Synergies with other policy areas, including climate, SDGs, and methane mitigation

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Context and key messages

The obvious

- Air quality policy has climate implications
- Climate and SDG driven policies will have impacts on air pollutant and methane emissions and consequently their impacts
- Costs of reducing air pollution and its impacts will be likely lower if climate policies are implemented
- Not all what is good for climate is good for air quality...and vice versa





Context and key messages

- The 'new' and the 'updated'
 - New EU Clean Air Outlook considering air quality and climate policies
 - New global and regional analysis of methane mitigation and benefits
 - New analysis of global/regional policies to address simultaneously air quality and climate
 - Fossil fuel reduction, as key element of decarbonization policy, not sufficient to release pressure from necessary reductions of air pollutants such as ammonia to reduce ecosystem impacts and in some areas also achieve air quality targets
 - Black carbon mitigation will not save the planet from heating but is nevertheless essential
 - Increasing role of methane mitigation, also from the perspective of air quality co-benefits





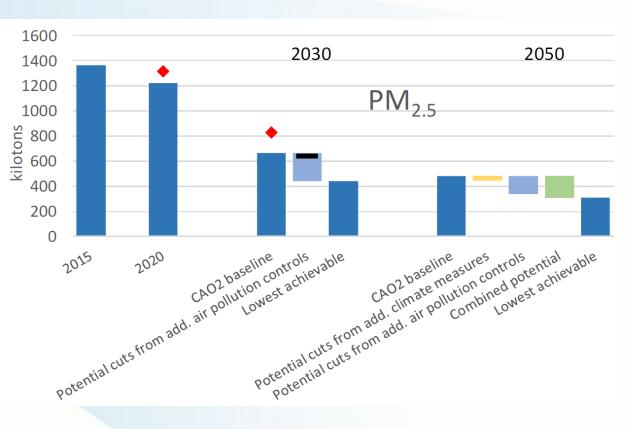
Second Clean Air Outlook (CAO2)

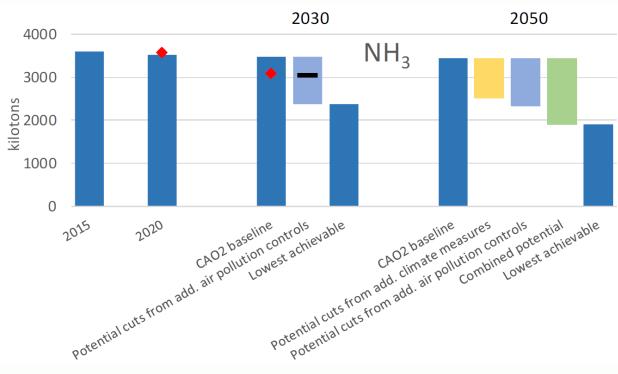
- Assesses prospects for achieving the objectives of the NECD for 2030 and beyond considering National Air Pollution Control Programmes (NAPCP) and an increased level of ambition for fighting climate change.
- CAO2 baseline and scenario including NAPCPs communicated in 2019; about -40% GHGs for 2030
- Additional climate policy variants:
 - (i) EU 2050 climate strategy vision (net zero GHG by 2050)
 - (ii) European Green Deal (-55% GHGs in 2030)

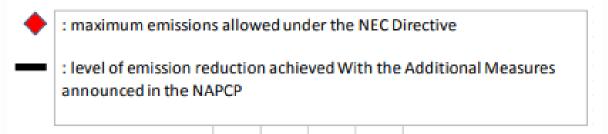
Published in January 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air/outlook.htm



Emission projections for selected air pollutants under various scenarios for EU-27



