

An overview of the Adaptation policy in Belgium

Jelle Dehaen – Unit Foresight & Transversal Policy - Adaptation

jelle.dehaen@health.fgov.be



Health
Food Chain Safety
Environment

Climate change in Belgium

- Main consequences today and in the future
 - Average temperature increase and more frequent heatwaves
 - Drought and water scarcity
 - Pluvial and Fluvial flooding
 - Sea level rise

Adaptation on the regional level - Flanders

- Flemish Climate Adaptation Plan 2030 with a vision towards 2050.
- Adopted in 2022 by the Flemish government with the aim to make Flanders climate resilient by 2050.
- Action based policy plan for multiple entities and departments within the Flemish government.
- Includes short and long-term visions.

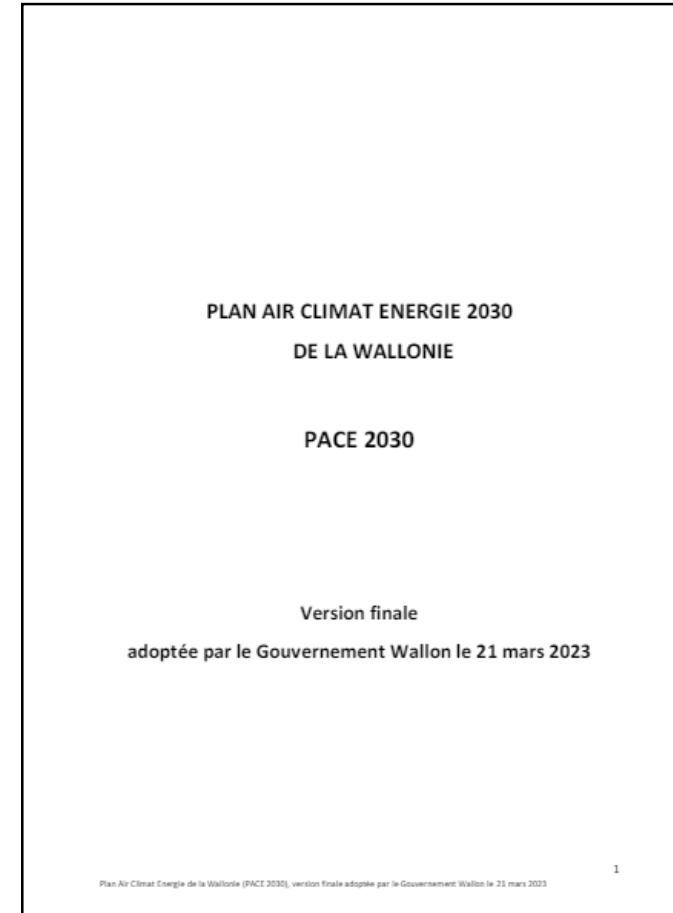


Adaptation on the regional level - Flanders

- 6 main strategies / focus points
 - Flanders builds and connects green-blue infrastructure, always and everywhere
 - Water availability and water use
 - Room for water in order to realise water security and prevention of drought
 - Recovery and climate smart management of nature and forests
 - Climate adaptive health policy
 - Cooperation and coordination
- Implementation of nature-based solutions where possible.
 - Recover and protect ecosystems
 - Climateproof
 - Buffer further climate change
 - Healthy environment
 - Increase biodiversity

Adaptation on the regional level - Wallonia

- The Walloon Air-Climate-Energy Plan 2030
 - Adaptation section with a focus on Infrastructure, Health, Agriculture & forests, Research and International cooperation



Adaptation on the regional level - Wallonia

- Walloon recovery plan
 - 5 Pillars
 - Commit to the youth and talents of Wallonia
 - Ensure environmental sustainability
 - Strengthen economic development
 - Support welfare, solidarity and social inclusion
 - Ensure innovative and participatory governance
 - Measure concerning recovery and resilience are divided across these 5 pillars.



Adaptation on the regional level - Brussels

- Air-Climate-Energy Plan 2023-2027
 - 5 pillars of action to adapt to climate change
 - PILLAR 4: Adapt buildings to the effects of climate change
 - PILLAR 5: Strengthening the resilience of the urban environment
 - PILLAR 6: Improve the resilience of critical and essential infrastructures (especially healthcare)
 - PILLAR 7: Protecting the population from extreme events and the emergence of new diseases and allergies linked to climate change
 - PILLAR 8: Evaluation of the evolution of the urban environment within the framework of adaptation



