

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN

SLOVAKIA

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The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 99 Countries



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Slovakia

Legislative Process

The Slovak Republic (Slovakia) is a parliamentary democracy established in 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. The President (Head of State) and the Prime Minister (Head of Government) lead the executive branch; the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC) forms the legislative branch. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body and the Constitutional Court is tasked with protecting constitutionality.

The NC has 150 members elected for 4-year terms in direct, proportional representation elections. The last parliamentary elections were held in 2012, the next elections are scheduled for 2016. Legislative initiative belongs to members of the NC and the Government. In general, constitutional laws (require $\frac{3}{5}$ qualified majority) and Acts adopted by the NC constitute the primary legislation, which has precedence over secondary legislation, including government regulations and resolutions, as well as decrees, declarations and measures adopted by different Ministries.

Draft laws (bills) introduced in the NC are debated and approved through three readings. The adopted bill is sent to the President of the Republic, who has the right of veto and can refuse to sign the bill on the grounds of faulty content and send it back to the NC for further debate. Otherwise, the bill is signed by the President, the Speaker of the NC, and the Prime Minister, and published in the Collection of Legislative Acts, taking effect upon publication.

Approach to Climate Change

Slovakia ratified the UNFCCC in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. It submitted its first national communication to the UNFCCC in 1995, followed by communications in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2013. For the second Kyoto Protocol commitment period, Slovakia has adopted the joint EU “20-20-20” targets of the “climate and energy package”. Within the EU joint commitment, Slovakia is required to limit the increase in its non-ETS GHG emissions to 13% by 2020 (base year 2005), to achieve a minimum share of 14% of gross final energy consumption from renewables by 2020, and reduce total final energy consumption by 11% by 2020 (base year 2005).

So far, meeting international commitments for emissions reductions has not been particularly challenging, as reflected in the National GHG Inventory System data. Total GHG emissions, including sinks from LULUCF, decreased by more than 38% over 1990-2011 thanks to structural economic changes and strict domestic environmental policies even before the country joined the EU in 2004, particularly on air quality. F-gases (HFCs, SF₆) are the only GHGs whose emissions have increased since 1990 (mainly in industry). The country has overachieved its Kyoto target and had a significant surplus of tradable emission allowances in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The profits from the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanism are reinvested in measures aiming at further reductions of GHG emissions through the State Environmental Fund and the SlovSEFF III Greening Programme.

The Climate Change Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) serves as the National Focal Point for the UNFCCC. The MoE adopted the ‘National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic’ (2001), which includes key climate change targets. The government also approved the preparation of the ‘Low-carbon Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic until 2030’ in 2014. The Ministry of Economy coordinates energy policy, including promotion of renewables and energy efficiency. Additionally, the High Level Committee for Co-ordination of

Climate Change Policy (created in 2011) ensures an effective coordination of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of mitigation and adaptation policies. It also publishes the “Report on the Current State of Fulfilment of the International Climate Change Policy Commitments of the Slovak Republic”, annually submitted to the Government (so far 2012, 2013, 2014).

Currently, most of the policies and measures to tackle climate change are guided by the EU regulation. The EU ETS is the central policy tool for mitigation of GHGs from stationary sources, complemented by policies and measures aiming to increase the share of renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency. In addition, policies and measures have been put in place to define more stringent quality standards for fuels and passenger vehicles, as well as GHG mitigation policy for industry, waste management and agriculture. The adaptation strategy was approved in 2013. On the local level, municipalities play an important role, in particular through drafting and implementing local climate change action plans and local climate change adaptation strategies.

Beyond the legislative level, many public and private initiatives exist, such as research activities (e.g. Water Research Institute, Forestry Research Institute Zvolen, Transportation Research Institute Zilina, Slovak Academy of Science), climate monitoring initiatives (e.g. Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Slovak Environmental Agency), and educational and public awareness-raising activities (academic curricula, conferences, festivals, exhibitions, educational publications and training). Non-governmental organisations and private initiatives (e.g. the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, Friends of the Earth, Detox, SPIRIT, Ecosys) are also involved in the development and implementation of measures to mitigate climate change impacts.

