

Emissions drop puts EU just shy of 2020 goal

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The European Union's environment agency says the bloc's greenhouse gas emissions dropped by nearly 2 percent last year, putting the EU very close to reaching its emissions target for 2020.

That goal is to reduce [emissions](#) of CO₂ and other [greenhouse gases](#) by 20 percent compared to 1990 levels.

The European Environment Agency said Tuesday that emissions already have fallen 19 percent, meaning the 28-nation bloc is likely to achieve a larger reduction than it aimed for.

The EEA projected that 2020 emissions will be 21 percent or 24 percent lower than they were in 1990, depending on whether planned climate action is implemented in full.

However, some countries weren't on track to meet their individual targets through domestic action, including Germany and Spain.

Most scientists agree the [greenhouse gas emissions](#) resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation are the main cause of climate change.

The EEA said the EU as a whole also was on track to meet its goals on getting 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar and hydropower by 2020, and of improving energy efficiency by 20 percent.

Nine member states—Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Britain—are on track to meet targets for all three climate and energy policy objectives.

Just last week the EU set new goals for 2030: 40 percent emissions cuts, 27 percent renewables and a 27 percent reduction in energy consumption.

"The current projections for 2030 indicate that further efforts are required at national and EU level to keep the EU on track toward its new 2030 targets," the EEA said.

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