



European Environment Agency



Second Eionet webinar on resource efficiency policies  
**Objectives and targets for resource efficiency**

**Webinar agenda and background document**

25 June 2013 (11:30-13:00 CET)

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# 1 Short reflections on resource efficiency targets and indicators

## 1.1 *Background*

In line with Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe the Member States should "...develop or strengthen existing national resource efficiency strategies, and mainstream these into national policies by 2013." The use of targets and indicators is essential for the successful implementation of resource efficiency policies. Evidence shows that countries across Europe are at various stages of developing and using targets and indicators for resource efficiency and also have to consider differing national socio-economic and environmental aspects. The overall aim of this second EEA webinar is to provide an update and facilitate exchange of experiences and information regarding approaches to resource efficiency targets and indicators and strategies.

The specific goals of the online event are to facilitate exchange of information on:

- European Commission work on targets and indicators for the implementation of resource efficiency policy,
- National experience and examples on resource efficiency targets and indicators and on resource efficiency strategies,
- Lessons learned in setting up targets and developing indicators in the context of resource efficiency policies.

The EEA webinar series on resource efficiency policies is a follow-up initiative to the 2011-2012 work with the EIONET network. The first webinar on resource efficiency policies was held on 27 February 2013. Detailed background information, presentations, and the video of the first webinar [can be found at the Eionet Forum](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.2 *Targets for resource efficiency*

A variety of strategic objectives and quantitative targets is commonly used at the EU and national level to provide the stimulus for the implementation of environmental policies. Targets are those policy goals that are specific, measurable and set a deadline or have a specified time limit to achieve. A target is a detailed performance requirement, that arises from the objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://forum.eionet.europa.eu/nrc-scp-waste/current-projects/2012-support-implementation-re-roadmap>  
(Access requires Eionet username and password)

In 2011, in view of the upcoming Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ETC/SCP) carried out [a survey on resource efficiency policies](#)<sup>2</sup> in 31 European countries.

Among other issues, the survey revealed that the type of targets related to resource efficiency vary substantially across countries. The country responses indicated that most targets were set in the areas of waste, energy use, renewable energy, energy efficiency (energy use in buildings), air emissions (including greenhouse gas emissions), and land use. Most of these appear to be driven by existing EU requirements while influenced by regional needs. While agreeing on and setting targets is a politically complex process, country reports demonstrate that EU targets can be an important driver for policy development at the country level. More specifically, in the energy sector a majority of countries set not only objective on increasing energy efficiency, but also shape targets on absolute reductions in energy use, both of which are driven also by EU energy policy.

Only six countries mentioned having specific targets for increasing material efficiency and reducing material use, however this information may not cover all existing targets. Germany and Romania reported having targets in place to improve material productivity, while four countries (Austria, Estonia, Italy and Sweden) indicated targets for reducing absolute amounts of material use. However, according to the country responses, the issue of 'critical' raw materials is not yet addressed by countries in detail.

Some countries responded to have targets for issues such as sustainable agriculture (other than land under organic farming), sustainable forestry (including increased use of wood products from sustainable forestry), water scarcity and quality, sustainable fisheries, land use (other than agriculture and forestry), green public procurement, transportation, research and development expenditure, and green jobs. Only four countries (Denmark, France, Germany and Switzerland) indicated in 2011 to have specific targets on land use other than those aimed at agriculture and forestry.

Although water scarcity is a priority issue for many countries, surprisingly only Portugal reported targets for an improved efficiency of water use, and no country gave an account on targets for absolute reductions in the consumption of drinking water.

Regarding consumption areas associated with high environmental impacts, several countries mentioned having objectives or targets specifically in the fields of housing (typically for energy efficiency in buildings and sometimes for appliances and electricity use), mobility (typically for increased use of biofuels in transport and fuel efficiency standards for cars) and food (typically increasing land area under organic farming). However, in most cases resource efficiency objectives or targets were set with regard to improvements in technology and production rather than addressing consumption by managing the demand. Only few countries reported targets to make less resource-intensive products more affordable than more resource-intensive alternatives.

Selected examples of targets on resource efficiency from the 2011 survey on resource efficiency policies are presented in *Annex I*.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/publications/resource-efficiency-in-europe/>

### **1.3 Resource efficiency indicators**

Successful monitoring and tracking of progress to targets is only possible if relevant indicators exist that are underpinned by reliable data. Therefore indicators are of high importance for developing and updating active resource efficiency policy and to allow benchmarking and comparison between Member States or regions. Indicators can also help in generating an improved and more holistic understanding of the underlying factors driving resource use and identifying leverage points for policy intervention.

The 2011 *survey on resource efficiency policies* highlighted that the level of detail and focus of indicators on resource efficiency varied widely among Member States, reflecting a rather broad understanding of the term “resources”. Most indicators were reported in the areas of waste, energy and material use. Indicators related to water, land use and forestry were also relatively widespread. The indicators most commonly highlighted by countries were those which are included in Eurostat's Sustainable Development Indicators, or other indicators generated by Eurostat.