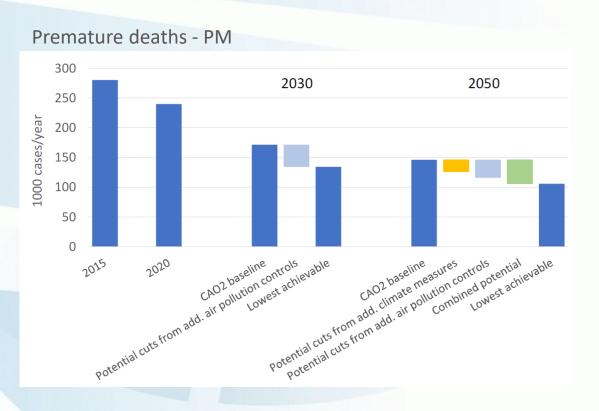


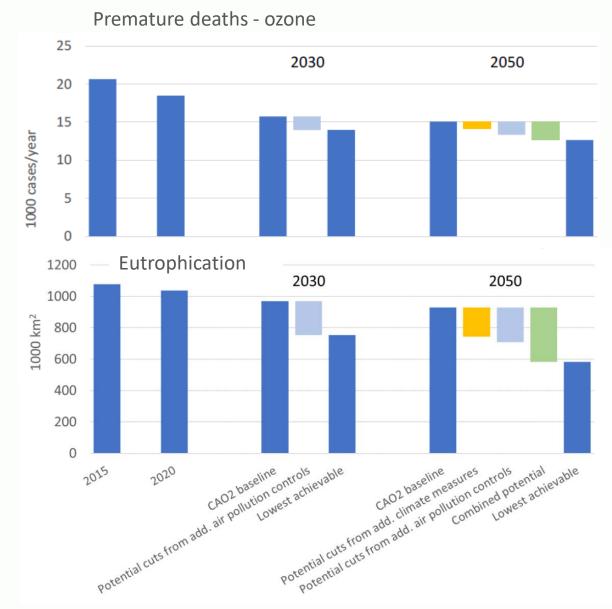




Source: GAINS model (IIASA), Second Clean Air Outlook (2020)

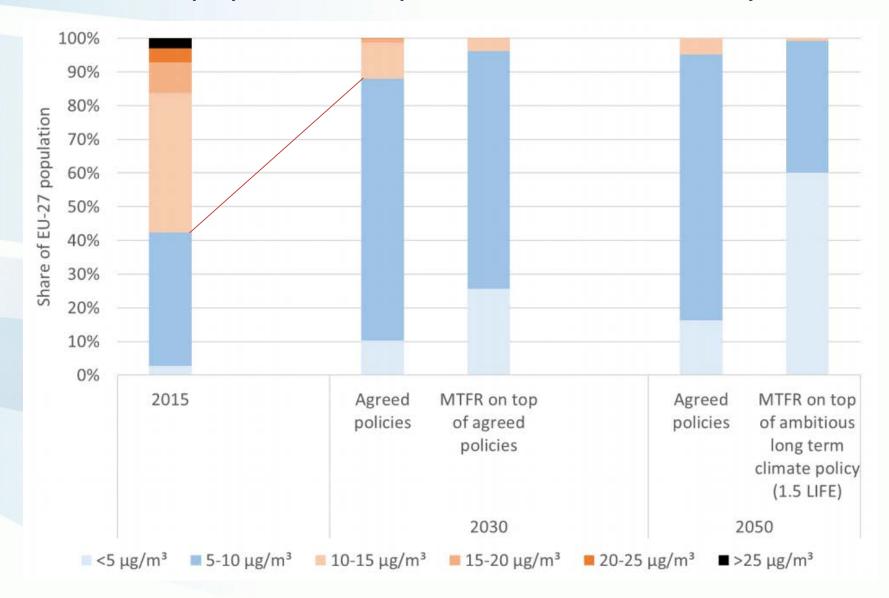
Cases of premature deaths attributable to the exposure to PM_{2.5}, ozone, and area of terrestrial ecosystems where N deposition exceed the critical loads for eutrophication, EU-27







Distribution of population exposure to PM2.5 for key scenarios, EU-27

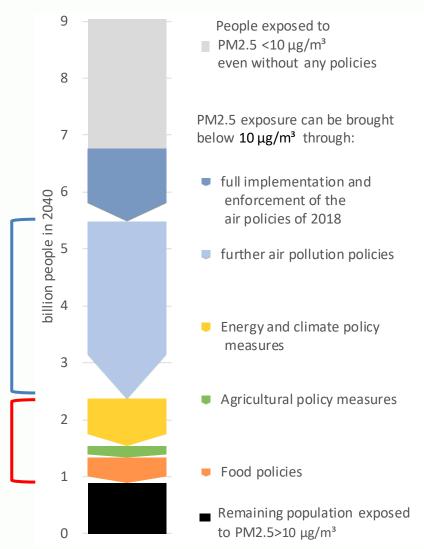




Global Perspective: Moving towards the WHO air quality guideline requires a mix of policies

