



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

Latvia's challenges and achievements towards low carbon and climate resilient development

30 October 2017, Riga

**Baltic Pathway Towards Low Carbon and
Climate Resilient Development**

Jānis Eglīts
Deputy Minister



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

Content / Latvia's Challenges

#1 Climate change **awareness**

#2 Climate change **mitigation**

#3 **Adaptation** to climate change

#4 **Perception** & behaviour





Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

Latvia's climate change policy and its context

LV, 1995



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



LV, 2002

LV, 2015

DOHA 2012
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP18·CMP8

LV, 2017



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

- **Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030**
 - National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014–2020
 - Latvia's national reform programme for EU2020 strategy implementation
 - **Environmental Policy Guidelines 2014-2020**
- & currently working on:
- **Latvia's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2050**
 - **Latvia's National Adaptation Strategy 2030**
- +
- Sectoral policies
 - Regional /local policies



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

1# Climate change awareness in Latvia

- **Many** in Latvia **don't believe** in climate change.
- Some are even **of an opinion that it is something positive** (because they don't like cold winters).

... BUT THIS IS NOW CHANGING AS:

- **We are providing a lot more information** about climate change in Latvia and related risks, communication about climate change is more frequent and more comprehensive.
- **There are more and more evidences** of climate change in Latvia and for people it is becoming more and more difficult to explain them otherwise than with climate change.



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

Main developed communication tools



Climate change analysis tool
www2.meteo.lv/klimatariks/



Special twitter account [@klimatam](https://twitter.com/klimatam)



Climate portal
www.klimatam.lv



Investment projects,
especially, GIS



Special events



Close cooperation with
Eco-schools, NGOs etc



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

2# Climate change mitigation in Latvia

- Latvia in 1990 had very high emissions, low efficiency
- Since then **total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been reduced by almost 57%**:
 - Partly because of transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy
 - Partly as a result of improving efficiency, switching to renewables
- **But future targets are even more challenging**, because
 - There is need for fast decoupling of gross domestic product (GDP) and radical further reduction of GHG emissions
 - There are very many small sources of emissions & most are not from energy sector (2/3 are from transport and agriculture)

