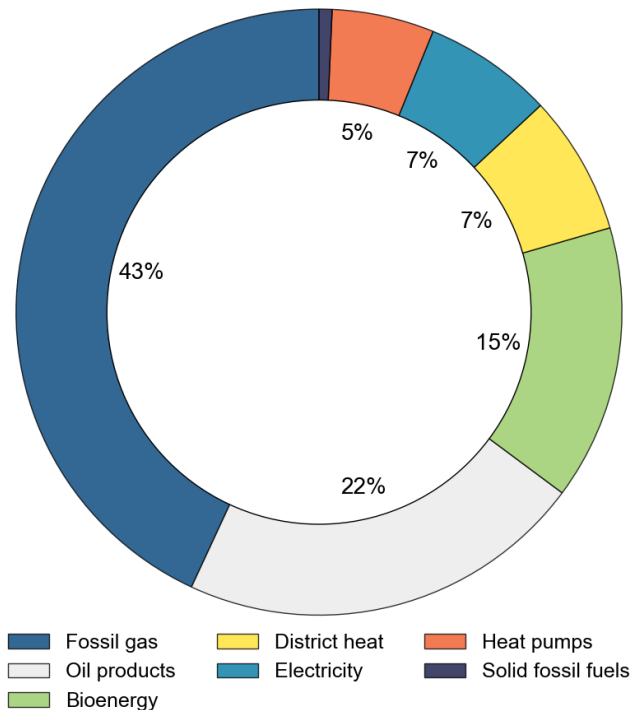


Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

Germany



Energy used for space heating and hot water in homes in Germany, 2023



Source: Eurostat, 2025.

Does the country have a national heat plan? Is it statutory?

Yes. Long term scenarios exist to plan and forecast the energy transition as a whole and sector-specific. The 2021 version was updated last year (2024). For more details, see the [report](#).

Is the progress of heating decarbonisation tracked and is the information publicly accessible?

Yes. Progress is tracked by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) based on the German Climate Protection Law. They report year-to-year developments and project emission data



into the future to estimate whether goals are to be reached with existing policy measures. More information can be found [online](#).

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

Yes.

Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

Yes. Municipal levels are responsible for carrying out heat planning, while laws come from the regional and national levels.

Is heat planning carried out at a municipal, regional or national level?

Yes. Municipal levels are responsible for carrying out heat planning, while laws come from the regional and national levels.

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

No.

Is heat decarbonisation part of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution?

No information available.

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

Yes. There is an indicative target of 500,000 units installed per year by 2025, inscribed in a roadmap for heat pumps. This is part of a broader government initiative to ramp up heat pumps, known as the "Wärmepumpenoffensive".

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

Yes. There is an obligation inscribed into the building energy code that all new heating devices must use 65% renewable heat, starting from 2026/2028 depending on the size of the municipality. The obligation is linked to the heat planning law and has several exemptions and transition periods. The new government, starting May 2025, has announced plans to reform this obligation.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in new buildings?

Yes, but only for some new buildings (e.g., in new city quarters). In other new builds, the rules for existing buildings apply.



Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in existing buildings?

Yes. The restrictions are directly linked to the obligation to use renewable heat (65% rule). However, exemptions exist that allow the installation of gas and oil-based systems, which must then use renewable-based gases or oils to increasing degrees over the years.

Has the country decided on a phase-out date for fossil fuels in heating?

Yes. Germany plans to phase out fossil fuels by 2045.

Has the country undertaken energy pricing reforms to support electrification?

Yes. The new government has announced plans to reduce the tax on electricity to the European minimum, from 2.05 ct/kWh to 0.1 ct/kWh. Additionally, the reduction and a cap on grid charges are under discussion and announced in the new coalition treaty.

Does the country place a carbon tax on fossil fuels for heating?

Yes.

If yes, please provide details. If not, is it under discussion?

Germany has a fixed carbon tax according to its Fuel Emission Trading Law (BEHG). It is not currently 55 €/t but is planned to increase to 65 €/t in 2026, before transitioning into the European ETS2 system.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

Yes. Germany supports end users buying heat pumps (and all other renewable heating systems) with a comprehensive subsidy scheme, ranging from 30% to 70% of the total cost incurred, depending on the old heating system and income criteria.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

Yes. Besides the end-user support, there is also support for the expansion and transformation of district heating network providers.

Has the country made efforts to improve public understanding and support of clean heat systems?

Yes. Numerous information offers exist from the government and the German Energy Agency, as well as local actors. The government further supports individual energy counselling for homeowners with a subsidy.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Information not found.



Brief overview of the biggest challenges towards heat decarbonisation in the country.

Among others, the gas/electricity price ratio is not yet lucrative for heat pumps, and high labour costs lead to high installation costs for renovations and heating systems.