

APPENDIX

LOWER AUSTRIA

Lower Austria, located in the northeast of Austria is geographically the largest federal state of Austria. With joining the climate alliance already in the year 1993, Lower Austria set a clear commitment to climate protection and global responsibility. Furthermore Lower Austria encouraged municipalities taking part in the climate alliance. Lower Austria is currently the leading region in Europe with 350 “climate alliance municipalities“. As the first state in Austria, Lower Austria has enshrined climate protection in its regional constitution in the year 2007.

As a member of the European Union, Austria and thus Lower Austria are embedded in the European climate policy. Until 2030 the greenhouse gas emissions have to be cut by at least 40% (based on 1990 level) according to the EU climate and energy framework.

Furthermore Lower Austria sets its own ambitious goals. The Lower Austrian Strategies „Energy Road Map 2030“ and „Climate- and Energy Program 2020“ determine targets and concrete actions for different sectors (traffic, buildings, agriculture, waste management,...). In the year 2015 Lower Austria has reached an important milestone on its way to a low carbon economy. It was the first year with 100% coverage of electricity consumption by renewable power production. The next milestone in the “Lower Austrian Energy Road Map 2030” targets to generate 50% of the total energy consumption by renewable energy sources until 2020. Currently renewable energy sources provide about 30% of the total energy consumption.

The starting position:

Population:	1,64 million (2014)
GDP:	31.200 EUR per capita (2013)
Country:	Austria
GHG emissions (year):	18,89 million tons (2013)

Specific actions and commitments:

I. Energy Road Map 2030

Energy supply based on renewable sources has a special value for Lower Austria. In addition to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions the security of energy supply and the use of local resources are main drivers for these future technologies.

The "Energy Road Map 2030" for the State of Lower Austria includes the basic goals towards a carbon free economy and was decided on 17th of November 2011 by the regional government. According to the pathway 50% of the Lower Austrian energy consumption should be covered by renewable energy sources until 2030. The first interim target "100% coverage of electricity consumption by renewable power production" was achieved at the end of 2015.

II. Climate- and Energy-Program 2020

The Climate- and Energy-Program 2020 is a continuation and improvement of the successful Climate Program 2009-2012 and defines 43 measures and 208 instruments in 6 sectors (buildings, traffic, agriculture and forestry, energy supply, waste management, public issues). Advantage of the program is a clear responsibility and a timeline for all measures and instruments - enacted by the regional parliament. The implementation of the instruments is regularly monitored and reported to the regional parliament.

III. R20 – Regions of Climate Action

Since the 31st January 2013 Lower Austria joined the R20 – Regions of Climate Action Initiative. As a part of the R20 coalition, Lower Austria works to promote and implement projects that are designed to produce local economic and environmental benefits in the form of reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

IV. Energy efficient buildings

Energy efficiency especially in the residential building sector was a real success story. The average heating demand for new buildings in the residential sector decreased from 41 kWh/m²a (2005) to 28 kWh/m²a (2014). For renovated residential buildings the average heating demand decreased from 92 kWh/m²a (2005) to 76 kWh/m²a (2014). Responsible for this result was mainly the eco-friendly design of the building subsidy-system.

The implementation of binding quality requirements for public buildings achieved significant reduction in energy consumption. All new public buildings have to be designed in passive house standard – all renovations must reach low energy standard.

The positive effect of these measures is also visible in the Lower Austrian GHG-monitoring report. The GHG emissions in the whole building sector were reduced by 28% in comparison to 1990.

V. Sustainable Mobility

The green-house-gas emissions in the traffic sector are a big challenge for lower Austria. The region is characterized by a wide landscape with a dense road network. This fact is reflected in the GHG data monitoring – since 1990 the emission in this sector increased by 67% until 2013. Therefore several actions were taken - like strengthening bicycle traffic, improving public traffic or forcing electro-mobility. First results are visible - between 2005 and 2013 the GHG emissions in the traffic sector could be reduced by 8%.

Electric mobility is one of the most promising technologies for the ecological improvement of traffic in Lower Austria. Especially the combination of electric mobility with renewable power supply is a great opportunity for the Lower Austrian environment and economy. To underline the importance of this technology the regional government has decided the “Electro-Mobility Strategy 2014-2020”. Main targets of this strategy are:

- 5% of all passenger car units in Lower Austria should be electric cars.
- Change of 25.000 traffic participants to electric mobility.
- Faster value creation and employment by electric mobility compared to other Austrian federal states.