

***National strategy for
sustainable development
and engagement of
private sector***

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National strategy for sustainable development was approved by Lithuanian Government in 2003 and Ministry of Environment was authorized to be responsible for cross-sectoral coordination and implementation of this strategy.

Special expert group for regular analysis of external and internal changes, evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the strategy, and preparation of biennial reports and recommendations for solving of emerged problems was established.

- ***Participation (partnership) principle*** - ***Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy depends upon participation and co-operation of different social groups of the society, intergovernmental, governmental, municipal and private institutions and persons on equal partnership bases.***

- ***Accessibility principle:***

Expenditures related to the implementation of NSSD in public sector (water supply, heat supply, wastewater treatment, waste management etc.) cannot be imposed on taxpayers alone and must be affordable to all inhabitants. Thus, implementation measures must be based on economically advanced and ecologically efficient technologies.

- ***Precaution principle:***

Planning of economic activities must be done very carefully in order to reduce negative impact on environment and human health. Environmental impact assessment is required for planned economic activities.

- ***Eco-efficiency principle:***

Based on this principle, production and services must develop faster than consumption of natural resources, i.e. less energy and other natural resources must be used for production of the same amount of products and services.

- ***Substitution principle:***

Non-hazardous materials and renewable resources must substitute for hazardous materials and nonrenewable resources

- ***Science, knowledge and technological progress principle:***
In terms of this principle, the development of different sectors and their branches must be based on modern scientific achievements, knowledge and advanced environment friendly technologies

The main strategic objective of NSSD was formulated as follows: to achieve the present economic, social and eco-efficiency level of EU15 countries during strategy implementation period (untill 2020) and to secure EU environmental standards.

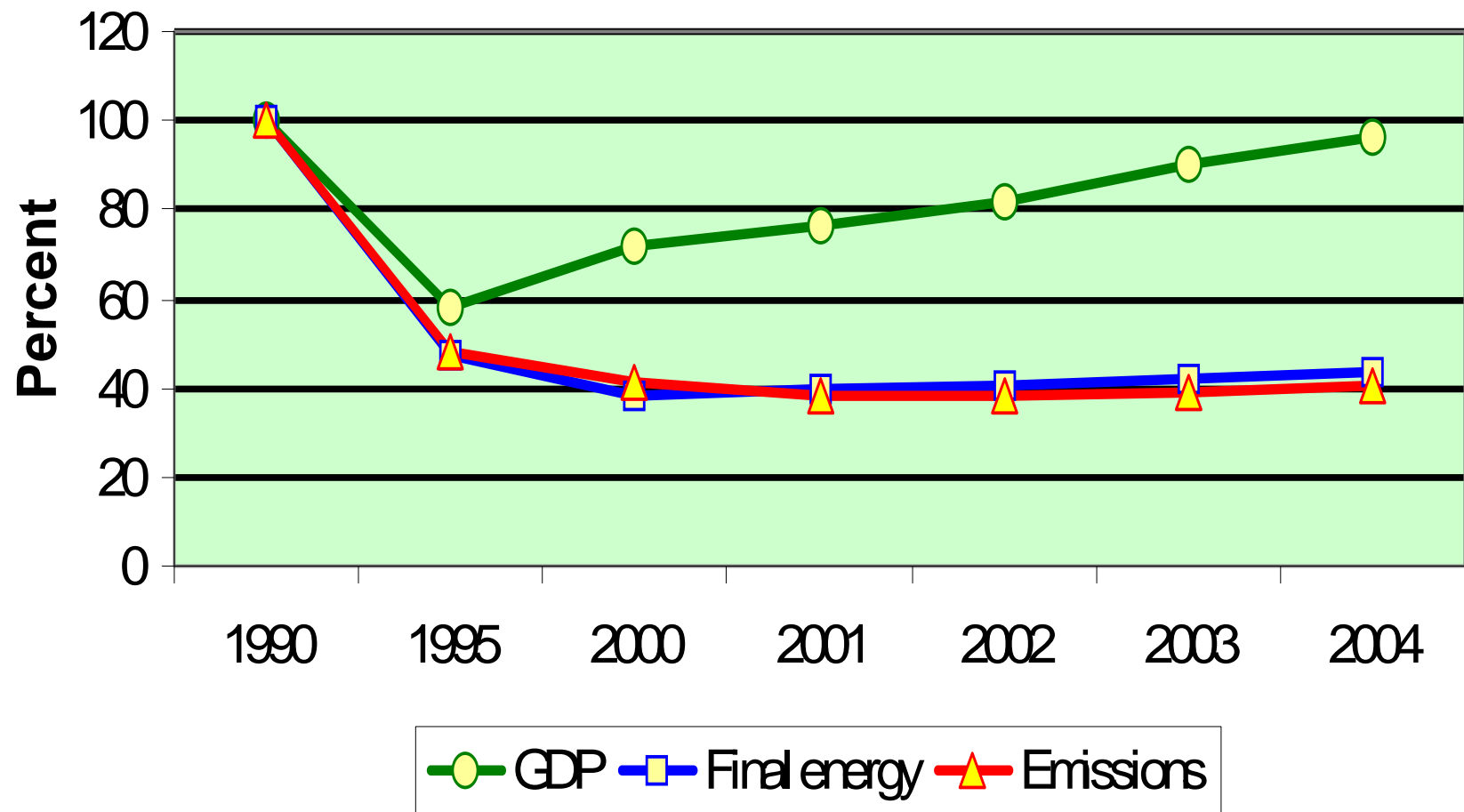
Taking into account fast current growth of Lithuanian economy (6-8% increase in GDP annually), decoupling of environmental impact from economy growth is considered as one of the most important tasks to keep sustainability of development.

