

Center for Global Sustainability

2035 NDC Assessment: Azerbaijan

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This analysis is part of the Center for **Global Sustainability (CGS): Country Climate Ambition Project**, which presents a set of detailed, country-specific analyses in a consistent, robust, and integrated approach with the goal of informing individual country ambition and supporting the Paris Agreement's NDC process. With in-depth assessments of key emitting countries, the Country Climate Ambition project provides the latest summary—with regular updates—of analyses on plausible, High Ambition country pathways that are based on CGS's field-leading modeling, data-driven empirical analyses, deep country knowledge, international research collaboration, and strategic policy engagements. For additional analysis and information, please see our website: https://country-ambition.cgs.umd.edu/.

Summary

This assessment shows that Azerbaijan's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reflects an increased level of ambition, as it brings the 2050 target specified in the previous NDC forward by 15 years. However, it still lacks quantified sectoral detail, particularly on methane reductions, and sets modest renewable energy targets. Azerbaijan's 2035 NDC commits to reducing total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2035, contingent on international support, which corresponds to a 17% and 27% reduction from 2020 and 2022 levels, respectively.

In November 2025, Azerbaijan released its 2035 NDC, which commits to a 40% reduction in GHG emissions (including Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF)) from 1990 levels by 2035, contingent on international financial support, technology availability, and other factors.[1] The country has not yet committed to a long-term net-zero target.[2]

Azerbaijan is a large emitter with emissions that have not yet peaked. According to Azerbaijan's 2024 Biennial Transparency Report (BTR),[3] total GHG emissions were 61.5 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020 and increased to 69.5 $MtCO_2e$ in 2022 (including LULUCF, using the IPCC AR5 GWP-100). In 2022, the LULUCF sector functioned as a net sink, while energy accounted for 81% of emissions (excluding LULUCF), followed by agriculture (9%), waste (7%), and Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) (4%). Azerbaijan's total GHG emissions (including LULUCF) decreased by 27% between 1990 and 2020, but have increased by 13% since then. As of 2022, emissions reached about 82% of the 1990 emissions level. Within the energy sector, the largest shares of emissions came from the oil and gas sector (31%) and the power sector (23%) in the same year.

Gas dominates electricity generation in Azerbaijan, accounting for 88% of the power mix, while hydropower contributes 10%. Wind and solar remain limited, with only 0.35 GW of installed capacity as of 2024.[4] Despite this, Azerbaijan aims to reach 30% renewable installed capacity by 2030,[5] including a total of 5 GW of wind and solar capacity,[6] most of which is planned for electricity exports to Europe and Türkiye.[7] However, given the country's substantial solar and wind potential, a 30% renewable capacity target may not translate into a significant share of total electricity generation, as solar and wind technologies typically have lower capacity factors than conventional power plants.

According to our analysis, **Azerbaijan's 2035 NDC target allows for emissions to decline from current levels.** Based on the country's BTR, the NDC target corresponds to a 17% and 27% reduction from 2020 and 2022 levels, respectively. **The target represents an increase in ambition compared to the previous 2030 NDC**, which aimed for the same 40% reduction by 2050. The new NDC brings this timeline forward by 15 years to 2035, despite increasing the 1990 baseline from 79 to 85 $MtCO_2e$.[1]

Building on these advances, **Azerbaijan's 2035 NDC presents opportunities to further enhance ambition.** First, although the NDC outlines sectoral strategies, it does not include quantified sectoral targets, limiting a more detailed assessment of its ambition. For example, while it references the Global Methane Pledge, it does not specify the level of methane reductions expected from the oil and gas sector. As a result, the ambition of sectoral measures cannot be fully evaluated.

Additionally, as the host of COP29, Azerbaijan joined the hosts of COP28 and COP30 in committing to submit an NDC at COP29 to support a cycle of early and ambitious submissions. However, the release of its NDC shortly before COP30 suggests limited progress toward advancing this timeline.

Finally, the 30% renewable capacity target by 2030, which is referenced in the NDC but not formally included as part of the target itself, doesn't appear particularly ambitious given the country's substantial solar and wind potential, including up to 157 GW of offshore wind power capacity in the Caspian Sea.[8] The absence of explicit guidance on the deployment of solar, wind, and electric vehicles represents a missed opportunity to accelerate low-carbon development, especially given that electric vehicle imports from China have recently been increasing sharply.[9]

References

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