

# Austrian Climate Policies and GHG emissions since 1990

## What is the role of climate policy integration?

Presentation at the CCCA Klimatag

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# Content

Austria: Current state of policies and GHG-emissions  
Analytical Framework for Climate Policy Integration (CPI)  
Four phases of climate policies and action  
Policies and other drivers of GHG-emissions trends  
Conclusions  
Outlook

# Where do we stand?

Many policies and institutions since 1990:

Kyoto protocol

Climate strategy

Climate protection act

Paris agreement

Climate and Energy Fund (ACRP)

Etc...

## Emissions

Decline since 2005

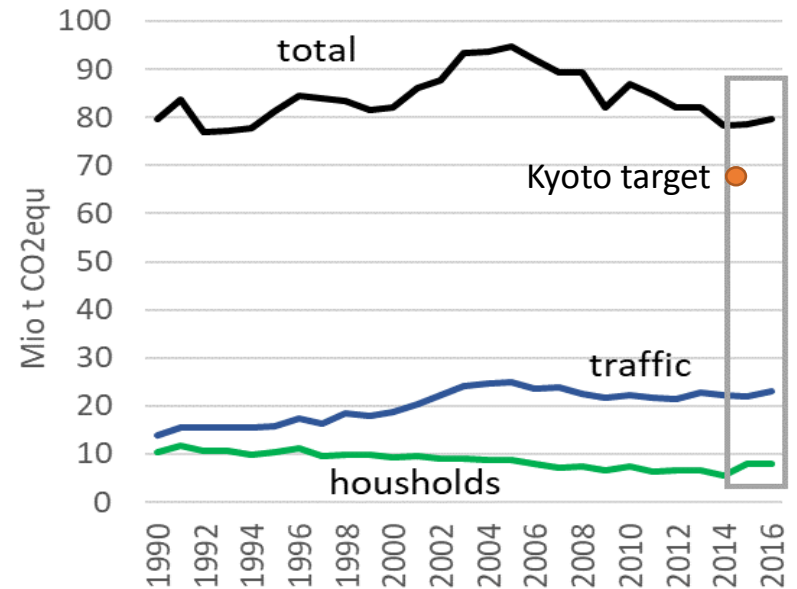
**BUT**

2012: Kyoto target failed

→ 700 Mio EUR compensation

Emissions increase since 2014

Austrian GHG trends, 1990-2016



## Research questions:

- Why did Austria fail?
- Role of policies?
- Other factors?
- Where to improve?