*More efficient use of three different forms of capital, such as: **natural, economic, and human** usually are considered as necessary preconditions for sustainable development.*

*Lithuania inherited not only **extremely inefficient use of natural resources but low efficiency of human capital** (labour productivity) as well and it should be considered as one of the biggest problems necessary to solve.*

Transition to the market economy, it's restructuring and privatization, as well as increased prices of energy and other natural resources resulted approximately double decrease in energy intensity already up to the approval of NSSD and this positive process is continuing.

Course of primary and secondary decoupling in Lithuania



However, energy intensity in household sector still is very high and progress in this sector is very slow. Energy consumption on average is about 200 kJ per degree for square meter per day and it exceeds the required energy amount in most EU15 countries 2-2.5 times.

A large part of the centralized heating infrastructure is out-dated and energy losses in heat distribution networks are very high.

- *Labour productivity is 2.5 times lower than in EU15 countries on average and increase in GDP is based on the extensive economy growth mainly.*
- *Share of renewable resources in consumed electricity is very low (3.5%) and increase is very slow.*
- *Establishment of modern waste management system is going to slow Sorting and recycling of household waste remain one of the most difficulty resolved problems.*

The most expected from the point of sustainability private investments:

Household sector:

- *Renovation of block-houses and improvement of their thermal behaviour.*
- *Modernization of thermal units.*
- *Renovation of heat supply networks.*

Do not forget principle of accessibility!

Industry sector:

- ***To increase production based on high technologies instead of extensive growth. (20-25% to compare with current 5.5%).***
- ***To increase recycling of local secondary raw materials.***
- ***To develop production of biofuel from rape and grain.***

Transport sector:

- ***Modernization of transport fleet.***
- ***Development of public transport, giving priority to less polluting and less noisy transport means.***
- ***Development of environmental friendly transport modes (rail way, inland water transport)***

Energy sector:

- *Development of alternative energy sources*
 - *wind power stations,*
 - *biomass,*
 - *biofuell.*

*Environmental problems of hydroenergy
in plain countries!*

Waste management:

- ***Establishment of regional waste management systems.***
- ***Recycling of secondary raw materials.***
- ***Use of waste water treatment sludge for energy needs.***

Future perspectives:

- *EU strategy for sustainable development has been renewed this summer.*
- *Renovation of Lithuanian strategy for sustainable development is already started.*
- *Proposals from private sector are welcome.*

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