

Chile energy conservation

Spain agreed to host COP25 when Chile pulled out due to the civil unrest that erupted in October in Santiago and many other major cities throughout the country. While Chile continues to grapple with the protests and forge a new post-Pinochet constitution at home, it retains the Presidency of this COP and will co-host the meeting with Spain. This is not unusual: in 2017, Fiji hosted COP23 in Bonn, Germany, as it lacked capacity in its capital of Suva.

Chile is the skinniest country in the world, only 217 miles across at its widest point with the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Andes Mountains to the east. It runs 2,600 miles in length, making it is one of the most naturally diverse countries, with the arid Atacama Desert in the north to the glacial mountains and lakes of Patagonia in the south. Because it covers so many ecosystems, Chile faces a wide variety of climate impacts along its length:

The good news is that Chile's recent surge in solar is setting the country on track to beat its own renewable energy targets. In 2013, Chile passed a law requiring that 20% of its energy come from renewables by 2025; and by some accounts, the nation has already beat this by six years. In April 2019, President Piñera set a new target of 70% renewables by 2030, which would beat Chile's original Paris pledge by 20 years.

Chile committed not only to a reduction in the intensity of its CO2 emissions by at least 30% by 2030, the promotion of non-conventional renewable energies by promoting an energy efficiency law and reforesting 100,000 hectares of mainly native forest, but also defined 4 other pillars of climate action in addition to mitigation.

The action plan has 16 specific objectives and 30 action lines that are materialized in 96 measures, divided in four areas of action: adaptation, mitigation, means of implementation and management of climate change at regional and communal level.



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