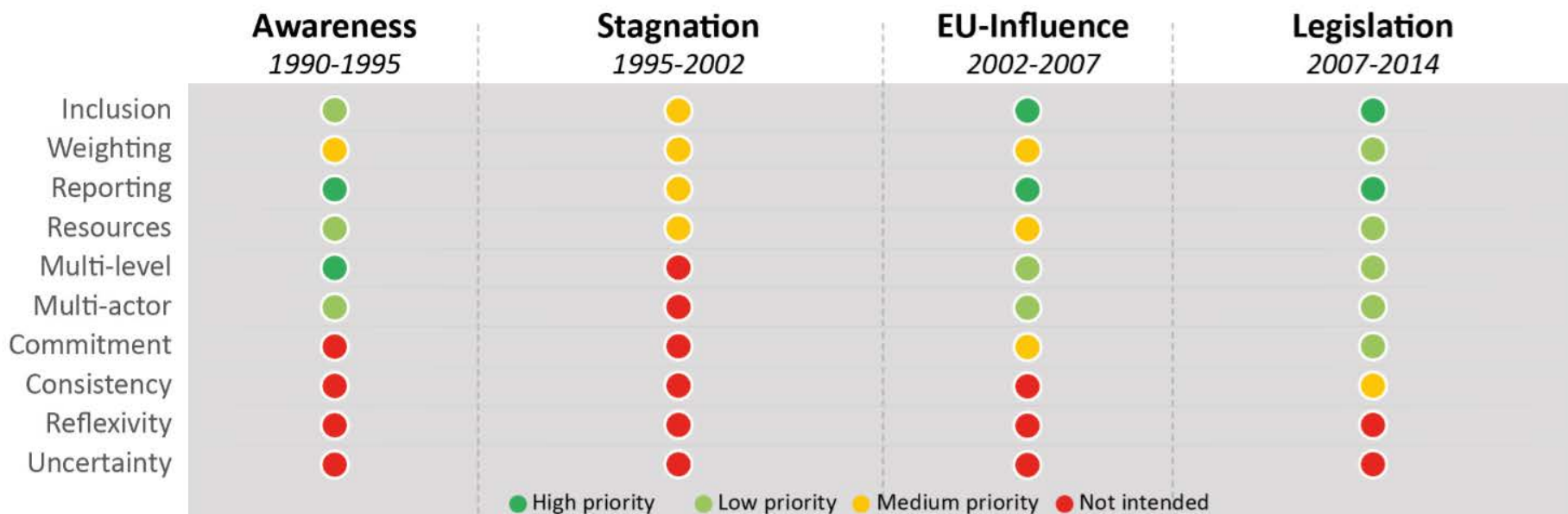
# Analytical Framework

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Inclusion<sup>1</sup></b>	To what extent is direct as well as indirect climate change mitigation covered?
<b>Consistency<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Have the contradictions between the aims related to climate change mitigation and adaptation and other policy goals been assessed and have there been efforts to minimise revealed contradictions?</b>
<b>Weighting<sup>1</sup></b>	Has the relative priority of climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts compared to other policy aims been decided and are there procedures for determining the relative priorities?
<b>Reporting<sup>1</sup></b>	Are there clearly stated evaluation and reporting requirements for climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts (including deadlines) <i>ex ante</i> and have such evaluations and reporting happened <i>ex post</i> ? Have indicators been defined, followed up and used?
<b>Resources<sup>1</sup></b>	Is internal as well as external knowhow about climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts available and used and are resources provided?
<b>Reflexivity<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Is learning over time encouraged based on reporting and evaluation of policy measures</b>
<b>Commitment and sanctions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>A high level of commitment is usually accompanied by sanctions in case of non-fulfilling targets</b>
<b>Uncertainties<sup>2</sup></b>	Are uncertainties of climate change policies addressed and how (epistemological, ontological)?
<b>Multi-level<sup>2</sup></b>	Is the interplay of different levels of decision-making (EU, national, regional) addressed properly?
<b>Multi-actor<sup>2</sup></b>	To which degree are different stakeholders, i.e. politicians, industry, civil society, NGO-s, involved?

<sup>1</sup> Based on Mickwitz, P., et al., 2009. Climate policy integration, coherence and governance. PEER.

