



**European Committee
of the Regions**

**Commission for
the Environment,
Climate Change and Energy**

ENVE

Boosting the Capacity of LRAs to implement the Green Deal: a toolbox for the climate pact



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Table of contents

- Glossary 1**
- Summary 1**
- 1. Introduction 3**
 - 1.1 The Green Deal and the Climate Pact 3
 - 1.2 LRA transitions to climate neutrality 5
 - 1.3 Way forward and the role of this study 6
- 2. Overview of Relevant Initiatives Targeting Cities and Regions 9**
 - 2.1 Purpose of the initiatives’ mapping 9
 - 2.2 Methodology 9
 - 2.3 Overview of initiatives 10
- 3. The state of play of the transition to climate neutrality 13**
 - 3.1 Self-assessment of progress towards climate neutrality regarding different transitions 13
 - 3.2 Pilot testing the self-assessment 17
 - 3.2.1 *Results* 17
 - 3.3 General state of play 20
 - 3.3.1 *Climate neutrality commitments* 20
 - 3.3.2 *Green Deal commitments* 21
- 4. Looking ahead: next steps 23**
 - 4.1 Using the initiatives database to advance transition stages 23
 - 4.2 Supporting needs of LRAs 26
 - 4.2.1 *Obstacles facing LRAs* 27
 - 4.3 Initiatives and actions in the Climate Pact 28
 - 4.4 Impact of COVID-19 29
- 5. Final conclusions 31**
- List of references 33**
- Annex A: Categorisation of initiatives 35**
- Annex B: Survey 39**

List of tables

Table 1: Overview of types of initiatives	10
Table 2: Summary of categorisation of initiatives (multiple categorisations possible).....	12
Table 3: Examples of LRA plans	14
Table 4: Overview of Survey Respondents.....	18
Table 5: Examples of types of support and tools for each transition stage	23

List of figures

- Figure 1: Policy cycle with general self-assessment questions 14
- Figure 2: Self-assessment tool to determine the transition stage of an LRA..... 16
- Figure 3: General state of play in different policy sector: adopted, started (some isolated measures, targets), not started or not relevant (not local/regional competence)..... 19
- Figure 4: State of play: presence in adopted policies of targets, measures and stakeholder consultation 20
- Figure 5: Identifying initiatives in the database 25
- Figure 6: Types of support needed, by policy sector 27
- Figure 7: The three biggest obstacles in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal..... 28
- Figure 8: Filtering initiatives by those concerning “cleaner mobility” 35

Glossary

Biodiverse environment: initiatives include meeting targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and halting biodiversity loss. Relevant plans would include a Biodiversity Action Plan or Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Clean and affordable energy: initiatives include facilitating access to clean energy research, promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology. Relevant plans would include Sustainable Energy and Climate Plans.

Cleaner mobility: initiatives include putting users first and providing them with more affordable, accessible, healthier and cleaner alternatives to their current mobility habits, and reducing transport emissions. Relevant plans would include Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.

Climate adaptation: initiatives include Strengthening the efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness.

Pollution-free environment: initiatives include preventing pollution from being generated as well as measures to clean and remedy it, in order to safeguard European ecosystems and citizens.

Sustainable agriculture and food: initiatives for sustainable agriculture could include precision agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry and stricter animal welfare standards. **Farm to Fork**, as set out in the Green Deal, aims to make the entire food chain from production to consumption more sustainable and neutral in its impact on the environment. Examples of sustainable food include not only sustainable agriculture, but also circular economy aspects, such as local sustainable food consumption and affordable healthy food for all.

Sustainable and circular economy: initiatives concern the entire life cycle of products, including their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and ensuring that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

Sustainable built environment: Energy Efficiency in Buildings concerns improving the energy performance of buildings, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness. **Nature Based Solutions**, for the purpose of the sustainable built environment, would include for example sustainable public spaces and green

spaces, sustainable urbanism, and urban green infrastructure.

Transition stage: policy progress made towards achieving climate neutrality, based on the policy cycle.

Climate neutrality: a state where greenhouse gas emissions emitted by different sources are offset by ways of removing the emissions from the atmosphere.

List of Abbreviations

CoR	Committee of the Regions
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
EU	European Union
LRA	Local and Regional Authority
LTS	Long Term Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation

Summary

In December 2019 the European Commission published the European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640). This Green Deal sets out an ambitious policy framework for sustainable development and climate action and seeks to make Europe climate neutral, sustainable and pollution free. The Green Deal also paves the way for a European Climate Pact, designed to engage the public and all stakeholders on climate issues, with particular emphasis on Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs).

In response to the new Green Deal and the Climate Pact, the European Committee of Regions (CoR) has launched a study to investigate what LRAs need to achieve the objectives of the Green Deal and climate neutrality. A number of initiatives at all levels of government, covering a range of topics and offering a plethora of different tools already exist, however, there is currently no “one-stop-shop” for LRAs looking for specific support. This study starts by mapping the most relevant initiatives, categorising them in a way that is hoped to help LRAs (and other users) identify quickly and accurately the initiatives which might potentially be available to them.

The CoR also recognises that a key step to identifying support needs and subsequently progressing towards climate neutrality is the ability for LRAs to determine their current state of play, and identify the steps needed to advance to the next “Transition Stage”. The second part of this study developed a simple self-assessment tool designed to help LRAs identify their current transition stage and more importantly, get them thinking about the next steps in their progress towards climate neutrality. The results of the self-assessment have been linked to the initiatives identified in the first part of the study.

The self-assessment tool was tested via a survey primarily completed by LRAs over a two-month period. The survey not only identified the transition stages of the respondents, but took the opportunity to identify what additional support respondents require if they are to implement the Green Deal and the Climate Pact objectives, as well as ask them about the role of the Green Deal in the face of recovery from COVID-19. The responses from the survey showed that financial support remains a key factor both with regard to climate neutrality and COVID-19 recovery; however, other sources such as information and training/social learning would also be welcome.

Introduction

In December 2019 the European Commission published the European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640)¹, described by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as “Europe’s man on the moon moment”. The Green Deal sets out an ambitious policy framework for sustainable development and climate action and seeks to make Europe climate neutral, sustainable and pollution free. The Green Deal covers a range of different topics, from clean mobility to circular economy, and if successful, will “transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy”. Furthermore, the Green Deal has been designed to fit into the existing policy framework, enhancing other objectives and commitments, such as the Commission’s strategy to implement the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals².

The Green Deal also paves the way for a European Climate Pact, designed to engage the public and all stakeholders on climate issues, with particular emphasis on Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs). In response to the new Green Deal and the Climate Pact, the European Committee of Regions (CoR) has launched a study to investigate what LRAs need to achieve the objectives of the Green Deal and climate neutrality. The study has two objectives: first, to determine what support is already available for LRAs, and second to identify gaps in available support, especially with consideration to the current state of play of the LRAs. This is done through a survey aimed at LRAs and desk research.

1.1 The Green Deal and the Climate Pact

The Green Deal was launched in late 2019 in response to climate and environmental challenges. It is presented as “... a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use”.

The Green Deal identifies steps for transforming the EU economy, starting with the design of a set of “deeply transformative policies”, broken down into the following areas:

- Increasing the EU’s climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

¹ European Commission, 2019, The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final.

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

The Green Deal highlights the need for changing the way we think about each of these policy areas - especially with regard to energy; the value given to protecting and restoring natural ecosystems; the sustainable use of resources and to improving human health. The Green Deal sets out both new initiatives for each of these areas and highlights the need to effectively enforce and implement the initiatives already in place, using all policy levers: regulation and standardisation; investment and innovation; national reforms; dialogue with social partners and international cooperation; and ensuring that no one is left behind.

In addition to rethinking policies, the Green Deal also sets the framework for a European Climate Pact, aimed to engage with the public and other stakeholders on climate action. Public consultations on the Climate Pact have started, and the Commission expects to launch the Climate Pact in the 3rd quarter of 2020.

The Climate Pact will focus on three ways to engage the public with climate action:

- Encouraging “information sharing, inspiration, and foster public understanding of the threat and the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation and how to counter it. It will use multiple channels and tools to do so, including events in Member States, on the model of the Commission’s on-going citizen’s dialogues”.
- Creating “both real and virtual spaces for people to express their ideas and creativity and work together on ambitious action, both at individual and collective level. Participants would be encouraged to commit to specific climate action goals”.
- Working on “building capacity to facilitate grassroots’ initiatives on climate change and environmental protection. Information, guidance and educational modules could help exchange good practice”.

The Green Deal singles out the Covenant of Mayors and the European Urban Initiative as central forces for implementing the Climate Pact, emphasising the share of good practices as key to implementing change locally. It is therefore clear that LRAs are crucial to the implementation of the Climate Pact.

1.2 LRA transitions to climate neutrality

Climate neutrality is the final objective of the Green Deal and refers to a state where greenhouse gas emissions emitted by different sources are offset by ways of removing the emissions from the atmosphere. This follows on from the European Commission's 2018 Long Term Strategy (LTS) which aimed to outline long term decarbonisation objectives for the EU and explore the possibilities for reaching the Paris Agreement goals and climate neutrality by 2050³.

It is clear in the Green Deal that LRAs will play a large role in this. Change will not happen immediately but requires an ongoing, transformative and systemic change, which is why it is important to measure progress over time, rather than judging an LRA simply by whether they have achieved the goal or not. At the same time, when considering the complexities and interconnectedness of the policy areas, it becomes clear that gauging progress towards climate neutrality is difficult.