Decoupling of GDP
increase from GHG

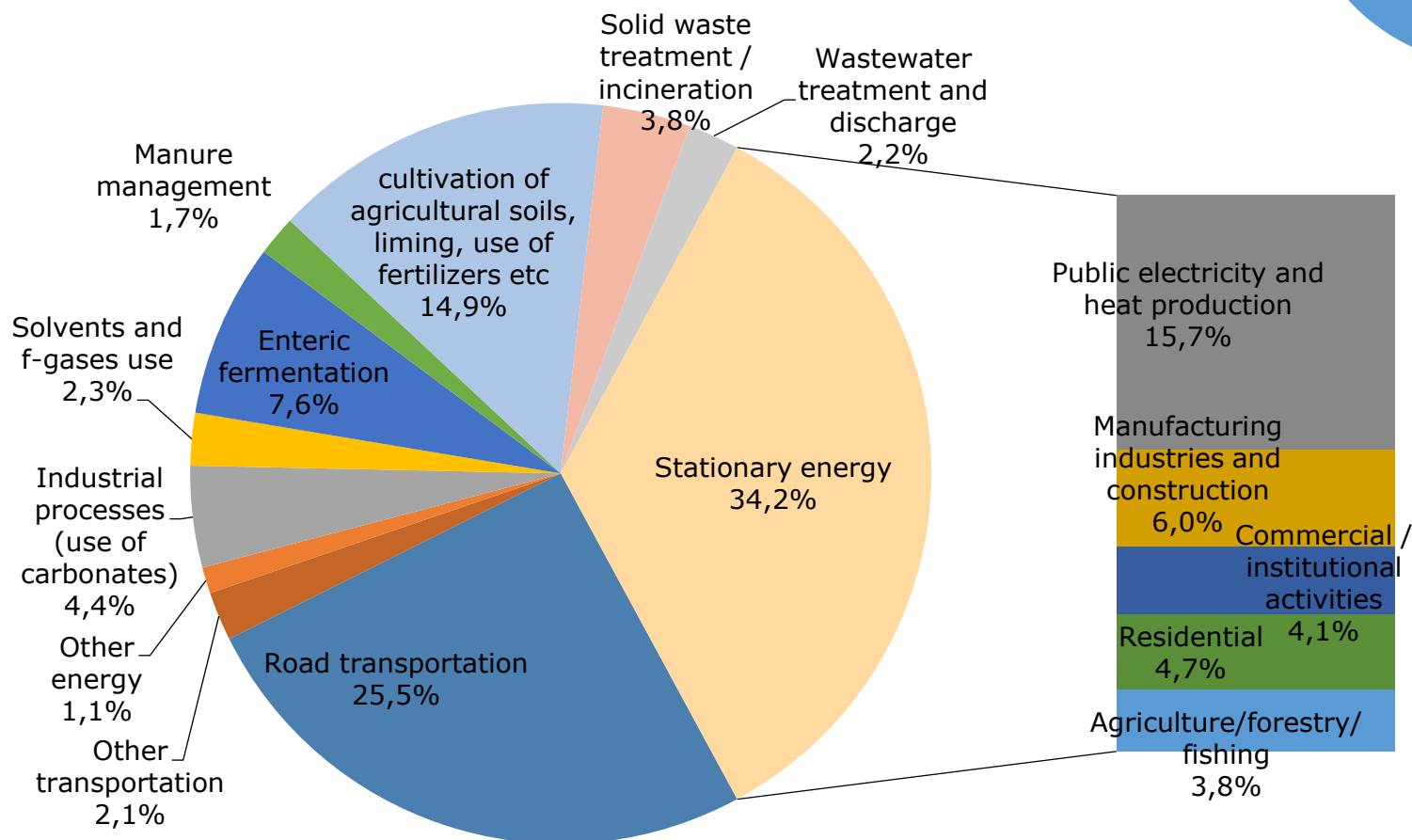
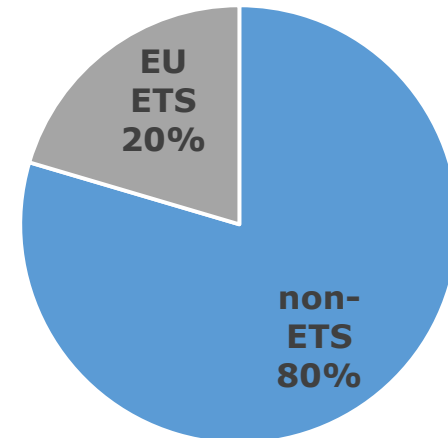
Carbon neutrality

↓ GHG emissions by 80%
