

## NEP Environmental Vision

**Hungary's long-term vision** is set out in Parliamentary Resolution 18/2013 (III.28) adopting the **National Framework Strategy for Sustainable Development** (hereinafter referred to as NFFS), in order to protect the opportunities of future generations and to enforce the requirements of long-term responsible management of our national resources (human, social, natural and economic resources). The vision of the Framework Strategy in relation to environmental protection includes:

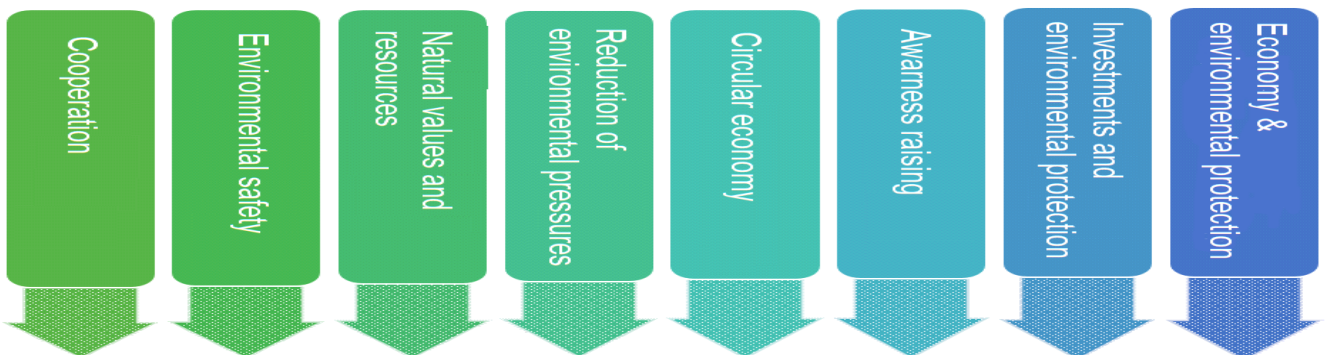
*"The economy operates within its ecological limits. Sustainable development means the sustained, value-preserving management of natural resources that enables people to thrive without economic development destroying diversity, complexity and ecosystem services. People respect nature, our natural values, local communities recognize their potential from the natural resources at their disposal, and organize their production, energy use and consumption on this basis."*

Hungary's vision for 2030 is set out in **National Development 2030 - National Development and Regional Development Concept** 1/2014. (I. 3.) Parliamentary resolution. According to this, by 2030 Hungary will become the economic and intellectual centre of Central and Eastern Europe, with a competitive economy based on the sustainable use of resources, a prosperous population, strengthened communities, improved quality of life and environmental conditions, providing its population with a secure livelihood.

The **Basic Law** states that: *"natural resources, especially land, forests and water resources, biodiversity, especially native plant and animal species, as well as cultural values are the common heritage of the nation, the protection, maintenance and preservation of which for future generations is the duty of the state and everyone"*.

The vision of the Programme should also take into account the vision of **8<sup>th</sup> EAP**, which is the basis of the European Union's environment policy, according to which in 2050 citizens will live in prosperity, respecting the ecological limits of our planet, in an economy where nothing is wasted, economic growth is not resource-dependent and does not cause environmental degradation, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and natural capital are achieved, enhancing resilience to climate change and other environmental risks.

On the basis of the above documents, taking into account their environmental-related elements, the long-term environmental vision of the Programme can be determined.



According to this vision:

- Politics and society recognize that **Hungary's well-being and development will become impossible without the protection and preservation of the natural foundations of life.** The issues of the **environment and socio-economic development cannot be separated**, and with this realization wants and is able to change his decision-making and lifestyle.
- **Environmentally conscious thinking and action become a virtue and an advantage**, supported by the entire social and economic system, thus **making sustainable production and consumption habits decisive.** All this contributes to the improvement of the state of health of people, their quality of life.
- In the operation of society, the economy and the institutional system, as well as in developments, the **principles of holistic approach, precaution and responsibility apply.**
- **Environmental considerations are integrated into decisions at all levels**, encouraging members of society to conserve resources, protect the values of nature and the landscape, prevent and reduce pressures on the environment, eliminate harmful emissions, and adapt to the challenges of climate change.
- Economic operators **take environmental aspects into account when planning and implementing developments and investments.**
- **Priority will be given to material and energy saving and efficiency, as well as to the increasing use of local renewable energy sources**, taking into account environmental aspects.
- **Strengthening the circularity of the economy – the green transition – will contribute to job creation and reduce resource dependency, which will also lead to a competitive advantage** for the economy.
- **Consumer demands are also shifting towards environmentally friendly products and services.**
- **Land use is implemented in accordance with environmental conditions and constraints**, which ensures consistency between the use of resources necessary for well-being and the preservation of ecosystem services, which **gradually reduces the ecological footprint of our country.**
- The **protection, maintenance and restoration of biodiversity** and healthy, well-functioning ecosystems **contribute to increasing resilience** and preventing the emergence and spread of new diseases.
- The **provision of high-quality food to the population is achieved** through the sustainable use of natural resources (in particular land and water).
- The **rate of installation of agricultural land and biologically active (e.g. green) surfaces is slowing down** significantly, which – by recycling brownfield sites and remediating contaminated sites – is able to restore, maintain and preserve the ecological service capacity of soil and water as environmental elements.
- Energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure, expanding environmentally friendly transport options and high-biologically active and extensive high-quality green infrastructure **make the**

**environment of settlements** (especially urban) **more livable and healthy** and help **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.

- Conscious, **waste-free water production and use** is carried out taking into account the environmental and health protection aspects together.
- **Environmental education and training opportunities are constantly expanding** and people are open to lifelong learning and environmentally conscious behaviour.
- Economic, scientific and institutional innovations and collaborations – also using the potential of digitalisation – **effectively help to prevent and solve environmental problems**.

However, achieving all aspects of this vision, achieving a healthy, clean, well-conditioned environment, requires a longer period and consistent steps, broad political and social support and action. The Programme is primarily aimed at the period up to 2026, but in many cases also looks beyond the longer term, helping to achieve the 2030 and 2050 targets.