Different LRAs have different advantages and disadvantages for each policy area, some have already taken appropriate steps, others have not. Instead, it is simpler to look at the transition stage of an LRA with regard to each policy area – this allows all LRAs to start at the same benchmark step and measures subsequent progress. This cannot be done, however, unless the LRAs can accurately and systematically identify their current transition stage – hence the need for a set of questions which have been developed as a “self-assessment tool” that guide the LRAs as they determine their own transition stage.

In public policy studies, a policy ‘cycle’ is often used to break down each step of a policy, from the problem identification, through to action, to evaluation. As a cycle, it is assumed that on the basis of the evaluation, problems will be identified, which starts the cycle again. A typical policy cycle therefore provides a framework for considering steps in transition towards climate neutrality:

- Agenda setting (problem identification)
- Policy formulation
- Decision-making
- Implementation
- Evaluation⁴

³ European Commission, 2018, A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy, COM(2018) 773.

⁴ The set of steps listed here are often used in public policy studies, and can be found in Howlett, M., & Ramesh M., (2003), *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, Canada. Other variations of the policy cycle have been developed and used by other scholars.

From this baseline, indicators and proxies can be derived:

1. **Started:** Has a territory identified the problem (is there any indication of a policy/plan/strategy, or are there ad hoc measures in place to mitigate the problem)?
2. **Adopted:** Has the territory adopted a plan with measures and/or targets and indicators?
3. **Initial Implementation:** Has the territory started implementing these measures or is working towards the target?
4. **Advanced Implementation:** Is the territory implementing the measures or working towards the targets with some success?

It is assumed that most policy actions are ongoing, thus making “Evaluation” of less concern in this study.

This approach is not without caveats. It assumes that the components of the Green Deal and their policy implications are equally relevant or urgent for all the LRAs. While a lack of a plan/measures would indicate that action is very much needed, it does not consider whether existing plans and measures are in fact relevant. Additionally, this approach does not consider the quality of the plan, the targets or the measures. A plan may set out very weak or vague measures and targets but could still be considered to be doing well. It is beyond the scope of this study, however, to investigate the contents of each plan, programme, strategy, or policy.

1.3 Way forward and the role of this study

The Green Deal will require major changes, going beyond what is usually considered climate action and each village, town or city will have to undergo significant transitions. Every region will have to act accordingly and ensure effective multilevel governance mechanisms in cooperation with national governments. However, LRAs may find themselves responsible for managing significant and complex changes, which may not always be supported by the right level of resources, financially or otherwise⁵. Furthermore, the wide diversity between different LRAs means there is a risk that some will get left behind as others forge ahead.

The CoR can support its Members and their constituencies in this transition by creating a bridge between Brussels and all EU territories with a view to bringing the Green Deal closer. Additionally, the CoR can support all EU LRAs by making

⁵ See for example Milieu, 2017, Effective multi-level environmental governance for a better implementation of EU environment legislation.

tailored support tools and information available. Additionally, there are tools already in place at EU level to support LRAs and other actors, offering support regardless of where an LRA is in their transition. However, the availability of tools and information does not always mean they are used effectively, especially as currently there is a great abundance of tools, resources, webinars for capacity building and this creates confusion among LRAs⁶. There is thus a need to sort and categorise the support systems already in place, and establish an overview which can be used by LRAs searching for the most appropriate tool.

This study is based on two sources: the responses of a survey asking LRAs about the support they need to achieve Green Deal objectives and their current state of play; and a mapping of current initiatives, which was done through online desk research. The categorisation of the initiatives is based on the needs of an LRA (topic, transition stage, type of tool or support), which will guide LRAs, along with the self-assessment tool, to identify potential ways to progress their transition. Additionally, the ongoing CoR opinion on the subject will define the political position of the CoR on the Climate Pact, and this study will aim to reinforce the opinion and prepare the ground for dedicated CoR activities in the field.

The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the relevant initiatives targeting cities and regions
- Section 3 sets out a self-assessment tool for determining the transition stage, and reviews the general state of play with regards to climate neutrality and other Green Deal transitions across LRAs, based on survey responses
- Section 4 looks forward, discussing the ways which LRAs can advance to the next transition stage
- Section 5 provides conclusions.

⁶ Committee of the Regions Opinion ENVE-VI/015, 2017, Towards a new EU climate change adaptation strategy: taking an integrated approach.

Overview of Relevant Initiatives Targeting Cities and Regions

There are a number of initiatives relevant to the Green Deal targeting cities and regions at EU or international level, but information about them remains scattered across websites and other sources. As a first step, around 160 initiatives considered the most relevant were identified, compiled, and categorised according to the type of initiative, the tools used, the sectors covered, and the type of funding. This section provides an overview of these initiatives and categorises them. The database of the initiatives is presented in an Excel sheet.

1.4 Purpose of the initiatives' mapping

LRAs represent an extremely diverse picture; they are at different stages of transition to climate neutrality and face different needs and challenges to progress further. There are no one-size fits all approaches - it is instead up to the LRAs to select and investigate initiatives most suited to their needs.

The mapping of the initiatives presented here aims to guide LRAs through the process of identifying those initiatives that can best support them in meeting the objectives of the Green Deal, across different sectoral 'transitions'. Via an Excel sheet they can search tools and the type of initiatives available. Users can filter the list across several categories to suit their needs and choose which initiatives they want to investigate further (e.g. by visiting their website).

1.5 Methodology

A list of potential initiatives at EU level was prepared by CoR, and each initiative was investigated as part of this study. The initiatives were categorised based on information deemed most useful to LRAs. The categorisation of initiatives is explained further in Annex A.

This information is not expected to be used by LRAs to confirm potential initiatives, but is more to provide them with some context of the initiative – for example, if an LRA wanted to apply for an initiative, they would need to know if they apply on an annual basis, or whether there is a call for projects, or whether it is continuously available. However, it is assumed that LRAs will use the database mainly to learn about the existence of initiatives that could potentially meet their needs – relevant initiatives would still need to be researched before an LRA commits.

1.6 Overview of initiatives

The database of initiatives sets out information for a range of initiatives – initiatives include those designed to set up networks, provide quantitative data on a range of topics, provide research, guidelines, toolkits and good practice examples, funding opportunities, and project implementation.

Most of the initiatives in the list can be considered EU initiatives, either because they are coordinated or implemented by an EU institution or other body or they are EU projects which are implemented by project teams. There are also a number of networks which have EU representation, support, or funding, even if they are not purely EU-driven initiatives. Table 1 shows the basic characteristics of the initiatives (as far as the information can be aggregated), in particular the coordination, scope, timescale, and funding of the initiatives.

Table 1: Overview of types of initiatives

Characteristic	Description of initiative	Number of initiatives
Coordination	EU	65
	Partly EU	64
	Non-EU	35
Scope	EU/Europe	140
	Global	20
	Regional/Local	3
	Unclear	1
Timescale	Annual	10
	Continuous	91
	Project - ongoing	10
	Project - completed	42
	Multi-annual	9
	Other	2
Funding of initiatives	EU	56
	EU (+ others)	15
	EU funding	45
	EU funding (+ other)	10
	Other	24
	Not clear	15

With regard to the categorisation, the initiatives in the database cover all sectors identified as relevant for climate neutrality, see Table 2 below. Clean and affordable energy was the most popular sector (60 initiatives), followed by climate adaptation and climate change (50 initiatives), although more than 70 initiatives can be considered “horizontal” initiatives, which can be used to cover all topics related to climate neutrality⁷.

The initiatives were also categorised according to the transition stage they concern. While it was true that many initiatives can be relevant for LRAs at all transition stages, a number of initiatives were identified as being especially relevant for particular transition stages. This includes 113 initiatives identified as relevant for “implementation” and 84 for “policy design” (out of the total 164).

The results on the type of support also show that around 120 of the initiatives concern the assembling of data and knowledge, and social learning, while a slightly smaller number concern implementation, outreach and enforcement. The results on the number of tools also support this: more than half of the initiatives use networks and their tools, along with training (e.g through workshops, webinars etc.) and the sharing of good examples. A number of the initiatives were based on projects (usually EU-funded) which have ended, but still have their deliverables available. These deliverables were usually research, guidance, or toolkits, but in some instances included quantitative databases or calculation tools, or the establishment of a network.

⁷ This analysis does not differentiate the initiatives’ main and secondary focus – in the Excel database this is denoted by placing the “x” in brackets.

