaging in climate action.
- Do not know.
- Other

Please specify

* 300 character(s) maximum

smartEn could provide support in identifying, at European level, opportunities and barriers for energy consumers to engage in demand-side flexibility schemes. Local helpdesks should take into account these European guidelines and tailor their targeted support to energy consumers while considering national and regional circumstances.

* What would you see as the main advantages of making a pledge?

- Motivation to take action by having a goal
- Accountability for my actions by making my pledge public
- Recognition for my actions by being part of the Pact
- More business opportunities as a result of commitments to sustainability
- Being part of a community of pledgers, connecting with others, sharing experience
- Lead by example, motivate others around me to do the same
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Please outline the reasons why you selected 'No'. What would make you or your organisation more likely to make a pledge?

300 character(s) maximum

What **themes** could you see your pledge addressing?

- Business/organisational transformation (for organisation)/Wide-ranging change in personal behaviour (for individual: -e.g. daily consumption-changing food or household habits-)
- Transport, mobility
- Energy efficiency (e.g. buying products with the most efficient energy label, insulating buildings)
- Renewable energy usage/generation (e.g. installing solar panels, heat pumps, procuring renewable energy)
- Water management
- Circular economy: less waste (e.g. through less packaging or eco-design), re-use, recycling, waste management
- Local/sustainably produced/plant-based food
- Increasing green and biodiverse areas, afforestation
- Developing knowledge and skills for the transition to a climate-neutral society
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

A key theme should be the active participation and support of all energy consumers to the clean energy transition through digital and decentralised energy solutions, notably by making their demand more flexible and helping to balance the electricity system. In the highly electrified system of the future, many more residential, commercial and industrial consumers with digital and decentralised energy resources will be able to provide their demand-side flexibility through innovative services using real-time monitoring, predictive analytics and automated response. These actors are identified as prosumers or active customers. This change would imply organizational and social transformations and some behavioral changes.

As explained in the introductory section, initially, the European Climate Pact could offer targeted support (e.g. awareness-raising, advice, possibly funding) in **three areas**: energy efficiency in buildings, low-carbon mobility in cities, as well as planting trees and creating urban green areas. Further areas could be added later. In which of these areas would you like to participate?

- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Low-carbon mobility in cities
- Planting trees/green urban areas
- Other
- None of the above

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Demand-side flexibility should be a top priority area for the European Climate Pact. Climate neutrality cannot be reached just with increases in energy efficiency and renewables. Demand-side flexibility is the 3rd pillar of a cost-effective clean energy transition, with citizens at its heart. However, this is a concept which currently lacks political attention. This initiative could attract attention, raise awareness on the existing business models and foster the bottom-up engagement of energy consumers of all sizes to the energy transition by flexibly adapting their energy consumption to external signals.

3 - Working together: platforms

The European Climate Pact will facilitate collaboration and networking, providing a platform for citizens to express their ideas and work together on ambitious climate action. The Pact's website will be its central online hub.

* What would you find useful under this **platform**?

- Listing of relevant events (in my country/field of work)
- Online events (e.g. webstreamed events, webinars, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), trainings)
- Links to connect with like-minded people and organisations
- Links to other relevant platforms and initiatives
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Local authorities are better placed to interact with energy consumers. The platform provided by the European Climate Pact should not invent parallel structures, but use existing networks and initiatives, as the Covenant of Mayors, or the European Energy Award to engage with citizens.

* What do you consider as **useful for more collaboration** between individuals or organisations?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four options that are the most relevant for you.

- Opportunities for online/face-to-face contacts and exchange (networking)
- 'Matchmaking' between organisations or initiatives
- Support for grassroots and other relevant initiatives/activists in local communities
- Support for collaboration initiatives and projects (e.g. access to funding, capacity building, etc.)
- Trainings on climate change problems and collaborative solutions
- Harmonised reporting and monitoring for climate action initiatives
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

As much as possible, the European Climate Pact will build on initiatives that already exist and that are run by citizens, businesses, public institutions, schools, and others. In your view, what is the best way to **promote and support** these kinds of **initiatives** and to link them more closely with climate action under the European Green Deal?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Provide material support (e.g. financing, capacity building, etc.)
- Provide non-material support (e.g. recognition, praise, greater visibility, etc.)
- Facilitate bottom-up networking among institutions, organisations or individual citizens themselves
- Establish connections with specific policy areas and processes, providing spaces for consultation and co-deliberation (for example, in the context of the research missions or the public-private partnerships under the Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme)
- Create a more favourable environment for the activities of these initiatives, including by removing cultural, political, governance or other obstacles
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

4 - Ideas and suggestions for further development

The European Climate Pact will build as much as possible on existing initiatives to engage the public and all stakeholders in climate action.

* How do you believe the Pact can best **complement or scale-up existing initiatives** and add value? Please refer to the specific initiatives you have in mind (maximum two initiatives)

400 character(s) maximum

The European Climate Pact should foresee a central oversight structure to identify

priority areas, topics, challenges and opportunities that will be targeted (indirectly) through the coordinated support of a network of local helpdesks, set up by local authorities (in line with the SEAPs submitted to the Covenant of Mayors).

