

RUSSIAN CLIMATE POLICY

Russia is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases. This makes Russian climate policy important. After experiencing a decline in emissions in the 1990s they have risen during this decade and are expected to continue to grow towards 2020.

Background

The Russian Federation has been a Party to the Climate Convention since 1994 and to the Kyoto Protocol since 2004. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the Russian Federation committed itself to keeping its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the base year level (1990) during the first commitment period from 2008 to 2012.

GHG emissions in 2009 were 37% below 1990 levels (Safonov 2009). The large reduction compared with 1990 is mainly due to economic transition in Russia. Compared with the year 2000 emissions have risen by 8%.

Russia is an energy superpower. It's the world's largest producer of natural gas (20.9% of world production), the second largest producer of crude oil (12.3% of world production) and the world's sixth largest producer of coal (IEA 2009). It is also expected to remain an energy superpower in the years to come.

Projected emissions

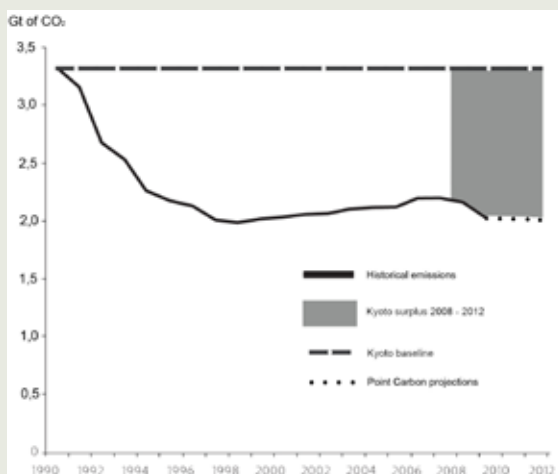
There are many projections on how Russia's future emissions will develop.

The current economic crisis has reduced Russian emissions. It is therefore important to include this in emission projections. A recent report by the International Institute for Applied System Analysis includes the current recession in their scenarios (IIASA 2009). They expect Russian emissions to be 25% below 1990-levels in 2020 in their business-as-usual (BAU) scenario.

When calculating future emissions these will vary with the different assumptions that are included in the scenarios. A moderate GDP growth (3 – 4 percent a year) combined with President Medvedev's announcement to improve energy efficiency of the domestic economy by at least 40% by 2020 would mean that Russia's 2020 emissions would be at least 35% below 1990 levels (Safonov 2009).

Facts

The Kyoto surplus



The grey area is the expected Russian Kyoto surplus. Point Carbon has calculated this to equal 7.2 billion tonnes of CO₂.



A Kyoto surplus

Economic turmoil in the 1990s has led to a collapse in Russian emissions. Currently Russian emissions are approximately 37 percent below 1990 levels. As Russia's Kyoto target was to stabilize emissions at 1990-levels they now have a great Kyoto surplus. In the Kyoto period this surplus is expected to be 7,2 billion tonnes (Point Carbon 2009).

There is currently no limit for how much of the Kyoto surplus that can be transferred to a new climate deal. This has the potential to severely weaken a new deal.

Current climate goals

Russia has stated that it will reduce its emissions by 25 percent by 2020 (Kremlin 2009). On a long-term target the G8 meeting in 2008 signed up to an 80% reduction, or more, from developed countries by 2050 compared to 1990 or more recent years. Medvedev later specified that this would mean at least 50 percent reduction in 2050 compared to 1990 levels for Russia (Cop15.dk 2009)

Energy efficiency

Russia has a great potential for energy efficiency. Today, Russia uses 3.1 times more energy to produce one unit of GDP than the EU (Energy Strategy 2003).

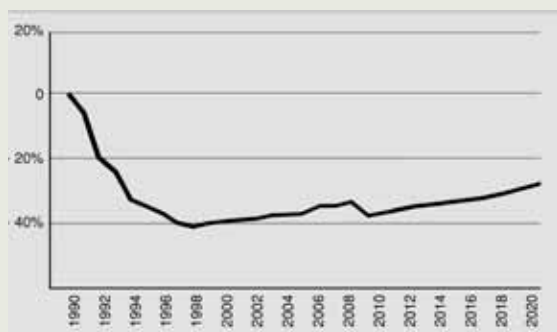
The World Bank has estimated that the Russian energy efficiency potential is a 45% decrease in consumption from 2005 levels. This would lead to a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 793 Mt CO₂-e per year (World Bank 2008). This corresponds to a 36% reduction of greenhouse gas emission compared to 1990-levels.

Gas flaring

Russia has the world's largest emissions from flaring in the world. The World Bank estimates the reduction potential from flaring to be 70 Mt CO₂ with current gas prices (World Bank 2007).

Facts

Emission scenario for 2020



Emission scenario for Russia towards 2020 including energy efficiency target of 40% by 2020. Russia will in this scenario experience a 6.5% GDP growth. (Based on Safonov 2009a)

The Fact Sheet is written by Anders Haug Larsen, December 2009.



References:

Energy Strategy 2003: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/russia/events/doc/2003_strategy_2020_en.pdf (visited 2nd November 2009)

IEA 2009: Key world energy statistics 2009

IIASA 2009: GAINS - Analysis of the proposals for GHG reductions in 2020 made by UNFCCC Annex I parties: Implications of the economic crisis

Kremlin 2009: <http://www.kremlin.ru/transcripts/6034> (visited 25th November 2009)

Point Carbon 2009: Assigned Amount Unit: Seller/byer analysis and impact on post-2012 climate regime

Safonov 2009: en.cop15.dk/blogs/view+blog?blogid=2845 (visited 4th December 2009)

Safonov 2009a: Presentation 22 November 2009 for Russian Socio-Ecological Union, St Petersburg

UNFCCC 2009: "Report of the centralized in-depth review of the fourth national communication of the Russian Federation"

World Bank 2007 "Using Russia's Associated Gas Prepared for the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership and the World Bank"

World Bank 2008: Energy Efficiency in Russia: Untapped Reserves

OUR DEMANDS

- Russia should pledge to limit its greenhouse gas emissions to at least 35 percent below 1990 levels. The 25 percent target that Russia has pledged is similar to the Russian projections for 2020.
- Banking of the Kyoto surplus should not be allowed. If this is not possible, then banking and selling of the Kyoto surplus should be limited. Revenues from sold Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) must go to green investment schemes and/or developing country mitigation/adaptation. The remaining surplus must be addressed through a collective increase in Annex I 2020 targets.
- Russia's large potential within energy saving should be fulfilled and should be the main focus for

