

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**  
**Actions by Latvia**

**Country: Latvia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

**Title:**

**Development of a Strategy on low carbon development in Latvia for 2050**

*Focus area 4, 5:* Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns,  
Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns

**Description of the action:** Latvia is developing a strategy defining the goals and activities for Latvia's transition to low carbon development, thus providing long-term incentives for business, municipalities and general public to change production, lifestyle and consumption patterns, as well as providing basis for mid-term development planning documents and measures. The Strategy will address all sectors of national economy, including, energy, transport, agriculture and forestry. It will take into account current national situation, including, Latvia's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity, as well as international and European Union climate change policy.

**Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:** Provisional deadline 31 January 2017

**Type of action:** Legal, regulatory and policy instruments.

**Economic sectors:** economy-wide

**Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** The Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

The EU Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (2011)

EU Climate and Energy Policy Framework 2030

Information regarding transition towards low-carbon development, including GHG inventory and projections reports is available in the [EEA Central Data Repository](#).

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Economy wide reductions of GHG emissions. Enhanced resource efficiency. Transition towards sustainable production and consumption. Changing entrepreneur and consumer behaviour. Supporting innovations. Health benefits through less pollution and better environment. Sustainable "green" employment providing career opportunities for new specialists and entrepreneurs. Investment opportunities for institutional investors in low-carbon projects.

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** 13 and 9

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:** —

**Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** CO<sub>2</sub> emission intensity per GDP (ktCO<sub>2</sub>/mill.EUR) — decoupling; consumption of fossil fuels (Mtoe); share of renewable energy sources in the final energy consumption (%).

**Partners:** Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Finance, social partners, sectoral associations etc.

**Contact point:**

Ilze Prūse

Director of Climate Change Department,

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Peldu str 25, Riga,  
LATVIA, LV-1494;  
Phone: +371 67026417  
Fax: 67820442  
Email: [ilze.pruse@varam.gov.lv](mailto:ilze.pruse@varam.gov.lv)

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**  
**Actions by Latvia**

**Country: Latvia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

***Title:***

**Inclusion of the principles of green public procurement in public procurement procedures**

*Focus area 4:* Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns

***Description of the action:***

- Development of mandatory green public procurement for specific product groups – copying and graphic paper, office IT equipment, office furniture, food and catering services, cleaning products and services, indoor lighting, street lighting and traffic signals, as well as several voluntary product groups.
- Develop the ‘calculator’ of life-cycle costs for energy consuming product groups;
- Develop implementation guidelines of green procurement and green public procurement for certain products and service groups, including core criteria in the procurement tenders;
- Prepare and submit to the Cabinet of Ministers annual reports on the implementation of green public procurement;
- Organise regular methodological workshops and training for operators and state and local government institutions on green procurement and its application in purchases;
- Implement awareness raising activities for stakeholders on green procurement and green public procurement.

***Action’s timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:*** Development of legal framework by the end of 2016. According to the Green Procurement Support Plan for 2015-2017 the target for green public procurement is 20% of total public procurement in financial terms in 2016 and 30% in 2017.

***Type of action:*** Legal, regulatory and policy instruments / information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

***Economic sectors:*** Economy-wide

***Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:***

- European Union Green public procurement policy – Public Procurement for a Better Environment;
- Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy for 2030;
- Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020 envisaging "Wider provision of energy-efficient and ecological products and services ("green public procurement") in public procurement";
- Environment Policy Guidelines 2014-2020, one of the tasks for the achievement of the environment policy targets is promotion of green public procurement;
- Green Procurement Support Plan for 2015-2017.

***Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:***Reduced pressure on environment. More efficient use of resources. Incentives for sustainable production and consumption. Transition towards sustainable production and consumption. Changing entrepreneur and consumer behaviour. Supporting innovations. Health benefits through less pollution and better environment. Sustainable “green” employment providing career opportunities for new specialists and entrepreneurs.

***SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:*** 9 and 12

***Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate: —***

***Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:*** In 2015 the total amount of green public procurement in financial terms reached 19% from all public procurements. The statistics about green public procurement is annually collected by the Procurement Monitoring Bureau.

***Partners:*** Ministry of Finance, Procurement Monitoring Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economics, State Regional Development Agency

***Contact point:***

Coordination Department

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development,

Peldu iela 25,

LV-1494, Latvia

Email: [zpi@varam.gov.lv](mailto:zpi@varam.gov.lv)

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**  
**Actions by Latvia**

**Country: Latvia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

**Title:**

**Revision of the Natural Resource Tax system by including specific requirements on waste management**

*Focus area 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns*

**Description of the action:** Review of existing tax policy with the aim to provide fiscal incentives to improve waste management and reduce landfilling, as well as enhance efficient use of resources and transition from natural resources to secondary materials. It is envisaged to set out clear provisions regarding the application of the Natural Resources Tax for waste management activities, in particular, disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. It is planned to set the Natural Resources Tax for different subjects on such a level, which stimulates sorting and separate collection of waste, recycling, recovery and re-use, as well as encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns and use of secondary resources. For example, increase the tax for waste disposal in order to reduce landfilling.

**Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:** 01.01.2017

**Type of action:** Legal, regulatory and policy instruments / Economy and fiscal instruments

**Economic sectors:** Waste management with economy-wide impact

**Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

Environment Policy Guidelines of Latvia 2014-2020

National Plan on Waste Management for 2013-2020

Natural Resources Tax Law

Waste Management Law

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Increase of tax rate for waste disposal should reduce the volumes of waste landfilled. It will stimulate waste management companies and associations to switch to other more favourable waste treatment options, such as recycling or reuse. Moreover, this instrument should result in increase of separate waste collection and reduction of mixed (unsorted) waste volumes.

In addition, these measures aim at more sustainable production and consumption patterns, replacement of materials and products with environment friendly alternatives, replacement of natural resources by secondary resources, improved quality of secondary resources.

These measures will help in transition towards circular economy, where waste becomes a resource and returns back to the economy.

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** 11 and 12

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:** Implementation of voluntary commitments will even further enhance implementation of the EPR recommendations for Latvia<sup>1</sup>. In particular, by decreasing amounts of landfilled waste, and by increase in proportions of recycled and recovered waste, as well as separate collection.

**Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:**

- amount of waste collected per capita (tons per year);

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr\\_studies/latvia.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/latvia.pdf)

- amount of landfilled non-hazardous waste (tons per year and percentage from waste collected);
- amount of landfilled hazardous waste (tons per year);
- amount of recovered waste (tons per year).

Eurostat data available [here](#).

**Partners:** Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finance, municipalities, waste management companies and associations (e.g. Latvian Waste Management Association, Latvian Association of Waste Management Companies), producer responsibility organisations, NGOs

**Contact point:**

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Peldu iela 25,

LV-1494, Latvia

Email: [pasts@varam.gov.lv](mailto:pasts@varam.gov.lv)