



Mineral and Energy  
Economy Research  
Institute  
Polish Academy of Sciences



# Just Transition Fund - a chance for green energy generation in Poland

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**THE 16TH TAIWAN-POLAND JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING &  
TAIWAN-POLAND BUSINESS NETWORKING**

# Just transition in EU climate and circular economy policy

The **European Green Deal** (December 2019):

- Europe to become the first **climate** neutral continent in the world by 2050
- circular economy as a central part of this sustainable growth strategy.

A new **Circular Economy Action Plan** (March 2020):

- **decouple economic growth and prosperity** from consumption of finite resources
- ensuring the competitiveness of the EUs economy in the long term

The European Parliament endorsed the net-zero greenhouse gas emissions objective in its [resolution on climate change](#) in March 2019 and [resolution on the European Green Deal](#) in January 2020.

The EU submitted its [long-term strategy](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in March 2020.

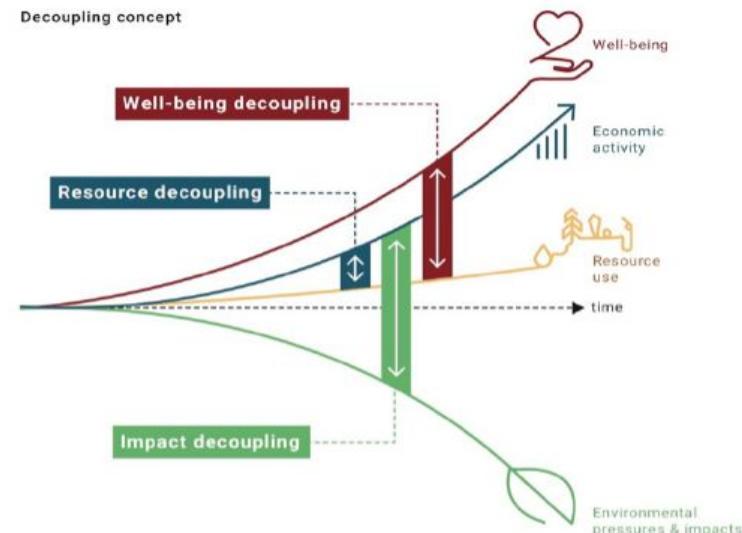
Decoupling GDP and GHG



Source: COM(2019)640

# Decoupling – global perspective - UNEP Resource Panel

The decoupling of natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic activity and **human well-being** is an essential element in the transition to a sustainable future.



## Fossil Fuels

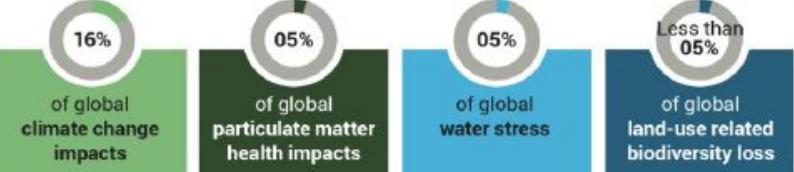
Use of fossil fuels  
1970 and today (2017)

Extracted 1970 **6 billion tonnes**

Extracted 2017 **15 billion tonnes**

Fossil fuel extraction was **2.5 times higher in 2017 than in 1970.**

Impacts of extraction  
and primary processing  
today (2017) - in shares  
of total global impact



<https://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook>



### Did you know?

Renewables produce 5-6% of the GHG emissions of coal-fired plants and 8-10% of gas-fired plants.



Producing electricity  
causes a quarter of  
anthropogenic  
greenhouse gas  
emissions



Renewables cause  
significantly lower  
pollution, but have a  
higher demand for  
structural materials

# Climate neutral in EU legislation

EC - cut CO2 emissions by at least 55% by 2030 ( compared to 1990) and achieve climate neutrality by 2050

The Commission has proposed to include the new EU 2030 target in the Law.

The transition to climate neutrality will bring significant opportunities, will however require overcoming serious challenges, will require significant public and private investment.

European Council welcomes and supports the announcement by the EIB that it intends to support EUR 1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability in the period from 2021 to 2030 - <https://unfccc.int/documents/210328>



# A vision for a climate-neutral Europe

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- maximise the benefits of **energy efficiency**, including zero emission buildings;
- maximise the deployment of **renewables** and the use of **electricity** to fully decarbonise Europe's energy supply;
- embrace clean, safe and connected **mobility**;
- a competitive EU industry and the **circular economy** as a key enabler to reduce GHG emissions;
- develop an adequate **smart network infrastructure** and **interconnections**;
- reap the full benefits of **bioeconomy** and create essential **carbon sinks**;
- tackle remaining CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**.

# Just Transition Fund

provide support to the people, economy and environment of territories that face serious socio-economic challenges deriving from the transition process.

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## Just Transition Fund

### **Types of support for investment - aim - leading to job creation:**

- productive and sustainable investments in microenterprises and SMEs, creation of new firms
- social infrastructures,
- research and innovation activities, including in universities and public research institutions, and fostering the transfer of advanced and market-ready technologies;
- technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy and its systems, energy storage technologies and sustainable renewable energy, transport, social housing, district heating;
- digitalisation,
- regeneration and decontamination of sites,
- enhancing the circular economy - waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling
- social and public services, education
- upskilling, reskilling and training of workers and jobseekers;
- job-search assistance to jobseekers - support for workers in transition between jobs, including women etc.;

Amendments adopted by the European Parliament on 17 September 2020 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Just Transition Fund ([COM\(2020\)0022](#) – C9-0007/2020 – [2020/0006\(COD\)](#))

# Coal regions in transition platform

## ▪Coal regions in transition – coal intensive regions

Coal is mined in 31 regions across 11 EU countries, with coal activities providing jobs to about 230,000 people. Around 18 % of the European power generation mix was based on coal in 2019.

