

« The Energy Transition in Germany » (Video transcript)

During the industrial revolution, Germany used **coal** extensively to power its factories and to heat homes.

With the invention of the car, it began to import more **oil and gas**.

Until the 1970s and 1980s, the country was heavily dependent on **fossil fuels**.

From the 1960s and early 1970s, it began using **nuclear power**, too.

But the population realized that it could not continue down this path.

After the Fukushima nuclear accident, German political parties across the board voted for **energy transition**, known as “Energiewende” in German.

Objectives of this energy transition:

#1 Reduce final energy consumption by 50% by 2050.

#2 Shrink the share of fossil fuels in the energy mix

- Fossil fuels 78%
- Nuclear 6.4%
- Renewables 14.9%
- Other 0.7%

Source: *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energiebilanzen (www.ag-energiebilanzen.de)*

In particular, Germany wants to reduce its still-high dependence on COAL, which emits large quantities of CO₂. For this reason, it plans to shut down its coal-fired plants (by 2038 at the latest).

#3 Close all remaining nuclear plants by 2022.

#4 Make greater use of renewable energy sources: wind, sun and biomass are progressing steadily.

In 10 years, these sources rose from 8.9% (2009) to 14.8% (2019) of total primary energy consumption.

Source: *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energiebilanzen (www.ag-energiebilanzen.de)*

Because green electricity is often generated outside cities, the **power grid needs to be reorganized** to allow electricity to circulate better.

The intermittent nature of production also means that the country must **improve its electricity storage capacity**.

These measures should allow an **80%-95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from 1990 levels**.