<sup>2</sup> added during project workshop

# Policies and other drivers



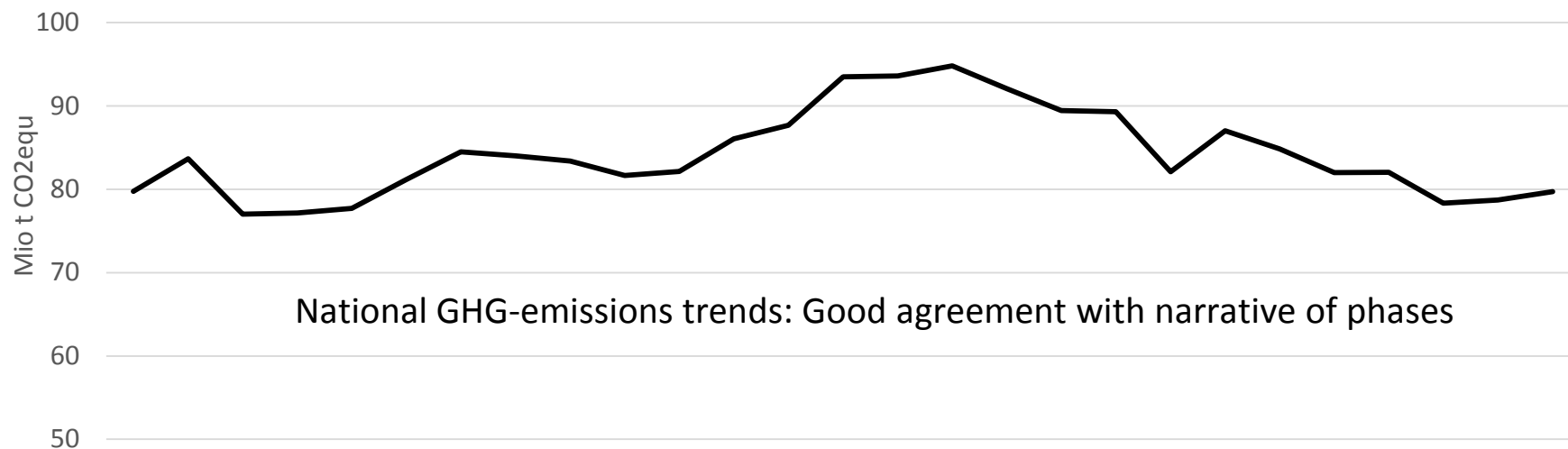
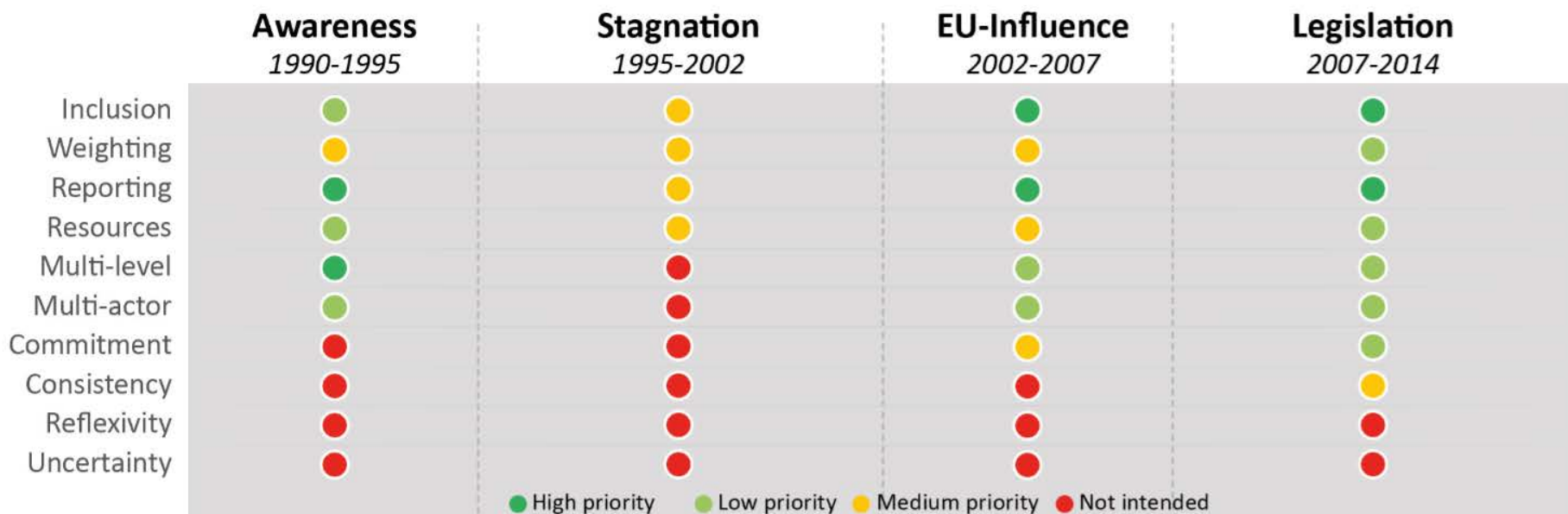
- Toronto agreem., Kyoto protocol
- CO2 Kommission (ACC)
- Interministerielle Komitee Klima (IMK Klima)
- Annual reports
- Austrian Env. Support Act

- EU-accession: Transit!
- Austerity package
- Budget cuts
- Austrian Council on Climate Change – Klimabeirat (only scientists, no budget, stopped in 2001)
- Kyoto protocoll

- Climate strategy
- Green Electricity Act
- GHG inventories (UNFCCC)
- progress reports Klima:aktiv

- EU-infringement proceedings
- Climate strategy #2
- KLI:EN
- Energy Strategy
- Climate Prot. Act (2011/15)
- Klimabeirat & Klima Komitee
- Energy Efficiency law
- Maßnahmenkatalog

