

Points for People and Climate

In the next election cycle our region, Central and Eastern Europe, can be spearheading a real change. One that is wise and bold, while reflecting the needs of us, EU citizens. The leadership of the Hungarian (2nd half of 2024) and Polish (1st half of 2025) Presidencies of the Council of the EU will be decisive for the right continuation of the European Green Deal.

Green transformation is an opportunity which can not be missed. Correct and socially just implementation of Fit for 55 and REPowerEU is a way to economically recover and improve the quality of life of EU's citizens. The energy and cost of living crisis that we have been experiencing during recent years require complex strategies, comprehensive policies, and targeted measures. Ambitious climate action and a just energy transformation are ways to reduce energy poverty and enhance social solidarity, as well as to increase energy security and spark the development of new businesses, bringing jobs and stability.

Members of the European Parliament from our region will play a unique role. You bridge our region and Brussels, enriching EU discussions with expertise from the ground, developed in close cooperation with civil society.

Therefore we ask you to use your mandate to help us achieve the following points:

1. Define clear dates for the national **phase out of fossil fuels** in line with the Paris Agreement and adopt climate neutrality targets in line with EU commitments. To help achieve these goals, immediately stop environmentally **harmful subsidies**.
2. Address unnecessary barriers in Energy Transition towards a **100% renewable energy system** with **energy efficiency first principle**. Wind, solar and geothermal sources should be accelerated in respect with nature and mirroring the needs of communities. Bottom-up energy communities need to be supported with proper financial and legal framework. Modernisation and creation of new grids, improved connectivity, digitalisation and permitting processes are the key components.
3. Establish sustainable systems for **land, biodiversity and water protection** as they play pivotal roles in mitigation as well as adaptation to progressing climate change. We need well designed systems of protected areas (including and beyond NATURA 2000), water and forest management. All must be aligned with sustainable agriculture production and biomass use.

4. Ascertain that ambitious **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), national Long-term Strategies and national Climate Laws** are approved so that they can serve as guiding frameworks for transformation of our economies. These strategy and planning instruments must be taken seriously by decision and policy makers. If designed and used well, they define concrete pathways for emission reduction, coordinate relevant institutions and provide real solutions. They guide transformation so that no one is left behind.
5. **Investment needs** must be identified and addressed via **available EU funds** (next MFF, RRF, SCF and EU ETS revenues), matched with substantial financial incentives and support schemes. These must be tailored to different social groups and make the transition accessible to everyone including lower-income households. It is also time to reframe "economic growth" narratives towards "sustainable economic prosperity, fitting within the planetary boundaries".
6. Preserve **rule of law, democracy and accountability**, improve **citizen participation and transparency**. Successful climate action also requires continual participation of all concerned actors, including civil society, regional and local authorities, businesses, and the public. Our societies must be engaged also to fully understand the benefits of the green transformation.

Organisations:

[Climate Action Network \(CAN\) Europe](#) is the leading coalition of non-governmental organizations in Europe. With more than 200 member organizations active in 40 European countries, representing more than 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe supports sustainable climate, energy and development policies across Europe.

[Center for Transport and Energy \(CDE\)](#) is a non-governmental organization that deals with the impact of energy on the environment for a long time, especially in connection with climate protection and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

[National Society of Conservationists – Friends of the Earth Hungary](#) includes more than 100 environmental organizations in Hungary. The company plays an important role in civil environmental movements in Europe and on a global scale - in cooperation with international organizations, in particular the Friends of the Earth networkInternational.

[Klimatická koalícia](#) is a platform of 14 Slovak environmental organizations. Our goal is to promote solutions that are ecologically and economically sustainable and at the same time contribute to a fairer functioning of our society.