



**Klima  
Allianz**  
Deutschland

Climate Alliance Germany's  
political demands for legislation  
following the 2024 European elections

# SECURING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE:

Ensuring progress towards  
a climate-neutral and  
socially just EU





Climate Alliance Germany is a broad civil society alliance for climate protection.

The alliance consists of more than 140 member organisations from the fields of environment, church, development, education, culture, health, consumer protection, youth, trade unions, social and welfare organisations, the alliance advocates for ambitious and socially just climate policies at local, national, European and global level.

Its member organisations together represent around 25 million people.

# Climate Alliance Germany's political demands for legislation following the 2024 European elections

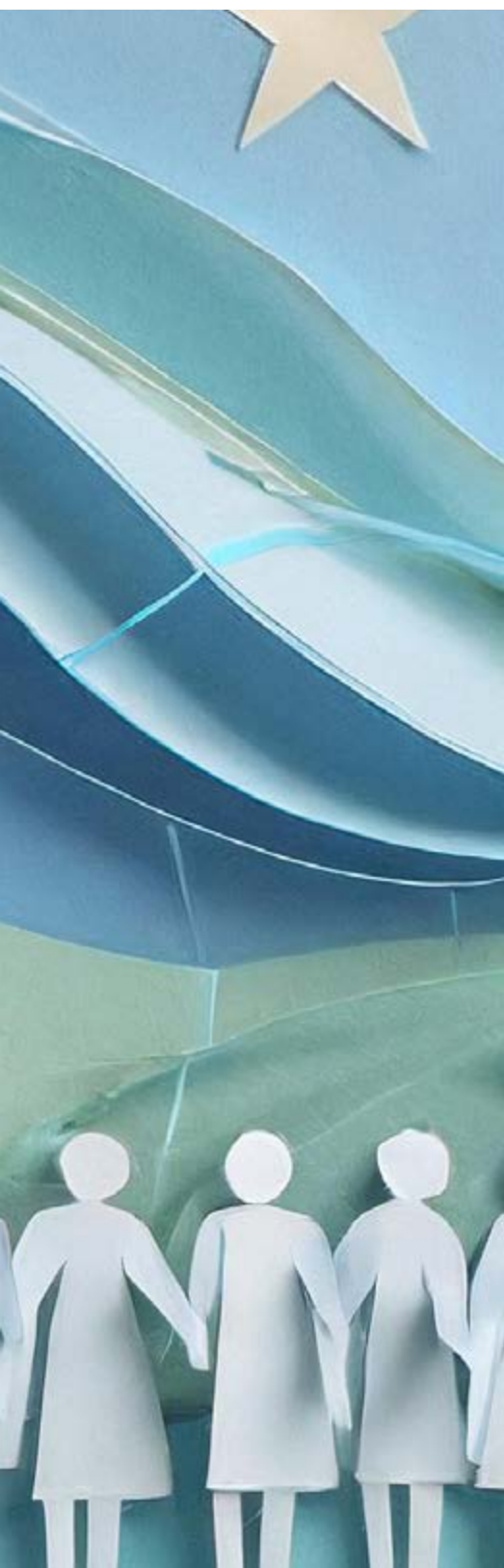
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**The future of Europe is closely interwoven with the future of our planet.**

**At the elections on 9 June, we need to defend democracy, the climate and Europe!**



**The climate crisis is already dramatically changing people's lives in Europe. Floods in Germany, drought in France, forest fires in Greece, storms in Slovenia: extreme weather events like these threaten our health, coexistence and prosperity.**



During the current legislative term, the European Union (EU) has made decisive progress in climate policy. However, the emergence of multiple geopolitical crises has raised economic concerns while fuelling far-right populism and nationalist movements. Only with an ambitious and socially just climate policy can the EU protect its citizens and defend democracy in these difficult times. Europe's transformation towards climate neutrality must be supported by coherent policies for economic development, social welfare, foreign trade and international cooperation.

The 2024 European elections will decide whether a course will be set for a just ecological transformation that brings about climate-neutral Europe or whether nationalist agendas will block effective climate action. We call on you, as candidates in the next European Parliament elections, to secure Europe's future and ensure the implementation of the European Green Deal in an equitable and effective manner.

In the following, we highlight how you can strengthen just climate protection during the next term of the European Parliament, including how you can demand more ambition from the European Commission and the Council of the EU. Our recommendations cover numerous topics, from energy transition and transport transformation to building renovation, agriculture and climate adaptation. As a major contributor to the climate crisis, the EU must take responsibility for its many decades of emissions. Only if the EU supports fair global responses to the climate crisis can there be lasting security and prosperity in Europe and the world.

# 1. SECURE FINANCING FOR SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

During the EU's next legislative term, policymakers will negotiate the 2028–2034 multiannual financial framework and the reform of Europe's economic policy framework. Financing a just ecological transformation must take centre stage. Specifically, additional public and private funding is needed to implement the European Green Deal and other initiatives.