Table 2: Summary of categorisation of initiatives (multiple categorisations possible)

Sector	Clean and affordable energy	Sustainable and circular economy	Cleaner mobility	Biodiverse environment	Pollution-free environment	Sustainable agriculture (inc. Farm to Fork)	Energy efficiency in buildings and built environment	Climate change adaptation	Horizontal	Other
		60	16	38	14	29	5	40	50	73

Policy cycle	Started (policy design)	Implementation	Advanced Implementation	Evaluation	Horizontal
		84	113	47	31

Type of support	Assembling data and knowledge	Assessment and evaluation	Public / stakeholder participation	Selection and design of policy instruments	Implementation, outreach and enforcement	Training and capacity building	Social learning
		119	60	65	76	108	94

Tools	Funding	Network	Platform	Training	Expert discussion	Advice and planning support	Mentoring	Project implementation	Good examples	List of projects	Calculation tools	Quantitative database	Research	Guidelines/standards	Toolkit	Declarations	Communication support	Advocacy and lobbying	Awards	Partnership/s	Other
		33	85	60	72	48	51	29	52	79	44	23	36	46	24	43	21	41	29	22	26

The state of play of the transition to climate neutrality

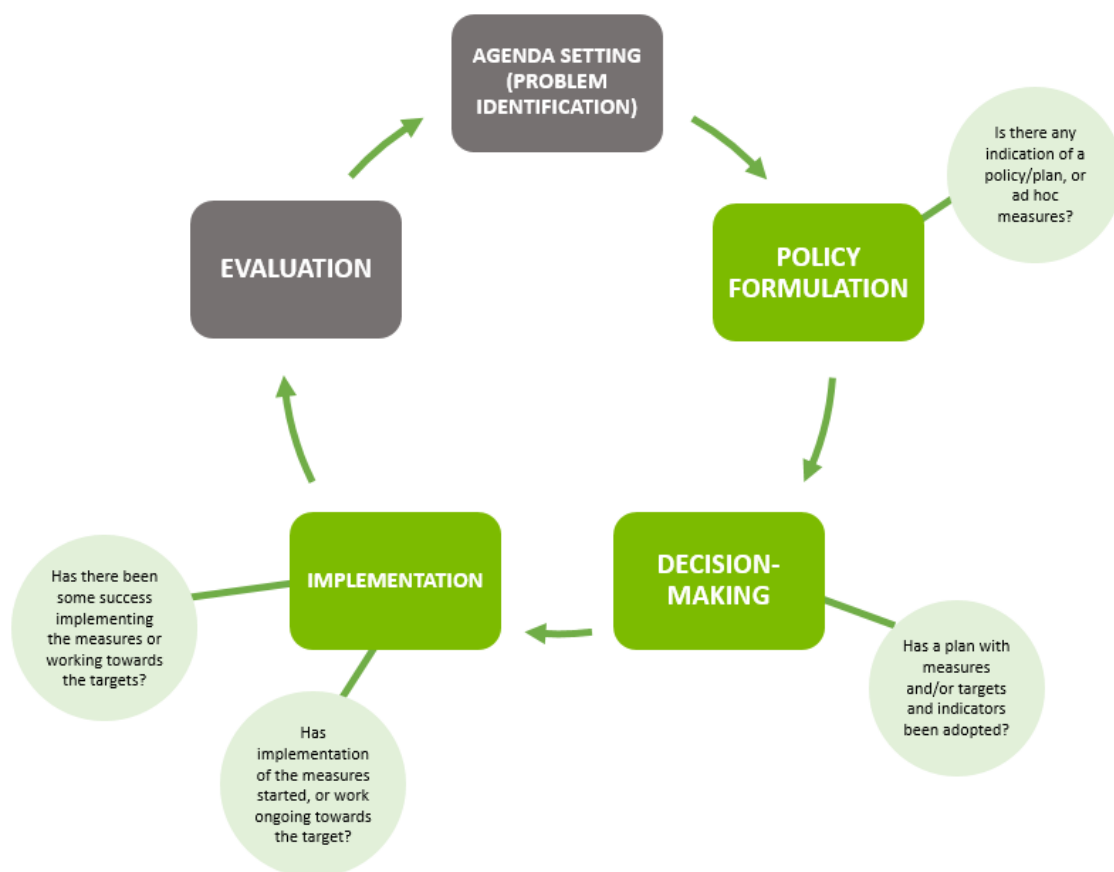
Mapping progress with transition stages towards climate neutrality not only helps an LRA to set out a plan as they transition closer to their goal, but it also helps an LRA identify any gaps in their approach to climate neutrality planning. This is especially important as climate neutrality is comprised of a number of complex and interconnected policy areas, and the needs and contexts of different LRAs may differ vastly.

One way to help LRAs map their progress is through a self-assessment. While such an assessment can leave room for error (LRAs under- or overestimating their abilities), it is a relatively quick way to show a rough estimate of an LRA's transition stage. It has the added advantage that LRAs are forced to think critically about their position, which in turn might make the LRA consider what is lacking in their current state of play.

1.7 Self-assessment of progress towards climate neutrality regarding different transitions

Determining the level of transition can be based on the Policy Cycle. As set out in Section 1.2, there is a set of questions which LRAs can ask themselves for each policy area (mobility, energy, circular economy etc.). Figure 1 shows how the questions fit into the policy cycle (noting that the self-assessment does not cover evaluation or the identification of the problem).

Figure 1: Policy cycle with general self-assessment questions



The way LRAs respond to the questions in the figure will depend on a number of variables, and the self-assessment aspect means what one LRA considers an appropriate plan may not be considered so by another. At the same time, there is a degree of harmonisation due to EU-level efforts. There are certain EU-level mechanisms in place which strongly encourage (and in some cases mandate) the adoption of certain plans at LRA level. The table below shows the types of plans that could be adopted. While not all types of plans are relevant to all LRAs, these mechanisms set out a framework for what kind of plans, targets, and indicators should be set for each policy area. It is worth noting that a plan or policy may focus on maintaining a level of compliance, if improvements are not required.

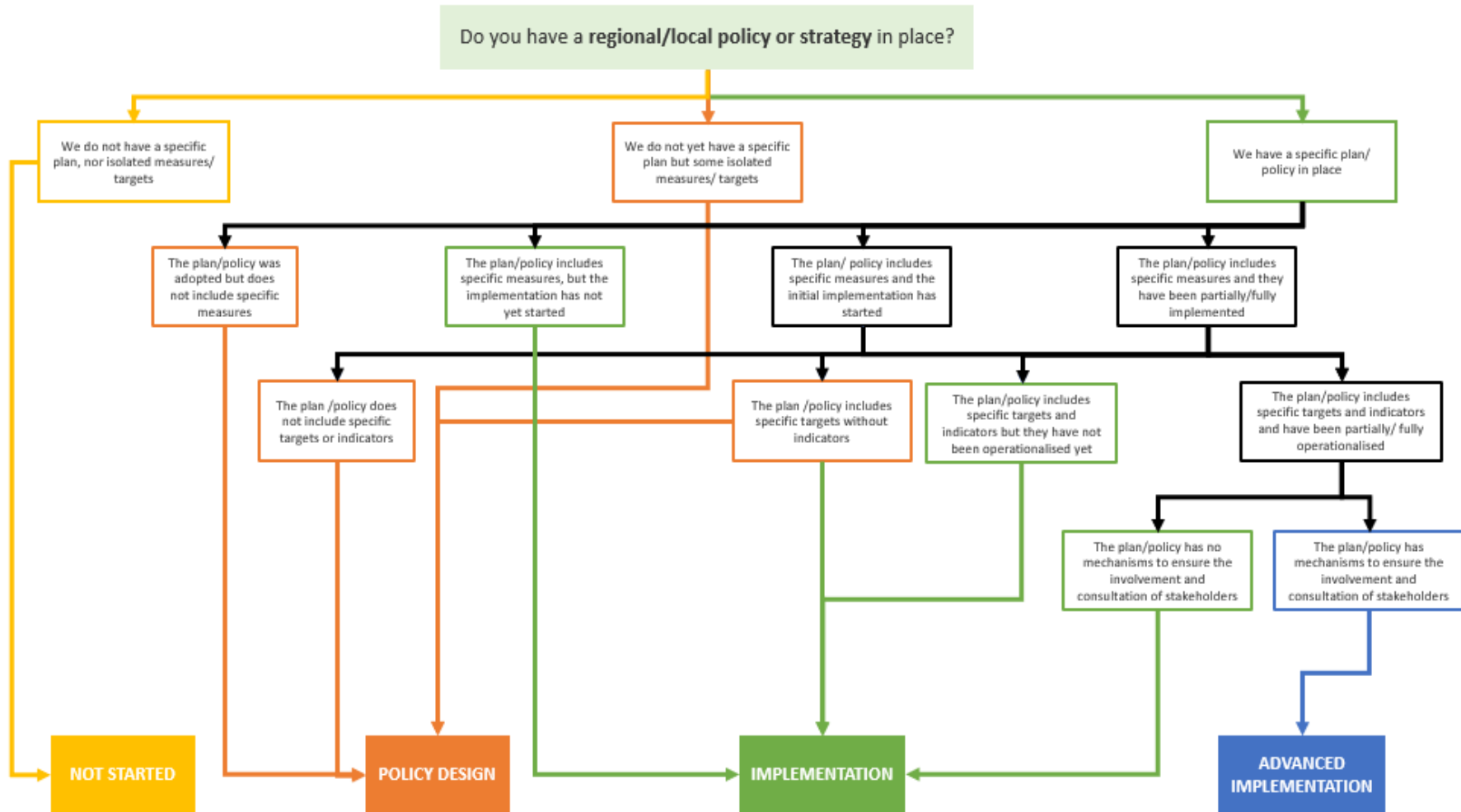
Table 3: Examples of LRA plans

Policy Area	Examples of plans at LRA level
Clean and affordable energy	Sustainable Energy and Climate Plan
Sustainable and circular economy	Municipal/regional waste plans
Cleaner mobility	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
Biodiverse environment	Biodiversity Action Plan or Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Pollution-free environment	River Basin Management Plans, Air Quality Plans, municipal waste plans
Sustainable agriculture and food	Rural Development Plans
Sustainable built environment.	Energy efficiency action plan
Climate adaptation	Regional, sub-regional and local adaptation strategies

Based on the questions introduced in Figure 1, the LRAs can undertake the self-assessment. The self-assessment is set out in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Self-assessment tool to determine the transition stage of an LRA



1.8 Pilot testing the self-assessment

A survey of LRAs was used to pilot the self-assessment tool and to gain an understanding of the support respondents require to advance transition. The survey was launched on the EU Survey platform on 25 April 2020 and was promoted by the by CoR, other platforms such as the Covenant of Mayors, and, to a lesser extent, publicly. The survey will remain open for further use, but only responses submitted before 25 June 2020 will be reflected in this report.