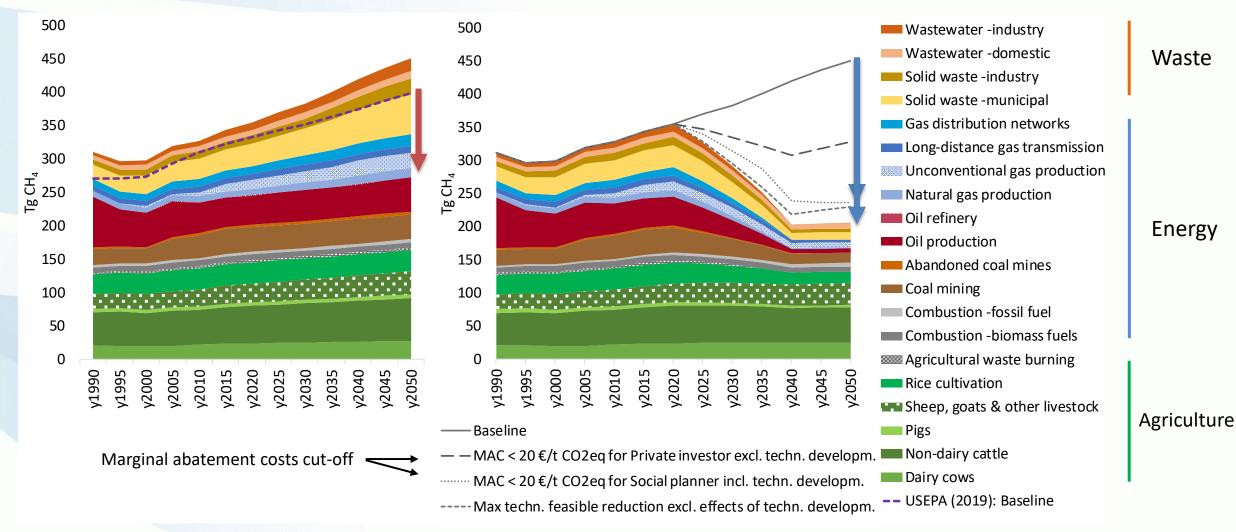
- No single policy field alone can exhaust the full potential for air quality improvements
 - About 2/3 of the potential improvements
 can be delivered by further air quality policies
 - The remaining 1/3 is connected to other policy fields, including
 - energy and climate policies,
 - food policies,
 - agricultural policies.
- Achieving clean air requires integrated multi-sectoral policy approaches
- Multi-sectoral solutions to achieve clean air will deliver a wide range of benefits on multiple development priorities (SDGs)
- A role for the Global Forum on Air Pollution that has been launched by the Air Convention in Dec 2019!