Energy supply

The key objectives of energy policy, following mostly from EU legislation, are detailed in the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic (2000, 2006, 2013), the Energy Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic, the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (2008-2010; 2011-2013), the National Action Plan for Biomass use (2008) and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010). They aim to transform the still primarily fossil-fuel oriented and import-dependent energy production mix of the country (2011: natural gas 26%, coal 22%, nuclear fuel 22%, oil 21%, renewable sources 9%). The main objectives are: increasing efficiency in the power and end-use sectors, reducing energy intensity, reducing dependence on energy imports, expanding the use of nuclear power, and increasing the share of renewables in the heat, electricity and transport sectors to 14% of total energy use in 2020 (base year 2005). Because of high dependence on oil and gas imports (mainly from Russia), energy security is high on the policy agenda and the Government aims to expand storage capacities, enable reverse flows at the country’s two western interconnectors and increase energy efficiency.

The Renewable Energy Act is the main instrument to support renewable electricity generation and fuel switching and led to an unanticipated “solar boom” in early 2011, due to its generous feed-in tariffs for solar energy. The tariffs were scaled back and further restricted in 2013, in an effort to tackle non-transparent practices in the context of financial support for large-scale PV installations. At the same time some administrative barriers to small rooftop PV facilities installations have been reduced: operators of these installations can now generate electricity for their own use without having to register as entrepreneurs.

Energy demand

Slovakia has achieved impressive results in energy efficiency since 1990s (one of the steepest among OECD countries), mainly due to economic restructuring, but also energy efficiency improvements. Energy intensity decreased by 45% between 2001 and 2012, but it still remains higher than the

European average and large energy saving potential exists in most sectors, especially in buildings and transport. The main targets, contributing to the 20% EU's energy efficiency target, include an indicative national energy efficiency target of 3.12 Mtoe for final energy savings for the period 2014-2020 and an absolute target of 16.2 Mtoe for the primary consumption and 10.4 Mtoe for the final consumption by 2020. The Energy Efficiency Act and the Act on energy performance of buildings are the main instruments for demand management by 2020. Additional financial support for energy efficiency measures is provided by a number of programmes, such as the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth launched in 2012.

Carbon pricing

The EU ETS is Slovakia's main carbon pricing initiative. The revenues from AAUs trade constitute income for the Environmental Fund, which also contributes to climate change mitigation measures. Slovakia also implemented the EU directive on excise tax from electricity, coal and natural gas (2008). However, in 2012 Slovakia had the lowest implicit energy tax rate in the EU. The introduction of a carbon tax for the non-ETS sector is under consideration and support for electricity generation from domestic coal has been progressively lowered. While electricity consumers were obliged to pay a total sum of EUR70.6m (USD88.6m) in their final price of electricity in 2011 to support domestic coal, this fee decreased to EUR24m (USD30.1m) in 2013 and is expected to be EUR19m (USD23.8m) in 2014.

REDD+ and LULUCF

A basic framework for the conservation of forests and retaining of carbon stocks in forests has been set up by the Act on Forest Management. It has contributed to the long term increase of forest land (41% of territory in 2012). The carbon stock in above-ground living biomass increased by 46.7m tons between 1990 and 2012. However, the carbon sinks in forest ecosystems fluctuate substantially depending on meteorological conditions and weather extremes (e.g. the 2004 windstorm in the Tatra Mountains destroyed more than 12,000 ha of forest). Another serious problem affecting the health of forests is the expansion of bark beetle (in particular after the 2004 windstorm), resulting in forest biomass waste and mortality in spruce stands.

Transportation

GHG emissions from transport have been increasing and in 2012 they represented 15.4% of total emissions, despite measures such as new categorisation of vehicles, promotion of new vehicle technologies and advanced fuels. Revenues from taxation of transport (excluding fuels) are low in comparison to other EU member states. On the other hand, biofuels policy has been put in place to meet the targets required by EU legislation. There are two different biofuel targets for the transport sector: biofuel energy content share (calculated from the energy content of the total quantity of petrol and diesel fuels placed in the market) and minimum content of biofuels in each litre of a particular type of fuel (diesel and petrol). As of 2013, the mandatory biofuel content share is 4%, the minimum volume for biodiesel 5.4%, and the bioethanol component in petrol 3.3%.

Adaptation

Slovakia is particularly vulnerable to variations in precipitation and the water cycle, as well as extreme weather events impacting the forest cover. Over the last 20 years, a significant increase in the occurrence of extreme daily precipitation has been observed compared to the period 1975-1993. This trend has resulted in higher risk of local floods (higher frequency and severity – e.g. June 2013). On the other hand, local and regional droughts caused by long periods of relatively warm weather and low precipitation totals in the summer have been recorded (particularly strong in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2012). In response to those challenges, Slovakia adopted its National Adaptation Strategy in March 2014. Adaptation measures have also been incorporated into several

policies implemented within different sectors including the water, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, and health sectors.