The survey was developed in cooperation with the CoR and was designed to not only determine the state of play of transition stages, but also to gather information on the needs of the LRAs. The questions are split into three sections: LRA reactions to COVID-19, the support they need to achieve the Green Deal/Climate Pact objectives, and their current state of play. Questions are mostly closed questions, although respondents can provide further information for some questions.

The following section sets out the results of the state of play section. The results from the other two parts of the questionnaire are useful when looking forward to the next steps, and so will be discussed in section 4 of this report.

1.8.1 Results

As of 25 June 2020, the survey had generated 25 replies from 15 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Sweden) and one non-EU country, Albania. Twenty-one respondents were either local or regional authorities or an organisation representing LRAs. The distribution of the LRAs based on their population is set out in Table 4. The other four respondents represent two NGOs (including one stakeholder representation group), a volunteer organisation, and a state-owned consulting company.

Table 4: Overview of Survey Respondents

Population of city/region	No. of Respondents
Over 1,000,000	10
Between 500,001 and 1,000,000	3
Between 100,001 and 500,000	1
Fewer than 50,000	3
Not applicable ⁸	4
Total	21

Nine Committee of the Regions' members completed the survey, and ten signatories to the Covenant of Mayors (both members and non-members of the Committee of the Regions). Three respondents replied on behalf of CoR members, and two replied on behalf of Covenant of Mayors' members.

The survey walked the respondents through the self-assessment tool detailed in section 3.1 above. Respondents were asked a series of questions, which displayed additional questions where relevant (see Annex B for the full survey).

Respondents were asked about their transition progress towards climate neutrality and the objectives of the Green Deal with regard to the following sectors:

- Clean and affordable energy
- Sustainable and circular economy
- Cleaner mobility
- Biodiverse and pollution-free territory
- Sustainable agriculture and food
- Sustainable built environment.

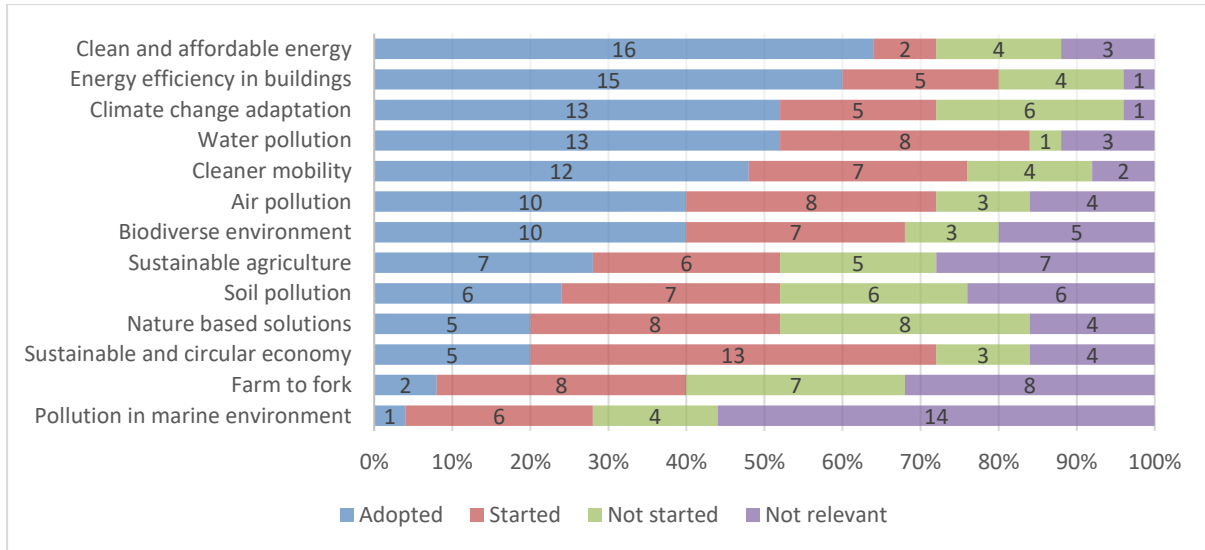
Despite the small number of respondents, some trends have emerged. Results show that most respondents have a local/regional policy already in place addressing energy issues (clean energy and energy efficiency in buildings). The results are set out in Figure 3 below. Fewer respondents have policies adopted concerning climate change adaptation, water and air pollution and biodiversity. There are far fewer initiatives concerning soil pollution, nature-based solutions, circular economy, Farm to Fork and marine environment.

Results show, however, that many more respondents have isolated measures in

⁸ Four respondents represent (or consist of) a group of LRAs, so this question was not asked.

place for at least some of these policy fields. It should also be noted that for some policy fields, especially Farm to Fork/agriculture and soil pollution are beyond the competency of the LRA. Similarly, the low number of measures in place for marine pollution is assumed to be due to the geographic location of respondents.

Figure 3: General state of play in different policy sector: adopted, started (some isolated measures, targets), not started or not relevant (not local/regional competence)

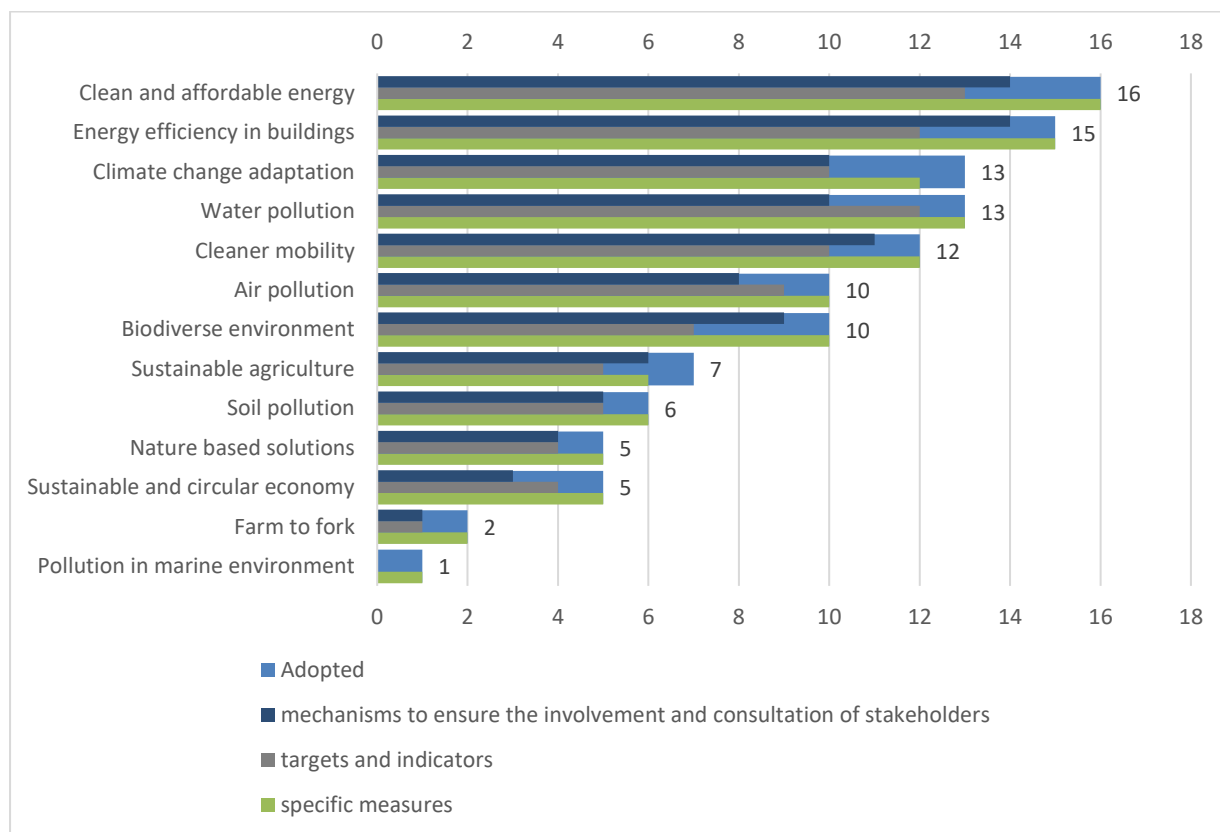


Where LRAs have plans in place, follow-up questions were asked to determine the robustness of the policy: does the policy/plan have specific measures, targets, and indicators in place, and has implementation started on these? Additionally, respondents were also asked about stakeholder participation.

As

Figure 4 shows, while almost all policies have specific measures, a smaller number have both specific indicators/targets and mechanisms for stakeholder participation during the design and implementation of the policies.

Figure 4: State of play: presence in adopted policies of targets, measures, and stakeholder consultation



1.9 General state of play

The self-assessment breaks down climate neutrality into the different components (clean and affordable energy, sustainable and circular economy etc.); however, LRAs can also approach climate neutrality and the Green Deal without making these distinctions. In addition to the pilot test of the self-assessment designed to identify the specific transition stage, survey respondents were also asked some general questions on their commitment to climate neutrality and the Green Deal as a whole. These results are intended to help CoR understand where their members (and other LRAs) are at, so they can tailor their response in their forthcoming opinion.

1.9.1 Climate neutrality commitments

While the number of respondents was not statistically significant some conclusions were identified. Half of the LRAs have either a commitment in place to work towards climate neutrality (six respondents) or are in the process of preparing one (five respondents). A smaller number stated that they will prepare such a commitment in the future (four respondents). On the other hand, there are

also those who said that they are not ready to prepare such a commitment for financial reasons (six respondents), and one who said they are not ready to prepare such a commitment because of another reason.