Population exposed to PM2.5<10 μg/m³ from anthropogenic sources in 2040





Global anthropogenic CH₄ emissions 1990-2050

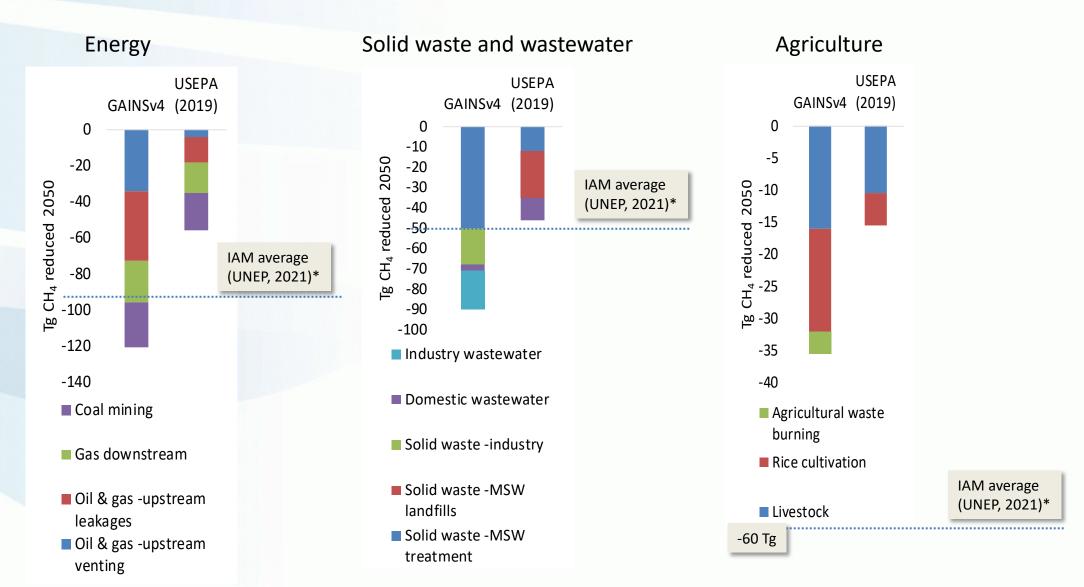


Max technical feasible reduction: ~120 (US-EPA-2019) to ~245 (GAINSv4) Tg CH₄



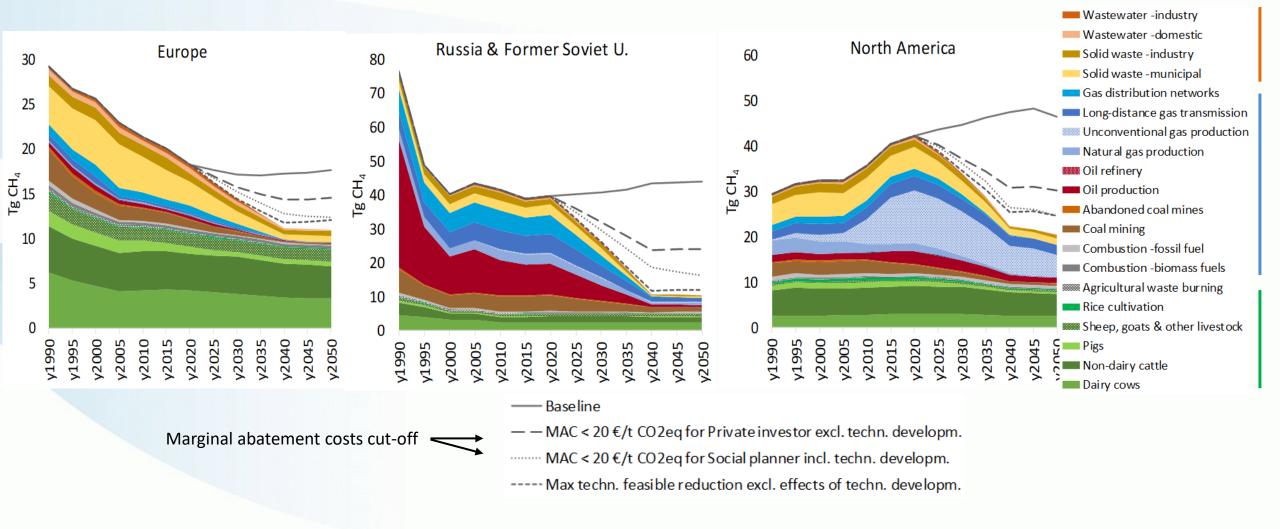
Global CH₄ mitigation potential estimates – 2050

(estimates of mitigation potential for 2030 are quite similar)



