

Environmental Performance Reviews

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EVIDENCE-BASED, SYSTEMATIC, COUNTRY-TAILORED



Environmental
Performance
Reviews 

 **OECD**
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

About EPRs

The OECD Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of countries' progress towards their environmental objectives. Covering OECD members and selected non-member countries, they document good practices and provide practical recommendations to support countries in their efforts to strengthen policies that contribute to environmental goals and sustainable growth.

Over the last 30 years, the OECD review team has conducted systematic environmental country reviews of OECD members and selected partner countries resulting in over 100 publications. This OECD flagship product has largely contributed to raising awareness of national and global environmental issues in member countries and beyond. The review's main findings and policy recommendations are approved by consensus with OECD countries. Facilitating peer-to-peer learning is at the heart of the process, which encourages countries to improve their environmental performance, individually and collectively.

Since the inception of the programme, member countries have recognised the value of systematic country reviews as well as the interest to work co-operatively with non-member countries to support sustainable development. In this regard, the OECD has undertaken reviews of partner countries such as Brazil, China, Indonesia, Peru and South Africa, and will begin work on Egypt.

The EPR programme is evolving to make reviews more flexible, frequent and tailored to country-specific needs without compromising the integrity and independence of the reviews. It also aims to strengthen stakeholder engagement to spark national debate on environmental goals and facilitate concrete policy implementation. The ultimate goal is to inspire policy makers, business and civil society to take action, promote sound and sustainable policies, and move us towards and a net-zero and resilient world.



climate change **ocean**
smart cities **mitigation & adaptation**
sustainable mobility **air quality**
energy **biodiversity**
land use management
green growth **waste and materials**
water **circular economy**
chemicals **environmental justice**

Environmental performance

The OECD review team analyses the environmental performance of a given country over time. It draws on a broad range of expertise and cross-country economic and environmental data using key analytical questions.

or green growth issue, examine the nexus between environmental issues and economic sectors or focus on a particular region or city. The analysis provides robust evidence and new insights to inform national debates.

The review is structured in two chapters:

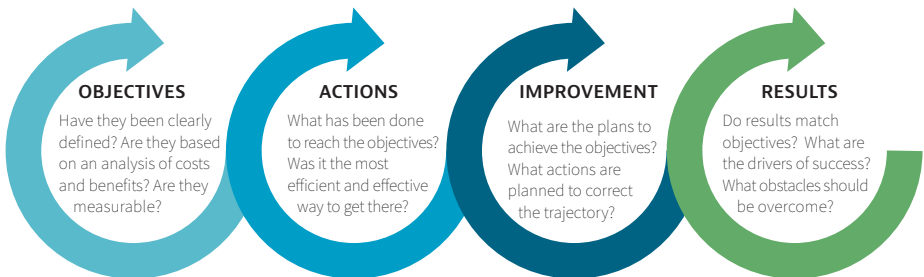
- ▶ **The first chapter provides a common core across all country reviews.** It includes a summary of key environmental trends and an assessment of the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of the policy mix, including fiscal and economic instruments, regulatory and voluntary instruments.
- ▶ **The second chapter offers an in-depth analysis of a specific theme,** which is selected by the reviewed country in consultation with the OECD Secretariat. For example, thematic chapters can cover an environmental management

For new OECD members or partner countries, which are reviewed for the first time, the report is more comprehensive with a view to providing benchmarks for future evaluations.

The "Assessment & Recommendations" (A&R) document summarises the main findings of the review and presents policy recommendations to help the country improve its environmental performance. It is discussed and approved by consensus within the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance (WPEP). The report also reviews actions taken to implement recommendations from the previous review and the results achieved.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

Has the country achieved its national and international environmental commitments?



Within the context of the country's historical environmental record, natural resource endowment, economic and social conditions and in comparison with other countries.

FACILITATING

Mutual learning

Environmental Performance Reviews form an integral part of a family of systematic peer reviews at the OECD, together with Economic Surveys and Development Co-operation Reviews. Peer reviews, where each country's policy is examined by fellow members on an equal basis, have been used at the OECD since its founding.