Almost thirty percent of the respondents stated that they are ready to make a short- and medium-term commitment (2030) with concrete targets deriving from the Nationally or Locally Determined Contributions, while another 20% state they are ready to commit to a long-term target of climate neutrality (by 2050). When asked about the sectors in which LRAs would be ready to take specific climate neutrality commitments (with multiple options available), the most frequently identified sectors were sustainable mobility and energy efficiency in buildings (16 respondents each), sustainable territorial urban planning (15 respondents), adaptation to climate change (14 respondents). Biodiversity and sustainable agriculture were the least mentioned (eight mentions each).

When asked about a commitment to climate neutrality in the day-to-day operations of the administration, only four LRAs stated that they already have such commitment, while more are in the process of preparing one or aim to prepare one in the future (five respondents for each response).

1.9.2 *Green Deal commitments*

Respondents were asked about commitments they are ready to make regarding the Green Deal as part of the European Climate Pact. The answers to this question were quite scattered - although some respondents stated that they are ready for a new Climate Pact (20%), more stated that they are ready for such a commitment only if they receive support, both financial and otherwise (28%). Two respondents said they do not see the added value of a new pledge, while another two said they are already Covenant of Mayors' signatories, which should be sufficient.

An important part of the Green Deal is engaging stakeholders to push for change in different policy fields. Communication is an essential part of this process. Almost a quarter of the respondents reported that there is no systematic structure in place to communicate with businesses and stakeholders regarding sustainable policies and activities related to the Green Deal. On the other hand, only 12% reported that there is no structure for communication with the public. The remaining respondents reported varying levels of engagement with the public and business, ranging from more passive forms such as disseminating information from websites to more active forms such as engaging with stakeholders through feedback.

Looking ahead: next steps

Using the state of play as a starting point, this section considers ways LRAs can advance their progress with the stages of transition. One available tool is the database of initiatives, set out in section 2 of this report; however, the initiatives’ database is unlikely to be sufficient to ensure all LRAs transition to climate neutrality. LRAs may also need other forms of support, and the current uncertainty caused by COVID-19 is also a factor.

1.10 Using the initiatives database to advance transition stages

The purpose of identifying transition stages using the self-assessment is not to give an overall “score” for each LRA on their progress, nor can it be taken as a definitive measure of success – each LRA has its own context and unique circumstances.

Following the results of the self-assessment, LRAs can use the initiatives’ database to search and identify initiatives that may help them transition to the next stage. The table below shows, for example, relevant types of support and relevant tools for each transition stage.

Table 5: Examples of types of support and tools for each transition stage

Transition stages	Most relevant types of support	Most relevant tools
Not started (still identifying the problem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and capacity building • Assembling data and knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculation tools (e.g. Emissions) • List of past/present projects • Pool of experts/discussion fora/working groups • Quantitative database • Social learning (conferences, webinars etc.)

Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and capacity building • Social learning • Selection and design of policy instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice/planning support • Advocacy/lobbying • Calculation tools (e.g. Emissions) • List of past/present projects • Mentoring • Pool of experts/discussion fora/working groups • Quantitative database • Social learning (conferences, webinars etc.)
Adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation, outreach and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration/pact/commitment for all members
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation, outreach and enforcement • Training and capacity building • Social learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring • Specific project implementation
Advanced Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards • Showcasing good examples

At the same time, it must be stressed that almost all tools and types of support can be relevant at all transition stages; however, certain transition stages require more emphasis on certain types and tools. For this reason, LRAs are encouraged to explore the initiatives’ database, both widening their search (for example to include “horizontal” options) and thinking creatively to explore initiatives not categorised as relevant in the database.

The figure below shows the steps LRAs can take to filter the initiatives’ database to show an initial list of potential initiatives.

Figure 5: Identifying initiatives in the database



1.11 Supporting needs of LRAs

As a starting point to identify the needs of LRAs, the survey also asked respondents about the kind of support they would like to see as they implement the Green Deal. It must be acknowledged that the initiatives' database is unlikely to be the only tool an LRA needs in order to move to the next transition stage. It is generally assumed that LRAs know what they need, whether it be financial support, further information, or other resources.

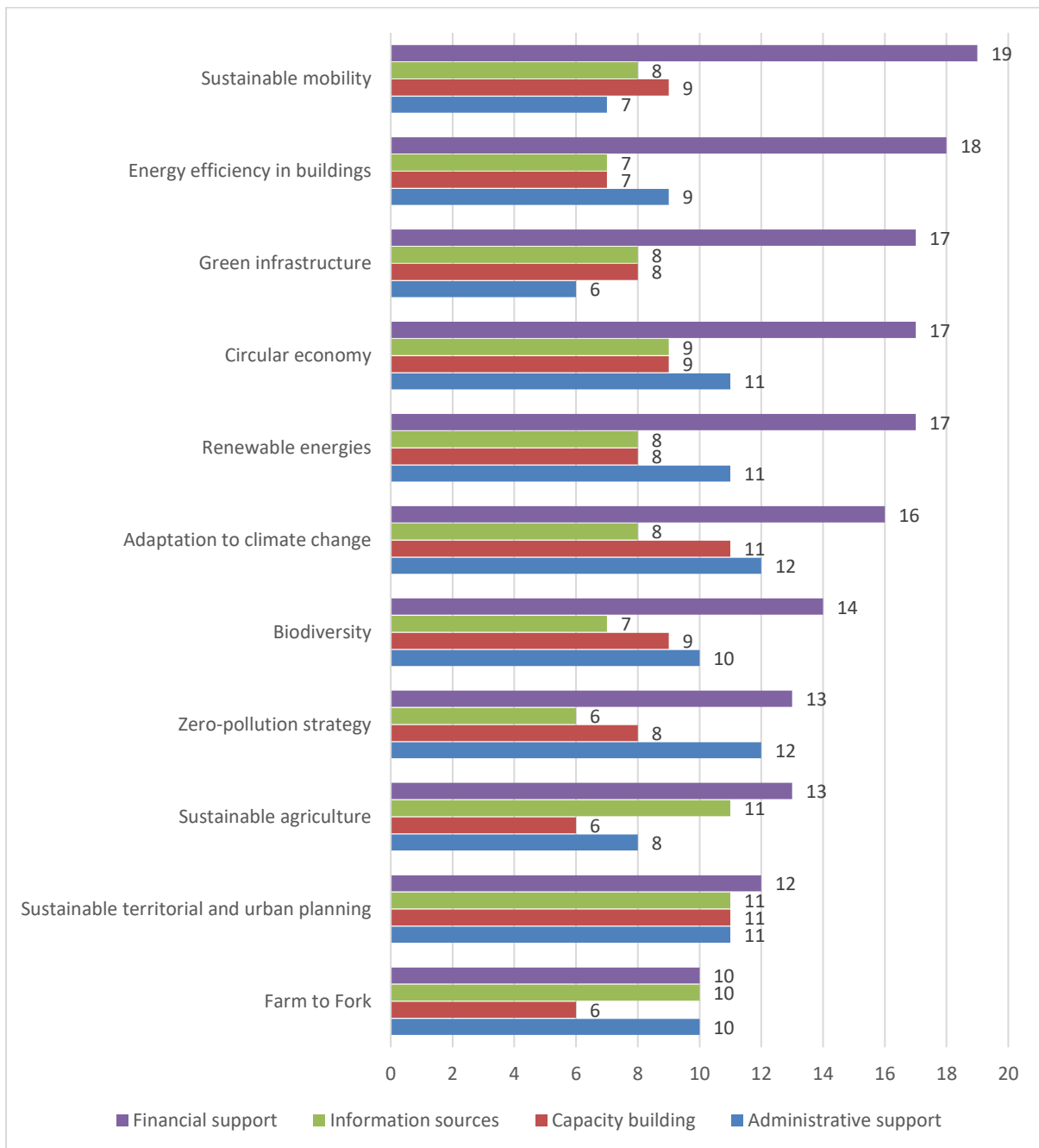
Despite the small number of respondents, some trends were evident. When asked what kind of communication support an LRA needs, 19 respondents identified financial support as one area (multiple answers were possible). Similarly, 17 respondents also replied that they need support explaining the Green Deal to citizens/stakeholders and finding ways of involving them in the process. Support for building capacity of the technical staff of the administration (13 mentions) and support for understanding what the Green Deal is and its concrete implications (11 mentions) were selected less often by respondents.

When asked about the kind of platform needed to support the achievements of the Green Deal objectives, 16 respondents replied that a platform with examples of good practices to be replicated is needed, while 14 identified a need for platforms with clear information for capacity building. Twelve respondents identified a need for platforms for matchmaking and pairing with business organisations to implement concrete projects and 11 need platforms which would group and aggregate diverse projects to get direct funding for concrete actions.

When asked for which sector the respondent would first need financial or non-financial support to support the achievements of the Green Deal objectives, it was clear that across all sectors, financial support is the most urgent type of support needed. This was especially true for sustainable mobility, energy efficiency in buildings, green infrastructure, renewable energies, circular economy, and adaptation to climate change. In these sectors, the need for financial support seems to be needed more urgently than support for capacity building, administrative support, and information resources. On the other hand, in newer sectors, like Farm to Fork and sustainable urban planning, all types of support seem to be needed at a similar level. One interesting point to note is that different sectors seem to have different support needs – as

Figure 6 shows, respondents did not answer uniformly across all sectors. It might be assumed that this is due to different infrastructure investment requirements; however, there was no specific evidence to support this theory.