According to the DPSIR concept, most indicators reported are 'pressure indicators' such as Domestic Material Consumption (DMC). 'Response indicators' (e.g. eco-label awards) or 'driver indicators' (e.g. consumption patterns) were used less frequently. No indicators were reported that focused on the resource efficiency of products or product groups.

In spite of growing recognition that a significant share of overall environmental pressures and resource use are embodied in imported and exported goods and raw materials, only a few countries reported to have indicators that take account of resources embedded in international trade. Belgium (Wallonia Region) and Italy reported using total material requirement (TMR) as a national indicator, Italy reported using the ecological footprint, whereas France and Norway mentioned the environmental footprint of final demand.

A handful of countries (Denmark, Romania and Switzerland) noted using indicators on patterns of consumption and on environmental awareness. Only four countries (France, Italy, Norway and Switzerland) reported having indicators addressing environmental impacts of resource use.

*Annex 2* contains an overview of resource efficiency indicators most commonly reported by countries in the 2011 survey on resource efficiency policies

It is worth noting that “targets” and “indicators” for resource efficiency were identified in the 2011 survey and 2012 interaction with countries as a priority issue for exchanging experience and sharing good practice.

#### **Targets and indicators in the 2011 Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe**

In the 2011 [Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#)<sup>3</sup>, the Commission invited all key stakeholders to discuss and define indicators and targets for guiding actions and monitoring progress on the path to the 2050 resource efficiency vision.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource\\_efficiency/pdf/com2011\\_571.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/pdf/com2011_571.pdf)

As a point of departure the Roadmap proposed a three-layered pyramid structure for the indicator set on resource efficiency:

*First tier: the lead indicator*

The Commission proposed a provisional *lead indicator*, resource productivity, measured by the ratio of GDP to Domestic Material Consumption, (expressed in Euro/tonne) where a higher ratio indicates better performance.

*Second tier: a dashboard of macro-indicators on water, land and carbon*

As the lead indicator is unable to illustrate the complexity of resource use impacts and their interrelations covering only material resources and has a national production perspective, it is complemented with a *dashboard* of macro consumption and production indicators on *water, land and carbon*. This dashboard of indicators focuses on clear changes or flows of main resources.

*Third tier: thematic indicators for monitoring policy effectiveness*

The main objective of the third tier of the pyramid is to cover the key thematic areas of the Roadmap *measuring performance on the related actions and milestones*. The Roadmap included almost 40 indicators for the third layer.

The European Commission has since been carrying out intensive work in order to select a comprehensive set of indicators to use in the adoption of targets for resource efficiency.

# Annex 1 Selected examples of targets on resource efficiency from the 2011 survey on resource efficiency policies

More details available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resource-efficiency-in-europe>

## Material efficiency

- Doubling abiotic material productivity by 2020 as compared to 1994 (Germany).

## Material use

- Reducing total material requirement (TMR) by 25 % by 2010, 75 % by 2030 and 90 % by 2050 (Italy).
- Reducing annual extraction of natural gravel to not more than 12 million tonnes by 2010 (Sweden).
- Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by 20 % by 2020 (Switzerland).

## Forestry

- Expanding the forest area to 2.3 million ha by 2013 (Estonia).
- Increasing per capita consumption of wood and wood products from sustainable forestry from 1.1 m<sup>3</sup> to 1.3 m<sup>3</sup> (Germany).

## Agriculture - organic farming

- Increasing the share of organically farmed areas in the total agricultural area to 20 % by 2010 (Austria).
- Farming 8 % of arable land organically by 2013 (Bulgaria).
- Reducing by half the use of phytopharmaceutical products and biocides within 10 years (France).

## Land use

- Placing at least 2 % of the country area under robust protection within 10 years, in particular by creating three new national parks (France)
- Reducing growth in land use for housing and transport and related soil sealing to an average of 30 ha per day by 2020 (Germany).

## Energy consumption

- Reducing final energy consumption by 2 % by 2010 and 16 % by 2016 (Austria).
- Decreasing final energy consumption by at least one third in the period 2020–2050 (Finland).

## Energy efficiency

- Achieving a 100 % share of high efficiency household electric appliances by 2020 (Cyprus).
- Doubling energy productivity by 2020 as compared to 1990 (Germany).

## Energy efficiency of buildings

- Reducing energy consumption in existing buildings by at least 38 % by 2020 (France).
- Achieving energy refurbishment of all state and public buildings before the end of 2012 (France).
- Making all government buildings that are new, under renovation or leased 'passive' by 2015 (Finland).
- Achieving thermal rehabilitation of all buildings built in the period 1950-1980 by 2020 (Austria).

**Renewable energy**

- Increasing the share of renewables in total energy generation to 25 % in 2010 and 45 % in 2020; and increasing the share of renewables in electricity generation to 80 % in 2010 and 85 % in 2020 (Austria).
- Increasing the share of renewables in total energy consumption to 49.3 % in 2010 (Latvia).
- Installing 165 MW of wind turbine capacity, 25 MW CPS, 10 MW of photovoltaic capacity, 4 MW of biomass plant capacity and 3 MW of biogas plant capacity by 2015 (Cyprus).

