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PGC Day 20  
Greener

My home country, **Hungary's Energy Strategy 2030** outlines four baseline targets for the next decade:

- 1) Increasing energy efficiency
- 2) Low carbon-footprint (primarily renewable) electricity production
- 3) Promoting renewable and alternative heat generation
- 4) Developing low carbon-footprint transportation systems

The document also highlights nuclear energy as an important source of electricity, and the need to connect to the EU energy grids. The strategies outlined also present natural gas as a defining and permanent feature of the Hungarian energy market, and state that the safety reserves consist of the domestic carbon and lignite. According to this plan, Hungary will stay dependent on fossil fuels for the near future. The Energy Strategy also supports biomass production for fuel conversion.

**If I were to run for office**, I would revise the energy strategy in the following way:

- 1) Accommodate the transition from fossil fuels by
  - a) Stopping extraction of domestic fossil fuel reserves
  - b) Subsidizing renewables, mainly solar installations – both private and commercial applications.
  - c) Invest in developing a safe, modern green power grid
  - d) Increase regulation on vehicle emissions and promote electric vehicles
- 2) Continue improving the public transportation (trams, buses, railway), especially in the countryside
- 3) Encouraging ride sharing systems and autonomous electric vehicles
- 4) Create a “Sustainable and Resilient Hungarian Cities” plan, outlining strategies to
  - a) Increase energy efficiency standards of new buildings
  - b) Increasing “walkable urban areas”
  - c) Implementing accessible housing closer to the city centers and connected to public transportation
- 5) Create a “Sustainable Rural Development Plan”, outlining strategies to
  - a) improve the energy infrastructure outside of the urban areas
  - b) improve accessible public transportation connecting urban and rural regions
  - c) funding energy and fuel efficient farming technology (new machinery, less fertilizers)
- 6) Increase government funding for research in the areas of green energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and sustainable transportation
- 7) Provide accessible education opportunities targeting the training of professionals in the fields of renewable planning and installation, infrastructure development, urban planning and administration, and transportation

I believe that the steps above would create job opportunities and security while accelerating the transition to a carbon neutral energy system. While Hungary is currently not supportive of the EU target of reaching regional carbon neutrality by 2050, I would overturn this decision and commit to a carbon neutral EU by 2050. I also believe that the above steps are realistic and suitable for Hungary with its given financial and geographical abilities .

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