

# Germany reports first greenhouse emissions fall in five years

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Europe's biggest economy cut greenhouse gases by 4.2 percent in 2018, the first significant reduction in five years, according to German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze

Germany said Tuesday it had reduced emissions of greenhouse gases significantly for the first time in five years in 2018, although it has

already abandoned self-imposed targets for the end of this decade.

Europe's largest economy—which is haltingly transitioning away from coal and nuclear to cleaner [energy](#) forms—lowered output of the gases by 4.2 percent year-on-year, environment minister Svenja Schulze said in a report.

A helping hand came from the unusually mild weather, which reduced the need for heating.

But Germany also "drew more energy from wind and the sun and less from coal, oil and gas," Schulze said.

It also achieved a slight reduction in emissions from transport.

In total, Germany pumped 868.7 million tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, some 30.6 percent below levels in 1990 —the year taken as a benchmark for its climate targets.

Last year, Chancellor Angela Merkel's fourth government officially gave up on the goal of slashing output by 40 percent by 2020.

Experts had long highlighted the goal as unachievable.

But Berlin still aims to cut [greenhouse emissions](#) by 55 percent by 2030 compared with 40 years before, with a long-term goal of zero net output by 2050.

"In the course of this year," minister Schulze aims to pass a far-reaching climate law with a "detailed road map" for [energy production](#), taking into account a planned exit from coal power by 2038.

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