# Final practice abstract WP7: Policy, strategy, advice to achieve targets

Decarbonising the food system, particularly its cold chain components, requires a multi-level approach that integrates technological, policy, and behavioural strategies. There are significant policy gaps between current regulatory frameworks and the decarbonisation potential of technologies that could decarbonise the food chain. There is a lack of alignment between climate, energy, and food policies, which hinders coordinated action across the food supply chain.

Existing policies would profit from accounting for future food system needs, especially those related to the food cold chain. Forthcoming investments in research and innovation outlined by the European Commission's FOOD 2030 Research and Innovation Pathways for Action 2.0 show modest incentives for the food industry. This could lead to slow down innovation adoption and missing opportunities for emissions reductions. Aligning policy tools with technological readiness levels is important, particularly by supporting emerging technologies in the demonstration and market entry phases.

At the societal level, consumer behaviour remains a pivotal but underleveraged driver of food system transformation. Food choices are strongly influenced by socioeconomic factors and regional disparities, and sustainability awareness and willingness to pay for green products remain uneven.

The transition to a sustainable and low-carbon food system will also depend on engaging society through equitable, informed, and participatory processes. Behavioural change must be supported by clear information, affordable green choices, and systemic policy interventions that reflect the complexity of the food system. Without these coordinated efforts, the goals of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy risk being confined to niche markets and higher-income groups, leaving behind broader segments of the population.



[1]FAOSTAT Analytical Brief 50: GHG emissions from agrifood systems: Global, regional and country trends.