

Summary of key messages

● Long-term and mid-term targets

- World leaders aspire to bold targets for emissions reductions.
- Co-benefits will arise from setting appropriate country- and region-specific targets.
- Backcasting approaches can identify feasible and desirable pathways towards sustainable low-carbon societies.

● Economic aspects of low carbon societies

- Co-ordination is needed between environmental goals and innovation policies.
- Sectoral and regional perspectives need to be taken into account.
- New financing paradigms will be required if developing countries' mitigation and adaptation needs are to be met.

● The role of technology

- Radical technological change is crucial in reaching a low-carbon society.
- More investment in energy technology is needed.
- Technology will not deliver a low-carbon society on its own.
- Climate policies and R&D strategies must be synchronised.

● Public policy and lifestyle change

- Public policy can lead the way to lifestyle change and a low-carbon society.
- Facilitating behaviour change is not easy, but can be accomplished.
- The most effective measures will be tailored to individual countries and localities.
- LCS lifestyles do not have to entail sacrifice.

● Cross-cutting issues

- A persistent signal is needed to stimulate change across all sectors.
- Planning for land use change is essential.
- Cities provide an excellent opportunity to promote a low carbon society.
- Research that would allow developing countries to set their own targets and pathways is essential.
- Human resource development is needed as well as technology co-operation.
- We need to adapt to unavoidable climate change and remain alert to new scientific insights.