The programme has begun experimenting with innovative approaches to ensure the reviews are fit for purpose and respond to countries' needs while strengthening engagement and mutual learning. The aim is to make EPRs more flexible, frequent and tailored to country-specific needs without compromising the integrity and independence of the reviews. For example, the review of the United States explores new ways of deepening policy dialogue through a cross-country comparative analysis with a focus on marine litter prevention. The reviews aim to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and concrete policy implementation. Within the 2023-24 biennium, the OECD review team will conduct a comprehensive evaluation to draw lessons for future reviews.



WHO DOES WHAT?

THE REVIEWED COUNTRY

National authorities facilitate information collection and liaising with other ministries, local authorities, specialised agencies and external stakeholders. They work closely with the OECD review team throughout the review cycle.

OECD WORKING PARTY ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

WPEP meets at least three times per biennium to review key findings of reviews, and discuss and approve the A&R. It defines the strategic priorities of the EPR programme.

OECD DELEGATES

Within WPEP, delegates discuss, ask questions and exchange good practices on the subjects covered in the reviews. They approve the A&R by consensus.

PEER REVIEWERS

As peers, they have an opportunity to share their country's experiences. They participate in the review mission and comment on the draft report and assessment. In turn, they gain useful insights from the reviewed country.

OECD REVIEW TEAM

The team is composed of members of the OECD Secretariat (policy analysts, economists, statisticians) and peer reviewers. A co-ordinator leads the EPR process.

REVIEW CYCLE

Month 0	Month 3-5	Month 6-9
KICK-OFF	REVIEW MISSION	POLICY MISSION
Definition of scope and timeline, choice of the in-depth chapter, information and data collection	In-country and virtual meetings with key stakeholders; field visits	Bilateral discussion of findings and recommendations at high level

STRENGTHENING

Impacts & synergy



Even though the launch event marks the finalisation of the report and the exchange of views between the OECD and Finland, I constrain myself to call this the final milestone; however, in many respects this marks the beginning.

Emma Kari, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland



I believe that the reviews are an excellent opportunity for us to receive inputs from other countries, and help us learn from each other. For example, I am happy to see that the OECD has managed to present and explain the Norwegian land use management policy in such a good way; and hopefully this will also be useful for other countries to see how we manage land in Norway.

Tom Rådahl, Secretary General, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway



The green transition is at the heart of the Federal Government's declaration. I therefore noted with interest that the OECD and the European Environmental Agency also place climate ambition, the fight against biodiversity loss and a more circular economy at the centre of the green transition. This really resonates with me and reinforces my desire to set ambitious targets for the Federal State to ensure a fair and sustainable transition for Belgian citizens.

Zakia Khattabi, Minister of the Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal, Belgium



Month 10-12

WPEP MEETING



Presentation and discussion of findings; approval of the review's Assessment & Recommendations

Month 11-13

LAUNCH



Public event in the reviewed country, including civil society and the media

4-5 years later

MID-TERM REVIEW



Voluntary stocktaking exercise by the reviewed country to assess the implementation of recommendations

In figures

30
years

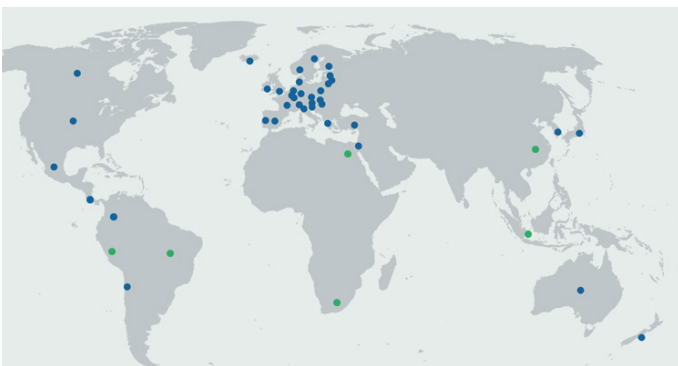
>100
reviews

3x
review
cycles

100K
downloads

~25
recommendations
per review

Global reach



● 38 OECD countries

● 6 non-member countries



REVIEWS

available in English
abridged version in French



HIGHLIGHTS

available in English
and national languages

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