

The Russian Green Deal

Summary for policymakers



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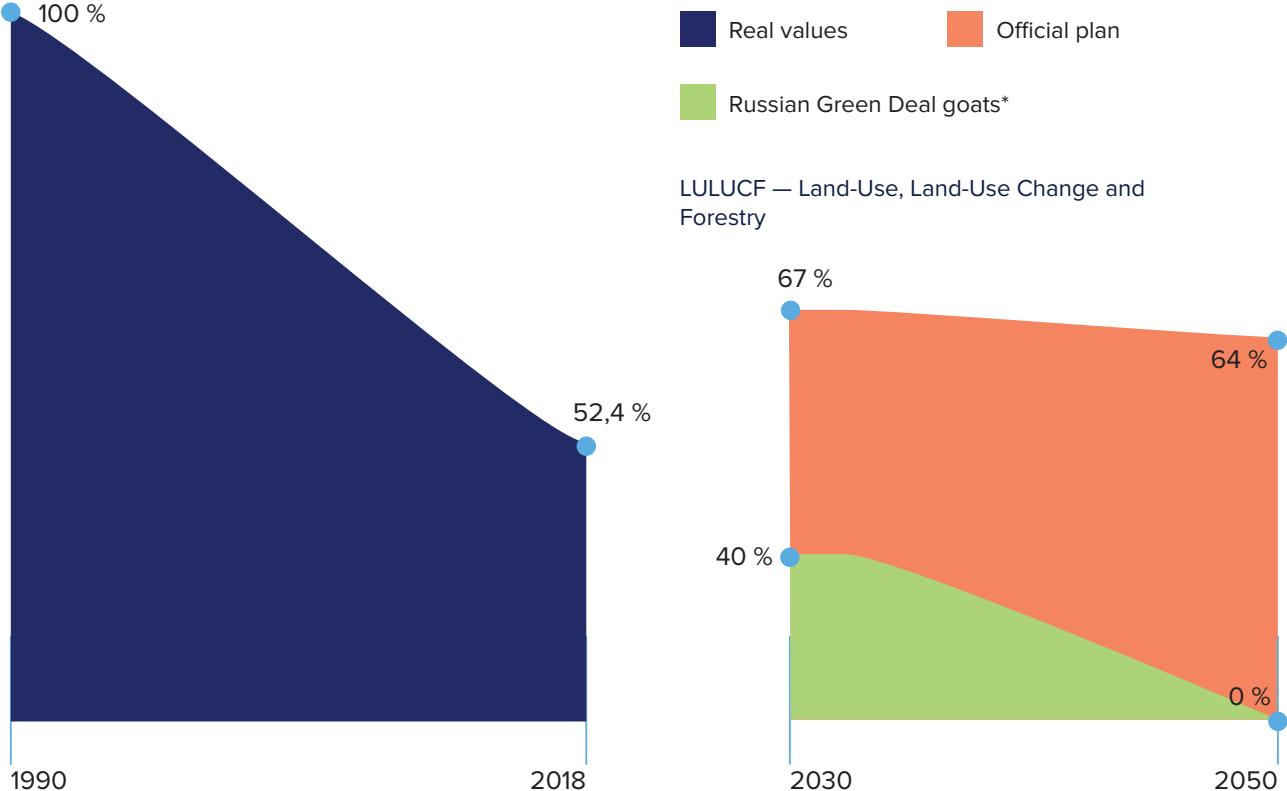


After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many non-governmental organizations, corporations, and even ministerial representatives of the world’s leading countries expressed their vision of recovery. The vast majority of these statements call for stimulating economies through the development of green sectors. The EU remained committed to the European Green Deal announced before the start of the pandemic, in addition also deciding to support green sectors as part of its anti-crisis policy. After the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, the green sectors of G20 economies received altogether about 16 percent of all recovery spending, an experience which can be regarded as an approbation of the New Green Deal concept. Russia did not use the chance to diversify its economy then. At the moment, when the economic situation is much less favorable, and the global demand for fossil fuels is weak, Russia risks missing another opportunity to move away from its resource dependence.

Since Russian official recovery packages omit any stimuli for the green sector, Greenpeace has initiated public discussion of a green recovery by proposing the Russian Green Deal. The document was developed with the participation of representatives of the academic sector, the business community, and nonprofit organizations.

