



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Peatland protection and management for climate protection in Estonia

Mart Kiis, Climate policy adviser
Ministry of the Environment

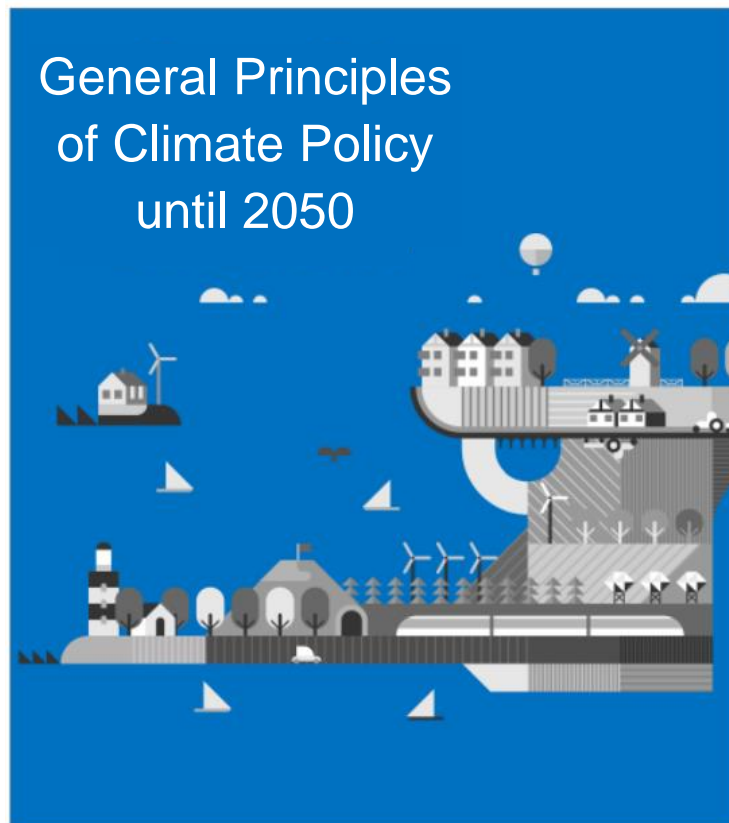
20.09.2022



Low Carbon Strategy until 2050



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



- General climate policy principles
- GHG reduction targets
- The carbon stock in mires will be preserved; further drainage will be avoided; water regimes will be restored
- Currently in parliament to update GHG targets