* What would be the most important **characteristics** of the Climate Pact for you?

- Ambition**
- Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Participation**
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

If you are aware of or involved in any **initiatives that could be potentially interested** in joining the Pact, please provide their name and a brief description below, including web links and contact information where applicable (maximum two initiatives)

300 character(s) maximum

The involvement of '**ambassadors**' at various levels and from different backgrounds could help increase the effectiveness and success of the European Climate Pact. In your opinion, what type of 'ambassadors' could contribute to the Pact (e.g. profile, field of expertise)?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four most relevant types for you.

- Scientists, experts**
- Business people, entrepreneurs**
- Politicians
- Celebrities**
- Artists
- Sportsmen/sportswomen
- Media, journalists**
- Social media influencers
- Climate or environmental activists
- Youth**
- Students
- Climate Pact ambassadors/focal points in all sectors of the economy
- Teachers
- People active in the local community
- Education and training professionals
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Would you be interested in becoming an 'ambassador' for the European Climate Pact in your community or sphere of influence?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Please give a short description about yourself and your ideas for exploring this possibility, as well as what kind of action and awareness raising initiatives you would have in mind (if you have selected yes, we may contact you via e-mail).

600 character(s) maximum

Joint [green procurement](#) is a concept where organisations collectively invest in climate-friendly options to obtain better offers from goods or service providers (for example electric buses, solar panels, sustainably produced goods).

Would you like joint green procurement to be further encouraged and developed in the EU? If so, you can elaborate on possible ways forward

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Would you like your local authority to further participate in and facilitate joint green procurement for its citizens and stakeholders?

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

The Climate Pact will include a **monitoring, reporting and evaluation system** on the implementation of the pledges collected, to encourage transparency, accountability, learning from experience and results. In your opinion, which approach will be the most suitable?

Please select your preferred option(s).

- Use existing monitoring and reporting systems from an independent body (e.g. for cities, towns and regions, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy)
- Adapt reporting requirements and verification methods to participants' emissions/pollution level, to be accomplished by an independent body (i.e. stricter reporting requirements for organisations with larger impact on climate)
- Light reporting and verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- Deep reporting and verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- Sample verification methods for all participants, to be accomplished by an independent body
- Self- or community-monitoring by participants
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Could you share the name, link and brief description of such existing systems?

300 character(s) maximum

* The European Climate Pact will develop and grow over time. Do you have suggestions for **additional functions** the Pact should provide or topics it should address (maximum two suggestions)?

300 character(s) maximum

5 - Your climate actions and interest in the Pact

The Pact aims to bring about **social and behavioural change** of Europe's citizens, businesses and other organisations with regard to climate change.

In your view, **how climate-friendly** are you or your organisation now?

Scale from 1 (not at all climate-friendly) to 4 (very climate-friendly)

- 1. Not at all climate-friendly
- 2. Not so climate-friendly
- 3. Quite climate-friendly
- 4. Very climate-friendly
- Do not know

In your view, to what extent could you or your organisation **become more climate-friendly**?

Scale from 1 (very little) to 4 (very much)

- 1. Very little opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- 2. Little opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- 3. Some opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- 4. Many opportunities to become more climate-friendly
- Do not know

* **What would help you** or your organisation to take more climate action/become more climate-friendly?

at most 4 choice(s)

- More information of climate and environmental footprints
- Greater knowledge on what I or my organisation can do to take climate action
- Stricter laws, regulation and enforcement
- More appropriate infrastructures facilitating climate-friendly behaviours
- Connecting with others engaged or interested in climate action
- Seeing more people in my social network/similar organisations engage in climate action
- Concrete support (including financial) or incentives to adopt more climate-friendly behaviours or practices
- Moral (non-material) incentives, e.g. recognition, praise by others
- Nothing, I do not plan to change
- Do not know
- Other

* Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

* Would you be interested in **taking part in the European Climate Pact**?

- Yes, as an individual citizen
- Yes, as an organisation
- No
- Do not know

* In your opinion, which types of **activities** under the European Climate Pact would have the biggest impact in society?

at most 4 choice(s)

Please choose the four types that are the most relevant for you.

- Awareness-raising on climate change and its impacts
- Educational, training and learning material
- Practical tips and consumer-friendly tools for assessing footprints and taking climate action

- Facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practice
- Facilitating bottom-up collaboration and action between people, organisations and initiatives
- Stimulating and recording voluntary commitments to climate action
- Practical (material) support to grassroots initiatives (e.g. capacity-building, access to funding)
- Non-material incentives, e.g. nudging, naming and shaming
- Other

*** Please specify**

300 character(s) maximum

Thank you for participating in this public consultation. Your views, ideas and suggestions are valuable to us. All replies will be analysed and receive due consideration. We will prepare a written summary of the results and explain how the consultation influenced the final design of the European Climate Pact. We will publish this summary online, together with any uploaded position papers and policy briefs as well as an explanation on how the European Commission has followed up on your proposals. Please stay informed by consulting the website of the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en