

# Long-term climate strategy of Austria

LIFE Climate Path 2050 International Conference

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## LTS 2050

- **Austria submitted its long term climate strategy to the EU in 2019 and to the UNFCCC in 2020**
- **Objective to reach climate neutrality by 2050**
- **Following the provisions of the Governance Regulation**

### **Process:**

- **Online consultation with more than 2.700 participants showed strong level of commitment to ambitious measures**
- **Three stakeholder workshops**

## Selected pathways (1)

**Four pathways leading to net zero in 2050 were calculated:**

- **Pathway A: based on high use of renewable energy, far-reaching efficiency improvements, and substantial changes in consumption patterns. Remaining emissions will be compensated by natural sinks (forest) and by the moderate use of CCS/CCU.**
- **Pathway B: focuses on expansion of renewable energy and efficiency improvements as well as on the import of bioenergy and hydrogen for use in multiple sectors (industry, transport, heating). A substantially higher degree of CCS/CCU than in pathway A must be used to compensate for the remaining emissions.**

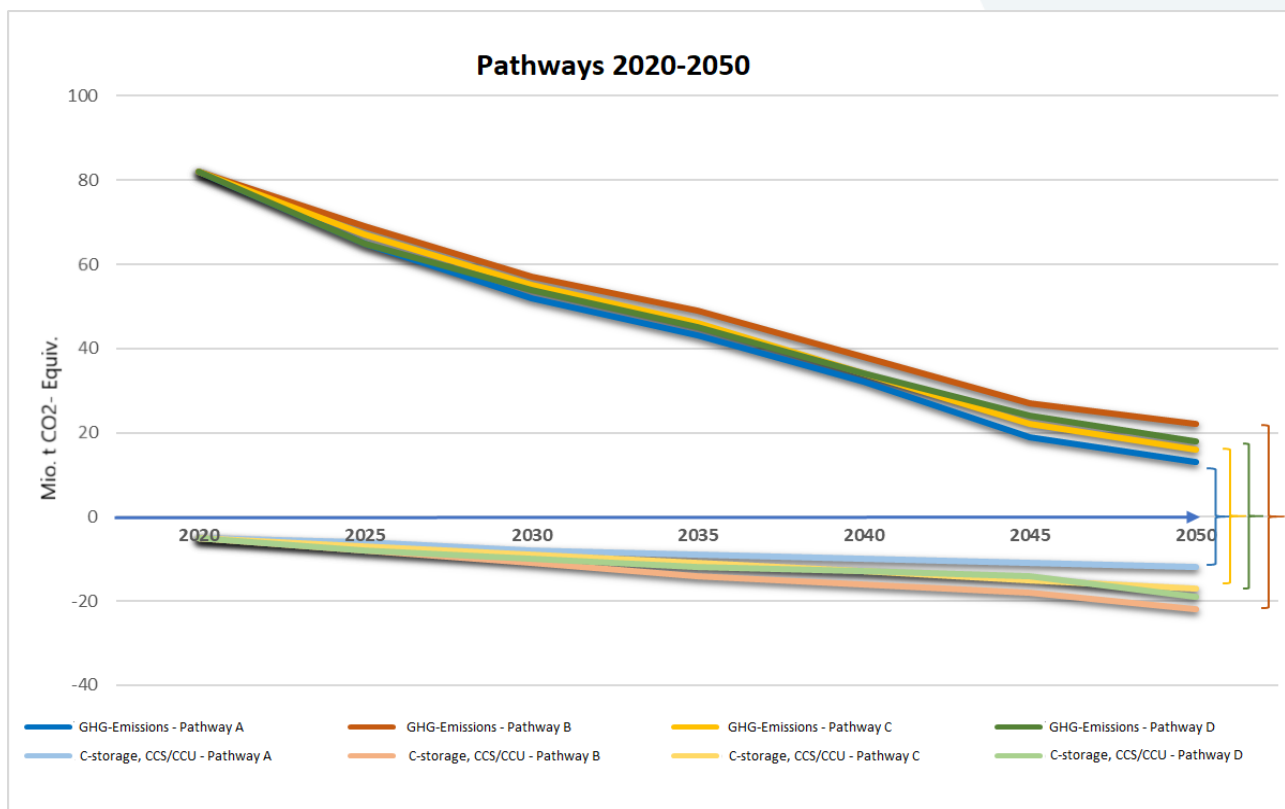
## Selected pathways (2)

