

# Energy transition – opportunities for investment and innovation

Energy security, environmental compatibility and economic viability: combining these three goals is what the German energy transition (*Energiewende*) is all about. This will enable us to encourage environmentally and economically sustainable growth, create jobs in the sectors of the future, be resourceful with our use of valuable commodities and protect our climate.

We are proud to be spearheading a forward-looking energy policy that is committed to these goals. In undertaking our energy reforms, we have set out on an ambitious, long-term and solid path, and have already come a long way. Today, 28% of our electricity comes from renewable sources, and we are using energy ever more efficiently. Compared to the 1990s, Germany cut greenhouse gas emissions by 27% (2014). In addition, the energy transition has opened up important new fields of business.

Recently we have taken the necessary steps enabling us to swiftly expand the grid and take our citizens on board, design a viable electricity market for the future, promote climate-friendly cogeneration technology, and reach our climate targets. With this ambitious program we pull together the different strands of the energy transition and define clear objectives and targets, allowing stakeholders to plan ahead. We safeguard innovation and competition, ensuring that electricity providers commit to meeting their supply obligations, and furnishing them with a reliable basis for their investments. We guarantee free price formation, ensuring that everything is anchored in the internal European market.

The *Energiewende* is not just a national project. We are seeking to join forces with our European and international partners.

Germany remains committed to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels and ensures this can be achieved by means that are both economically and socially acceptable. However, the energy transition is not just a national project. It represents a global trend. The share of renewables in energy sources and investments in renewable energy production have increased globally in recent years. We are actively seeking to join forces with our European and international partners. The G7, under Germany's presidency, has adopted agreements that pave the way for a sustainable energy supply. And we are intensifying collaboration with our neighbors. Cross-border sales of electricity, for example, help to ensure a secure and cost-efficient energy supply.

We want to further build on our collaboration with the US. Companies on both sides of the Atlantic can derive tremendous benefit from the changing global energy landscape. This is why we should work together to promote open, transparent and competitive energy markets. The ongoing negotiations on TTIP allow us to define international standards in this area and to send a clear message to the international community. Let us take advantage of this opportunity.



**Sigmar Gabriel,**  
Federal Minister for  
Economic Affairs and Energy

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