



Taking stock on climate action: we need to triple our speed



The review on climate action conducted by Federal Minister Robert Habeck shows us just how far Germany's climate action is falling below expectations. Immediate

Female empowerment in the energy sector

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action has launched a digital communications project called 'Women Energize Women', which is to attract women across the world to professions linked to the energy transition, and bring them together.



There is African art on the walls and the sun is shining on Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. To begin with, Ifeoma Malo appears to be a little nervous as she takes the floor on the 'Women Energize Women' YouTube channel to explain about her work for the energy transition as CEO of Clean Tech Hub Nigeria. This little bout of nerves, however, has nothing to do with a lack of experience. She is used to addressing large global audiences, talking about energy-related issues. In this instance, her excitement is linked to her passion for inspiring other women to work in the field of energy. It is clear that she is fully immersed in this task.

#womenenergize: from New Delhi to Abu Dhabi

Go a few clicks further and you'll hear from [Gauri Singh](#), who is describing her job as Deputy Director of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi. The video is only four minutes long, which is not nearly enough. Viewers are left with a score of questions they want to discuss with Gauri. The good news is: even during the pandemic, it is possible to find women like Ifeoma and Gauri, let yourself be inspired by them and benefit from their expertise – no matter where you are. You can just use the various platforms of 'Women Energize Women'. These include a YouTube channel, a twitter and an instagram account, and a LinkedIn page.

Virtual series of events showcasing women working in the energy sector

As the digital communications campaign wants to interest even more women in jobs in the energy sector, including managerial positions, and provide information about this work, it combines a number of different measures with the YouTube portraits. This includes monthly virtual events, such as discussions, interviews or networking events with interesting women working in the sector, and also events organised in cooperation with established and new women's networks, organisations and institutions.

The speakers at the virtual events are women from the international world of energy, including female representatives of German and international companies who share their experience and their views with the audience. Since its launch in November 2021, the campaign has already reached more than 390,000 people across the globe.

Renewable energy: 42 million jobs by 2050

Beyond this, the project wants to provide information about the situation women are confronted with in the energy sector and wants to point out ways in which this could be improved. A closer look at the labour market statistics shows that there is a lot to be done.

According to a report by IRENA, the number of jobs in the sector could increase from currently 13 million to 42 million in 2050 ([Global Renewables Outlook: Energy transformation 2050](#)). The forecast highlights the major economic opportunities associated with the energy transition, and also shows that women are increasingly making use of these. However, women accounted for no more than 32% of the global workforce in the renewable energy sector in 2018 ([Study: 'Women for Sustainable Energy', conducted by the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition](#)). According to this study, women are particularly underrepresented in managerial positions and technical jobs. This is a

critical point, given that talent is scarce in the field of renewables and that diversity is a major driver of economic success and innovation.

‘Women Energize Women #womenenergize’ is a communications tool of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and is being implemented by GIZ and the German Renewable Energy Association (BEE) as part of Germany’s bilateral energy partnerships. ‘Women Energize Women’ is aimed at women across the world, but focuses on the countries with which Germany has concluded energy partnerships. These include Algeria, Brazil, Chile, China, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia.

