

May 28, 2026

EU Reports Strong Progress Towards 2030 CO₂ Storage Capacity Target

Key policies: Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA), Industrial Carbon Management Strategy, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Clean Industrial Deal, Innovation Fund, EU Climate Law, European Green Deal

The European Commission has published its first progress report on the implementation of the **CO₂ injection capacity target** established under the **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)**, confirming that the European Union is making significant progress towards achieving its objective of **50 million tonnes of annual geological CO₂ injection capacity by 2030**.

The report highlights the rapid expansion of carbon storage infrastructure across Europe and concludes that the 2030 target remains within reach, provided that planned projects continue to advance according to schedule. Increasing CO₂ storage capacity will play a critical role in supporting carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects, reducing emissions from hard-to-abate industries and establishing a competitive European carbon management market.

Rapid growth of CO₂ storage infrastructure

The Net-Zero Industry Act established the EU-wide target of creating **50 million tonnes of annual CO₂ injection capacity by 2030** to support the deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies.

Since the target was adopted in 2024, progress has accelerated considerably.

Three storage sites have already received operating permits:

- **Porthos** (Netherlands)
- **Greensand** (Denmark)
- **Prinos** (Greece)

The **Greensand** project, located in the Danish North Sea, is expected to begin injecting CO₂ in the coming weeks. The **Prinos** storage facility in the Aegean Sea is scheduled to become operational during **2026–2027**, while the **Porthos** project near Rotterdam is expected to begin operations next year.

Together, these projects represent the first generation of large-scale geological CO₂ storage sites within the European Union.

Accelerating market development

The report demonstrates how rapidly the European carbon storage market has evolved.

During the past year alone, Member States have issued **four new storage permits**, including the recently authorised **K14-FAFC** storage site in the Netherlands.

This represents a significant acceleration compared with the previous decade. Between the adoption of the **Carbon Capture and Storage Directive** in **2009** and the establishment of the NZIA target in **2024**, only a single storage permit had been granted across the European Union.

The Commission also expects **at least seven additional storage sites** to become operational over the coming years, providing a combined annual injection capacity of approximately **19 million tonnes of CO₂**.

Growing demand from European industry

The report indicates that demand for permanent CO₂ storage is increasing rapidly as industrial decarbonisation projects move towards implementation.

Innovation Fund-supported projects alone are expected to capture more than **25 million tonnes of CO₂ annually** for permanent geological storage.

Between **2020 and 2025**, almost **100 carbon capture projects** applied for Innovation Fund support. Collectively, these projects would require more than **70 million tonnes** of annual CO₂ injection capacity.

According to the Commission, continued expansion of storage infrastructure will therefore be essential to meet future industrial demand and support Europe's leadership in carbon capture technologies.

Oil and gas sector has a key role

The report highlights the important contribution expected from the **44 oil and gas companies** that are subject to obligations under the Net-Zero Industry Act.

These companies are expected to contribute to developing additional storage sites and expanding Europe's geological storage capacity.

The Commission also calls for improved public reporting by both Member States and obligated companies in order to:

- Improve market transparency
- Support investor confidence
- Facilitate long-term infrastructure planning
- Promote balanced geographical access to CO₂ storage across the European Union

Greater transparency is expected to help accelerate investment in new carbon management infrastructure.

Supporting industrial decarbonisation

The development of a European market for CO₂ transport and storage is regarded as a cornerstone of the **Clean Industrial Deal**.

The Commission emphasises that expanding carbon management infrastructure will:

- Support decarbonisation of hard-to-abate industries
- Encourage investment in carbon capture technologies
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation

- Improve industrial competitiveness
- Reinforce Europe's energy security

By creating predictable regulatory conditions and investing in strategic infrastructure, the EU aims to establish a competitive carbon management market capable of supporting long-term industrial transformation while maintaining economic resilience.

Next steps

The Commission will continue monitoring progress towards the 2030 injection capacity objective through regular reporting by Member States and obligated companies.

Continued permitting of new storage sites and accelerated project deployment will be essential if the European Union is to achieve the annual **50 million tonnes** injection capacity target by the end of the decade.

The Commission also expects carbon capture and storage infrastructure to become an increasingly important component of Europe's broader industrial decarbonisation strategy.

Background

The **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)** established the European Union's first binding target for **50 million tonnes of annual geological CO₂ injection capacity by 2030**, recognising carbon capture and storage as an important technology for reducing emissions from sectors where direct electrification or other low-carbon alternatives remain technically difficult.

The first implementation report shows that Europe has entered a new phase of carbon management development. Following years of limited progress, multiple commercial storage projects are now moving towards operation, while industry demand for permanent CO₂ storage continues to grow rapidly.

Together with the **Innovation Fund** and the **Clean Industrial Deal**, the expansion of geological CO₂ storage infrastructure forms a central element of the European Union's strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 while preserving the competitiveness of its industrial base.

More information: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/eu-makes-good-progress-towards-its-2030-co2-injection-target-2026-05-28_en