compared to 1990



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

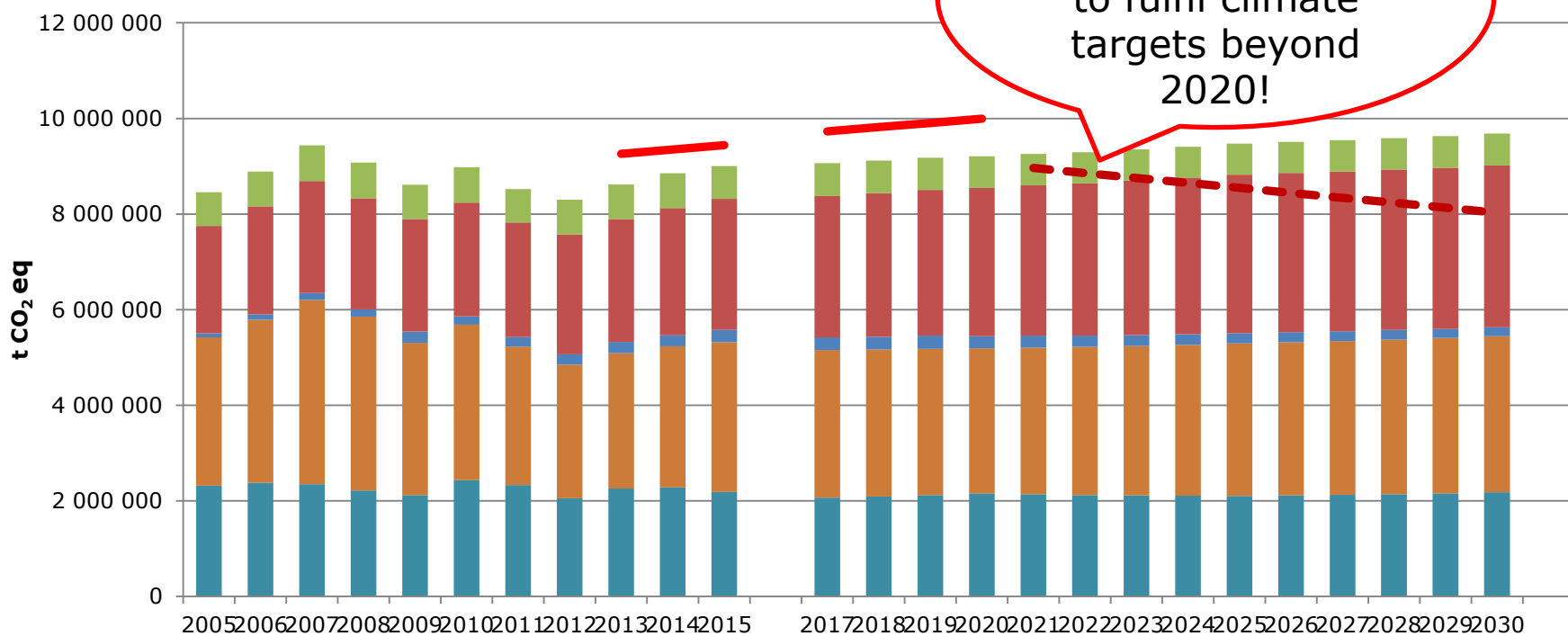
Structure of Latvia's GHG emissions (2015)





Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

Increase of Latvia's non-ETS GHG emissions has been slowed, but still is an increase



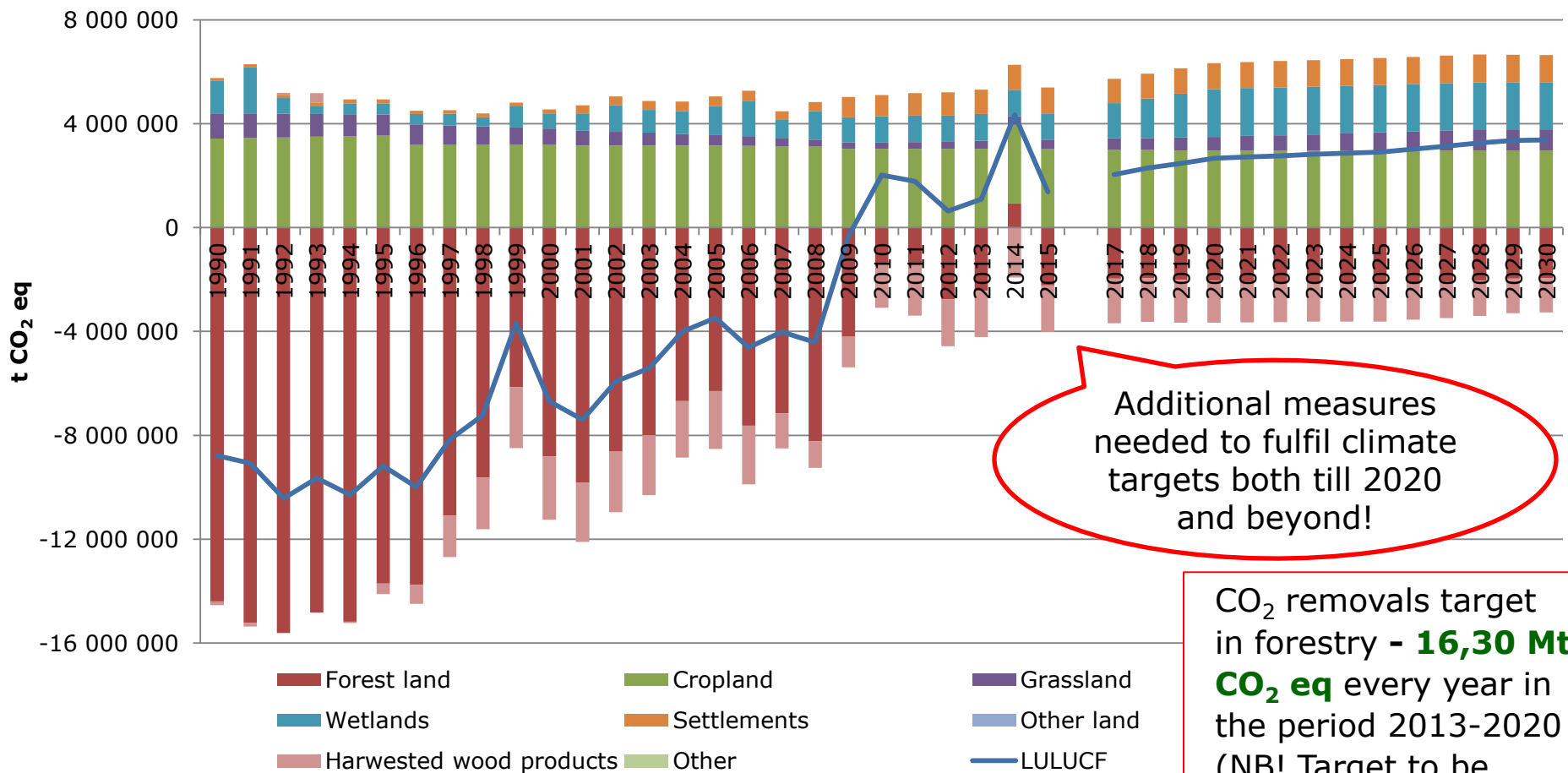
Non-ETS energy
Non-ETS Industrial processes and solvent use
Waste
non-ETS target 2030 (indicatively -6% compared to 2005)