Slovakia: Legislative portfolio

Name of law	Act No. 414/2012 Coll. on Emission Trading
Date	20 December 2012 (most recent amendment 1.1.2015)
Summary	<p>The Act establishes new allocation rules for CO₂ emission allowances for period 2013-2020 in compliance with the EU adopted rules. Distribution of allowances free of charge is for the industrial sources with risks of carbon leakage. In district heat supply sources free allowance distribution is going to be decreased from 80 to 20% in 2013-2020 period. For electricity production sources all equivalent allowances are obtained by auctioning manner only. EU ETS stimulates the use of biomass in fuel mix of energy units. Economic and regulatory measures, which were primarily focused on GHG emissions, have also a positive impact on air protection. The GHGs affected are: CO₂, N₂O and PFCs.</p> <p>The Act is composed of 40 articles divided into the following Sections: General provisions; Allowance trading; State administration; Transitional and final provisions. The Act regulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trading in GHG emission allowances between persons registered in the Slovak Republic and the European Union and those registered in the countries listed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol which promotes reducing GHG emissions in an economically efficient manner trading in emissions allowances of pollutants rights and obligations of persons who operate or control stationary operation, aircraft operators, other participants in the trading scheme and other participants in the trading system the competence of state administration.

Name of law	Act No. 314/2012 Coll. on regular inspection of heating systems and air conditioning systems
Date	18 September 2012
Summary	<p>The Act mandates the regular audit of heating systems (nominal power > 20 kW) and air conditioning systems (nominal power > 12 kW) in order to provide better information to the system operator about the system performance as well as opportunities for system maintenance leading to better energy efficiency and thus contributing to the fight against climate change.</p> <p>The operator of the systems can be fined for not having scheduled and done an audit within mandated deadline. However, the recommendations given by the auditor are non-binding.</p>

Name of law	Act No. 251/2012 Coll. on Energy and on change of certain acts
Date	1 September 2012 (most recent amendment 1.12.2014)
Summary of bill	<p>The principle aim of the law is to implement the provisions of the EU Third Energy Package into national legislation. The Energy Act introduces the obligation to unbundle energy generation and supply from transmission services. The law strengthens consumer rights and gives new competences to the independent national energy regulator.</p> <p>In order to foster liberalisation and transparency of the market in electricity and gas, this Act lays down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> business conditions of the energy sector marketing, rights and obligations of participants of the energy market measures to ensure security of the supply of electrical energy and gas and functioning of the internal market of electrical energy and the internal gas market rights and obligations of persons whose rights and obligations may be affected by participants of the market of energy sector competences of state administration state supervision and control of the business in the energy sector.

Name of law	Act No. 250/2012 on regulation of network industries
Date	1 September 2012 (most recent amendment 1. 12. 2014)
Summary	<p>The Act gives new competences to the independent national energy regulator with regard to determining prices of energy for each supplier and licensing new market participants.</p> <p>This Act lays down provisions concerning functioning of network industries including electrical energy, gas industry, thermal energy and water management. The present Act establishes the status and competence of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries, obligations of responsible persons, and rules of functioning of the internal market of electrical energy and the internal gas market. The purpose of this Act is to ensure the availability of goods and related regulated activities at reasonable price and specified quality.</p> <p>The act and its rules and regulations contribute to some extent to reduced support for electricity production from fossil sources, in particular coal, through price regulation.</p>

Name of law	Act No. 373/2012 Coll. on emergency stocks of oil and oil products and amending the Act on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high efficiency cogeneration
Date	1 January 2012
Summary	<p>This Act establishes provisions concerning creation of emergency stocks of oil and oil products and the management of these resources, which should contribute to greater energy security. The present Act also lays down obligations of entrepreneurs relating to mining, manufacturing, trade, storage and transportation of crude oil and oil products, measures in case of serious shortage of oil, and rights and obligations of state administration. The Act further lays down some amendments to the Act on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high efficiency cogeneration, related to management of oil in case of serious shortage.</p>