Estonia 2035 – National Development Strategy



People

Smart, active and healthy



Society

Open, caring and cooperative



Economy

Strong, innovative and responsible



Living environment

Considering everyone's needs, safe and with high quality

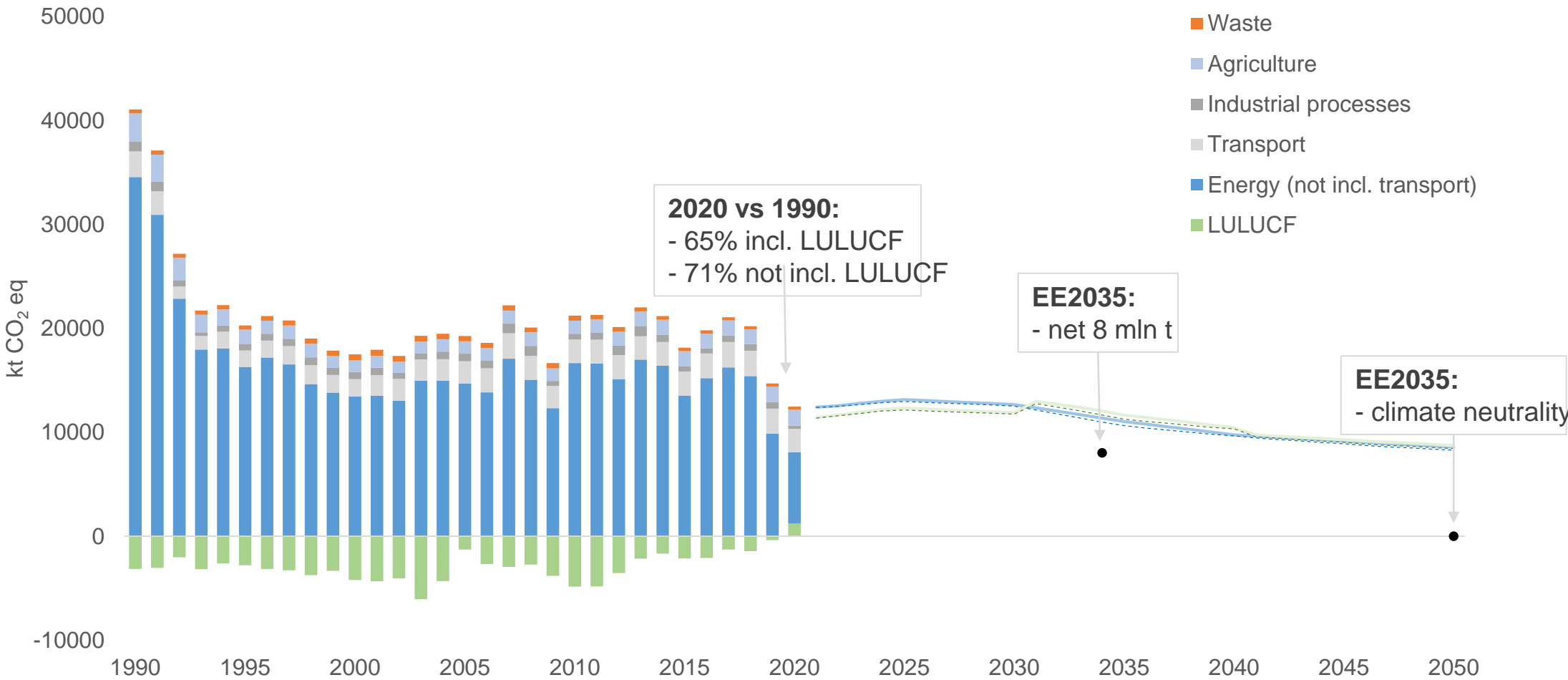


Governance

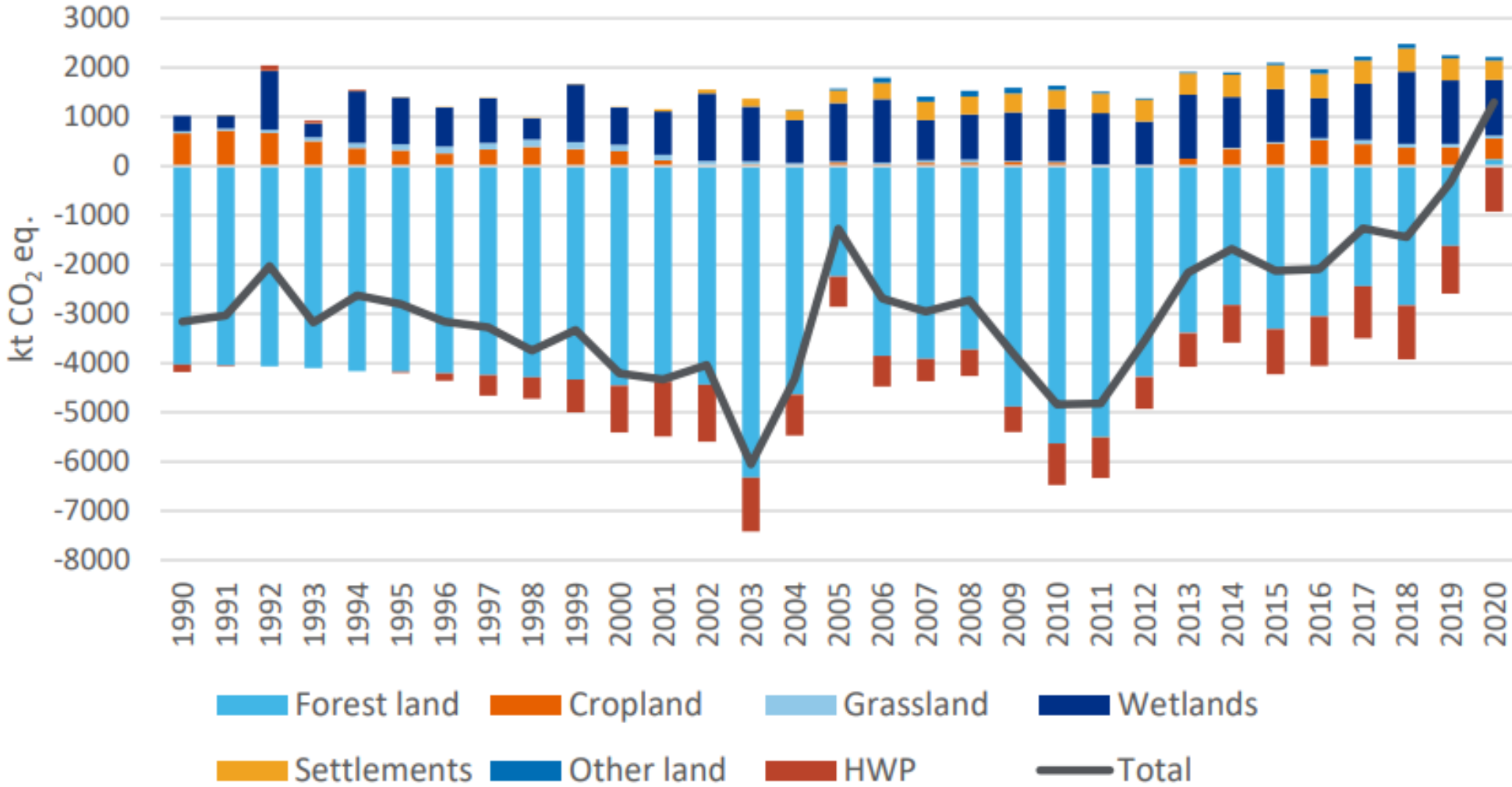
Innovative, trustworthy and people-centered

