

# EU Policies for Low Carbon Society at City/Regional Level



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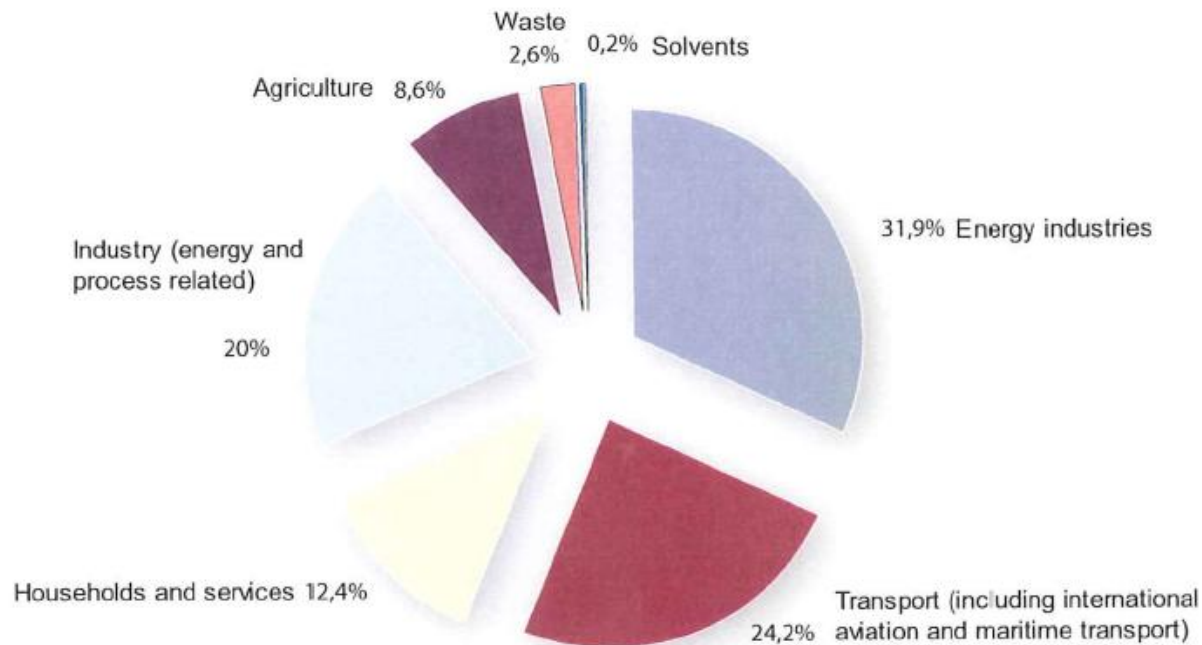
# The EU is fully engaged in efforts at fighting climate change



- Will respect its commitment to Kyoto Protocol – 8% emissions on 1990 baseline by 2012
- Has set ambitious targets for reduction of CO2 for 2020 and has agreed a wide range of measures to achieve them

# EU Policies are designed to address each sector of our economy and society that is responsible for CO2 emissions

Total EU-27 greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2007



# Our policies divide emissions into two main areas :



## 1. INDUSTRY AND ENERGY

Main policy instrument is the EU Emission Trading System ETS, CAP & TRADE



## 2. Non ETS – Housing, Transport, Waste etc.

Each Member State has a target for emission reduction in this area – Its achievement being policies and actions at the national and regional/local level

EU is an essentially urban society - 80% of the population live in towns and cities

Most Member States' City Authorities have responsibility for the policy areas which influence CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions:

- Housing and Planning
- Transportation – roads, public transport
- Waste management
- Public Services – Education, Recreation, Cultural etc.

Decisions and investments in all of these areas determine the carbon profile of a city

The EU promotes the drive for low carbon policies at the city and regional level by a number of actions:

- Promoting research into new solutions e.g. Civitas Network
- Funding investments – Cohesion Fund
- Promoting commitment of cities and exchange of best practice:
  - Green Capital
  - Covenant of Mayors
  - Mobility Week

# Green Capital



## About the title

- Europe is now an essentially urban society
- Urban areas bring together the commitment and innovation needed to resolve the environmental challenges
- The European Green Capital Award has been conceived as an initiative to promote and reward these efforts to improve the environment.

## Annual award

Starting in 2010, one European city will be selected each year as the European Green Capital of the year. The award is given to a city that:

- Has a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- Is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- Can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices to all other European cities.

\* The first European Green Capitals are Stockholm(2010) and Hamburg(2011).

## Improving the global environment

The award marks a city's wish and capability to solve environmental problems in order to both improve the quality of life of its citizens and reduce the contribution it makes to the global environment as a whole.



# Covenant of Mayors



## About the Covenant

- The European Union (EU)'s ambitious targets are spelt out in the EU Climate Action and Renewable Energy Package, which commits Member States to curb their CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020.
- Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors contribute to these policy objectives through a formal commitment to go beyond this target through the implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

## Covenant towns and cities

- Signatories to the Covenant of Mayors commit to submitting their SEAPs within the year following adhesion.
- These towns and cities are expected to provide periodic public reports outlining the progress of their action plans.
- Over 500 Mayors have made a commitment so far.



<http://www.mobilityweek.eu/>