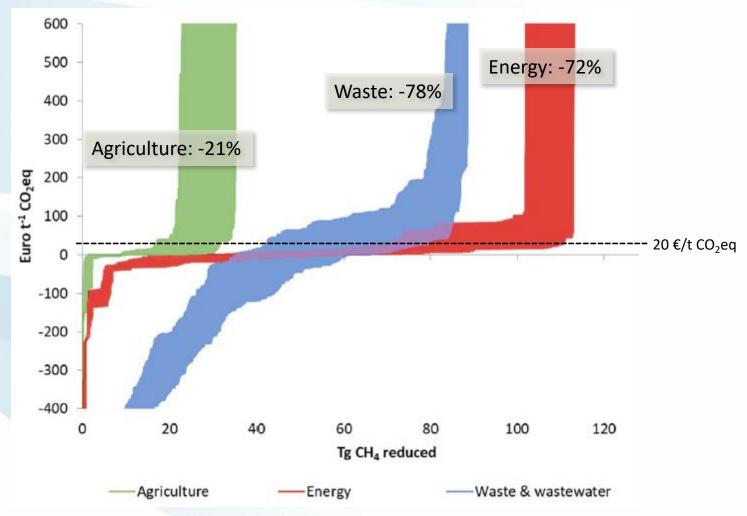


Large regional variation in sectoral emissions and mitigation potentials



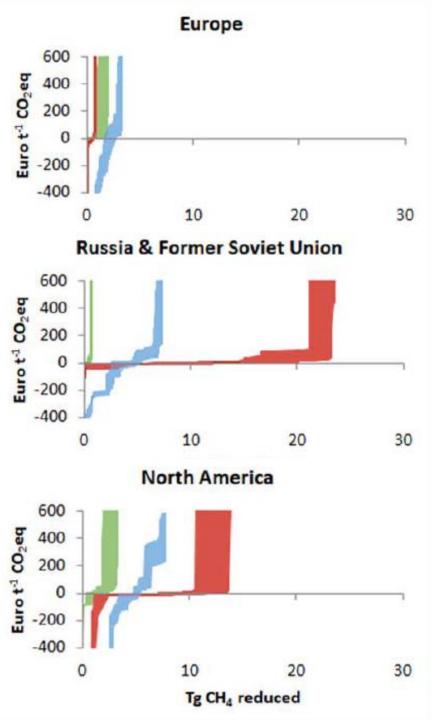


Marginal abatement cost curves (ranges*) for global and regional CH₄ mitigation in 2050

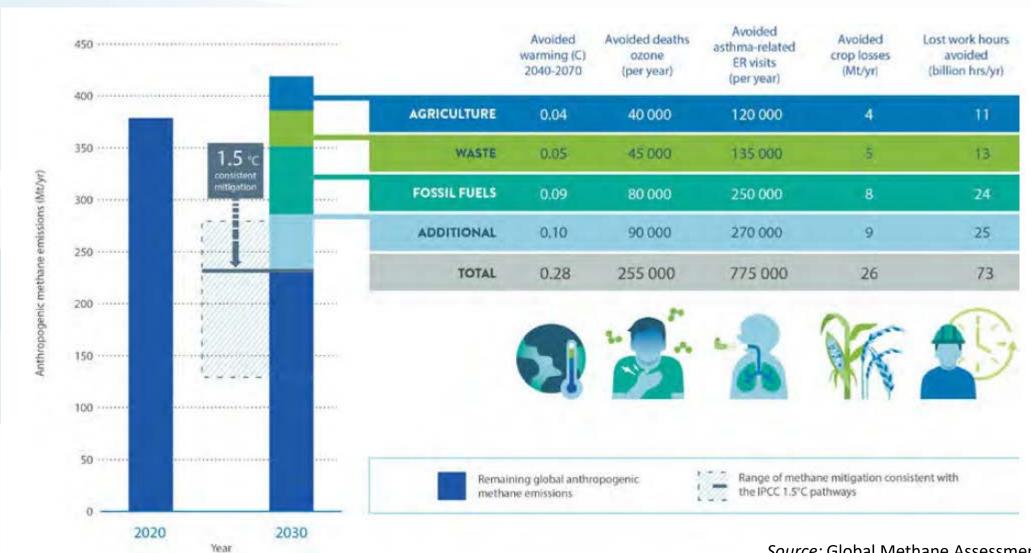


^{*} Ranges reflect private sector (upper) and social planner (lower) investment perspectives as well as inclusion of technological progress/development





Anthropogenic emissions of CH₄, mitigation potential and several benefits (UNEP, 2021)





Summary

- NH₃ remains the most challenging pollutant for the achievement of the reduction commitments.
- The increased ambition of European climate policies leads to important reductions of energy-related air pollutants and thereby reduces the pressure on other sectors for reaching compliance with the NECD reduction commitments but not for NH₃.
- Local and regional analysis reconfirms the relevance of the international component of air pollution and reveals the importance of (past and future) regionally coordinated policies
- A mix of policies (involving air quality, climate, and SDGs) needed to achieve WHO air quality guideline targets
- Important role for methane in climate mitigation providing several (and significant) co-benefits on health,
 crops and ecosystems
- Low-cost mitigation of methane available and provides a cost-effective way of reducing background ozone