Transport
Agriculture
non-ETS target 2020 (+17 compared to 2005)



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

From land sector (LULUCF) GHG emissions are increasing & CO₂ sinks are decreasing

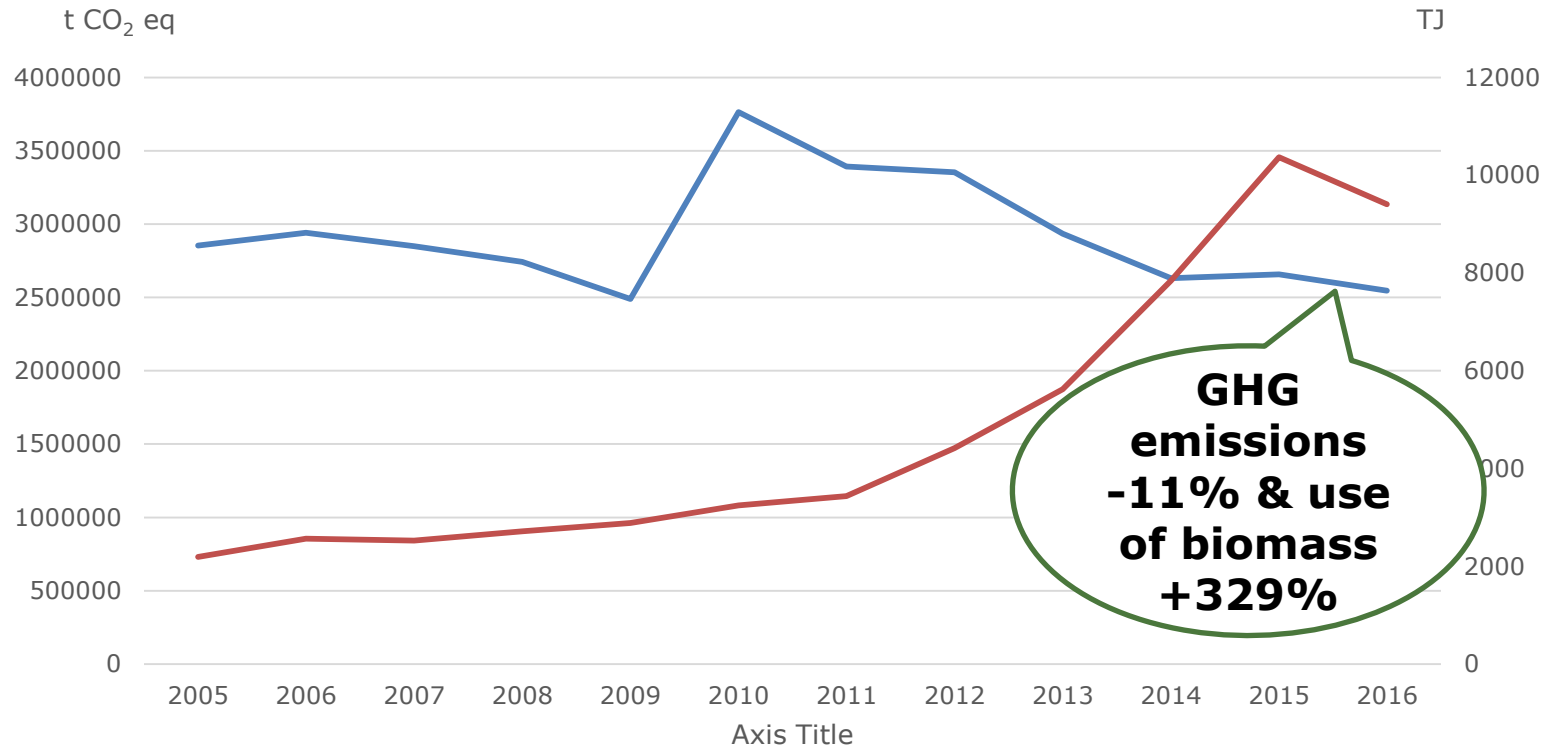


Additional measures
needed to fulfil climate
targets both till 2020
and beyond!

CO₂ removals target
in forestry - **16,30 Mt
CO₂ eq** every year in
the period 2013-2020
(NB! Target to be
recalculated after
2020).



Drivers of Latvia's GHG emission reduction – Improvements within the EU ETS



Useful practices:

— ETS GHG emissions (including ETS Aviation) (t) — ETS biomass (TJ)

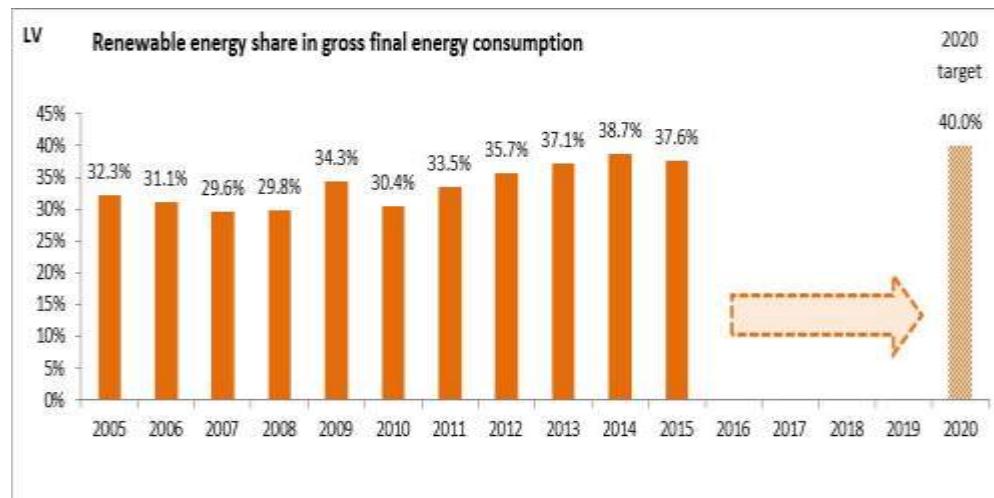
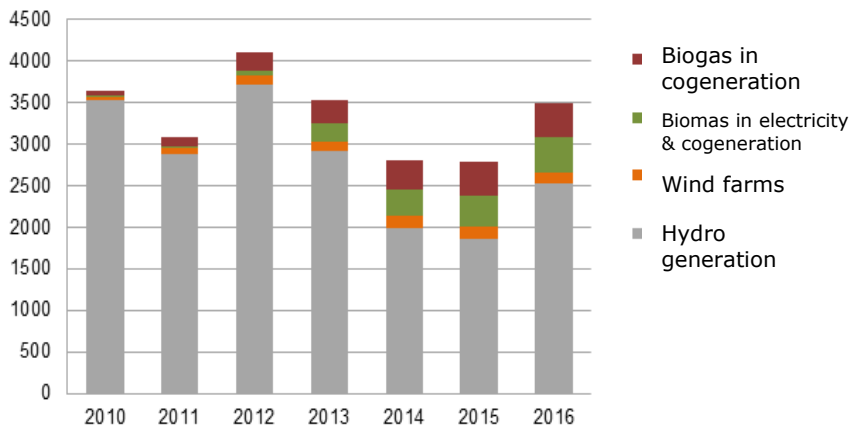
- In Latvia all **revenues** from government's sales of allowances within the EU ETS are **to be used only for GHG emission reduction** and adaptation measures.
- Since 2016 in Latvia also participants (operators) of the EU ETS can use **revenues** from selling allocated EU ETS allowances only **for GHG emission reduction**.



