

LIECHTENSTEIN

Country at a glance

- Population: 36,000 (2010) [1]
- Total area: 160 sq. km [2]
- Carbon emissions per capita: N/A metric tons (2010) [3]
- Energy consumption per capita: N/A MWh (2010) [4]
- Percentage of global carbon emissions: 0.00% (2010) [3]



The municipality of Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Permission Under CC BY-SA 3.0 commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2008-05-19_Vaduz_Liechtenstein_5517.jpg

Liechtenstein – Europe’s Energy Country

Liechtenstein is a small state, but with a big reputation in terms of energy. All its eleven municipalities or towns are energy certified as ‘energy cities’ under the European Energy Award Scheme. It is thus regarded as Europe’s Energy country.

Stand on climate change

The Republic of Liechtenstein signed the Kyoto Protocol on 29 June 1998. The protocol was later ratified on 3 December 2004 and entered into force on 3 March 2005. The Republic of Liechtenstein joined the protocol as an Annex I member country and at the time of ratification, they did not have any obligation for emissions reduction as they are a very small country. However, in the second commitment period of 2008-2012, Liechtenstein was assigned to reduce 8% emissions from 1990 levels.

National climate change programmes

Liechtenstein endeavours to keep the principle of sustainability in its policies. This includes provident use of resources and maintenance of a high quality of life. To the extent possible, Liechtenstein also tries to make a contribution to the solution of global environmental problems. Climate protection enjoys a high political priority in this regard, constituting a primary field of action in Liechtenstein's environmental policy. Liechtenstein has integrated its climate policy very strongly into the individual sectoral policies. The focus is on energy policy, environmental policy, transport policy, agricultural policy, and forestry policy. All of these areas encompass measures that contribute to the reduction of climate gases.

In order to ensure a coordinated implementation of climate policies within the various areas, the Government passed a Climate Protection Strategy in 2007. This strategy requires an interdisciplinary coordination in the fields of environment, energy, building, transportation, agriculture and forestry with respect to the development of climate policy measures. Liechtenstein’s Ministry of Environment and the Office of Environmental Protection are the coordinating authorities with respect to the executions of the Climate Protection Strategy [5].

Some notable legislative measures undertaken by Liechtenstein addressing climate change are [6]:

- Energy-concept 2013 / Energy-Vision 2020 (2010),
- Emissions Trading Act (2008),
- Energy Efficiency Act (2008),
- CO₂-Act (2008),
- Environmental Protection Act (2008),
- National Transport Policy (2008),
- National Climate Protection Strategy (2007) and Action Plan Air (2007).

Energy policy and legislation

The general measures taken by Liechtenstein are related to: building renovation, promotion of the Energy standard, residential technical installations, solar collectors, photovoltaic, demonstration facilities, a hydrogeological map for using near-surface geothermal energy for heating purposes, offer of cooperation to "Energy City for Everyone" municipalities.

The Government of Liechtenstein also promoted several by-laws on the energy sector. Below are a list of measures related to the energy sector:

- Energy Efficiency Act,
- Heated Regulations,
- Heat insulation regulations,
- Energy standard for State Building,
- Supply requirements,
- Liechtenstein Energy concept/Energy vision 2020,
- Green electricity auditing and certification system,
- Promotion of photovoltaic system of private owner,
- Promotion of energy generated by private owner,
- Promotion of energy generated by systems for efficient energy production and
- Municipalities' participation in the Energy City label.

Besides the internal measures, the Government of Liechtenstein have also invested in renewable energy clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in countries like Vietnam and Thailand for purchase of Certified Emissions Reductions Certificates (CER), for offsetting carbon emissions. Under this contract, the country plans to offset 55,000 tons of CO₂ emissions. [7]

Co-operation with Switzerland

Because of the small size of the country, cross-border cooperation plays an important role. Especially important is the relationship with Switzerland and the cooperation among the countries in the Lake Constance area (Germany, Austria and Switzerland). Thanks to the Customs Union Treaty, cross-border measures and bilateral implementation are simplified in many areas, since various Swiss enactments are directly applicable in Liechtenstein pursuant to the Treaty. In these cases, Liechtenstein executes the provisions similarly to a Swiss canton (e.g. mineral oil tax). Accordingly, most policy areas are closely linked with Swiss policy, in terms of both content and implementation.

Pursuant to the cross-border cooperation with Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland concluded 'The bilateral Agreement between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Confederation on Environmental Levies within the Principality of Liechtenstein' (2009). The agreement enables Liechtenstein to implement several environmental levies of Switzerland into national law while using the existing infrastructure of the Swiss authorities for the execution of the respective national laws. The Ministry of Environment and the Office of Environmental Protection and the Office for Foreign Affairs are the competent authorities with respect to the execution of the bilateral agreement.

Based on the above, a series of legislative and administrative arrangements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases have been put into force in the past [8]:

1. Climate Protection Strategy (2007): basis for a clear strategy to realize a consequent and transparent climate policy and to define the manner in which to fulfill the emission reduction commitment domestically and abroad.

2. Emissions Trading Act (2008): sets up the general framework for the fulfillment of Liechtenstein's reduction obligations originating from the respective ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The local government states that emission reductions are first and foremost to be reduced by inland measures. If the reduction obligations cannot be fulfilled through national measures, the government may participate in project activities abroad or in international emissions trading. Besides, the government implements Directive 2003/87/EC (Emissions Trading Directive) into national law and obliges two industrial installations in 2009 to participate within the European Emissions Trading Scheme.
3. Energy Efficiency Act (2007): adopted to push the energy concept 2013 which postulates different energy political goals and contains a bundle of measures for a meaningful use of energy in Liechtenstein.
4. CO₂ Law (2009): corresponds with the CO₂ Act of Switzerland (in force since 2008) and introduces a levy on the consumption of fossil fuel (oil and natural gas). The CO₂ Act is part of 'The bilateral agreement between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Confederation on Environmental Levies within the Principality of Liechtenstein'.
5. The Climate Cent (2005): levied on engine fuel in Switzerland since October 2005 and is also being levied in Liechtenstein. The Government has signed an agreement with the Swiss 'Climate Cent Foundation' to this effect, governing the administrative and organizational measures. The revenue will be earmarked for climate protection projects in Liechtenstein and abroad.
6. Action Plan Air (2007): measures and plans according to the air pollution control regulations within the Environmental Protection Act.

Ministries involved in climate change/energy policy making:

Ministries involved	Web links
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and Sports	www.regierung.li/ministerien/ministerium-fuer-infrastruktur-und-umwelt-sowie-sport/
Department of Environment	www.llv.li/amtstellen/llv-aus-home.htm
Office of Land Use Planning	www.llv.li/amtstellen/llv-slp-home.htm
Office of Forests, Nature and Landscape	www.llv.li/amtstellen/llv-awnl-home.htm
Department of Agriculture	www.llv.li/amtstellen/llv-lwa-home.htm

Education institutes involved in climate change/energy policy making:

Education Institutes involved	Web links
Liechtenstein-Institute	www.liechtenstein-institut.li/default.aspx?language=en-US/
Institute of Architecture and Planning – University of Liechtenstein	www.uni.li/ArchitekturundRaumentwicklung/tabid/149/language/en-US/Default.aspx

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