

COUNTRY	REGION	POPULATION	LAST REPORTED EMISSIONS	MITIGATION TARGET
BELGIUM	FLANDERS	6,600,000 (2019)	43.8 MTCO ₂ e (2018)	-45% BY 2030 (BASELINE YEAR: 2005)

A local energy and climate pact in Flanders of inspiration for all Europe

In the Belgian region of Flanders, Minister Bart Somers launched a Local Energy and Climate Pact (LEKP), which refers to the [European Climate Pact](#), an initiative from the European Commission to invite “people, communities and organisations to participate in climate action and build a greener Europe”. Focusing on four areas (greening, participatory energy, sustainable mobility and rainwater), the LEKP sets concrete objectives for its signatories (nearly 300 local governments) to tackle the global climate challenge at the local level.

Established in 2019 by the Flanders Regional Government and having entered force in 2020, the [Flemish Climate Pact](#) encompasses nearly 300 municipalities and revolves around four key pillars:

- Nature-based solutions, with a focus on urban greening
- Mitigation policies, with a focus on energy efficiency and RES
- Mobility and development of shared, active, and sustainable solutions
- Water management, including re-use and up-use

For example, the LEKP is aiming for one tree per inhabitant, 50 collective renovations per 1,000 housing units, one charging point per 100 inhabitants and one square metre of water softening per inhabitant (**figure**).

These four pillars chart a pathway for Flanders – as a region and through each of its municipalities – to align with the 55% emissions reduction requirement set by the European Union and the Covenant of Mayors in Europe, as well as a 1.5°C trajectory.

An inclusive approach

The Flemish Climate Pact holds a stakeholders’ climate dialogue every two years inclusive of cities, local governments, and citizens’ organizations to co-design climate objectives and actions – facilitating broad inclusivity at a grassroots level. Dialogue is also backed by deeds: as part of the mitigation pillar, local governments have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors – Europe commitments for 2030 as the basis for climate and energy action.

From here, the Flemish Regional Government engages biannually with the Belgian National Government to assess, evaluate, and integrate local and regional plans. The Flemish Climate Pact now aims to leverage MyCovenant, one of the official GCoM reporting platforms, to help feed locally reported climate data into biannual progress reports that can inform national policy and NDC development ([GCoM](#), 2021).

An approach that is part of the European Climate Pact

The LEKP is part of the European Climate Pact, the EU Commission initiative to involve citizens and local actors in the Green Deal, through which they can register their climate commitments. Throughout 2021, more than 24,000 people made [pledges](#) to reduce their impact on the planet. Beyond these individual commitments, some 148 companies, 28 cities and two regions in Europe have joined the European Climate Pact, totalling more than 1,600 [organizational pledges](#).

The Executive Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, [invited](#) Flemish Minister Bart Somers to become an EU Climate Pact Ambassador, in order to disseminate the LEKP throughout the rest of Europe as a source of inspiration for other regional governments and local authorities.

THE LOCAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PACT (LEKP) FOUR PILLARS

Source: [Flemish government](#)

PILLAR 1 LET’S PLANT A TREE

- one tree per inhabitant
- half a metre of additional hedge or facade planting per inhabitant
- one additional natural green space per 1000 inhabitants

PILLAR 2 ENRICH YOUR DISTRICT

- 50 collective renovations per 1,000 housing units
- 1 cooperative/participatory renewable energy project per 500 inhabitant, totalling 216 MW of installed capacities

PILLAR 3 EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD SUSTAINABLY ACCESSIBLE

- 1 access point for a carbon free transport per 1000 inhabitants
- 1 charging point per 100 inhabitants
- 1m of extra cycle lane per inhabitant

PILLAR 4 WATER THE NEW GOLD

- 1 m² softening per inhabitant
- 1 m³ of additional rainwater collection or infiltration capacity per inhabitant