Just 100 of the Union's territories meet criteria based on carbon-intensive jobs, fossil fuel industrial activity and GDP per capita.

### Toolkit

## Transition strategies

How to design effective strategies  
for coal regions in transition

### Providing support materials to coal regions in transition

The Platform for coal regions in transition developed the following support materials to assist practitioners in coal regions across Europe.

#### Transition strategies toolkit

Guidance on how to:

- develop a transition strategy in coal regions;
- identify actions and projects to support the strategy;
- monitor, evaluate and continuously adapt the strategy.

[Link](#)

#### Governance of transitions toolkit

Guidance on how to:

- design the right governance model to support a transition process in coal regions;
- facilitate stakeholder engagement;
- enhance the role of social dialogue and of civil society in the transition process.

[Link](#)

#### Sustainable employment and welfare support toolkit

Addresses the issues of:

- skill needs and reskilling for coal regions in transition;
- cooperation among stakeholders;
- support options for workers who are at risk of losing their jobs;
- economic diversification of coal regions as a means for long-term job creation.

[Link](#)

#### Environmental rehabilitation and repurposing toolkit

This toolkit gives advice on:

- securing finance;
- knowledge and tools;
- governance and institutions to support mine closure, environmental rehabilitation of mines and repurposing of coal related infrastructure

[Link](#)

# Just transition – global aspects - *IndustriALL Global Union*

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*For a Just Transition to a future in which the environment is protected and the economy is thriving, workers need sustainable industrial policies, with strong social protections, and support for workers - guided by social change -*



<http://www.industriall-union.org/just-transition-an-idea-whose-time-has-come>

# Just transition – Poland – green energy

7.5-billion Euro - 2 billion Euro (capping) to Poland in 2021-2027 and support from other funds, ERDF, Invest EU, Life+, ESF+, Horizon Europe

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- 2019 - Poland submitted its National Energy and Climate Plan for years 2021-2030 (NECP) which stipulated its objectives relating to increased energy efficiency and decarbonization - 21%-23% of RES is gross final energy consumption by 2030
- 2019, the Ministry of Energy prepared a draft of Energy Policy of Poland until 2040 in which it commits to a reduction of coal in electricity generation by 2030 - 60% share of coal in electricity generation in 2030
- Estimated investment needs from GHG reductions till 2030 r. - 240 billion Euro.
- 2020 Polish unions, employers and the government reached an agreement on 25 September 2020 to phase out coal mines by 2049.
- Funds for regions: Śląsk, Małopolska, Wielkopolska, Dolny Śląsk, Łódzkie, Lubelskie

# Małopolska region – low carbon transition

The Board of the Małopolska Region appointed Tomasz Urynowicz as the Plenipotentiary for Just Transformation and A Just Transition Working Group was established.



Malopolska is the first Polish region with a dedicated plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation. **The Regional Action Plan for Climate and Energy (RAPCE)** was adopted by the Management Board of Małopolska on 18 February 2020. **The Plan supports a low-carbon transition of the region through mobilisation of public and private funds.**

In the years 2021-2030, **the new LIFE IP EkoMałopolska** will be implemented in the field of climate change mitigation.

**Main tasks:**

- ✓ low-carbon transformation of the heating appliance market and related green job creation,
- ✓ scenarios for GHG emission reduction in the **Małopolska** Region for 2030 and 2050,
- ✓ support for the use of renewable energy sources at the local level.

On 12 November 2020, the cooperation agreement was signed with the Tauron Polska Energia Group.

# Carbon pricing and energy poverty

- A **carbon tax** (direct) directly sets a price on carbon or on the carbon content of fossil fuels. Indirect - fuel taxes, the removal of fossil fuel subsidies, and regulations that may incorporate a “social cost of carbon” payments for emission reductions. About 40 countries and 20 cities, states and provinces already use carbon pricing mechanisms. Together the carbon pricing schemes now in place cover about half their emissions, which translates to about 13% of annual global GHG emission.
- Poland – the rising costs of coal-generated energy - the EU emissions trading scheme.

Energy prices in Poland are among the highest in Europe, and also the highest in comparison to its neighboring industrialised countries

Poland has a better performance than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. In 2018, 5.1% of the Polish people reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.4%

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**THEfirstNEWS**

"I must have been inspired" Joseph Conrad

EU ENERGY POVERTY Observatory | European Commission

[https://www.energypoverty.eu/sites/default/files/downloads/observatory-document/20-06/extended\\_member\\_state\\_report\\_-\\_poland.pdf](https://www.energypoverty.eu/sites/default/files/downloads/observatory-document/20-06/extended_member_state_report_-_poland.pdf)

# Cooperation and R&D – green energy

Just transition Fund - research and innovation activities, including in universities and public research institutions, and fostering the transfer of advanced and market-ready technologies

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## Małopolska region

- AGH - UST is a modern technical university that takes active part in building a society based on knowledge while taking advantage of technologies for the purpose of economic growth and development. The university was established in 1913, and opened in 1919. Modern University and an important centre for the development and transfer of innovative technologies. [www.agh.edu.pl](http://www.agh.edu.pl)
- IATI – The Highway to Technology and Innovation Institute – the largest virtual institute in Poland with over 50 universities and large companies - [iati.pl](http://iati.pl)
- Waste Management and recycling Cluster – Key National Cluster in Poland - over 100 companies mainly SMEs – [www.klasterodpadowy.com](http://www.klasterodpadowy.com)
- MEERi PAS – Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute Polish Academy of Sciences - interdisciplinarity research in the fields of raw material management and clean energy [www.meeri.pl](http://www.meeri.pl)

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Thank you

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