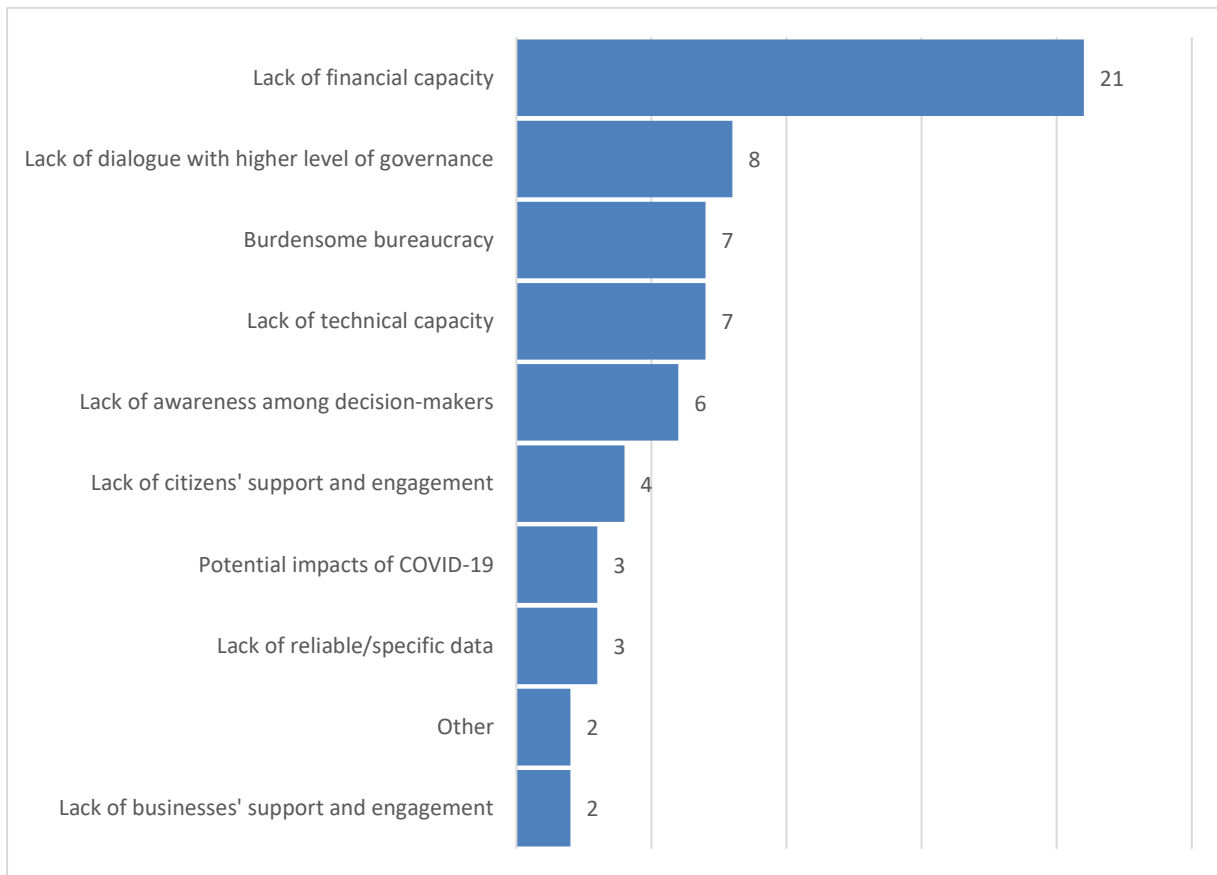
Figure 6: Types of support needed, by policy sector



1.11.1 *Obstacles facing LRAs*

The respondents were asked about the biggest obstacles they are facing in achieving the objective of the Green Deal across policy domains, as shown in Figure 7 below. Respondents identified a lack of financial capacity, by a large margin. Other obstacles identified included burdensome bureaucracy and a lack of dialogue with higher levels of governance.

Figure 7: The three biggest obstacles in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal



1.12 Initiatives and actions in the Climate Pact

The Climate Pact is an important pillar of the Green Deal and the survey asked the respondents to reflect on the most useful and innovative actions it should incorporate. Diverse replies focused on strengthening policy to enhance governance and support to LRAs, special attention to actions related to awareness raising and education among citizens, clear regulation, and making sure there is long-term financial support for targeted action. One example of the latter is operational programmes dedicated to cities, accompanied with financial support. The importance of providing coherent guidance to the LRAs to access funding and other support, for instance an overview of the available types of support, was also mentioned, as was the idea of LRA-level Climate Pacts (with EU support). Several respondents also stressed the importance of re-skilling the labour force in the regions which are highly dependable on fossil-fuel industries to ensure a just transition, and mechanisms in place to help newer EU Member States in particular. Participants also mentioned specific policy fields to focus on, including circular economy, biodiversity, resource efficiency, clean mobility and buildings and energy poverty.

1.13 Impact of COVID-19

At present, managing the immediate and longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on daily life, public health and the economy are likely the primary concern of all LRAs. These effects will be felt for a long time to come. At the same time, the Green Deal is touted as a growth strategy to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. While the Green Deal has potential to guide the recovery, there is, however, a risk that the Green Deal and other environmental initiatives may be de-prioritised as authorities focus on more “immediate” issues. Any opinion from the CoR will need to take these factors into consideration, so gathering information on this is also crucial, even if the full effects may not yet be clear.

When asked about the impacts of COVID-19, half of the respondents (12) replied that COVID-19 has a moderate impact on their day-to-day functioning and services, while a further seven replied that it had had a severe impact.

The majority believe that the lessons learned from the pandemic might or will be applicable for future climate crises. Only a small number replied that it is too early to tell, or that this pandemic is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general (three respondents). Furthermore, half of the respondents also stated that Green Deal should serve as a main reference plan for recovery from COVID-19 and the subsequent economic crisis, while the other half (minus one respondent who did not answer) replied that this depends on how the financial support will be shaped.

Respondents were asked what kind of action they would like to see the EU put in place to promote sustainable recovery from COVID-19. Two key trends were identified. The first concerns direct financial support: providing financial support through better engagement with LRAs while integrating the principles of the Green Deal across all relevant policy fields. Examples of concrete actions include renovating EU building stock, supporting SMEs and LRAs in carrying out actions on energy and climate, supporting climate adaptation.

The second trend concerns the role of the EU in shaping strategic policy frameworks, including developing financial instruments so as to encourage LRAs (and others) to take steps to change their behaviour. Specific actions include awareness raising, carbon taxing, creating structures which would allow access to know-how by the LRAs, coherent and transparent funding and steering the Member States towards a more sustainable Europe while creating new value chains, reinforcing solidarity and unity between the members. Other important actions include taking strategic action to create a more resilient economy, reducing dependence on foreign production while strengthening Europe’s

leadership in innovation and the digital economy.

When it comes to the priorities of the LRAs in the post-COVID period regarding climate neutrality and sustainable development, answers mainly refer to taking steps so that recovery is in line with the objectives of the Green Deal, creating synergies between the two activities. Examples include supporting sustainable businesses, investment in carbon-neutral projects (and avoiding investments in harmful activities), promoting circular economy and short supply chains and green mobility. Some respondents mentioned the willingness to build on the changes brought by the pandemic, for example, behavioural changes among the citizens, or the fact that steps have been taken to make teleworking more accessible (and potentially easier in the future).

Final conclusions

The research undertaken for this study shows that there are a number of initiatives already in place to help LRAs and other users commit to climate neutrality and implement the objectives of the Green Deal. Some of the most relevant include initiatives focused on data and information (e.g. qualitative databases or toolkits), networking and capacity building (e.g. social learning and training), and research projects. The database of initiatives also includes a number of examples of projects which have received funding (e.g. through Horizon 2020, but also other grants), which could provide inspiration to other LRAs. It is hoped that this database, along with the self-assessment tool developed for the study, encourages LRAs to critically think about what support is already in place and how it can be used to reach their goals.

The variety of initiatives in place makes it clear that LRAs do not need to re-invent the wheel when facing a problem. With many LRAs working towards the same objectives, potentially facing the same problems, the role of social learning should not be underestimated. This also highlights the need for robust and active networks, where ideas and experiences can be exchanged.

There is no easy way to transition towards climate neutrality or achieve the objectives of the Green Deal. LRAs need to put in the effort (with sufficient support) to actively move towards their goals. The Climate Pact should play a large role when it comes to strengthening networks and information sharing, and could also be an opportunity to develop the database of initiatives further, ensuring LRAs have an overview of all existing opportunities, of their characteristics and main targets.

The study also found that the Green Deal has potential to not only to be implemented in spite of COVID-19, but may also play a role in recovery in the wake of the pandemic. It is especially important that the transition towards climate neutrality continues, even with the economic crisis, and that recovery efforts are guided by the principles behind the Green Deal. When asked about the support needed to achieve the Green Deal objectives and transition towards climate neutrality, respondents identified funding as the key support needed. However, survey responses show there is also a strong need for social learning, the sharing of good examples, and knowledge-sharing.

List of references

Committee of the Regions Opinion ENVE-VI/015, 2017, Towards a new EU climate change adaptation strategy: taking an integrated approach

Committee of the Regions Draft Opinion ENVE-VII/007, 2020, Draft opinion of the Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) – The European Climate Pact

European Commission, 2018, A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy, COM(2018) 773.

European Commission, 2019, The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final

Howlett, M., & Ramesh M., 2003, Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, Canada.

IPBES, n.d, Policy tools and methodologies, <https://ipbes.net/policy-tools-methodologies>

Milieu, 2017, Effective multi-level environmental governance for a better implementation of EU environment legislation

UN GA (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Division for Sustainable Development Goals: New York, NY, USA.*

Annex A: Categorisation of initiatives

The initiatives in the database are categories in order to make it easier for users to search for potentially relevant initiatives. These categorisations are made based on desk research, and where relevant initiatives have been assigned multiple categorisations. Figure 8 below shows how the excel can be used to “filter” initiatives identified as relevant for “Cleaner mobility”.