**Four pathways leading to net zero in 2050 were calculated:**

- **Pathway C: no import of bioenergy and hydrogen, and renewable resources in the country including forest and agricultural biomass are used to a high degree. This results in a reduction in the forest as a natural carbon sink, and means that the CCS/CCU option must be used to a relatively high degree to compensate for the remaining greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **Pathway D: assumes the needs-oriented import of bioenergy and hydrogen, as in pathway B. The use of domestic forest biomass and carbon capture in the forest are assumed, CCS/CCU are not used.**

# Austrian climate pathways calculator

Possible pathways for Austria from 2020–2050 for greenhouse gas emissions and compensation through net carbon stock change and carbon capture



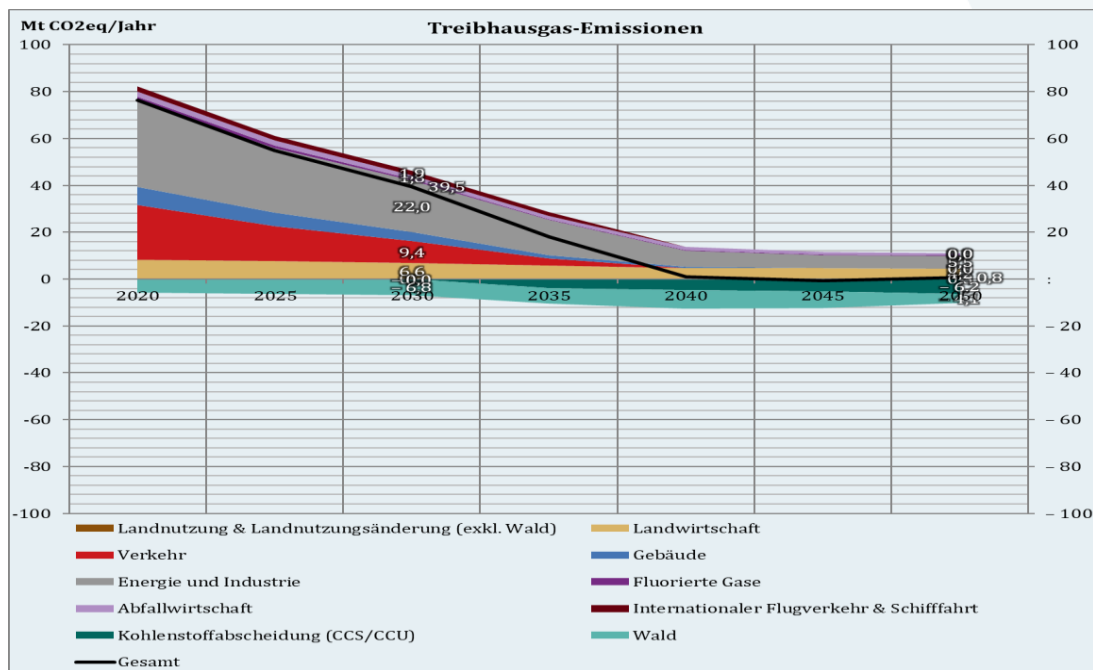
## Lessons learned

- **Any long term strategy needs to be a living documents, as targets and framework conditions change**
- **Too much detail is not necessarily a good thing**
- **Some of the requirements of the Governance Regulation difficult to implement (eg national estimates of investment costs)**
- **Civil society support for ambitious action is strong; most proposed objectives and measures were found achievable and acceptable**

## Climate neutrality 2040

- **Austrian government defined 2040 as target year for climate neutrality (as part of the government agreement)**
- **Political decision needed to agree on a new LTS 2040**
- **Not simply a matter of changing dates in the existing strategy!**
- **Make use of lessons learned, eg keep a new strategy more flexible**
- **Take into account changes in EU legislation and targets as well as new national legislation and planning on climate and energy, including carbon pricing**
- **Public support for ambitious climate action needed – awareness is raising**

## Example of a pathway for 2040





**You are never too small to make a difference.  
(Greta Thunberg)**