Name of law	Renewable Energy Act (Act 309/2009 on Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and High-efficiency Cogeneration and on amendments to certain acts)
Date	1 September 2009 (most recent amendment 2 January 2015)
Summary	<p>The Act is the main instrument to support renewable electricity generation. It defines specific options for support for renewable electricity, including the timeframe of guaranteed price of purchase. It also originally mandated electricity producers with capacity of 50MW to produce electricity with minimum of 20% share of renewable resources.</p> <p>Due to its generous feed-in tariffs for solar energy, Slovakia witnessed an unanticipated “solar boom” in early 2011. As a result, in February 2011, the size of the solar installations eligible for these subsidies was scaled back to 100kW, and feed-in tariffs were nearly halved compared to 2009.</p> <p>In August 2012, another amendment changed the conditions for producers of electricity from small solar rooftop installations with installed capacities of up to 10 kW. Operators of these installations may now generate electricity for their own use without having to register as an entrepreneur.</p> <p>According to a 2013 amendment, the feed-in tariff will apply only to rooftop photovoltaic installations on with a maximum capacity of 30kW. All larger installations are no longer be covered by the support mechanism. The initial version of the amendment also envisaged promoting high efficiency cogeneration up to an installed capacity of 300MW, but it was eventually revoked.</p> <p>Feed-in tariffs are limited to installations producing electricity from renewable energy sources or CHP with installed power up to 5MW (15MW in the case of wind power). The feed-in tariff and other support are provided to electricity producers during 15 years since the commissioning of the installation or its renovation (conditions apply).</p> <p>The Act also specifies the quotas for increase in share of biofuels in the transport fuels for individual years between 2011 and 2020. The share of biofuels should reach 8.5% by the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Law mandates the Ministry of Economy to set the national target for share of energy from renewable sources in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan. The national target has been set at 14% of final energy consumption. The sectoral targets of share of renewable energy are 24% in electricity production, 14.6% in heating and cooling, and 10% in transport.</p>

Name of law	Act No. 476/2008 on Energy Efficiency and on the amendment of Act 555/2005 on energy efficiency of buildings and on changes and amendments of certain acts
Date	4 November 2008 (most recent amendment 1.12.2014)
Summary	<p>The Act lays down obligations in the use of energy and requirements for efficiency use of energy. The Act applies to all forms of commercially available energy with the exception of aviation fuel and heavy fuel oil for maritime transport. The Ministry of Economy is mandated to prepare the concept of efficient use of energy, evaluate the performance of the policy every five years, and prepare action plan for energy efficiency every three years. This Act provides also obligations to producers of energy, distributors, suppliers and consumers of energy. It lays down minimum technical requirements for heat insulation of heat and hot water distribution networks, as well as minimum standards for transfer, transport, and distribution of heat.</p> <p>The requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min. efficiency requirements for new/renovated electricity and heat generation facilities (from 1 January 2013) • Obligation for electricity producers to consider building a CHP facility when constructing a new power generation installation or renovating an existing one • Permitting and monitoring of efficiency of transport and distribution networks for electricity, natural gas, oil, heat and water (from 1 January 2010) • Requirement for owners of 'large buildings' (useful space over 1000 m²) to insulate the heat and hot water distribution systems within the building • Requirement for energy users in the industry and agriculture sectors to conduct regular energy audits every five years <p>The most recent amendment regulates the obligations to conduct energy audits and establishes deadlines (2015 and 2017) for owners of 'large buildings' (>1000 m²) to supply data on the building's energy consumption and to insulate the heat and hot water distribution systems.</p>

Name of law	Act. 609/2007 on Excise tax from electricity, coal and natural gas
Date	21 December 2007 (present version 1 December 2014)
Summary	<p>The Act promotes energy efficiency by establishing an excise tax from electricity, coal and natural gas. However, there are several exemptions from the act, including among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electricity used for chemical reduction, electrolytic processes or metallurgical processes • electricity used for mineralogical processes • electricity used for production of goods that require more than 50% of their production components be electricity • electricity used for production of electricity itself • electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, biomass) • electricity from combined heat and power (under some conditions) • electricity used for transport of people or goods by train, subway, tramway, trolleybus, electrobus or cable-car • electricity used by the end-user-household (under some conditions) • electricity produced and used in generators with maximum power of 5MW • coal used for combined heat and power, in mineralogical processes, in uses other than transport or heat generation, in electricity generation, in production of coke, in transportation of people or goods by train or boat, used by end-user/household (under conditions), used in coal production itself • gas used for combined heat and power, mineralogical processes, uses other than transport and heat generation, combined heat and power, electricity generation, used by end-user/household (under conditions), used in gas production itself, in transportation of people or goods by train <p>The Act further promotes electricity generation from renewable sources through tax exemption.</p>

