



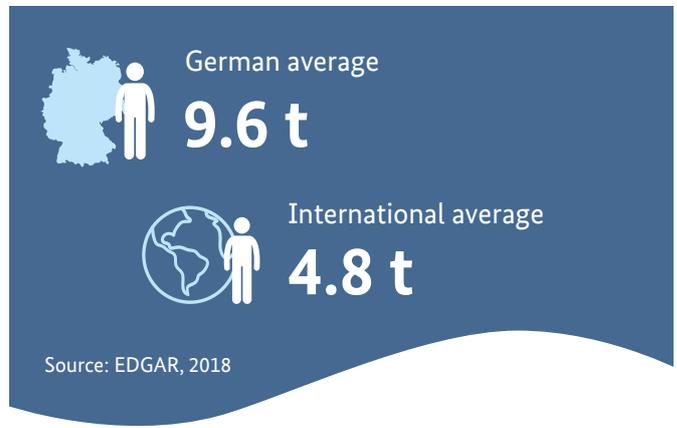
Climate Action Plan 2050: National Perspective

The Climate Action Plan 2050 is Germany's long-term strategy for climate change mitigation, defining its climate change policy up until the middle of the twenty-first century. The goal is a largely greenhouse gas-neutral economy and society by 2050. This is a just contribution to adhere to the 2°C limit, as set out by the Paris Climate Agreement.

Why has Germany adopted the Climate Action Plan 2050?

As an industrial nation, Germany has played a part in causing man-made climate change and is already feeling the consequences. As the economically strongest country in the EU, Germany is also taking responsibility for mitigating climate change.

The Climate Action Plan was already announced in 2013 in the coalition agreement between Germany's Christian Democratic Union, Christian Social Union and the Social Democratic parties. The goal was to develop a long-term strategy.



The Climate Action Plan provides the framework for a significant climate and environmentally-friendly transformation of Germany's economy and society.

The Climate Action Plan lays out a long-term scope of action and defines German climate policy within the context of broader European Union climate policy and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Firstly, the Climate Action Plan defines concrete, quantifiable greenhouse gas reduction targets up until 2030 for the energy, building, transport, industrial and agricultural sectors, with a

Climate Action Plan 2050 sectoral targets in M t CO₂-equivalents



Source: own presentation after Bundesumweltministerium, 2016, Umweltbundesamt, 2019

qualitative goal for the forestry and land use sector. This lays out the stepping stones towards a greenhouse gas-neutral future. Until now, the driving forces behind this shift have been increasing energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energies. In addition, Germany needs a climate-friendly transition in the transport, building and agricultural sectors.

What opportunities are offered in implementing the Climate Action Plan?

In order to achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan, the German Federal Government will have to adopt a programme of implementation measures and a climate protection law in 2019. This sets in motion an extensive transformation process that offers a number of opportunities: climate protection means, first and foremost, being able to lead a good and healthy life free from sudden, uncontrollable environmental changes. It simultaneously fosters research, innovation and the economy. And: there is no alternative to effective climate protection that results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In the long term, climate protection has positive effects: personally, people stand to benefit from reduced energy costs, comfortable and modern living conditions, good infrastructure and better health with better quality food and reduced environmental impact. Economically, climate protection measures often generate new jobs.



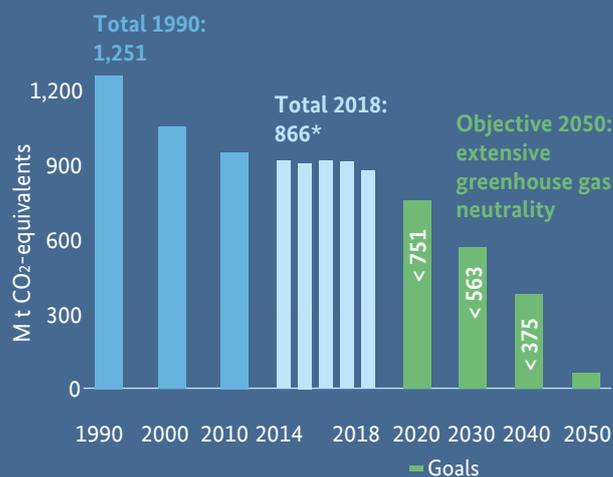
Economic success makes climate protection more attractive. Paying attention to social considerations promotes greater societal acceptance, while a healthy ecological environment creates the foundations for a good, healthy and productive life.

A consistent approach to climate protection means change is inevitable for Germany. However, in its implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the German Federal Government has a chance to get people – especially those directly affected by the accompanying changes – on board in this just transition.

What are the Challenges?

- Avoiding setbacks.**
 Aggregate German emissions have levelled out in the past four years. In the transport sector, emissions have actually increased. The long-term goal for 2050 is only achievable if we get back to the right track as quickly as possible. Poor investment decisions – for example in energy and structures connected to fossil fuels – must be avoided.
- Keeping an eye on the effects.**
 Regular evaluations and impact assessments of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan ensure that the ecological, economic and societal effects are taken into consideration. Well-being in Germany and achieving climate protection targets are not mutually exclusive. Furthermore, it is important that climate protection measures are designed in a socially sustainable manner (in short: “just transition”).
- We’re all in this together.**
 the successful implementation of the German climate protection goals depends, to a large extent, on everyone making a contribution, whether in the world of policy, the economy, research and development or in the broader public. Citizens have the power to make a contribution to climate transformation by considering how they can change their behaviour, for example by making changes in their diet, consumption or modes of transport.

Development of greenhouse gases



* Estimation

Source: Umweltbundesamt, 2019

More information (in German)

- Climate Action Plan 2050: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): www.bmu.de/faqs/klimaschutzplan-2050
- “My Climate Protection”, a website for consumers offering everyday tips and information: www.mein-klimaschutz.de