

## Facts and News - Malta

Malta's efforts towards climate change mitigation and adaptation are enacted in the Climate Action Act, established in 2015, and further strengthened through the ratification of the Paris Agreement, whereby Malta reaffirmed its commitment to address climate issues to its fullest potential and contribute towards achieving the EU's collective target for 2030. Although Malta is the lowest emitter per capita in the EU, Malta is still committed to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, which was strengthened in the 2021 Budget Speech whereby reaching carbon neutrality will constitute one of the main pillars of the economy

Malta is currently in the process of finalising a strategy that will highlight Malta's path to carbon neutrality by 2050 (Low Carbon Development Strategy). Among other things, this strategy will be exploring avenues for cleaner energy, and will recommend actions for cleaner means of transport; high and efficient energy standards for buildings; as well as more holistic and environment-friendly waste management systems. The Government is also in the process of establishing a cut-off date for the import of ICE vehicles.

In the interim the Maltese Cabinet has approved the National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 which provides a clear path to attain the overarching objectives of a sustainable, affordable and secure energy system which needs to follow a decarbonisation trajectory, whilst recognising the inherent challenges and opportunities brought about by national specificities such as spatial constraints, high population density, and a mild Mediterranean climate. The Plan identifies the following key objectives for 2030:

- -19% GHG emissions reduction target under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR);
- Fulfilling obligations of the Paris Agreement;
- 11.5% share of Renewable energy in gross final energy consumption in 2030;
- 14% RES share in the transport sector in line with Renewable Energy Directive;
- Energy intensity of 0.07 toe/thousands €<sub>2005</sub> in 2030.

These objectives will be addressed through policies and measures which include:

- Financial support for solar PV
- Financial support for solar water heaters and heat pump water heaters
- Support scheme for Industry and Services
- Energy Efficient Street Lighting
- Development of R&I Strategy for Energy and Water
- Promotion of Electric Vehicles and replacement of 'older' existing vehicle fleet.

Malta is also committed to continue monitoring developments in floating offshore solar and wind technologies, and will seek to attract pilot projects implementing floating solar or wind in view of their long-term potential. In this regard, Malta shall seek to attract private investment in floating solar and/or wind which could benefit from support under the Innovation Fund, or if the technology would near full commercialization, seek funding under CEF. Malta will continue to assess innovative, viable and cost-effective solutions tailored to its specificities, such as energy storage solutions, which would solve challenges related to increased RES generation and solutions to ensure system stability with respect to grid integration constraints inherent in small and peripheral electricity systems.

The Energy and Water Agency has launched a National Strategy for Research and Innovation for the period 2020 – 2030 specifically for the energy and water sector. The aim of the strategy is that of

supporting industry and academia in carrying out R&I activities having a tangible impact whilst strengthening cooperation and coordination between stakeholders in these sectors. The focus areas for the next ten years are broad and include efficient solutions in energy and water, desalination and water treatment process and renewable solutions for islands. More details on the projects which are being funded through the first call can be found:

<https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/news/from-more-efficient-pv-systems-to-better-tap-water-quality-the-ri-projects-awarded-research-grants/>

In line with the National Energy and Climate Plan, the Energy and Water Agency has continued supporting the residential and commercial sectors to improve energy efficiency and increase the uptake of renewable energy sources through a number of initiatives and projects. Further details on the work carried out by the Agency is available at: <https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/energy/>