

AUSTRIA

1. Official Position

The Austrian Government supported the Action Plan of the Toronto Conference in 1988 which called for a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 20 per cent of 1988 levels by the year 2005. The energy report, adopted by the Government in June 1990, includes environmental compatibility as one of the major goals in Austria's energy policy and the Toronto targets for CO₂ reduction. It is intended to forward the report to the Parliament.

Austria has signed the Sofia-agreement and is thereby committed to stabilize the emissions of NO_x by 1994 and to reduce the emissions by 30 per cent by 1998, compared with the 1987 level.

In another international agreement Austria has agreed that by 1993 the national emissions of SO_x should be reduced to the 1980 level.

Austria signed the CFCs Protocol to the Vienna Convention. CFCs will be totally phased out by 1995.

The target for CO₂ will be achieved through energy conservation and a shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy (hydropower, solar energy and biomass). A 15-20 per cent energy saving potential has been identified and is currently being evaluated.

A conservation programme was launched in 1988. Financial support was cut back and more emphasis put on information and educational activities. The 1990 Energy Report states that the highest priority is given to energy conservation in Austria's energy policy. The conservation programme in the 1990 Energy Report puts more emphasis on market oriented approaches and information. The main instruments to achieve the efficiency goals are research, energy auditing, creation of incentives and legal standards.