



OECD Green Growth Studies

# Green Growth Indicators 2014





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**Please cite this publication as:**

OECD (2014), *Green Growth Indicators 2014*, OECD Green Growth Studies, OECD Publishing.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264202030-en>

ISBN 978-92-64-20202-3 (print)  
ISBN 978-92-64-20203-0 (PDF)

Series: OECD Green Growth Studies  
ISSN 2222-9515 (print)  
ISSN 2222-9523 (online)

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Cover design by advitam for the OECD.

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## PREFACE

Green growth is about fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. If governments are going to pursue policies designed to promote green growth, they need indicators that can raise awareness, measure progress and identify potential opportunities and risks.

A first set of green growth indicators was proposed in *Towards Green Growth: Monitoring Progress* in 2011. This report updates and extends those indicators. It charts the progress that countries have made in four areas: the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient economy; maintaining the natural asset base; improving people's environmental quality of life; and implementing policies for, and realising the economic opportunities associated with, green growth.

The overall picture that emerges is mixed: while countries have individually and collectively made some progress in the transition to green growth, much remains to be done. As many of the trends in the report show, the global economic and financial crisis has relieved some of the pressures on the environment. However, there is a risk that, as growth resumes, these pressures will also intensify and quickly exceed the pre-crisis levels unless governments take decisive action to strengthen relevant policies. This requires the concerted action of Finance, Economy, Industry and Agriculture ministries and others depending on how national administrations are organised.

Reflecting the cross-cutting nature of green growth, this report has been prepared through a co-operative process involving the OECD's Economics Department, Environment Directorate and Statistics Directorate. This has ensured the green growth indicators have wide ownership in capitals. Evidence of this is reflected in the fact that to date, 23 countries have used the OECD framework to develop indicators that suit their national circumstances. Fifteen of these were developing or emerging economies. Other international organisations, including those participating in the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (the Global Green Growth Institute, UNEP and the World Bank) have also used the OECD green growth measurement framework and related indicators.

Building on these encouraging developments, we plan to both deepen and broaden our analysis in order to provide governments with a full range of green growth indicators and continue to address methodology, coverage and implementation challenges in practice. For example, we are currently developing new indicators to provide better insights into how measures of economic productivity should be adjusted to take account of the resources used and pollution generated, and to better assess the sustainability of natural resource use. We are participating in the global effort to implement the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts recently adopted at the United Nations. We remain committed to working closely with national and international partners and other stakeholders to ensure that green growth indicators are analytically sound, and that they support policies that enhance the lives not only of this but also future generations .

Paris, January 2014

Rintaro Tamaki  
OECD Deputy Secretary-General



## FOREWORD

This report updates the 2011 report *Towards green growth - Monitoring progress: OECD indicators* and is published on the responsibility of the Secretary-General. Its elaboration has been drawing upon the OECD's expertise with statistics, indicators and measures of progress. It has been prepared jointly by the OECD Environment and Statistics Directorates, in co-operation with the Economics Department (ECO), the International Energy Agency, the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF), the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI), the Development Cooperation Directorate, the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV) and the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD). This report was prepared by Myriam Linster and Ziga Zarnic with the statistical support of Mauro Migotto and Sarah Sentier. It has benefitted from the expert advice of ministries and statistical offices in countries.

Part One of the report summarises the conceptual framework and the original set of green growth indicators. It describes recent developments, including the agreement on a small set of headline indicators and advances in the measurement agenda. It also presents national and international initiatives related to green growth indicators and the underlying statistics. This includes the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) whose central framework was adopted as a statistical standard at the level of the United Nations, and whose implementation will provide an important basis for improving the quality of green growth indicators.

Part Two of the report charts the progress that countries have made in four areas: the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient economy; maintaining the natural asset base; improving people's environmental quality of life; and implementing policies for, and realising the economic opportunities associated with, green growth. Where possible, the indicators in the 2011 report have been recalculated using more recent data and, in some cases, indicators have been further elaborated. Efforts have been made in particular to further develop indicators on policy responses and economic opportunities.

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