

How Green are the Recovery Plans?

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- *Austria*



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

1. Status of the Plan

- Plans **not yet published**. AT very delayed due to fragmented governmental competences, political disagreements within coalition and fear to get RRF rejected (as seen by other MS). EC annoyed by AT (even more as it is member of the *frugal four*).
- AT will receive ca. 3.3bn €, whereas ca. 1bn should be earmarked for climate mainstreaming. AT Envi Minister asks for more €.



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

2. Public consultation

- Feb26: deadline for stakeholders for feedback and hand-in projects/comments/proposals via email: mail@recover.austria.gv.at
- An 11-page guidance re Public Consultations was published- very basic and general questions to answer (in Ger):
 - <https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/nachrichten/allgemein/EU-Aufbauplan.html>
- SDG Watch AT and Envi umbrella organisations called to participate / coordinate input:
<https://sdgwatch.at/de/was-wir-tun/blog/2021/03/nationaler-aufbau-und-resilienzplan/> (in Ger)
- Main focus: transparency, climate mainstreaming, biodiversity mainstreaming, nature-based energy transition; eco-social tax reform & sustainable mobility (referring to Europ Semester recommendations 2020/21)
- Online exchange btw Minister and NGOs Feb17, one follow-up planed for Mar/Apr
- Too little time
- No response/reaction so far



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Short overview of the Recovery Plan

3. Your comments on measures/investments in the transport, buildings and agriculture sectors

- **No information** as RRF not published.
- From draft National Reform Program 2021:

- **Buildings and renovation:**

<https://infothek.bmk.gv.at/raus-aus-oel-und-gas-2021/>

February 9, 2021 Ministry of Environment started a funding campaign for thermal building renovation (renovation check) and boiler replacement (get out of oil and gas) to climate-friendly alternatives.

Budget of 650 million euros.

Measures to curb heating energy consumption and switch from fossil-fueled space heating to climate-friendly heating systems.

Phasing out fossil fuel heating from domestic buildings by 2035.

5,000 euros support per household/company

Stock of oil-fired boilers in Austria is estimated around 600,000 pieces.

- **Mobility:**

- ❖ FTI strategy from 2021
- ❖ Investments in bike/walking lanes, railways
- ❖ 1-2-3 mobility ticket (similar to Swiss GA travel card)



Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

1. *Your National Energy and Climate Plan was submitted last year and the European Commission gave its final assessment in September 2020.*
 2. *Are the measures for **transport, buildings and agriculture** contained in the **NECP** consistent with the measures in the Recovery Plan? Are the measures in the RPs additional to those of the NECPs?*
- No information on NECP as RRF not published
 - RRF will refer to *old* NECP (2019)
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- CO2-emission reduction (non-ETS) by 36% compared to 2005
 - Mobility/Traffic: -7.2 Mio. t CO2-e compared to 2016
 - Buildings: -3Mio. t CO2-e compared to 2016
 - Increase the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption to 46-50%, and cover 100% of electricity consumption from renewables
 - Improvement of primary energy intensity by 25-30% compared to 2015



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Commitments to Policy Reforms – Use of fiscal instruments

- 1. Are **fiscal instruments** such as carbon taxes or green taxation part of the toolbox of measures in the Recovery Plan – and if so, which?*
 - 2. Are there any commitments to reform environmental harmful subsidies – if so, which?*
- No information on NECP as RRF not published
 - From draft National Reform Program 2021:
 - ❖ *Increase of environmental funding/subsidies*
 - ❖ *Increase of municipal investment promotion/subsidies*
 - ❖ *Levy and tax adjustments in the mobility sector, e.g. higher tax for SUVs, subsidies for e-cars, phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies*



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Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Your final recommendations for the way forwards

- EC and EP are ‘friends’
- Ministry of Finance is ‘foe’ – could also be levy for more/better future exchange
- Keep pressure high on Gov’s, also during implementation of RRFs
- Transparency is key

- CSO cooperation important
- For AT: Green Party in Government helpful but weaker part of coalition



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Thanks for your interest!

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