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Decrease in overall emissions since 1995

Climate-effective CO₂ emissions decreased by 6.6 % between 1995 and 2020; climate-neutral CO₂ emissions from biogenic sources increased by 93.3 %

Vienna, 2022-10-14 – Between 1995 and 2020, emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases were reduced considerably, as Statistics Austria reports. Both the economy and private households reduced emissions of climate-effective CO₂.

“The increased use of renewable energy sources has led to a doubling of climate-neutral CO₂ emissions from biogenic sources since 1995, while climate-effective CO₂ emissions have decreased by 6.6 % overall in the same period,” explains Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas. “The Corona pandemic also had an impact on the development of emissions: Particulate matter emissions fell by 8.9 % from 2019 to 2020, mainly due to reduced passenger and freight traffic, but also because of reduced firing in thermal power plants,” Thomas continues.

The highest decreases were achieved for sulphur dioxide (SO₂ -76.0 %), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC -53.7 %) as well as carbon monoxide (CO -49.6 %). Also emissions of particulate matter (PM_{2.5} -44.5 %), methane (CH₄ -38.0 %), nitrogen oxide (NO_x -34.8 %) and PM₁₀ (-32.9 %) were significantly reduced.

Between 1995 and 2020, the increased use of renewable energies caused a 93.3 % increase in climate-neutral CO₂ emissions from biogenic sources. Within the climate-effective CO₂ emissions, a 12.4 % reduction in emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels was achieved. CO₂ emissions from other sources (e.g. emissions caused by the conversion of limestone to cement clinker in cement production) showed an increase of 19.4 %. Overall, these climate-effective emissions decreased by 6.6 %. Climate-effective and climate-neutral CO₂ emissions together increased by 10.2 % since 1995.

Strong declines in private households

Both private households and the economy contributed to improving air quality and the climate. Private households reduced emissions of all observed air pollutants and greenhouse gases with the exception of CO₂ from other sources (+11.2 %) and CO₂ from biogenic sources (+17.2 %). Emissions from economy fell for all air pollutants and greenhouse gases except for process-related CO₂ emissions from other sources (+19.4 %) as well as climate-neutral biogenic CO₂ emissions (+193.1 %).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Carbon dioxide emissions 1995–2020 by polluter, in tonnes

Emission	1995	2020	Changes in %
Climate-effective CO₂ emissions			
from fossil sources			
Private households	17 847 813	13 551 447	-24.1 %
Economy	32 137 114	30 214 309	-6.0 %
Total	49 984 927	43 765 756	-12.4 %
from other sources			

Emission	1995	2020	Changes in %
Private households	76 002	84 497	11.2 %
Economy	11 126 023	13 286 784	19.4 %
Total	11 202 025	13 371 281	19.4 %
Climate neutral CO₂ emissions			
from biogenic sources			
Private households	7 033 824	8 244 746	17.2 %
Economy	5 363 931	15 719 300	193.1 %
Total	12 397 755	23 964 046	93.3 %

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Environment Agency Austria, air emission accounts.

Information on methodology, definitions: The data for the calculation of the air emission accounts, which is to be prepared on the basis of Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental-economic accounts, comes from the Austrian air pollutant and greenhouse gas inventory of the Environment Agency Austria. The air emission accounts are a satellite account of the national accounts and therefore follow their rules. According to them, the air emission accounts record all emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases according to the residence principle (all domestic and foreign emissions generated by domestic companies, institutions and private households). Other reporting obligations (according to UNFCCC, UNECE CLRTAP) follow the domestic principle (all domestic emissions are recorded, regardless of whether they are caused by residents or foreigners). The difference between the air emission accounts calculation and the other reporting obligations mentioned lies in the different consideration of transport emissions (emissions from residents versus non-resident emissions).

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