**Waste**

- Reducing the quantity of waste produced annually by 20 % (Hungary).
- Recycling at least 70 % of construction-demolition waste in 2020 (Hungary).

**Green public procurement**

- Producing at least 30 % of publicly purchased electricity from renewable energy sources by 2010 and at least 60 % by 2015 (Finland).
- Achieving sustainable cocoa (100 % in 2025), timber (50 % in 2011), soy and palm oil (100 % in 2015) in public procurement (the Netherlands).

**Other**

- Recovering at least 60 % of phosphorus compounds in wastewater by 2015 for use on productive land, with at least half returned to arable land (Sweden).

## Annex 2 Overview of resource efficiency indicators most commonly reported by countries in the 2011 survey on resource efficiency policies

Categories	Materials					Energy				Water			Land			Waste		Others				
	Indicators	Components of DMC/DMI	Total Material Requirement (TMR)	Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)/GDP/DMC/DMC/capita	Direct Material Input (DMI)/DMI/GDP or GDP/DMI	Domestic extraction (DE)	Energy efficiency of buildings	Biofuels share in transport	Share of renewable energy	Energy consumption	Energy efficiency	Exploitation index of renewable water resources	Water quality	Water use (total or by sector)	Forest area	Share of agricultural area under organic/agro-environmental farming	Land use/conversion of land/soil	Amount of waste recycled and/or the amount of waste deposited	Waste generation (total or per waste stream or sector)	Fisheries	Eco-efficiency of different sectors	Transport and infrastructure
Austria			*	*	*													*				
Belgium (FL)			*	*		*		*	*	*			*					*	*		*	*
Belgium (WA)		*								*			*							*		
Bulgaria	*		*															*	*	*		
Croatia			*				*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Cyprus								*	*			*		*	*	*						
Czech Republic			*					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Denmark				*		*		*	*			*	*				*	*		*		
Estonia					*			*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	
Finland	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia								*	*	*					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
France			*					*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*			*
Germany				*		*		*	*	*		*	*			*	*	*	*			*
Greece																						
Hungary										*			*		*	*	*	*	*			
Ireland			*					*	*			*	*			*	*	*	*			
Italy		*	*	*	*						*	*	*			*	*	*	*			
Latvia						*								*								*
Liechtenstein																	*	*				
Lithuania																						
Netherlands																						
Norway								*	*	*												
Poland			*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Portugal			*					*	*	*							*	*	*			
Romania	*		*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Slovakia			*	*	*			*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Slovenia	*		*	*			*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Spain																						
Sweden			*	*	*			*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Switzerland			*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Turkey																						*
United Kingdom			*		*			*	*	*		*	*							*	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	

## Annex 3 Webinar Agenda

### Second Eionet Webinar on Resource Efficiency Policies: Objectives and targets for resource efficiency

**25 June 2013, 11.30 – 13.00 (CET)**

*Webinar IT platform opens for joining at 11:00 (CET) - please follow the detailed instruction sent in a separate document*

**Chairs:** Paweł Kaźmierczyk (EEA) and Márton Herczeg (ETC/SCP)

EU Roadmap to Resource Efficient Europe	
<b>11:00</b> – <b>11:30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Technical set-up</b> The webinar platform will be open in order to make sure all participants successfully - join in for a <b>precise kick-off at 11:30</b> (please follow the detailed instruction sent to participants in a separate document)</li> </ul>
<b>11:30</b> – <b>11:50</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome, introductions and technical briefing (5 min)</b> by Paweł Kaźmierczyk (EEA) and Márton Herczeg (ETC/SCP)</li> <li>• <b>Update from the Commission: work on indicators and targets for the Resource Efficiency Roadmap</b> by Mr. Jacques Bonnin, (European Commission, DG ENVIRONMENT 15 min)</li> </ul>
<b>11:50</b> – <b>12:00</b>	<p><b>Clarifications and feedback (10 min)</b> <i>Please use the chat function to send your questions directly to the user 'ETC/SCP' who will collect questions and comments during the presentations.</i></p>
Country presentations	
<b>12:00</b> – <b>12:45</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Experience and lessons learned from developing the 2012 national resource efficiency strategy in Germany</b> (Mr. Jens Gunther, Federal Environment Agency, Germany; 10 min presentation + 5 min Q&amp;A)</li> <li>• <b>Objectives and targets for resource efficiency in the Netherlands</b> (Mr. Frans Vollenbroek 10 min presentation + 5 min Q&amp;A)</li> <li>• <b>Resource efficiency indicators in Finland and their use for monitoring national targets</b> (Ms. Merja Saarnilehto 10 min presentation + 5 min Q&amp;A)</li> </ul>
Discussion and follow-up	
<b>12:45</b> – <b>13:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion and clarifications (10 min)</b> <i>Please use the chat function to send your questions directly to the user 'ETC/SCP' who will collect questions and comments during the presentations.</i></li> <li>• <b>Reflections and wrap-up (5 min)</b> by Paweł Kaźmierczyk (EEA)</li> </ul>

## Annex 4 List of registered webinar participants

Country (or organization)	Registered persons
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