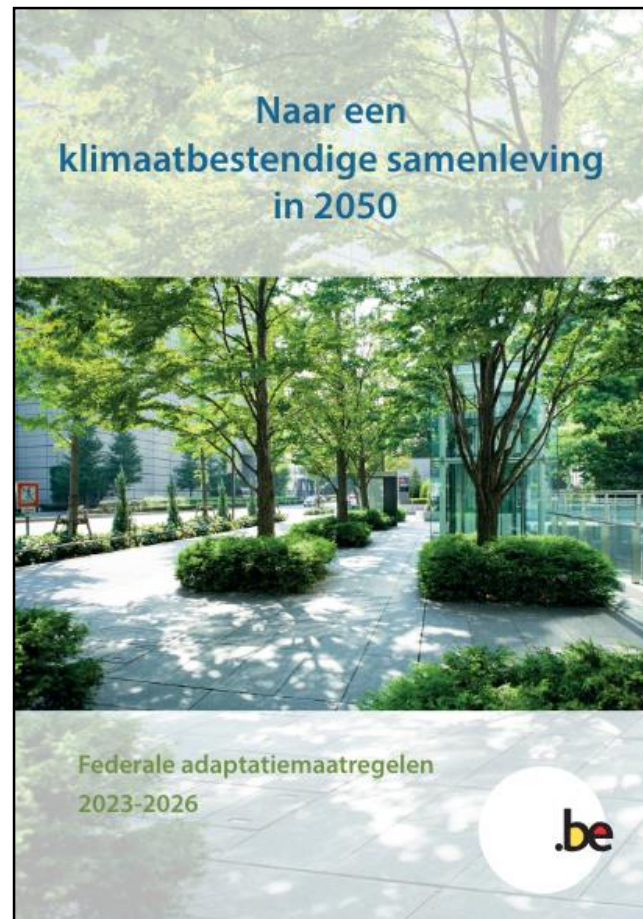
Adaptation on the regional level - Brussels

3 main focuses where possible, mainly in the urban environment :

- nature-based solutions
 - Preservation of living soil
 - Integrated stormwater management
 - new water management plan 2022-2027
- Strengthening and developing vegetation and biodiversity (2016 nature plan and new measures)
- Strengthening the resilience of the Forêt de Soignes, Integrate resilience issues into land-use planning tools and town-planning regulations

Adaptation on the Federal level

- Towards a climate change resilient society by 2050 – Federal adaptation measures 2023-2026
 - 28 measures within 8 action domains
 - Research, Biodiversity, Infrastructure, product standards, Public Health, Risk and crisis management, International cooperation, and sensibilization.



Adaptation on the Federal level - Examples

- Research: High resolution climate scenario's,..
- Biodiversity: Nature restoration in the North Sea, Biodiversiscape,..
- Infrastructure - Transport: Integration of Extreme weather scenario's in federal transport sectors (Infrabel, skeyes, NMBS..)
- Infrastructure - Federal buildings: Water management, green spaces,..
- product standards: information around circularity, affordability and EU criteria
- Public Health: Emergency planning concerning long-term incidents.
- Risk and crisis management: Impact of CC on critical infrastructure,..
- International cooperation - development cooperation: Increase contribution to multilateral and bilateral climate finance focused on adaptation.
- International cooperation - Defense: Modernization of the maritime escort capacity.
- Sensibilization: Include adaptation in the climate coaches,..

Adaptation on the National level

- Work of the National Workgroup on Adaptation under the coordination of the federal level.
- This plan provides a coherent framework for an integrated adaptation policy, through new measures that aim to promote synergy between measures at different policy levels and cooperation between federal and regional authorities.
- The focus is on knowledge exchange and coordination between the different entities as well as research and awareness raising. The measures identified are complementary to actions implemented in the different entities.

Adaptation on the National level

- Next steps:
 - Public consultation planned for summer 2024.
 - Publication planned for (early) winter 2024.

Beyond 2024

- Risk Assessment of the Walloon Region (2025)
 - Update regional climate projections.
 - Assess vulnerabilities in various areas.
 - Make concrete adaptation proposals/recommendations and prioritize them, along with ways of financing them.
- Sectoral risk analysis on a national scale by CERAC (2025)
 - Report will contain
 - Existing climate change risk assessments by sector.
 - Shortcomings in sectoral risk assessments and recommendations for completing the missing studies.
 - A summary of the key elements identified for each sector, including risks.

Adaptation under the Belgian presidency

- Opportunity to send signal for the next 5-year policy cycle =>
COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

→ Adaptation & resilience

→ Circular economy

→ Just transition

Adaptation under the Belgian presidency

Gaps and loopholes



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Which EU framework to speed up solutions? How to monitor progress? How to speed up the mainstreaming of adaptation in sectorial policies? ...



FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

How to ensure sufficient funding? How to make funding more easily accessible to local governments? How to make NBS bankable? ...



CLIMATE PROTECTION GAP

What role for the private sector? How to put into effect the "build back better" and "polluter pays" principles? Which solidarity mechanisms across the EU? ...

Key input



EUCRA & Communication on climate risks



Communication on the mid-term review of the 8th Environmental Action Programme (EAP)

Adaptation under the Belgian presidency – NEXT STEPS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **29 April 2024:** Joint reception with IUCN – focus on nature-based solutions across EU policies, Brussels
- **13 May 2024:** EEB 50th Anniversary Conference, 13 May, Brussels
- **22-23 May 2024:** 3rd Mission Adaptation Forum, Brussels. Site visits in Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels.
- **17 June 2024:** formal ENVI Council, Luxembourg
Orientation debate on climate adaptation; Council conclusions 8EAP
(provisionnal agenda)