

Guidance for Reviewers

The purpose of the Expert Review is to ensure that the report is ***i) comprehensive, ii) objective, and iii) balanced.***

- All review comments should be made in **English** and through the **online** tool only.
- Authors may not be aware of some (recent) literature, please **provide references** if you identify studies missed by the authors. Give full citations for suggested literature, for grey literature please provide a web link if available.
- Look critically at the **texts, graphics, and tables**: Are they comprehensible, can they be read and interpreted independently? Consider ways of improving the presentation of material graphically or through tables.
- Focus on **substantive comments** only (see section 1): not on spelling, layout or editorial issues.
- Please identify any **incomprehensible** abbreviations, **unclear** messages, **missing** information, **overlapping or repetitive** sections
- Language: **policy-relevant** but **not prescriptive**? Please mark all prescriptive statements (for more details see section 2).
- Recognizing that this is an **assessment report** and not a scientific review of how presented knowledge was derived.
- Please consider the **overarching AAR2 objectives** and key questions (section 3)
- Consider ways of **simplifying/shortening** the text without loss of relevant information (suggesting concrete text).

1) Effectiveness of comments

Authors will have to go through hundreds of comments – help them work efficiently and effectively!
Make your comment as precise and concise as possible:

- Consider structure, comprehensiveness, and balance in chapters, including appropriate use of peer-reviewed literature
- Please provide concrete text suggestions and supporting literature as appropriate.
- If you suggest authors to add text, please also suggest which text to delete – authors have page length restrictions.

2) Language in the AAR2 report

➔ 'Policy relevant not policy prescriptive'

Direct special attention to verbs like 'must', 'should', 'have to' in statements describing policies or actions unless phrased conditionally. Example:

- "To limit the warming with a probability higher than XX%, the carbon budget must not exceed XX GtC" is OK.
- But "The carbon budget must not exceed XX GtC" is not OK – it is policy prescriptive.
- Uncertainty language is used by adding qualifiers in italics, such as 'likely' to relevant statements. These qualifiers should be reviewed as well.

3) Specific to AAR2

AAR2 Overarching Objective

Provide a synthesis of the scientific knowledge about climate change and identify response options and pathways for mitigation and adaptation to reach climate neutrality in Austria.

AAR2 Key Questions

- How has climate change manifested in the physical environment, and which climate impacts emerged in economic and societal context? Which parallels and differences exist in comparison to other European countries and on global scale?
- How have extreme events changed in frequency and magnitude/intensity and which changes are projected for coming decades in 1.5, 2, 3 degree or even warmer worlds?
- How can we build a climate resilient society to successfully adapt to and cope with future impacts and when do system thresholds emerge?
- How can Austria reach net-zero emissions and how can individual sectors contribute to reach this goal, and which alternative strategies and pathways exist? Which national portfolio is necessary to balance sources and sinks? How can the potential of carbon dioxide removal be enhanced, and which opportunities and risks emerge in individual sectors?
- How would multi-sectoral impacts of climate change affect mountainous regions and what are the different dependencies and trade-offs in adaptation and mitigation efforts towards progressing climate change?
- What are the enabling boundary conditions and policy instruments to effectively implement mitigation and adaptation measures in Austria? Which actions in the near term can put Austria on a pathway for fundamental structural changes to enable a sustainable and climate neutral transformation? What are the implications of delayed climate action and potential carbon lock in effects?

Thank you for participating in the review of AAR2!