FURTHER INFORMATION

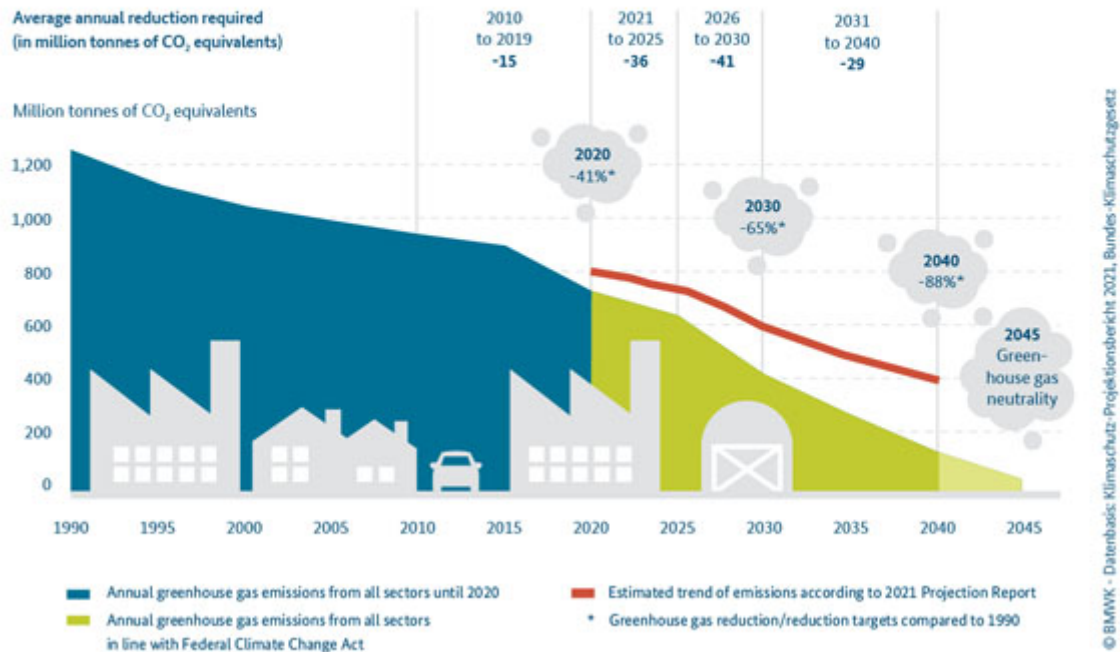
- [\[→ Official website of ‘Women Energy Women’ on the website of the German Renewable Energy Association \(BEE\)](#)
 - [\[→ ‘Women Energize Women’ on Twitter](#)
 - [\[→ ‘Women Energize Women’ on LinkedIn](#)
 - [\[→ ‘Women Energize Women’ on YouTube](#)
 - [\[→ ‘Energy partnerships and energy dialogues’](#)
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Greenhouse gas emissions must be lowered faster

The Federal Climate Change Act sets out annual reduction rates for each sector's emissions to ensure that Germany can become greenhouse gas neutral by 2045. The 2021 Climate Change Projection Report shows that there is great need for further action.

Greenhouse gas emissions dropping too slowly in Germany

The speed at which emissions are reduced must pick up considerably up to 2030



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Time is running out for an effective mitigation of the climate crisis. The rise in the average global temperature is, if possible, to be kept down to 1.5C in order to avoid serious repercussions for life on Earth – this is what has been agreed in the Paris climate accord. More and more countries are facing up to this task. To this end, Germany wants to become greenhouse gas-neutral by 2045. But if we are to achieve this, we must bring down harmful greenhouse gas emissions three times faster than has so far been the case – and this must happen across all sectors. The 2021 Climate Change Projection Report suggests that the mitigation measures taken so far will not bring down the level of emissions fast enough. This report was also used as a basis for the new Federal Government's [Germany's current climate action status](#) (PDF download, 3 MB, in German only).

It says clearly in the action status that Germany must significantly speed up the process of lowering its emissions. The average annual reduction in emissions over the last decade stood at 15 million tonnes, but it will have to rise to more than 40 million tonnes a year in the second half of this decade. This is the aim set out in the Climate Change Act.

Greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2020

Greenhouse gas emissions in Germany dropped by 41.3 per cent to approximately 729 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents between 1990 and 2020. It is true that 2020 saw a particularly steep reduction of 8.9% compared to the preceding year, but experts have found that at least half of this rate can be attributed to singular effects such as mild weather and the measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. They say that it is already possible to predict that greenhouse gas emissions will have risen again in 2021 in many sectors.

This is why an [Immediate Climate Action Programme](#) has been developed to get Germany back on course. The work on the necessary legislation, regulation, and other measures for this is to be concluded by the end of 2022. According to the climate action status, this could take Germany back on track by 2024, meaning that the ambitious climate targets for 2030 would be within reach again.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[\[→ Publication by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action: Germany's current climate action status \(PDF download, 3 MB - in German only\)](#)

Oliver Krischer is #NeuHier

Oliver Krischer has been **Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action since the beginning of December 2021.** What's he like? Watch the interview (in German only) to find out.



New to the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, but not new to the subject matter: Oliver Krischer has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2009. For many years, he has been active in the Committee for Economic Affairs and Energy.

In a short interview, the man from Aachen explains why the energy transition is so important to him. He also tells us what is so special about Aachen gingerbread (or Printen) and what occupation he would have chosen as a child.

[Follow the link to the interview with Oliver Krischer \(in German only\).](#)

What exactly is H2Global?

