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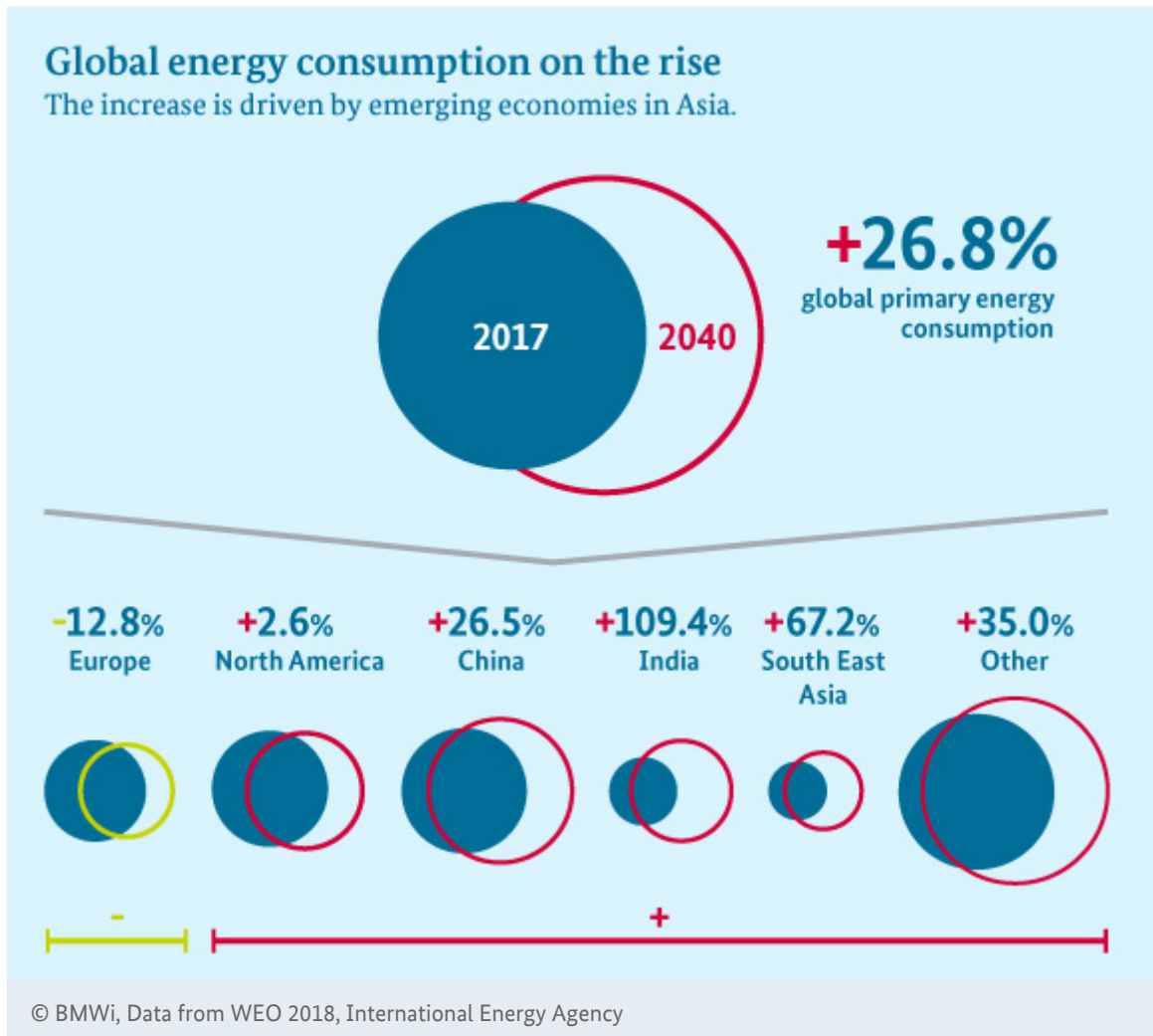
Energy transition progress in 2018

Fresh momentum for grid expansion, a greater share of renewables and more funding for research – Let's look back at the past twelve months. **Find out more**



IEA: Global energy consumption to rise by more than a quarter up to 2040

As the world's population and global incomes keep growing, primary energy consumption is expected to rise by more than a quarter by 2040. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has calculated that emerging economies in Asia will account for most of this increase in demand.



