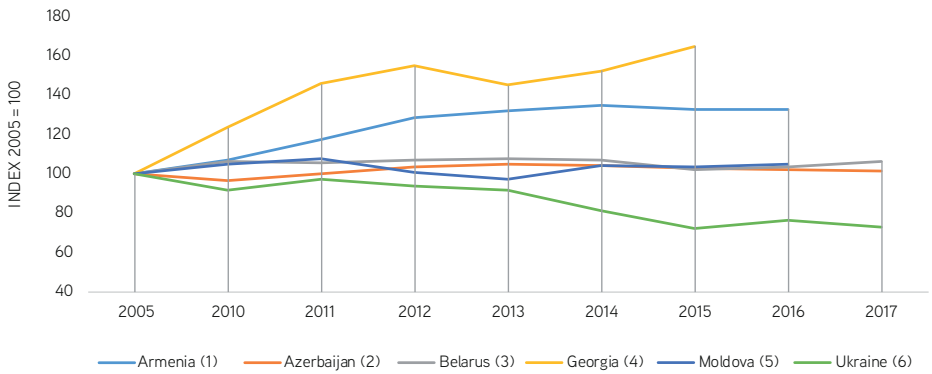
Climate change
and the Republic of Belarus

Combating climate change is one of the greatest challenges in the framework of sustainable development and in achieving strong ecosystems and a healthy society. Climate change also accelerates most of the risks in the environment. The impact of climate change includes melting ice, rising sea levels, increased frequency of droughts and floods, ecosystem degradation, reduced biodiversity, reduced soil productivity, and increased air pollution that affects health.

International comparison

Total GHG emissions (Mt CO_2 equivalent)



*Notes: **Armenia**, **Belarus**, **Georgia Moldova**, **Ukraine** – total GHG emissions without land use, land use change and forestry.*
***Azerbaijan** – GHG emissions (CO_2 + N_2O + CH_4 + fluorinated gases)*
Source: (1) ARMSTATBANK, (2) AZSTAT, (3) BELSTAT, (4) UNFCCC, (5) http://www.clima.md, (6) https://menr.gov.ua

List of related sites

- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI): https://www.climate-change-performance-index.org/
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/3BRBLR.pdf
- National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat): https://www.belstat.gov.by/en/
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus: http://minpriroda.gov.by/ru/ (http://minpriroda.gov.by/en/)
- ENI SEIS website: https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/belarus

List of relevant contacts

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European Environment Agency

ENI SEIS II East
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SLOVENSKÁ AGENTÚRA ŽIVOTNÉHO PROSTREDIA
SLOVAK ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Trends of individual climate elements in Belarus

2019 was the warmest year in the entire history of meteorological observations in Belarus.

The highest temperature measured from 1991 to 2019 was recorded in Gomel in August 2010, it was +38.9˚C.

The average annual precipitation over the past 20 years is 656 mm (102% of normal (1981 – 2010)).

The average annual temperature has increased by 1.2˚C over the last 20 years. From the end of the 20th century to the present, Belarus has had the longest warming period in the history of mankind over the past 130 years. 18 of 20 warmest years since 1945, were observed between 1989 and 2019. The increase in average air temperature was most significant in the winter and in the first two months of spring.

Since 1989, approximately half of all active vegetation periods experienced arid conditions. Despite the absence of significant deviations in the average precipitation patterns of the past 20 years, there is a change in the intra-annual precipitation distribution: the largest increases are in the months of January, July, and October, and significant decreases in June and September.

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool that monitors the development of all greenhouse gas emissions of 57 countries and the EU. Belarus was ranked 40th out of 57 countries. (CCPI is published by the German Watch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network).

photo: Viktar Malyshchyts/shutterstock.com, graphic: DRogatnev/shutterstock.com

Climate change policy framework

International level

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992), entry into force 1994

Kyoto Protocol under the Framework Convention (1995), entry into force 2005

Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy (2008)

Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (2012), entry into force 2015

Paris Agreement (2015), entry into force 2016

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2015), Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030

National level

The National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030

The Strategy for environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus until 2025

The complex of measures of subprogram 2 "Development of the state hydrometeorological service, mitigating the effects of climate change, improving the quality of atmospheric air and water resources" to the State program "Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources" for 2016 – 2020

