Algemene Rekenkamer

Climate Change Audits

Pieter Zevenbergen

Netherlands Court of Audit (NCA)

Climate change audits

- Abatement of greenhouse gases (2002)
- Renewable electricity (2004)
- EU CO2 emissions trading scheme (2006)

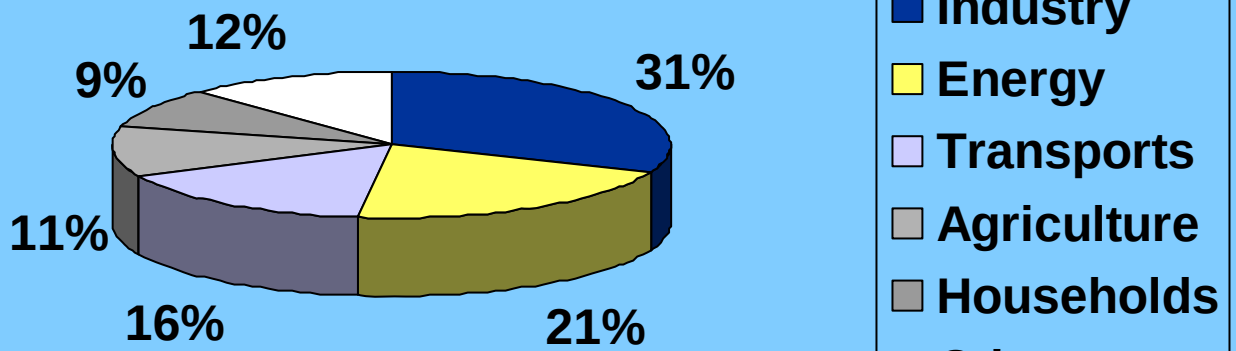
(further reading: www.courtofaudit.nl)

Abatement of greenhouse gases

Audit object: Netherlands climate change policy 1990-2000

- Kyoto-protocol 1997; Dutch sectoral policy plan 1999
- Kyoto target: reducing greenhouse gases emissions by 6% of 1990 level by 2008-2012

Sectoral emissions 2000



Total 222 Mtonnes (CO2 equivalents)

Abatement of greenhouse gases

Main conclusions

- 2000 objective climate change policy not achieved. Aim: -3% CO2 compared with 1990, realization +8%
- Achieving (Kyoto) policy aim for 2008-2012 (6% reduction) not sure.
- Impossible to ascertain whether realized emission reductions can be linked to implemented policies.

Abatement of greenhouse gases

Reaction of government

- Objectives for 2008-2012 will be met (mainly by emission trading scheme)
- Sectoral target values formulated (to cope with linking goals with instruments)
- No need for more incisive instruments for coordination

Renewable electricity

Public budget 1999-2007 € 2.7 billion (tax incentives and grants)

Policy goals

- 2005 6% electricity consumption renewable
- 2010 9% electricity (production or consumption?) renewable
- 2020 17% electricity production renewable

Renewable electricity

Policies improved since 2003, but important improvements remain:

- Policy goals for 2005, 2010, 2020 are mutually inconsistent and therefore difficult to assess
- Not sure if goals will be met
- Potential gaps in efficiency new subsidy instrument remain

Renewable electricity

Reaction of ministry of Economic Affairs:

- Production or consumption targets will be clarified consulting EU
- Confident that 2010 target will be met
- Efficiency suggestions partially concurred with

EU CO2 emissions trading scheme

- Launched January 2005 after extensive preparation all through the EU
- NCA is preparing an audit in 2006
- Topics of interest:
  - Allocation of emission allowances by the Dutch Government
  - performance of Dutch Emission Authority (NEa) in 2005

Impact

- Abatement of greenhouse gases contributed to improving monitoring
- Renewable electricity audit caused policy improvements during audit
- Emissions trading scheme is an upcoming major issue

Questions

- What is your countries' Kyoto target?
- How is this Kyoto target to be achieved?
- Do instruments achieve the expected? (real effects, measurement)
- Are the instruments efficient?