

## Evaluation of project

**Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to  
carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy  
intensive industries by 2050 (E355, July 2023)**

Final Progress report as of 30 June 2024

| # | Recommendation  | Management response  | Responsibility  | Progress  |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>Work on a subsequent phase of the Carbon Neutrality Project (CNP) to encourage UNECE member States to take the actions required to reduce GHG emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.</b></p> | <p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will continue conducting awareness raising activities on the importance of low and zero-carbon technology interplay to attain carbon neutrality by 2050. The activities will focus on dissemination of Carbon Neutrality project findings tailored for the wider stakeholder community comprising policymakers and representatives from academia, industry and the finance sector. The project findings dissemination activities will be highlighted at the annual sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, as well as at the annual meetings of its six subsidiary bodies (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Group of Experts on Gas, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, and Expert Group on Resource Management).</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will explore how to apply the findings from the Carbon Neutrality project, with a particular focus on helping Ukraine rebuild its energy infrastructure under the carbon neutrality concept.</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will continue working with experts in Central Asia to develop a roadmap to carbon neutrality in Central Asia and, more specifically will seek funding for the subsequent stages of the carbon neutrality project in Central Asia, namely a zoom-in on</p> | <p>Iva Brkic,<br/>Economic<br/>Affairs Officer,<br/>SED</p> | <p><b>Implemented as of 30 June 2024</b></p> <p>The revised version of the <a href="#">Carbon Neutrality Toolkit</a> was launched at the <a href="#">2023 Sustainable Energy Week</a> in September 2023. The Toolkit was designed to help countries identify technology and policy options to attain carbon neutrality.</p> <p>The Toolkit was disseminated and applied at the Annual Sessions of the Group of Experts of Renewable Energy, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems.</p> <p>On the subregional level the Toolkit was presented and applied at the Almaty Energy Forum in Kazakhstan, as well as the SPECA Forum in Baku.</p> <p>On the national level the Toolkit was applied for Ukraine to inform the Government how to rebuild its energy system under the carbon neutral concept: <a href="#">Rebuilding Ukraine with a Resilient, Carbon-Neutral Energy System   UNECE</a></p> <p>The secretariat is in the process helping stakeholders apply the Toolkit in the Republic of Moldova and in Central Asian countries. The final analysis and national and regional consultations have been conducted. Editing of the final reports will take place in July and September and the reports will be presented at the Sustainable Energy Week 2024 and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in September 2024.</p> |

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|   |  | energy connectivity in Central Asia.   |   |  |
| 2 | Use expertise under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to drill down to be more specific in the context of further action and adjust energy models to include increases in energy demand (which is not included in the current energy models predicting energy demand). | <p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will continue conducting awareness raising activities and disseminating project findings at various international events. Under the leadership of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and its Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will work with its stakeholder community to explore what business models can be used to decarbonize the hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement and chemicals, in the UNECE region.</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, in cooperation with the Hydrogen Council, the World Energy Council, UNIDO and the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, will explore the potential roles of hydrogen and carbon capture, use and storage for the decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors.</p> | Iva Brkic,<br>Economic<br>Affairs Officer,<br>SED | <p><b>Implemented as of 30 June 2024</b></p> <p>The Toolkit and the findings were presented at the annual meeting of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. The Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, will work with its stakeholder community to explore what business models can be used to decarbonize the hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement and chemicals, in the UNECE region. The Task Force has been organizing regular bi-monthly workshops to advance deep decarbonization of the hard-to-abate sectors. <a href="#">Events</a></p> <p>Collaboration with UNIDO, Hydrogen Council and WEC on decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors is ongoing. A joint event with UNIDO on <a href="#">Accelerating the Just Energy Transition: decarbonizing industrial value chains with clean hydrogen took place at COP28 in Dubai</a>. The side event addressed how clean hydrogen could accelerate the Just Energy Transition through decarbonizing industrial value chains and promoting socio-economic growth. <a href="#">UNECE Task Force on Hydrogen</a> continues to explore the role of hydrogen to decarbonize hard to abate sectors as one of the areas of work of the TF.</p> |
| 3 | For subsequent phases of CNP, identify more women in the entire UNECE region for increased education and engagement in the energy sector that will lead to increased contributions by women to discussions on  | <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will promote gender parity more strongly in the composition and events organized by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its six subsidiary bodies (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Group of Experts on Gas, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, and Expert Group on Resource Management).</p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will organize activities and dialogues that encourage all policymakers to create carbon neutral energy transition policies that enable all vulnerable groups (i.e. women, children, elderly and disabled people) to benefit from energy systems.</p>  | Iva Brkic,<br>Economic<br>Affairs Officer,<br>SED | <p><b>Implemented as of 30 June 2024</b></p> <p>The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division has been actively promoting the gender parity, striving for and delivering on 35-45% target in the CNP dissemination activities (panel discussions and workshops) delivered in Q3 and Q4 2023, namely during the Sustainable Energy Week in September 2023, Expert Energy Systems Week in October 2023, 3<sup>rd</sup> Almaty Energy Week and SPECA Forum 2023 in November.</p> <p>Building on the findings from the CNP on Central Asia, that show that the region will need vast human capital to deliver on the energy transition, at the <a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum</a> SED organized a dialogue on Just energy transition and fostering the next generation of energy experts. The session brought together Central Asian university representatives to explore how to overcome the barriers and identify solutions to foster the next</p>  |

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|   | carbon neutrality. |                     |                | generation of energy experts across Central Asia. The session resulted in a launch of the University Network for the Energy Transition in Central Asia and is aimed to address the intergenerational and gender gap and accelerate energy transition in Central Asia. |