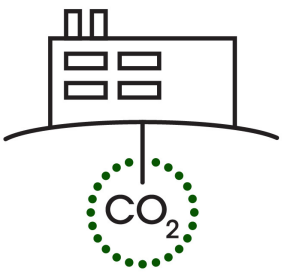
Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Industrial Carbon Management



Adopted by the Steering Group on

18 February 2026

The IWG on Industrial Carbon Management[1] is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in this technology area. The scope of the working group is the range of technologies to capture, transport, use and store CO2 emissions from industrial and energy production facilities, as well as to remove CO2 from the atmosphere. This includes an enabling business and investment framework, well-coordinated policies at national level, as well as strategic infrastructure planning at EU level, underpinned by close cooperation between the EU and national administrations, industry, research communities and civil society.

It works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g., Joint Secretariats (CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

The objective of the working group is to strengthen research and innovation (R&I) cooperation and coordination among SET Plan countries and the European Commission, maximising synergies, funding included, in their European, national and regional R&I programmes for Industrial carbon management (ICM). Through collaborative R&I on ICM, in close cooperation with industry and research stakeholders, the working group aims at supporting the SET Plan countries' and the European Union's energy and climate objectives, contributing to energy independence and technology sovereignty.

The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a 1) Thematic Vision (TV), a 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). The old Implementation Plans and SRIAs may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise. In this context, the IWG shall:

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology area** of industrial carbon management, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with relevant industry and research stakeholders from ETIP Zero Emissions Platform and EERA CCS by 15th May 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to: technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.

The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

[1] In the past, the IWG focused on CO2 capture, utilisation and storage. More recently carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere also entered the scope. As the latter is not covered by the original abbreviation of the IWG (CCUS), the revised IWG will refer to Industrial Carbon Management (ICM) as defined in the Commission's ICM strategy, and which covers CCS, CCU and CDR.

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

The IWG will entrust the development or update of a SRIA to industry and research stakeholders, represented by the ETIP Zero Emissions Platform, by 15th October 2026[2]. The SRIA shall identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals. Where appropriate, the SRIA should also include recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and market uptake (e.g., regulatory, fiscal, standardization) that should accompany and help realize the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CETPartnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the European Energy Research Alliance, etc.

The resulting SRIA shall be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

The IWG will organise and steer the discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organizations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA by 31st March 2027. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the **Common Implementation and Investment Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.

[2] In some rare cases, IWGs might not have corresponding ETIPs. In these specific situations, the IWG can involve other stakeholder organisations involved in the SET Plan (i.e., partnerships, industrial association, dedicated technical sub-group of the IWG) to act as an ETIP, until a formal ETIP is set up and endorsed by the Steering Group or another structure is formally tasked to act as such by the Steering Group.