

EU Environmental Breakthroughs: Air Quality, Climate Targets, and Water Protection

EU Environment · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. The European Climate Law has been amended to include a binding intermediate target for 2040. What is this target?

- A) A 75% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels
- B) A 90% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels**
- C) A 55% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels
- D) A 100% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels

2. What is a significant change introduced by the revised EU Ambient Air Quality Directive that aligns it more closely with WHO recommendations?

- A) A reduction in the number of monitoring stations
- B) The inclusion of specific monitoring for ultrafine particles (UFPs)**
- C) An increase in the acceptable limit values for PM2.5
- D) A focus solely on industrial emission sources

3. What is a key feature of the revised EU directive on water pollutants, which entered into force in May 2026?

- A) It removes all existing water pollutants from the lists.
- B) It introduces a new method to assess the combined impact of pollutants rather than individual substances.**
- C) It exclusively focuses on industrial wastewater discharges.
- D) It postpones the implementation of new rules until 2030 for all member states.

4. The EU's 7th National Report on Biodiversity indicates progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. How many of the 45 targets has the EU already achieved?

- A) Zero targets
- B) One target
- C) Two targets**
- D) Five targets

5. As of 2024, what proportion of Europe's total plastics production was considered circular, according to Plastics Europe's analysis?

- A) 5.8%
- B) 15.8%**
- C) 25.8%
- D) 35.8%

6. The European Commission adopted revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) on July 3, 2026. What is a primary aim of these revised standards?

- A) To increase the number of mandatory data points by 50% for larger companies.
- B) To reduce administrative burdens for EU businesses by simplifying disclosures and reducing data points.**
- C) To mandate reporting solely on financial performance, excluding environmental and social issues.
- D) To make sustainability reporting voluntary for all EU companies.

7. The EU has set new climate targets, including a 2030 goal. What is the current binding target for greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels?

- A) At least 45%
- B) At least 55%**
- C) At least 65%
- D) At least 75%

8. What is a significant aspect of the updated EU law on water pollutants that entered into force on May 11, 2026?

- A) It excludes PFAS and pesticides from monitoring.
- B) It introduces for the first time the addressing of microplastics and indicators of antimicrobial resistance.**
- C) It simplifies the 'non-deterioration' principle, allowing for increased pollution.
- D) It reduces the role of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in future revisions.

9. The European Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement on a 2040 climate target. What is this target?

- A) A 70% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.
- B) An 80% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.
- C) A 90% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.**
- D) A 100% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.

10. According to a recent Plastics Europe report, what was the annual growth rate for circular plastics production in Europe in 2024?

- A) 13.6%
- B) 7.7%
- C) 4%
- D) 1.2%**