



**rsc**  
REGIONS FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
CHANGE

# The Low-Carbon Indicators Toolkit



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INTERREG IVC

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**Why is monitoring** an indispensable part of the policy planning process?

**How can regions monitor** progress towards sustainable, climate-friendly economic growth?

**How can the unique characteristics** of a region be taken into account when planning for low-carbon growth?

**What does it take** to create a low-carbon region?

Sustainability or environmental indicators are tools used to help answer these questions. They allow the visualisation of changes in complex environmental systems by expressing the changes numerically.

Indicators can be used by various target groups for different purposes. Since, however, indicators are quite numerous, they can be tailored to suit the user's needs. They play a key role in tracking progress towards meeting sustainability and environmental targets, including the increasingly urgent goal of attaining a low-carbon future.

The regular monitoring of appropriate climate change indicators allows countries and regions to identify strengths and weaknesses of regional climate change policy. As a result, policy makers in a given country or region will be able to undertake informed institutional and policy measures, enhancing their capacity to mitigate climate change and to improve the carbon performance of their economies.

## LOW-CARBON INDICATORS TOOLKIT

### Low-Carbon Indicators Library

An extensive review of existing sustainability or environmental indicators and indices relevant to low-carbon economic development used by international organisations, national governments and other entities. It is made more user friendly through guidelines, search engine and hyperlinks that enable easy access to additional information.

#### Low-Carbon Economy

Why move towards a low-carbon economy, and how can indicators help the process?

#### Indicator Initiatives

An overview of international, national and regional sets of sustainable development and environmental indicators, relevant to low-carbon economy.

#### Guidelines for Indicators

A guidance document that provides context to the use of indicators. It summarises the methods of indicator identification, selection, categorisation and application.

#### Low-Carbon Indicators

An overview of low-carbon indicators on GHG emissions, energy and other sectors and criteria for assessing the ability of national and regional/local authorities to manage low-carbon issues.

### Regional Climate Confidence Index

An assessment tool, which can support any European region in measuring its status and progress towards targets of low-carbon economic development. It also provides additional materials for a better understanding of the received results and scoring methodology.

#### Questionnaire

It contains a series of questions including quantitative assessment of regions' emissions and energy performance and a qualitative assessment of regions' policy framework, institutional capacity, socio-political awareness and financial means for climate change measures.

#### Results

After completing the questionnaire, the website automatically produces a score, based on the RCCI scoring methodology. The scores are displayed in tabular and graphical format.

#### Understand the results

This part contains an explanation of the implications of high/low scores for each issue and sub-issue. The displayed explanations correspond to the results received.

#### Improve the results

This is a set of policy actions and suggestions, linked to the RCCI issues and a series of case studies, which will showcase how other regions have achieved good scores in certain elements of the RCCI.

#### Scoring method

This presents the detailed methodology and scoring method for calculating the scores for each of the RCCI issues.

The Low-Carbon Indicators Toolkit, developed under the RSC project, is a complex and comprehensive tool for stakeholders from European regions who need to work with low-carbon indicators in the policy-making process. The toolkit is designed to provide assistance in the complicated task of identifying, selecting, measuring and reporting on such indicators.

Users of the toolkit will be able to:

- find guidelines on low-carbon growth and the use of indicators (including selection principles, development methodology and categorisation) to assist them in creating new indicator sets or reviewing existing sets;
- read about existing indicator-related initiatives at international, national, regional and local level that can be adapted to their needs;
- browse a thematic list of low-carbon indicators and select from among them to create their own unique indicator set;
- assess and monitor the effectiveness of their policies via a simple questionnaire; and
- gain inspiration from good practice examples in European regions and elsewhere to improve existing policies.

To find out more about the indicators or to evaluate your region's readiness to tackle climate challenges, view the Low-Carbon Indicators Toolkit at

[www.rscproject.org/indicators](http://www.rscproject.org/indicators)

## RSC: A regional response to the climate challenge

The RSC is a partnership of 12 organisations from eight EU member states. The partners share a common cause: to promote an EU-wide shift to low-carbon economic development. The three-year RSC project was launched in October 2008 and is co-funded by the EU programme INTERREG IVC, part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013.



### Partners

Cornwall Council (UK) • Wroclaw (PL) • University of Debrecen, CEMP (HU) • LaMoRo (IT) • Liguria (IT) • Marche (IT) • Malta Environment and Planning Authority • Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development • Burgenland Regional Management (AT) • Cornwall Development Company (UK) • La Rioja (ES) • Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

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