Green hydrogen has a key role to play in the energy transition. Read on to find out what can be done to add momentum to global innovations and investments in this forward-looking technology:



This is what it's all about: the green game changer for the energy transition

Germany's future energy supply is to be organised on the basis of renewables. **Green hydrogen** will play a key role in this. It can be produced from renewables and is extremely versatile. This makes it possible to reduce CO₂ emissions especially in areas where energy efficiency and a direct use of renewables cannot have a sufficient effect or are not possible at all – e.g. in the transport and industrial sectors. Carbon-free hydrogen can also be used to produce synthetic fuels designed to replace diesel for heavy-duty vehicles and shipping, and eKerosene for aviation. In other words, hydrogen can act as a link between the power, heat, and transport sectors (sector coupling).

Making further progress on international market ramp-up for green hydrogen

To facilitate the start of the green hydrogen industry and its international market ramp-up, the H2Global Foundation was established in June 2021. The Federal Government is providing a total of €900 million for this project.

Double-auctions model for reliable planning and viable prices

H2Global is underpinned by the notion of the ‘double-auctions model’. The idea behind this is to bridge the difference between the (high) prices at which hydrogen is currently being traded on the global market and the (lower) prices at which it can be sold on and be used in economically viable ways at regional level.

This is how it works: An international auction for the purchase of green hydrogen or its derivatives is held on behalf of a subsidiary of the H2Global Foundation. The best offer wins and gets a long-term contract. This means that suppliers have the certainty they need to plan on, which encourages them to invest more in their hydrogen production. At the same time, they are subject to the condition that they must sell the products they produce in their partner countries to Europe. The Federal Government is hoping that this model will result in large-scale hydrogen imports from regions that have a lot of sunshine and wind.

In a second auction, the hydrogen that has been delivered to EU countries in this way is to be auctioned on to the highest bidder. Having green hydrogen available at a competitive price will create stronger incentives for the industrial sector and others to invest in installations that can use this hydrogen. The H2Global funding mechanism is to bridge the gap between the prices asked and given on the supply and demand sides respectively.

Green light from the European Commission

The European Commission gave its approval for the funding project in December 2021 and declared it compatible with the state-aid rules. The first supply contracts are to be concluded in 2022 and the first deliveries of hydrogen-based fuels to Germany and Europe to take place in 2024.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [\[→ More information on the H2Global foundation](#)
 - [\[→ Dossier on: ‘Hydrogen: a key element of the energy transition’ \(in German only\)](#)
 - [\[→ Press release by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action €900 million for H2Global hydrogen project – Minister Habeck: ‘Starting the ramp-up of the hydrogen industry’](#)
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Quote of the week



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“If we are to comply with the annual caps of emissions set out in the Federal Climate Change Act, we need to take additional sectors that will affect all sectors. The Immediate Climate Action Programme paves the way for all the necessary legislation and measures.”

Patrick Graichen, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

What the press say

This time in ‘what the press say’: why lithium recycling could turn out to be the biggest challenge for electric mobility, the top issues for global climate action, and why landlord-to-tenant electricity supply is recognised as super successful, but is also a source of conflict.



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welt.de, 23 January 2022: 'Lithium recycling will be the top challenge' (in German only)

The online edition of the 'Die Welt' newspaper takes a detailed look at potential improvements being explored in the field of battery production for electric cars.

Handelsblatt, 20 January 2022: 'What really matters in global climate action' (in German only)

In 'Das Handelsblatt', economist Veronika Grimm discusses why the opportunities and risks of climate action are unequally distributed.

tagesschau.de, 16 January 2022: "Electricity, even if there is no more than a slight breeze" (in German only)

On tagesschau.de, two engineers present effective, low-cost wind-powered installations that generate impressive amounts of electricity, even if there is not much wind.

Additional areas for offshore wind energy

Additional sites for offshore wind farms are to give the energy transition a strong boost. Three gigawatts of capacity could be added in newly designated areas in the North Sea. This was proposed by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in the 'procedure to continue the site development plan for the further expansion of offshore wind energy', which launched in late 2021. In the longer term, this additional offshore wind energy could supply almost three million households with electricity.

Current scenario framework for grid expansion

The latest draft of the scenario framework (2023-2027) drawn up by the transmission system operators prioritises the ambitious climate targets and is based on the assumption, in all three scenarios, that future electricity consumption will see a significant rise. This development will be driven by an increasing use of electric mobility, heat pumps, power2heat installations, electrolysis procedures (e.g. for hydrogen production) and by the decarbonisation of the industrial sector. Until 14 February 2022, the public is invited to comment on the scenario framework. If this framework is later approved by the Bundesnetzagentur (probably in the summer of 2022), it will serve as a binding starting point for the calculations for the next Network Development Plan.

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