Figure 8: Filtering initiatives by those concerning “cleaner mobility”

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Sector								
	Clean and affordable energy	Sustainable and circular economy	Cleaner mobility	Biodiverse environment	Pollution-free environment	Sustainable agriculture (inc. Farm to Fork)	Energy efficiency in buildings (inc. nature based solutions/urban greening)	Climate change adaptation	Horizontal
2	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
4		x	x						x
10			x						
22			x						
23	x		x						
30	x		x				x		
31			x						
32			x		x				x
37			x						
44	x		x		x		x	x	
47			x	x	x		x	x	x

The following categorisations were identified as the most relevant for LRAs filtering based on their specific needs. It is not expected that LRAs will need to filter through each category – the more filtered the categories the more specific the resulting initiatives will be, however, the more general the search, the more likely the LRA finds an alternative they had not considered.

Sector:

Based on the policy areas identified in the Green Deal, the following sectors were identified:

- Clean and affordable energy
- Sustainable and circular economy
- Cleaner mobility
- Biodiverse environment

- Pollution-free environment
- Sustainable agriculture and food
- Sustainable built environment.
- Climate adaptation

A number of initiatives were not sector-specific or covered a number of different sectors, and a specific “horizontal” field was added to cover these cases. Furthermore, a broad definition was taken, keeping in mind the perspective of the LRAs: an LRA preparing a mobility plan may have use of an initiative providing air quality data, even if the initiative itself concerns “pollution-free environment”.

Transition stage:

The transition stage was identified for each initiative. The key transition stages were identified as:

- Started (problem identification)
- Implementation
- Advanced implementation
- Evaluation

It is worth noting that these transition stages do not cover all transition stages. It is assumed that no initiatives would actively be used by LRAs who have not yet started, nor would there be any initiatives focused solely on the adoption of policies. On the other hand, “evaluation” has been included as it is clear some initiatives concern the evaluation of finished and ongoing projects (e.g. through the promotion of good practices or the award of an accolade).

A large majority of initiatives were however categorised as “all transition stages”. The initiatives assessed often carry out more than one activity, and rarely can these activities be neatly linked to those territories in a specific transition stage. Data collection/monitoring and capacity building can benefit any transition stage, as can networking and social learning. However, in a number of cases it was possible to identify a transition stage to a specific initiative. An award, for example, primarily concerns the advanced implementation and/or evaluation stages, even if it might also inspire LRAs in earlier transition phases.

Type of support:

The type of support is used to categorise the overall aim of the initiative. While an initiative may fall into more than one type, the categorisation can be used by LRAs who are aware of what their gaps are, but not necessarily how to fix

them/what tools they would need. Using a framework developed by IPBES⁹ as a baseline, the types of support were developed:

- Training and capacity building (including funding opportunities)
- Assembling data and knowledge (including quantitative and qualitative information (i.e. working groups and toolkits)
- Social learning (including networks/platforms, sharing of good practices)
- Selection and design of policy instruments
- Implementation, outreach and enforcement (including supporting specific project implementation)
- Assessment and evaluation (including awards)
- Promoting public/stakeholder participation

Tools:

Tools refer to the actual mechanism used by the initiative: for example, funding, quantitative databases, the promotion of good practices and examples. They concern the ways in which LRAs can practically move to the next transition phase. This categorisation allows LRAs to filter by the tools available, as well as to see what other tools a particular initiative can offer, even if it is not the main/most obvious tool for an initiative. The types of tools were identified based on the information published online for each initiative – this categorisation was purely descriptive.

In addition to the categorisation, each initiative in the database also sets out some practical information so the user can have a better idea of what the initiative entails.

For each initiative, the following additional information was identified:

- Name of initiative
- Weblink
- Timescale (whether the initiative is available on a continuous basis, or whether applicants need to wait for a funding cycle/call for projects)
- Scope (EU, global, etc.)
- Area covered (local, regional, national etc.)
- Coordination (EU, network, project team, other)
- Type of funding available for LRAs (grant, award, loan)
- Funding of initiative itself
- Description of the initiative

⁹ <https://ipbes.net/policy-tools-methodologies>

Annex B: Survey

Boosting the Capacity of LRAs to Implement the Green Deal: A Toolbox for the Climate Pact

Introduction

In December 2019 the European Commission published the European Green Deal communication (COM (2019) 640), described by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as “Europe’s man on the moon moment”. The Green Deal seeks to make Europe climate neutral, sustainable and pollution free by 2050: this objective requires ambitious and crosscutting policies transforming many aspects of our societies and Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) will have a crucial role to play in it. The Green Deal will play an even more crucial role in providing the EU with criteria and references to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery strategy is sustainable and future-proof.

In the framework of the Green Deal, an innovative initiative is foreseen: the European Climate Pact. The Climate Pact is meant to focus on the involvement and commitment of the public and all stakeholders, including LRAs: to this end, the Commission commits to continue assisting cities and regions that want to commit to ambitious pledges on Green Deal related policies. In preparation to this initiative, the Commission launched a public consultation targeting all interested stakeholders.

The European Committee of Regions (CoR) has supported the Green Deal since the very beginning and considers the Climate Pact an excellent opportunity to ensure a more inclusive and effective approach to the implementation of the Green Deal. To this purpose, the CoR has launched a study to investigate the specific point of view of cities and regions in this ambit and highlight what LRAs need from the Climate Pact in order to be supported in their transition towards climate neutrality.

The present questionnaire is an integral part of the above-mentioned study. The structure of the questionnaire is the following:

- Part 1: discussion on the impacts of ongoing pandemic and subsequent economic effects on the Green Deal policies at a local and regional level
- Part 2: identification of tools and instruments to better support LRAs in implementing the Green Deal.
- Part 3: self-assessment of the progress that your authority has made in the transition towards climate neutrality;

The findings of the questionnaire will feed into a forthcoming CoR opinion on the Climate Pact being drafted by the Rapporteur Rafał Trzaskowski (PL/EPP), Mayor of Warsaw.

Should you have any question in this regard, do not hesitate to contact the ENVE commission secretariat at enve@cor.europa.eu

Please note that ENVE Secretariat may wish to contact you within the next 2 years after the publication of this survey to invite you to participate to further consultation on the topic. Please indicate if you wish to be contacted or not.

Do you wish to be contacted for further activities on the topic?

- Yes
 No

Privacy Policy

Please confirm you read and agree with the data privacy policy in order to start the survey. Please read the privacy policy in this document [Privacy_Statement.pdf](#)

- I accept your Terms

We look forward to receiving your feedback!

Your profile

1. Please indicate your name
2. Please indicate the name of your organization
3. Contact email address
4. Which country are you located in?
5. In what capacity are you completing this questionnaire?
 - Regional government/ administration
 - Local government/administration
 - Organisation representing regional authorities
 - Organisation representing local authorities
 - Other (please specify)

Please specify:

6. Are you a member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR)?
 - Yes
 - No, but I reply on behalf of a CoR member
 - No
7. Are you interested in becoming a CoR Green Deal Ambassador?
 - Yes
 - I want to have more information
 - No
8. What is the population of the territory you represent?
 - 0 – 50,000 citizens
 - 50,001 – 100,000 citizens
 - 100,001 - 500,000 citizens
 - 500,001 – 1,000,000 citizens
 - Over 1,000,000 citizens
9. Is your local/regional administration a Covenant of Mayors signatory/coordinator?
 - Yes
 - No, but we are interested in knowing more
 - No

Impacts of COVID-19 [+/- 5 mins]

The current COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the globe is not only having a devastating impact on Europe's population, but also on its governance institutions. The effects of COVID-19 are expected to last long after the disease is under control, and already there is concern the environmental issues will be forced to take a back seat in the future. At the same time, COVID-19 has demonstrated how a crisis can bring the whole world to a standstill, and we are seeing authorities around the world either praised or criticised for their reactions. The question is now what lessons can be learnt from COVID-19, especially focusing on how these lessons might be applicable to possible environmental crises, such as catastrophic climate change.

10. The role of local and regional governments is often enhanced during a crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, as they are often on the front line of disaster response. As such, LRAs may be required to divert resources into activities to deal with the crisis, at the expense of their normal responsibilities.

To what extent has your territory been able to ensure continuity of services during this time (aside from the disruptions caused by a lockdown such as reduced public transportation)?

- Severe impact – severe disruption to regular municipal/regional services
- Moderate impact – limited disruption to regular municipal/regional services
- Very limited impact – very limited disruption to regular municipal/regional services.

11. Do you think the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent response will be an opportunity to create links with disaster management related to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

- Yes, the lessons learnt from COVID-19 will be applicable for future climate change crises
- Yes The lessons learnt from COVID-19 might be applicable for future climate change crises
- No, this pandemic is a separate issue and cannot be linked to climate change adaptation in general.
- It is too early to tell

12. Do you think the Green Deal should serve as the main reference plan for a sustainable recovery from the COVID and economic crisis, in your city/region?

- Yes, the Green Deal should serve as a main reference plan for sustainable recovery from COVID and economic crisis
- It depends on how the financial support will be shaped
- I don't think they should be linked
- No, I think sustainability and the Green Deal will have to wait as we have more important concerns/financial obligations at the moment
- Other (please specify)

13. What kind of action would you like to see the EU put in place to promote sustainable recovery from COVID 19?

700 character(s) maximum

13.2 Following the COVID-19 outbreak, what will your policy priorities be in the context of sustainable development and climate neutrality?

700 character(s) maximum

Overview of climate neutrality and sustainability [+/- 15 mins]

Climate neutrality is a reoccurring theme in the recent Green Deal and refers to a state where greenhouse gas emissions emitted by different sources are offset by ways of removing the emissions from the atmosphere. Europe pledges to become climate neutral by 2050. This section will ask you what plans and policies you already have in place, both generally, and with regard to specific sectors highlighted in the Green Deal.