The National Action Plan for the development of the Green Economy in the Republic of Belarus until 2020

The Strategy for water resources management in the context of climate change for the period until 2030

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The National Action Plan to increase removals by sinks of greenhouse gases for the period until 2030

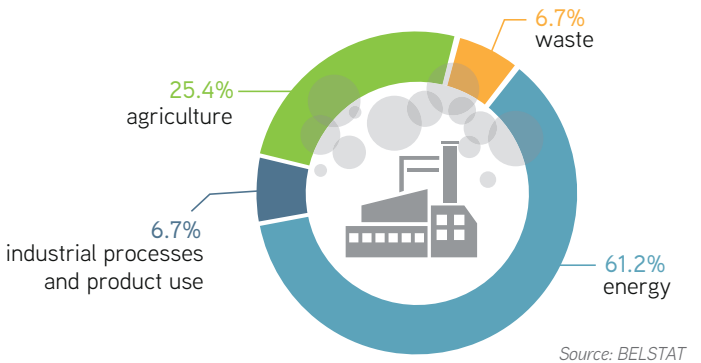
The Belarus Forestry Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change until 2050

The National Action Plan for adaptation of Belarus forestry to climate change until 2030

The Agriculture Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change until 2030

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2035 – developing

Structure of GHG emission sources in 2017 (as percentage of total)



Source: BELSTAT

Selected objectives and their evaluation

The strategic goal of the **Strategy for environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus until 2025 (2011)** is to achieve environmentally safe living conditions for the population, to contribute to solving global and regional environmental problems and to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus. This goal should be achieved, i.a., by minimizing the impact on the climate and adapting to its changes.

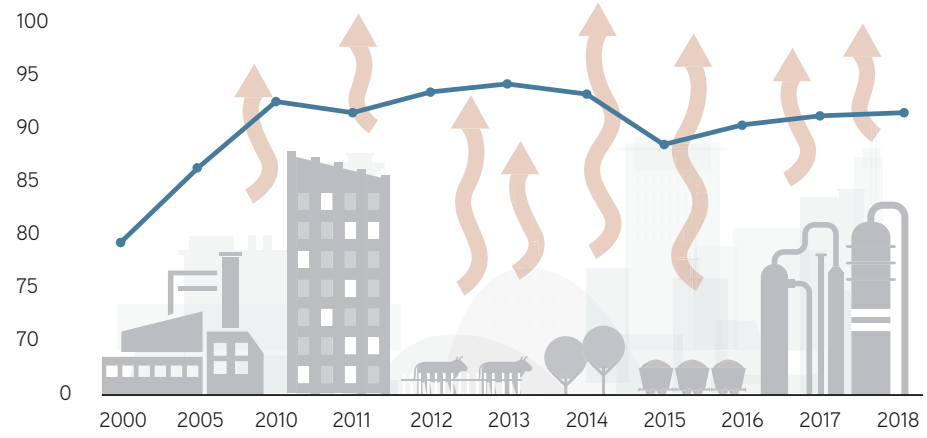
The complex of measures of sub-program 2 **«Development of the state hydrometeorological service, mitigation of climate change, improvement of air and water quality»** to the State program **«Environmental Protection and sustainable use of natural resources» for 2016 – 2020** was adopted in 2016 and provided the following:

- the reduction of GHG emissions for 2013 – 2020 will be at least 10 million tons of CO_2 equivalent,
- proposed fuel economy and environmental protection measures,
- implementation of measures to adapt various sectors of the economy to climate change,
- development of recommendations on energy and resource-saving, expanding forest ecosystems, rewetting degraded peatlands and restoring wetlands to increase the absorption of greenhouse gases by sinks,
- improvement of the legal framework in the field of climate change.

The current state and development in meeting relevant objectives

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (total, without land use, land-use change, and forestry – LULUCF), decreased by 33.87% when the years 2017 and 1990 are compared. GHG emissions increased from 79.6 million tons in 2000 to 91.1 million tons in 2017. Year-on-year emissions recorded an increase of 1.17%. The obligation of the Republic of Belarus under the Paris Agreement is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 28% by 2030 compared to 1990.

Total anthropogenic GHG emissions (Mt CO_2 equivalent)



Source: BELSTAT