Name of law	Act No 555/2005 Coll. on Energy efficiency certification of buildings
Date	1 September 2006 (most recent amendment 1 January 2013)
Summary	<p>The Act is the main instrument to reduce GHG emissions from buildings until 2020. It defines measures leading to improvement of energy efficiency in buildings with the aim to optimise indoor conditions in buildings and reduce CO₂ emissions emitted from maintenance of buildings. It also stipulates the respective competences of public authorities.</p> <p>The Act regulates energy performance certificates (EPC) for buildings. The legislative changes set standards for the compilation of EPCs in order to improve their quality. Different energy efficiency categories are designed to help both property owners and purchasers to classify the energetic status of the building, related expenditures for energy consumption and GHG emissions. Buildings that are obliged to provide an energy performance certificate as well as an energy efficiency label include public</p>

buildings with a total floor area of more than 250 m² used by a public authority and frequently visited by the public. Energy certification is required for buildings or separate parts of a building that are sold or rented to a new tenant, as well as all newly constructed buildings or all buildings that have undergone major renovation. The Act equally determines the circumstances under which the owners of building or the auditors can be fined.

Name of law	Act. No. 587/2004 Coll. on Environmental Fund
Date	1 January 2005 (most recent amendment 1.1.2015)
Summary	<p>The Act establishes the Environmental Fund to channel state support to the protection of the environment. The Fund is co-ordinated by the office of the Ministry of Environment. The Act defines fees, fines and penalties for environmental pollution as the main source of its income, along other sources, including revenues from the sold 'assigned amount units' (AAUs) through GHG emissions trade. It requires allocation and use of the funds to be in compliance with priorities and objectives of the state environmental policy.</p> <p>The Environmental Fund financial means are to be used in the form of loans or grants to support activities aimed to achieve the objectives of the state environmental policy, foster research or raise public awareness on environmental issues. The projects supported include those concentrating on monitoring of potentially attainable and actual GHG emissions, financing of research in energy efficiency, low carbon technologies and renewable resources, modernisation of equipment aimed at improving consumer energy efficiency, increasing energy efficiency of buildings, support of transition to low-carbon transportation and shift from individual to public transport, protection of forests damaged by air pollutants_(SO₂) and by the spread of parasites.</p>

Slovakia: Executive portfolio

Name of Policy	National Adaptation Strategy, Resolution of the Slovak Government No. 148/2014
Date	26 March 2014
Summary	The National Adaptation Strategy contains several objectives, including: dissemination of information and knowledge on the issue of adaptation at all levels of management, as well as for the general public; strengthening of the institutional framework for adaptation processes in the Slovak Republic; developing a comprehensive risk assessment methodology in the context of climate change from the national to the local level; development and application of methodologies for the economic assessment of different adaptation measures (macroeconomic impacts); and the development and implementation of a specific tool for the selection of investment priorities based on an assessment of the cross-sectoral aspects of adaptation measures.

Name of Policy	Introduction of smart meters and distribution networks, Decree of the Ministry of agriculture No. 358/2013 Coll.
Date	15 November 2013
Summary	The decree supports the introduction of smart distribution networks by establishing framework for smart meters installation, thus allowing for optimisation of use and efficient management of energy.

Name of Policy	Decree of the Ministry of Environment No. 231/2013 Coll. on the National Emissions Inventory System and on technical-operational parameters
Date	1 September 2013
Summary	The National Emissions Inventory System (NEIS) was established in 2007 and updated in 2010 and 2013, with the latest update specifying the documents that have to be publicly accessible on the website of the NEIS. The NEIS was established in compliance with UNFCCC rules, which give the definitions of all qualitative parameters for the national inventory systems, the description of quality assurance and quality control plans. The Ministry of Environment supervises the development and maintenance of the national emission inventory on annual basis. The Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU) is responsible for co-ordination and compilation of national inventories for all pollutants, including the GHGs.

Name of Policy	Creation of the High Level Committee for Co-ordination of Climate Change Policy (Coordination Committee), Resolution of the Slovak Government No. 821/2011
Date	19 December 2011
Summary	Replaced the Resolution of Government No. 416/2008 of June 18, 2008 establishing the High Level Committee on Climate-Energy Package. The new Committee is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Environment and consists of State Secretaries of selected ministries. The Co-ordination Committee regularly submits reports to the Government on the state of fulfilment of international commitments of the Slovak Republic in the field of climate change policy.

