A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands

Webinar, 29 August 2022

Launch of a report by Hanna Fekete, Niklas Höhne and Sybrig Smit (NewClimate Institute)
Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction (Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute)
2. Presentation of the findings (Hanna Fekete, NewClimate Institute)
3. Question and Answer session with the audience
The need for very ambitious climate action

- Warming has reached 1.2°C
- Global emissions continue to increase

- To limit warming to 1.5°C
  - GHG emissions need to **half by 2030**
  - CO₂ emissions need to **reach 0 around 2050**

- At the current emissions levels, the remaining **global CO₂ budget would be gone by 2030**

- Fast and deep emissions reductions in all sectors are required, everywhere

**Global GHG emissions under 1.5°C scenarios [MtCO₂e/yr]**

Data source: Average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from IIASA (2018)

A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands
The proposed targets of the government

Targets of the Netherlands
- mirror the EU target of 55% below 1990
- roughly align with globally required speed of reduction

Targets of the Netherlands do not
- take a conservative approach to carbon dioxide removal
- reflect the Netherlands’ high historical responsibility and capability

The Netherlands’ GHG emissions and the rate of global reduction

Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018)
The Paris Agreement:

Article 2.2:
“This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.“

Article 3:
“...all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts”

Article 4:
“...Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties…”

“Each Party’s ... [target] will ... reflect its highest possible ambition”

Research uses different emissions allocation approaches to distribute the global efforts

Source: Höhne et al. 2014
Fair share concept has been used

**Target setting 2020**

- IPCC range of 25-40% reduction from 1990 to 2020 used by many countries as guide
- Urgenda court case: 25% at least

Source: den Elzen, Höhne 2008, 2010

**Quantifying fair contributions**

- Used in the Climate Action Tracker since 2009
- Checked against principles of international environmental law

Source: Climate Action Tracker, 2018, Rajamani et al. 2021

**Germany**

- Court forced government to revise its climate change law
- Report on carbon budgets was one element considered

Source: BVerfG, 2021, Sachverständigenrat für Umweltfragen (SRU), 2020

**Finland**

- Finland set a net-zero target for 2035
- Year is based on carbon budget calculations

Source: Climate Home, 2022, Ollikainen, Weaver and Seppälä, 2019
Distributing the carbon budget

This is still **not an unambiguously fair contribution**

A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands

**GHG emissions budgets for the Netherlands**

- Historical data
- **Carbon budget** (distributed by GHG emissions)
- Proposed target pathway of the government (55%/70%/80% below 1990, net zero 2050)
- **Carbon budget** (distributed by population)
- Required global average reduction speed

**Targets exceed carbon budget by GHG emissions by 530 MtCO₂e**

**Targets exceed carbon budget by population by 1070 MtCO₂e**

**Data sources:**
- Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); global carbon budgets as input to calculation of Dutch budgets from IPCC (2021)
The Netherlands’ full fair share of the effort

‘Fair share’ GHG emissions for the Netherlands

Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); fair share for 2030 from Rajamani et al (2021).
Summary of results

Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); emissions trajectories based on carbon budgets: own calculations with budgets from (IPCC, 2021); fair share in 2030 from (Rajamani et al., 2021)

A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands
"Fair contribution" is a requirement of the Paris Agreement: countries are / will be held accountable for it

Netherlands needs to reduce own emissions as fast as possible: reductions needed beyond global average speed to reflect its historical responsibilities and capabilities
- -94% by 2030 for distributed carbon budget
- Negative in 2030 for unambiguously fair contribution

Netherlands also needs to support other countries to make an unambiguously fair contribution, if own emissions are reduced less than given above

A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands
Thank you

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Questions and Answers

» Please send your questions through the Q&A function of the Zoom meeting.

» The report and a summary in Dutch are available for download:
  https://newclimate.org/resources/publications/what-is-a-fair-emissions-budget-for-the-netherlands

We will also upload this power point presentation after the event.

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den Elzen, M.G. J., Höhne, N., 2010. Sharing the reduction effort to limit global warming to 2°C. Climate Policy, 10, 247–260
References 2/2

» Climate Action Tracker, 2022, www.climateactiontracker.org


