
Abbreviations and acronyms

CO₂	carbon dioxide
CO₂e	carbon dioxide equivalent
GDP	gross domestic product
GHG	greenhouse gas
Gt	gigatonne
GW	gigawatt
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kJ	kilojoule
kW	kilowatt
kWh	kilowatt-hour
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
N₂O	nitrous oxide
PV	photovoltaic
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TWG	Technical Working Group

Glossary

Assessment boundary	The scope of the assessment in terms of the range of transformational change characteristics that are included in the assessment, and the geographical and sectoral coverage of the assessment
Assessment period	The time period over which transformational change impacts attributed to a policy are assessed. The assessment period can differ from the policy implementation period (the time period over which the policy is being executed) and the wider transformational change period (both historical and future changes).
Assessment report	A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment process, and the GHG, sustainable development and transformational impacts of a policy
Bottom-up data	Data that are measured, monitored or collected at the facility, entity or project level
Bottom-up methods	Methods (such as engineering models) that calculate or model the impact of a policy for each facility, project or entity affected by the policy, then aggregate across all facilities, projects or entities to determine the total impact of the policy
Category of transformational change	A group of transformational characteristics that describe processes of change (technology, agents of change, incentives and norms) and outcomes of change (scale of outcome and sustained nature of outcome)
Characteristic of transformational change	An element or property of a system undergoing a transformation. A policy can result in changes of characteristics describing a system that lead to processes of change and outcomes of change.
Ex-ante assessment	The process of assessing expected future transformational change impacts of a policy (i.e. a forward-looking assessment)
Ex-post assessment	The process of assessing historical transformational change impacts of a policy (i.e. a backward-looking assessment)
Expert judgment	A carefully considered, well-documented qualitative or quantitative judgment made in the absence of unequivocal observational evidence by a person or persons who have a demonstrable expertise in the given field ²¹
Impact assessment	The qualitative or quantitative assessment of transformational impacts resulting from a policy, either ex-ante or ex-post
Impact type	A result of transformational change that describes the process of change and the outcome of change
Implemented policies	Policies and actions that are currently in effect, as evidenced by one or more of the following: (1) relevant legislation or regulation is in force, (2) one or more voluntary agreements have been established and are in force, (3) financial resources have been allocated, (4) human resources have been mobilized

²¹ IPCC (2006).

Indicator of transformational change	For qualitative assessment, a variable that can be assessed to indicate the impact of a policy on a given characteristic of transformational change. For quantitative assessment, a metric that can be estimated or measured to indicate the impact of a policy on a characteristic of transformational change.
Monitoring period	The time over which a policy is monitored, which may include pre-policy monitoring and post-policy monitoring in addition to the policy implementation period
Outcome of transformational change	The change in GHG emissions reductions and sustainable development impacts at scale and sustained over time resulting from a policy
Phase of transformation	A stage in the historical development of a system that undergoes an innovation and social transition process. Generic phases are pre-development, take-off, acceleration, and stabilization or relapse.
Planned policies	Policy options that are under discussion and have a realistic chance of being adopted and implemented in the future, but have not yet been adopted or implemented
Policy or action	An intervention taken or mandated by a government, institution or other entity, which may include laws, regulations and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of new technologies, processes or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment
Policy implementation period	The time period during which a policy is in effect
Process of transformational change	A series of events describing how elements or characteristics of a system interact and change to reconfigure a system. Elements of a transformational change process are technology, agents of change, incentives and norms.
Stakeholders	People, organizations, communities or individuals who are affected, by and/or who have influence or power over, a policy
Starting situation	The current situation of a selected historical year before implementation of a policy that describes the phase of transition and the status of selected indicators as a benchmark for tracking performance
Sustainable development impacts	Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality, gender equality and energy security
System	A configuration of social and technical elements (characteristics of transformational change) forming a complex whole across three levels of society: micro, medium and macro
Top-down data	Macro-level statistics collected at the jurisdiction or sector level, such as energy use, population, GDP or fuel prices
Top-down methods	Methods (such as econometric models or regression analysis) that use statistical methods to calculate or model changes in GHG emissions
Transformational change	A fundamental, sustained change of a system that disrupts established high-carbon practices and contributes to a zero-carbon society, in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5–2 °C temperature goal and the United Nations SDGs

Transformational impact

Changes in system characteristics resulting from a policy, described by processes and outcomes of transformational change with regard to GHG and sustainable development impacts at scale and sustained over time

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