# Policies and other drivers

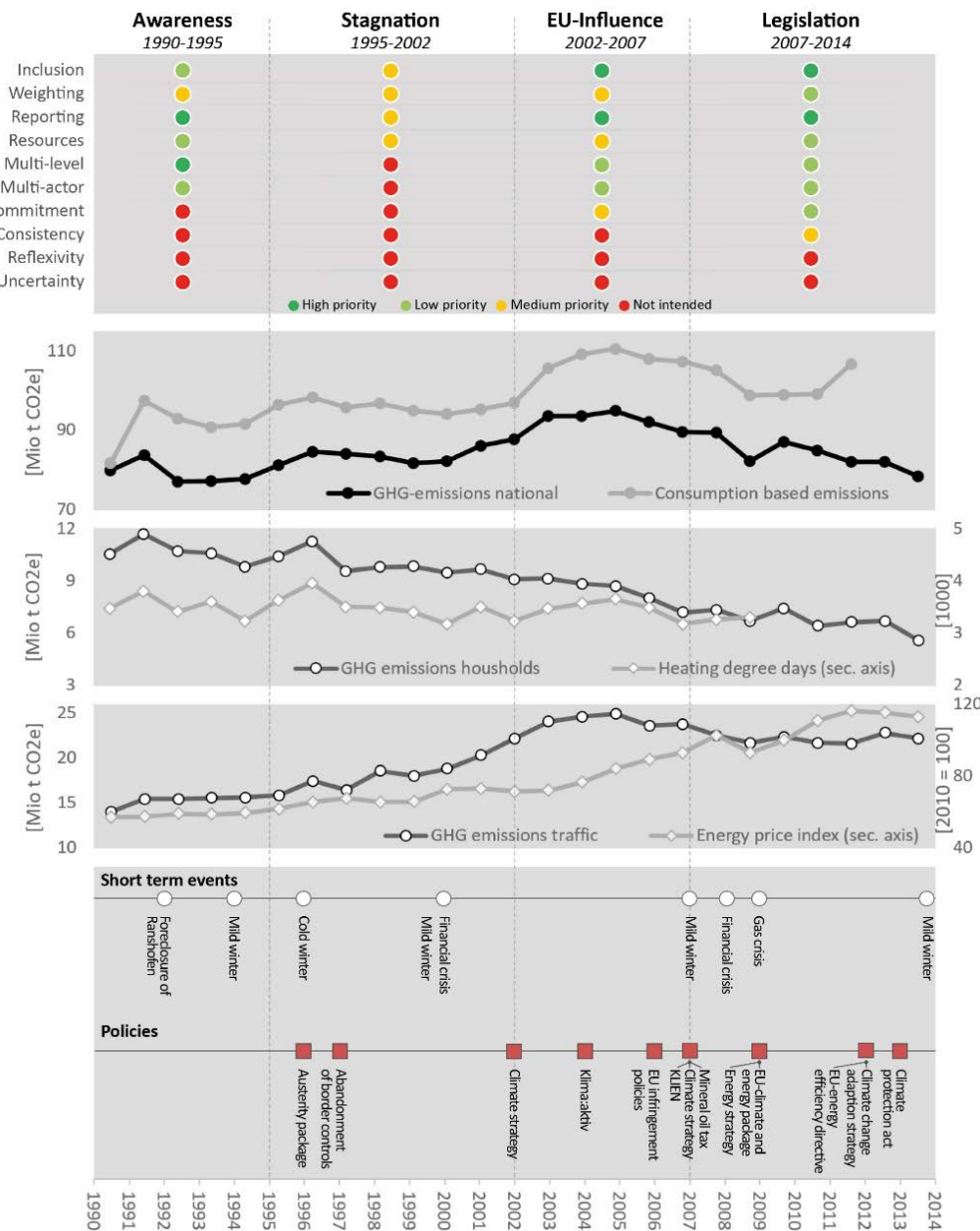


# Other drivers similarly important as policies

Heating degree days decline with household emissions  
Accounting rules

Energy prices counteract with traffic (and other) emissions: steady increase

**Proximate effects of short-term events :**  
Foreclosure of Ransenhofen  
Gas crisis 2009  
Economic crisis 2008/09  
Climatic extremes (cold and very mild winters)



# Austria outsources responsibilities

EU's and Austria's consumption related emissions much higher than territorial emissions