*By 2050, Estonia will be a competitive, **climate-neutral** country with a knowledge-based society and economy and a high-quality and species-rich living environment, willing and **able to reduce the adverse effects of climate change** and make the best use of its positive aspects.*

GHG emissions 1990-2020

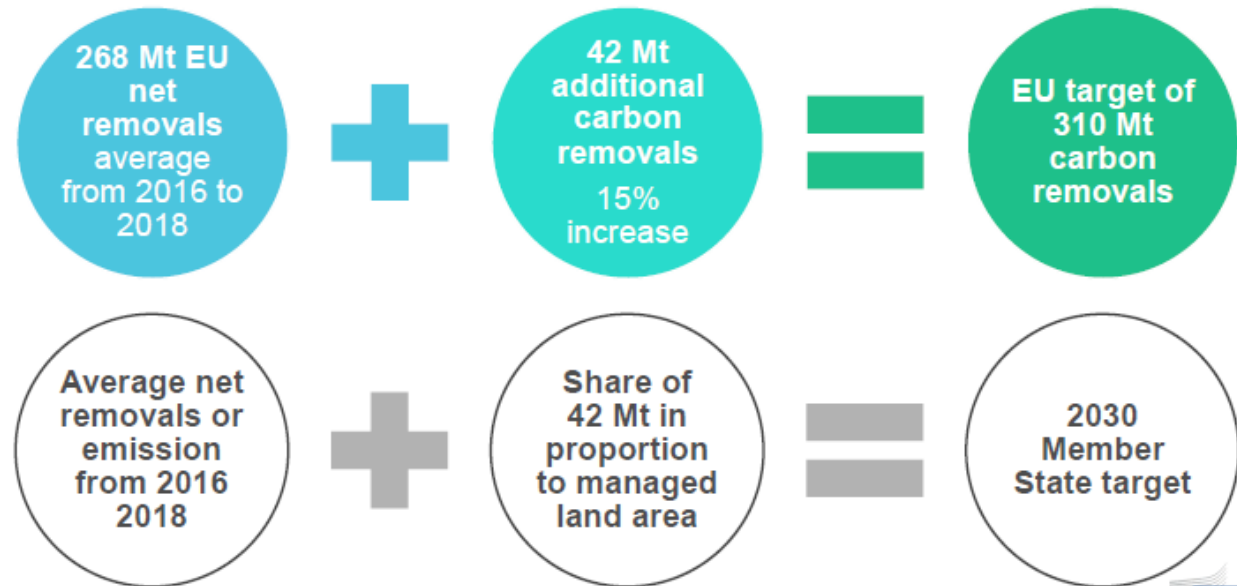


GHG emissions in LULUCF



The EU Fit for 55 climate package

- Current legislation for LULUCF: „no-debit“ rule
- Proposed target for Estonia: **-2,5 Mt CO₂ equiv. in 2030**



Peatlands and agriculture

- Conversion of agricultural land on peat soils to permanent grasslands
 - where possible, restoration of the natural water regime
- Paludiculture diversifies land use and economic activities – the suitable areas and the long-term positive effects are yet to be identified
- Economic viability as a key element for land managers
- Challenges:
 - 63% of agricultural land is leased and land ownership is fragmented,
 - drainage systems are substantial and include mineral soils
 - -> a lot of administrative effort needed

Peat extraction sites

- Action Plan for Protected Mires (until 2023) to:

- Foster conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services of mire habitats in protected areas
- **Restore cultivated, exhausted and abandoned peat production sites**



- Target: restoration of at least 20,000 ha of mires damaged by drainage + **2000 ha** (out of 6000 ha) **of abandoned peat production sites**

- Work has been carried out on 17, 000 ha, 5000 ha more has been planned
- Funding mostly from the EU funds

The way forward

- Considering the requirements of the habitats directive, ca 25,000 ha of mires and wet forests should be restored by 2050
 - Additional need based on new climate targets is yet to be identified
 - EU nature restoration law setting an additional target for rewetting agricultural ecosystems
- Additional funding?
 - Public funds are limited -> **additional funding from the private sector** could be encouraged through the voluntary carbon market
 - Increasing interest in contributing locally

VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET LIFECYCLE AND MAIN ACTORS

State as regulator(?)

1 Project creation



Project developer

**2 Project verification
and registration**



**Certification programs,
registry administrators**

**3 Carbon credit
sale/purchase**



**Buyers, sellers,
brokers, retailers**

**4 Carbon credit
retirement**



**Buyer
(individuals, companies)**



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Thank you!

mart.kiis@envir.ee