Drivers of Latvia's GHG emission reduction – Energy efficiency and renewables

- **Improvement of energy efficiency** in ~1640 buildings in 2010-2016.
- **Final energy intensity decreased** by ~44% in 2005-2014.
 - Final heat energy consumption decreased by 16% in 2005–2014
 - Final electricity consumption decreased by 21% in 1990-2014;
- **Total energy consumption in households** (including fuel use in private transport) **decreased** by 29% in 2005-2015.
- **Share of renewables** in final energy consumption in **2015** was **37,6%**

Renewable energy production, GWh





Drivers of Latvia's GHG emission reduction – Taxes

Natural resource tax on CO₂ emissions

- Since 2006 natural resource tax includes a tax on CO₂ emissions (carbon tax). It is mandatory for all installations, including, power and heat generation, oil refineries, steel works and production of iron, aluminium, metals, cement, lime, glass, ceramics, pulp, paper, cardboard, acids and bulk organic chemicals.

CO₂ levy in vehicle taxes

- Law On the Vehicle Operation Tax is calculated on the basis of CO₂ emissions (only for vehicles with first registration from 2009).
- The tax rate for **Vehicles under 50g CO₂ per km** is 0 euros

Exemptions from taxes contributing to GHG emissions reductions

- The carbon tax is not paid by operators of stationary technological installations and aircraft operators that are participants in the **EU ETS**
- **Electric vehicles** are exempted from the payment of vehicle exploitation tax.
- **Rape seed oil** which is used as fuel or petrol and biodiesel that is solely made from rape seed oil is exempted from excise tax.
- **Blends of fossil fuels with biofuels** have reduced rates of excise tax.



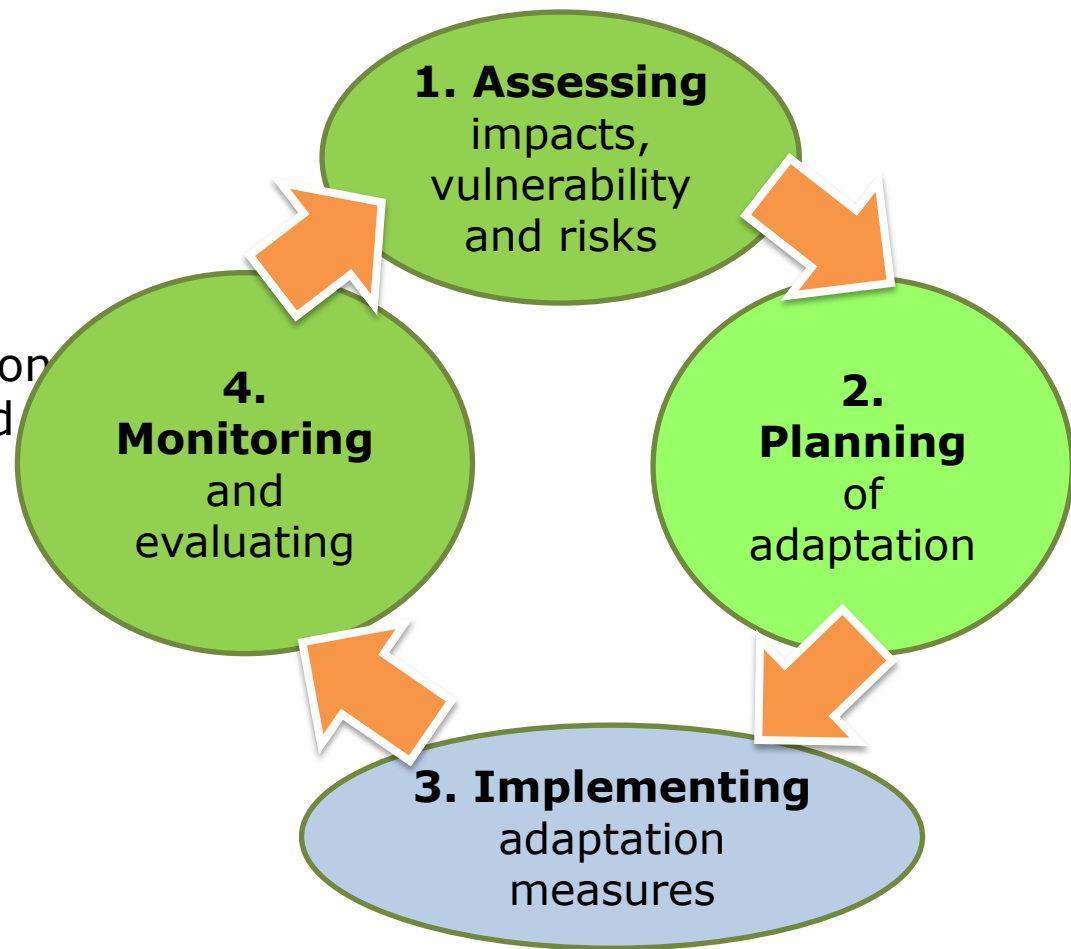
Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