Austria: 1/3<sup>rd</sup> higher and steep increase after economic crisis

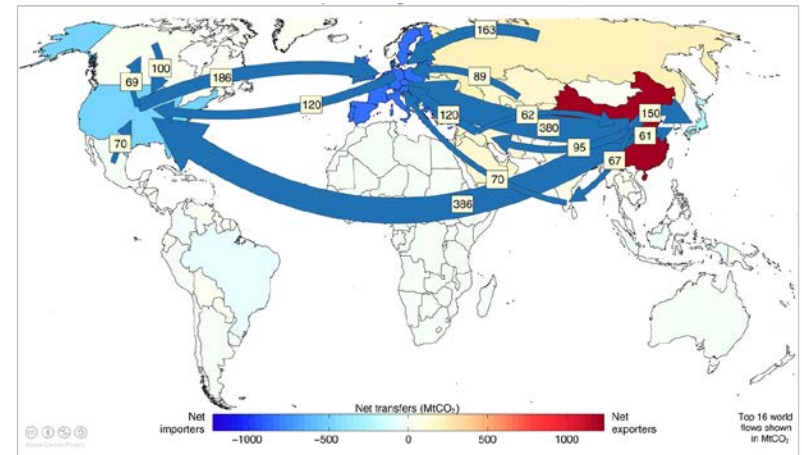
This is blurred in the national GHG inventories!

Flexible mechanism:

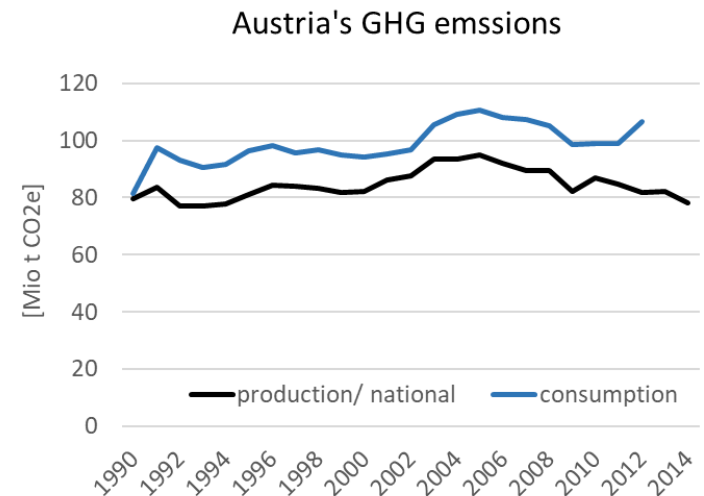
1/3 of Austrian emissions fall under Emission Trading System (mostly energy intensive industries)

But their relevance for CCM is highly debated

Very low Carbon prizes



Flows from location of generation of emissions to location of consumption (Global Carbon Project, 2017)



Consumption based emissions taken from Wieland 2016



# Conclusions

CPI framework useful to systematically evaluate climate mitigation policies and their effectiveness since 1990

CPI works relatively well for „Inclusion“, „Multi-actor“, „Multi-level“, „Reporting“, „Financing“

BUT policy success severely hampered by persistent lack of „Consistency“, „Commitment and Sanctions“, „Weighting“

Federalism and corporatism as key factors

Short term climatic and economic events and long term socio-economic drivers equally important for GHG trends as policies; within policies EU plays a crucial role

Austrian performance partly result of outsourcing responsibilities

Is CPI the solution, or the reason for low success of policies?

# Outlook

Future of Austrian CCM-progress highly uncertain

- EU as top-down commitment-booster in a crisis
- Carbon market yet to be fixed

National measures will become increasingly important

- No signs currently for increasing policy effectiveness
- New Climate and Energy Strategy about to inherit CPI loopholes from past
- Traffic remains problem child
- Collaboration between science, administration and politics crucial
- Transparent relative prioritisation of climate policy crucial for success (weighting) – strategic implications „Staatsziele“ – change in strategy

Change from other directions: Innovative businesses and firms, labor unions (Niedermoser 2012), City networks, bottom-up initiatives, alliances

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# Thank you for listening



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## THG und CO<sub>2</sub> Emissionen und verbindliche Ziele für Österreich