14. Is your local/regional authority ready to commit to climate neutrality?

- We already have such a commitment
- Yes, we are ready and currently in the process of preparing such a commitment
- Yes, we are ready and will prepare a commitment in the future
- No, we are not ready to commit primarily because we do not have financial capacity
- No, we are not ready to commit primarily because we do not have administrative capacity
- No, we are not planning to prepare a commitment for another reason (please specify)
- Don't know

Please specify

15. Which kind of concrete target is your local/regional authority ready to commit to regarding climate neutrality?

- A long-term target of climate neutrality (to 2050)
- Short and mid-term (to 2030) concrete targets deriving from the Nationally Determined Contributions (Locally Determined Contributions)
- Short and mid-term concrete targets taken up on a voluntary basis (like the Covenant of Mayors)
- We are not ready to commit to a specific target
- We would be ready to commit to a specific target only if this entails receiving dedicated support
- We do not see the added value of committing to a specific target
- Other

Please specify

16. In which sector would your local/regional authority be ready to take specific climate neutrality commitments?

- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Sustainable mobility
- Renewable energies
- Sustainable agriculture and food
- Adaptation to climate change
- Circular economy
- Biodiversity
- Zero-pollution strategy
- Sustainable territorial and urban planning
- Green infrastructure (e.g. tree-planting, nature regeneration and greening of urban areas.)
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

17. Is your Administration ready to commit to climate neutrality in your day-to-day operations? (environmental management such as EMAS/ISO14001 or equivalent, Green Public Procurement, etc.)

- We already have such a commitment
- Yes, we are ready and currently in the process of preparing such a commitment
- Yes, we are ready and will prepare a commitment in the future
- No, we are not ready to commit primarily because we do not have financial capacity
- No, we are not ready to commit primarily because we do not have administrative capacity
- No, we are not planning to prepare a commitment for another reason (please specify)

Please specify

18. Which kind of pledge is your local/regional authority ready to take regarding the Green Deal as a part of the European Climate Pact?

- A new Climate Pact pledge to commit to climate neutrality
- New sector-specific pledges on the different areas of the Green Deal
- I am already a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors and this should be enough to be part of the Climate Pact
- I am already part of another initiative and this should be enough to be part of the Climate Pact (please specify)
- I am interested in a new pledge only if the appropriate support (financial and non-financial) can be secured
- I do not see the added value of a new pledge
- Other (please specify)

Please specify the name of the initiative that you are part of

Please specify

19. Which kind of communication is your local/regional authority already doing in the different fields of the Green Deal?

	Stakeholders /businesses	Citizens
We do not systematically communicate regarding sustainable policies and the Green Deal related actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We communicate about sustainable policies and the Green Deal related actions (for example publishing information on a website)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We communicate and actively raise awareness about sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions (for example running (social) media campaigns, inviting specific actors to participate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We communicate, actively raise awareness and gather feedback on sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We communicate, actively raise awareness, gather feedback and set up participatory governance mechanisms on sustainable policies and the Green Deal-related actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting the LRA implementation of the European Green Deal objectives [+/- 10 mins]

LRAs have, and will have, support available to help them achieve the objectives of the Green Deal and the Climate Pact.

This section will give you the opportunity to identify what kind of support would be welcome. Remember that additional support can also be used to improve actions and activities you already have in place"

20. Which kind of communication support does your local/regional authority need to implement the Green Deal? (Please select all that apply)

- Support in explaining the Green Deal to citizens/stakeholders and involving them
- Support in understanding what the Green Deal is and its concrete implications
- Support in building capacity of the technical staff of the administration
- Financial support
- Other

Please specify

21. Which kind of platform would your local/regional authority need to support the achievements of the Green Deal objectives?

- A platform including clear information and capacity building
- A platform including examples of good practices to be replicated,
- A platform including pairings and match-making opportunities with business and organizations to implement concrete actions
- A platform including a direct support to aggregate projects and get direct funding for concrete actions
- A platform including a tool for joint public procurement
- A platform including a channel to express your views directly to decision-makers at National and EU levels
- There is already an existing platform that could be enhanced and used (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Please specify the name of the platform

Please specify

22. In which sector would you first need financial or non-financial support to support the achievements of the Green Deal objectives? Please select all that apply

Financial support	Administrative support	Capacity building	Information sources
-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	---------------------

1. Energy efficiency in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sustainable mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Renewable energies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Farm to Fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Adaptation to climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Circular economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Zero-pollution strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Sustainable territorial and urban planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Green infrastructure (e.g. tree-planting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify, in which area would you need that support?

22.1. What type of support from the perspective of the LRA would be most desirable in order to meet the climate neutrality objective?

22.2 What kind of support from the point of view of the LRA would allow you to reach the climate neutrality target faster?

23. Which are the three biggest obstacles your administration has to face in achieving the Green Deal objectives? *at most 3 choice(s)*

- Lack of dialogue with higher level of governance
- Burdensome bureaucracy
- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of financial capacity
- Lack of citizens' support and engagement
- Lack of businesses' support and engagement
- Lack of awareness among decision-makers
- Lack of reliable/specific data
- Potential impacts of COVID-19
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

24. Which is the most useful initiative/action you would like to find in the Climate Pact?
700 character(s) maximum

25. Please provide any other information and examples that would help build a picture of what LRAs need in order to achieve the objectives of the Green Deal and climate neutrality.
700 character(s) maximum

State of play on different components of Green Deal [+/- 10 Mins]

One way to measure the transition to climate neutrality is to break it down into various components: clean and affordable energy, sustainable and circular economy, cleaner mobility, biodiversity and a pollution-free environment, sustainable agriculture and food, and sustainable built environment, as well as climate change adaptation. By mapping the policy instruments already in place, this gives us an idea of how far an LRA or Member State has come, and what still needs to be achieved in these areas.

26. For each of the components below, please indicate whether you have a **regional/local policy or strategy** in place. This could include an action plan, a strategy, a policy, a programme or something similar, but it must be a broad enough to cover at least most of the relevant aspects of each component – a plan covering only cycle paths cannot be considered a mobility policy. If the planning for a component falls outside your jurisdiction, or is not relevant (e.g. marine), please select “not relevant”.

For more information about each specific component, please see the information at the end of this question.

	Adopted: We have a specific plan /policy in place	Started: We do not have a specific plan but some isolated measures/targets	Not started: We do not have a specific plan, nor isolated measures/targets	Not relevant /Not local/regional competence
1.Clean and affordable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Sustainable and circular economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Cleaner mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Biodiverse environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Soil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.Pollution in marine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.Sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Farm to Fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Energy efficiency in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.Nature-based solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clean and affordable energy: initiatives include facilitating access to clean energy research, promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology. Relevant plans would include Sustainable Energy and Climate Plans.

Sustainable and circular economy: initiatives concern the entire life cycle of products, including their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and ensuring that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

Cleaner mobility: initiatives include putting users first and providing them with more affordable, accessible, healthier and cleaner alternatives to their current mobility habits, and reducing transport emissions. Relevant plans would include Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.

Biodiverse environment: initiatives include meeting targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and halting biodiversity loss. Relevant plans would include Biodiversity Action Plan or Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Pollution-free environment: initiatives include preventing pollution from being generated as well as measures to clean and remedy it, in order to safeguard European ecosystems and citizens.

Sustainable agriculture and food: Initiatives for sustainable agriculture could include precision agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry and stricter animal welfare standards. **Farm to Fork**, as set out in the Green Deal, aims to make the entire food chain from production to consumption more sustainable and neutral in its impact on the environment. Examples of sustainable food include not only sustainable agriculture, but also circular economy aspects, such as local sustainable food consumption and affordable healthy food for all.

Sustainable built environment: Energy Efficiency in Buildings concerns improving energy performance of buildings, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness. Nature Based Solutions, for the purpose of this question, would include

for example sustainable public spaces and green spaces, sustainable urbanism, and urban green infrastructure.

Climate change adaptation: initiatives include Strengthening the efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness.

27. For those components with a **local or regional plan/policy** in place, please provide information on **the measures**.

	The plan/policy includes specific measures and they have been partially /fully implemented	The plan/policy includes specific measures and the initial implementation has started	The plan/policy includes specific measures, but the implementation has not yet started	The plan/policy was adopted but does not include specific measures
1.Clean and affordable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Sustainable and circular economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Cleaner mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Biodiverse environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Soil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.Pollution in marine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.Sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Farm to Fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Energy efficiency in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.Nature-based solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. Please provide information on the **targets and indicators** in these plans/policies

	The plan/policy includes specific targets and indicators and have been partially/fully operationalised	The plan/policy includes specific targets and indicators but they have not been operationalised yet	The plan/policy includes specific targets without indicators	The plan/policy does not include specific targets or indicators
1.Clean and affordable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Sustainable and circular economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Cleaner mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Biodiverse environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Soil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8.Pollution in marine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.Sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Farm to Fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Energy efficiency in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.Nature-based solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29. Please provide information on the **involvement and consultation of relevant stakeholders** regarding the design and the implementation of the plans/policies

	The plan/policy has mechanisms to ensure the involvement and consultation of stakeholders	The plan/policy has no mechanisms to ensure the involvement and consultation of stakeholders
1.Clean and affordable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Sustainable and circular economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Cleaner mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Biodiverse environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Soil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.Pollution in marine environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.Sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Farm to Fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Energy efficiency in buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.Nature-based solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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of the Regions**

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty,
the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 329 regional and
local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 447 million Europeans.

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