Name of Policy	Establishment of sustainability criteria and targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fuels, Decree of Ministry of Environment No. 271/2011 Coll.
Date	1 September 2011
Summary	Principles for GHG emission savings during the life cycle for biofuel and bioliquid production, saving of conventional motor fuels. This Decree establishes sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids and limit values for GHG emissions from cultivation of agricultural plants. It lays down sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids, provides details on proving compliance with the sustainability criteria, specifies method of calculation of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the lifecycle of biofuels and bioliquids and describes provisions concerning reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fuel other than biofuel.

Name of Policy	Energy Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic, Resolution of the Government No. 732/2008 Coll.
Date	15 October 2008
Summary	The Energy Security Strategy assesses the current energy situation of the Slovak Republic and proposes measures and legislation to be adopted to increase energy security of the country. The key objective of the Energy Security Strategy is to guarantee competitiveness of the energy sector, to provide secure, reliable and efficient supply of all forms of energy at affordable prices with regard to consumer protection, the environment, sustainable development, security of supply and technical security. The Strategy aims at ensuring self-sufficiency in electricity production, an optimal pricing policy, pro-export ability, strengthening the position of Slovakia as a transit country in the electricity, gas and oil markets, and guarantee reliable supply of thermal energy and other energy carriers. The Strategy also presents different possible scenarios of the energy security development with regard to coal, oil, natural gas, heat, electricity and renewables supply, and energy efficiency. It proposes measures for securing supply of each resource.

Name of Policy	National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic, Resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 1989/2001
Date	10 October 2001
Summary	The Strategy includes the National Environmental Strategy. Among the strategic targets, three are directly related to climate change and include reduced energy consumption, increase of share of renewable resources and alleviation of consequences of the global climate change. For the “Reduction of energy and resource consumption and increase of effectiveness of the Slovak economy” the objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systematic reduction of energy demand in the national economy, to a level in line with other EU countries • implementation of long-term change of production and consumption patterns in interest of reduction of energy and material flows and subsequent reduction of waste amounts • application of economic tools in the area of the environment – solution of environmental debt, pollution charges, support of ecological literacy and eco-design • introduction of environmental tax reform – creation of economic environment respecting and stimulating protection of the environment, natural resources and modest consumer behaviour • stimulation of reasonably sufficient consumption of resources and goods, minimisation of energy and resource demand for production

- support of growth of effectiveness of resource utilisation and orientation to closed production and consumption cycles
- support of local economy, introduction of alternative economic indicators, environmental and social audit
- introduction of a system of internalisation of externalities in prices of products, services and production – to include environmental and social costs in product prices
- ensuring gradual removal of environmental and other internal debts from the past
- support of nature-friendly approaches in utilisation of natural resources as a substitute for utilisation of nature-unfriendly technocratic and large-scale production ways of management

For the “Reduction of share of use of non-renewable natural resources and rational use of renewable resources” the objectives include:

- ensuring environmentally sound long-term use of natural resources (to achieve maintenance or regeneration of natural resources)
- harmonisation of use of non-renewable mineral resources with natural conditions and the potential of the Slovak territory and wider international relations – to carry out a new mineral resources policy
- gradual reduction of use of non-renewable sources of energy and mineral resources, reduction of resource and energy inputs and losses, rational use of all kinds of energy
- reduction of development of nuclear energy, gradual building of alternative energy sources
- ensuring a substantial increase of use of renewable sources of energy – in particular geothermal and solar energy
- improvement of structure of utilisation of hydropower potential through increase of share of small hydropower plants with output up to 1 MW
- introduction of efficient legal instruments and creation of proper economic conditions for production of energy from renewable sources, development of support technologies
- ensuring environmentally sound use of water resources and water management adjustments – integrated river basin management in relation with agricultural and forestry measures, rational use of sources in accordance with requirements of nature and landscape protection

For the “Alleviation of consequences of the global climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and natural disasters” the objectives include:

- permanent monitoring and evaluation of the main macroclimatic and hydrological parameters in relation to global climate change
 - projection of expected results of global climate change and their hydrological consequences to sectoral policies (in particular water management, agriculture and forestry, but also other sectors and social area), practical application of measures to eliminate negative impacts
 - creation of an integrated system of prevention and liquidation of consequences of natural disasters”.
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