The Russian Green Deal is an economic framework program that will help overcome the COVID-19 crisis and transform Russia into a sustainable, green, and modern economy. The program sets an ambitious national goal for Russia to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or to become climate neutral by 2050. This goal is in line with the IPCC recommendations and with Green Deal programs and proposals across other countries. The Russian Green Deal also sets an intermediate target to reduce GHG emissions by 60 percent from the 1990 level by 2030. The intermediate target is recommended to be submitted to the UNFCCC as Russia’s new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

Share of GHG emission compared to 1990 level, including LULUCF



* This target is in line with Green Deal programs of other countries and with the IPCG recommendations to keep the global average temperature rise within 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period.

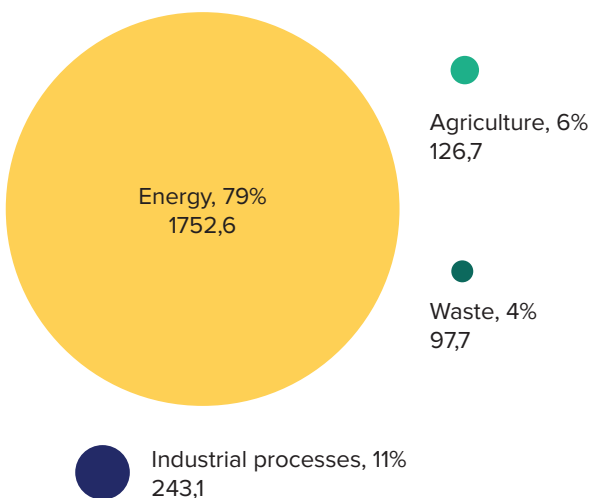
Climate neutrality can be achieved through action in 3 areas: (1) clean energy, (2) a circular economy, and (3) forestry. The energy sector generates 79 percent of all GHG emissions in Russia, whilst the rest is divided between industrial processes (11 percent), agriculture (6 percent), and waste management (4 percent). The energy sector must dramatically reduce its emissions through achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 in electric power, heating/cooling, and transportation, and through reducing Russian GDP energy intensity to the global average level (in 2018, Russian GDP was 46 percent more energy intensive than globally). In Russia, the bulk of emissions from industrial processes come from iron and steel, cement, and ammonia manufacturing. Together with agriculture, these sectors comprise 60 percent of GHG emissions (excluding emissions from fossil fuels). Industrial and agricultural emissions can be reduced through carbon neutral metal production (using electric arc furnaces to melt steel, recycling metals, etc.), through using alternatives to clinker in cement-making, stimulating organic farming, etc. Sustainable forestry is supposed to offset unavoidable GHG emissions.

Clean energy

- By 2030, the share of renewable energy sources (RES) in electric power generation must be increased to 20 percent (excluding large hydro¹), and up to 10 percent in transport and heating/cooling. This includes the electrification of transport and heating/cooling using RES and excludes traditional biomass. In 2019 in Russia, the share of RES in electric power generation was 0.28 percent (excluding large hydropower plants). Statistics on the share of RES in transport and heating/cooling sectors are unavailable.
- By 2050, the share of RES in all energy sectors must comprise 100 percent.
- By 2030, the energy intensity of Russian GDP must decrease by 40 percent compared to the 2007 level.
- By 2050, the energy intensity of Russian GDP must decrease to the global average level.

1. Hydropower plants with installed capacity over 25 MW.

GHG emissions in Russia in 2018, million tons of CO₂-equivalent and %



The Russian Green Deal program sets out the following 12 targets in these three sectors, with 100 measures to achieve them.



Circular economy

- By 2050, carbon neutrality must be achieved in metal and cement industries.
- By 2050, carbon neutrality must be ensured in agriculture.
- By 2050, per capita GHG emissions from food consumption must be reduced to the level compatible with the 1.5°C climate target, including a 50% reduction of animal products manufacturing and consumption.
- By 2030, at least 40 percent of the population must have transitioned to sustainable diets (containing more plant than animal products), whilst 75 percent of the population must do so by 2050.
- By 2030, the per capita volume of solid municipal waste generation must decrease by 30 percent compared to the 2020 level, and by 2050, by 60 percent.
- By 2050, at least 80 percent of the solid municipal waste must be recycled.

Forestry

- The exploitation of the remaining wild forests must be replaced by intensive forestry on previously developed lands.
- Full protection of forests and effective extinguishing of forest fires must be ensured.

The Russian Green Deal is focused on climate and environmental action, yet at the same time it represents a program that will have a significant positive impact on the Russian economy and the public sphere. Its implementation will diversify the Russian economy, eliminate its dependence on fossil fuels, and create new modern industries and new jobs.



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