3# Adaptation to climate change in Latvia

- A decade ago almost nobody thought of a need to adapt to climate change
- However, year by year adaptation needs were becoming more and more required.

... DURING THE LAST FEW
YEARS THIS HAS
SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED!

- we have been actively **raising capacity and engaging more stakeholders**
- we have been actively **developing national adaptation to climate change system**



! Draft of **Latvia's Adaptation Strategy 2030** is under public consultations



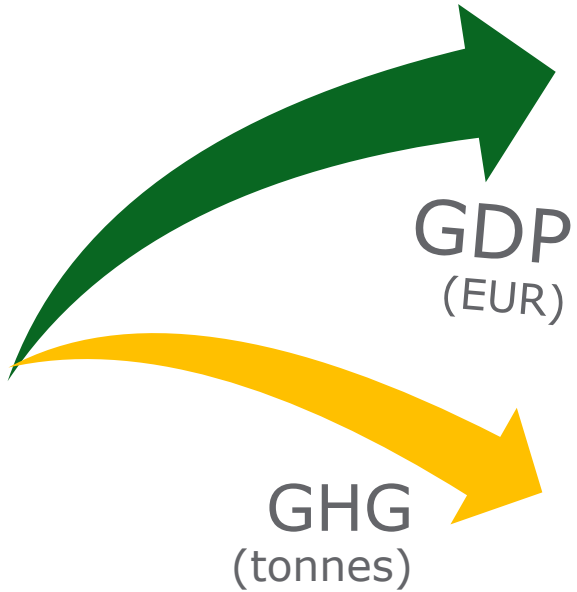
Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia

4# Perception & behaviour

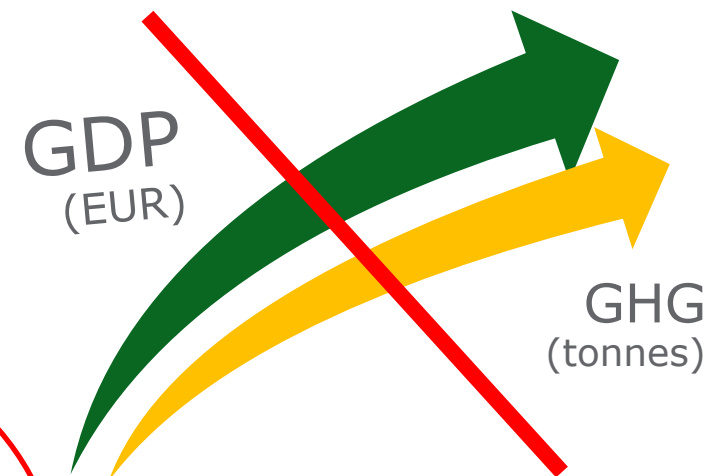
- Many consider that Latvia is already very green and there are no more possibilities / there is no need to become greener.
- Many believe that Latvia due to its size cannot make a difference to climate change.
- Many believe that it is not possible to influence climate change.
- Many believe that climate change mitigation and adaptation is not their responsibility.

... this is changing, but has to change more!

CORRECT
(new way)



WRONG
(old way)



LOW CARBON
and CLIMATE
RESILIENT
development!

Thank you for
Your attention!