Every year, the IEA publishes its [World Energy Outlook \(WEO\)](#), which provides sound analyses relating to future developments in the global energy sector. This is not about foretelling the future. Instead, the WEO provides various different scenarios. The New Policy Scenario, for instance, is based on the assumption that government policy will be implemented as announced and targets reached. Our infographic is based on data extracted from this scenario.

Constant improvement on energy performance is absolutely key

Under this scenario, global energy consumption will increase by 27% by 2040, from 14,000 to 17,700 million tonnes of crude oil equivalent. This increase will be driven by population growth (+ 1.7 billion people) and rising prosperity levels across the world. The report states that the increase would be roughly twice as much if it were not for a constant improvement of energy performance levels.

Despite this greater efficiency and despite a global increase in the use of renewables, the political action that has so far been announced by governments across the globe is not nearly drastic enough for the global community to reach its climate targets.

According to the WEO, all of the rise in global energy consumption will be attributable to emerging economies, especially India. Energy consumption in the country is set to rise from 898 million tonnes of crude oil equivalent in 2017 to a predicted 1,880 million tonnes, i.e. by 109.4%. China's energy consumption is expected to rise by 26.5%, from 3,051 to 3,858 million tonnes of crude oil equivalent. During the same period, Europe will be reducing its consumption by 12.8%, from 2,008 to 1,752 million tonnes of crude oil equivalent.

The WEO report states that: "None of these potential pathways is preordained; all are possible. The actions taken by governments will be decisive in determining which path we follow."

FURTHER INFORMATION

[\[> World Energy Outlook 2018 \(English summary\)](#)

[\[> Information about the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency](#)

Electricity aid to help Belgium through the cold winter months

Several of Belgium's nuclear reactors are currently offline due to defects or maintenance work. This means that the country might suffer a power shortage during the coldest months of the year. Under a new energy partnership, Germany has pledged to help.



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Germany and Belgium are deepening their cooperation on energy. Should Belgium experience a power shortage this winter, Germany will help. This is what Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier has promised the Belgian Minister of Energy, Marie-Christine Marghem. A Memorandum of Understanding on closer cooperation on energy was signed by the two Ministers in October, setting out specific measures to be taken in an emergency.

Said Minister Altmaier: "Together with other European partners we want to ensure that Belgium has a secure supply [of electricity]". France and the Netherlands have also pledged their support.

Belgium is preparing for eventual power shortages this winter, as several of its nuclear reactors are not currently in operation. For many years, the country has been having a national debate about whether to phase out nuclear power, which accounts for 54% of its energy mix.

Plans for an interconnector between Germany and Belgium

In the absence of a powerline connecting Germany and Belgium, electricity has to be taken via the Netherlands. A new direct interconnector capable of transporting 1,000 MW between the two countries is due to become operational in late 2019 or early 2020. A phase shifter is also part of the plan.

Germany produces more electricity than it actually needs, not least thanks to the expansion of renewables. In 2017, German power plant operators sold some 60 billion kilowatt hours to customers outside Germany, making the country Europe's largest net exporter of electricity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[\[→ International energy policy\]](#)

[\[→ Electricity market of the future\]](#)

Quote of the week



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Lukasz Kobus

"Our strategy shows that by 2050, it is realistic to make Europe both climate neutral and prosperous, while leaving no European and no region behind."

300 experts engage in dialogue at German-Tunisian Energy Day

Some 300 energy experts gathered for the 8th German-Tunisian Energy Day in Tunis on 29 November. Discussions focused on the German and Tunisian energy transitions. This year, the focus was on energy efficiency and its importance for a successful energy transition. The Energy Day is the most important German-Tunisian platform for dialogue on energy and brings together decision-makers from politics, the private sector, and the science community. Tunisia and Germany formed their energy partnership in 2012.

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