

EUROPEAN ENVIROMENT POLICY



EU environment policy

The European Union (EU) has a comprehensive set of environmental policies aimed at addressing various challenges, **promoting sustainability, and mitigating climate change.**

Environment policy has recently been moved to centre stage in EU policy making, with the European Commission launching the **European Green Deal (2019)** as the main driver of its **economic growth strategy.**



Origins of EU Environment Policy

Established in 1972
European Council
in Paris, following
the first UN
conference on the
environment

The Single European
Act of 1987 introduced
the 'Environment Title,'
providing its initial
legal foundation

The Treaty of Lisbon
(2009) specified goals,
such as combating
climate change and
fostering sustainable
development with
third countries

Revisions, like the Treaty
of Maastricht (1993) and
the Treaty of Amsterdam
(1999), solidified the EU's
commitment to
environmental protection



EU Environment Policy

key focus areas

1. Combating climate change
2. Biodiversity, land use and forestry
3. Water protection and management
4. Air and noise pollution
5. Resource efficiency and the circular economy
6. Sustainable consumption and production
7. Chemicals and pesticides



How does EU environment policy work?

EU environment policy uses the principles of precaution, prevention and rectifying pollution at source, and on the 'polluter pays' principle.

Environmental action programmes (EAPs) set the framework for future action in all areas of environment policy.

Actions are embedded in horizontal strategies and taken into account in international environmental negotiations.





Environment Action Programmes (EAPs)

EAPs set out the legislative proposals and goals that focus on 6 objectives:

1. Meet 2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets and climate neutrality by 2050.
2. Enhance adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
3. Transition to a regenerative growth model, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.
4. Pursue a zero-pollution ambition for air, water, and soil.
5. Preserve and restore biodiversity.
6. Address climate pressures in energy, industry, buildings, mobility, and the food system.

Horizontal strategies

The EAPs are based on horizontal strategies developed over the years around environmental protection.



The EU introduced its first sustainable development strategy (SDS) in 2001, aligning environmental considerations with the Lisbon strategy.

EU outlined how to integrate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into EU priorities in 2016.

In 2020, a comprehensive biodiversity strategy for 2030 was presented along with the Farm-to-Fork strategy as part of the European Green Deal.

Implementation, enforcement and monitoring

EU environmental law, established since the 1970s, encompasses numerous directives, regulations, and decisions.

The policy's effectiveness relies heavily on implementation at national, regional, and local levels, posing challenges due to inadequate application and enforcement.

Ongoing monitoring is essential for both environmental conditions and the implementation status of EU environmental law.



EU Environment Policies related to food system



Common Agricultural Policy:
It influences farming practices and supports sustainable agriculture.

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:
It aims to protect ecosystems and preserve biodiversity.

Pesticide Regulation:
EU regulations on pesticide use, including the authorization and monitoring of pesticides.

Water Framework Directive:
Policies on water quality and usage impact agricultural practices, especially in terms of irrigation.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):
It sets scientific standards for food safety.

Organic Farming Regulations:
EU regulations govern the production and labeling of organic products.

Food Information Regulation:
Regulations on food labeling and information aim to enhance consumer awareness.

We are on a mission to reshape the healthcare and farming system in Europe based on the connection between **soil and human health**.

Join us in our mission!



Coalition of Health Professionals
for Regenerative Agriculture