## We call on you to:

- Mobilise more public funding for the EU's transformation to climate neutrality by adopting a **financial and economic policy framework**. Give member states more options for financing climate-friendly investment – including **flexibility in debt reduction**. Furthermore, enshrine climate and biodiversity protection goals by **green budgeting**.
- Activate additional private-sector funding for climate-friendly investment through European coordination and through **corporate taxation reforms**, and prevent tax avoidance and evasion by multinational companies. Consider an EU-wide minimum tax rate on corporate profits and introduce a financial transaction tax on all securities and foreign exchange transactions. The temporary levy on the windfall profits of energy companies that was introduced during the energy crisis should become a permanent tax on the profits of oil and gas companies.
- Help steer climate-friendly investment by improving the sustainability taxonomy for companies (**ESG taxonomy**). The ESG taxonomy is currently only in force for part E (Environment). However, pursuing its Social (S) and Governance (G) components will be essential for making the transformation sustainable and boosting broader support for the policy.



## 2. ENSURE A SOCIALLY JUST TRANSITION

On the path to climate neutrality, member states, regions, economic sectors and low-income population groups will need significantly more support than they receive at the moment. Against the backdrop of the major changes that will result from the 2027 introduction of European emissions trading for buildings and transport (ETS II), it is crucial to ensure predictable conditions for EU citizens and companies. People living in poverty require support as well.

## We call on you to:

- Expand the needs-based support for member states, regions and companies. This includes strengthening existing funding instruments such as the **Just Transition Fund** and the **Innovation Fund** at the EU level, and the setting up additional funds.
- For **emissions trading in the transport and buildings sector (ETS II)**, we are calling for emissions to be capped in line with climate targets and for a minimum price to be introduced together with corresponding social compensation measures. We also propose examining a maximum price.
- Prevent the ETS II from unreasonably burdening people and low-income households. Direct the funds raised through the ETS II to **socially just investments and support programmes** such as climate-friendly heating, cooling and transport. In this way, you will enable people with few resources to lead a climate-friendly life. Increase the size of the **Social Climate Fund** by removing the cap – it should instead grow in proportion to the CO<sub>2</sub> price in the ETS II. Set the course for the payment of national per capita climate lump sums from ETS II revenues and examine the introduction of **European per capita carbon dividends**.
- **Make employees fit** for a climate-neutral Europe. Train workers for the transition to sustainable sectors and industries. For example, a “Transformation Erasmus” could offer international training opportunities. Introduce an unemployment reinsurance scheme based on the successful SURE model that provides job security combined with training opportunities for green jobs.





### 3. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE ENERGY TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION OF INDUSTRY

The European Green Deal has created a decisive framework for decarbonising energy use throughout the EU. In order to complete this process, renewable energy capacity must be expanded more quickly while fossil fuel use must be reduced. At the same time, electricity must remain affordable for EU citizens. Alongside the energy sector, industry must become climate neutral in order to remain resilient and competitive.

## We call on you to:

- Set the course for producing **100% renewable energy in the EU by 2040** by implementing the accelerated approval procedures for wind power, photovoltaics and electricity grid expansion and by deploying new renewable energy technologies in households, agriculture, trades and industry. Fossil gas, expensive and unsafe nuclear power, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies should be excluded from planning acceleration and other subsidies.
- **Immediately end subsidies for fossil infrastructure and nuclear power in Germany and the EU** and use the funds saved to expand renewable energy instead. The financial support and use of green hydrogen and e-fuels should be linked to sustainability criteria and be restricted to sectors in which there are no direct-electric alternatives that are more energy efficient and cost effective.
- Implement the EU Commission's proposal to reorganise the **Energy Taxation Directive** so that aviation and maritime transport are no longer tax exempt. This includes taxing kerosene and abolishing diesel tax privileges. The implementation of the directive will thus also contribute to the reduction of environmentally harmful subsidies.
- **End climate-damaging subsidies for industrial wood combustion** in energy production as well as for the promotion of **biofuels** from food and animal feed crops. Limit the use of bioenergy in the face of increasing competition for land use and the desolate state of European forests.
- Improve the **EU electricity market reform** so that the low production costs of electricity from renewable energy are passed on to EU citizens and subsidies for coal and gas-fired power plants and existing nuclear power plants are gradually phased out.
- Develop an **industrial strategy** that utilises the potential of the **circular economy** to reduce industrial emissions along the most important value chains and create green lead markets. Promote financing instruments such as contracts for difference so that investments in climate-neutral industrial processes become possible quickly. The payment of public funds to companies must be linked to transformation plans that are in line with keeping global warming below 1.5C.



## 4. ENABLE EU CITIZENS TO ENJOY CLIMATE-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT

EU transport policy must provide citizens with climate-neutral and affordable transport options that do not require fossil fuels and ensure high social and labour standards for employees. For citizens, climate-friendly transport modes must be the reliable and cheaper choice.

## We call on you to:

- Set emissions budgets for all modes of transport (aviation, road and rail) in line with the 1.5C-limit and fully account for emissions from all modes of transport, especially international aviation.
- Align all investments and subsidies with climate mitigation and energy efficiency goals. This includes passing the aforementioned EU-wide tax on kerosene, reallocating investment in airport and road expansion to rail infrastructure, and imposing a levy on frequent flyers.
- Take effective and short-term measures to double the share of public passenger and freight transport across the EU by 2030. Concrete measures include a synchronised timetable for European trains, a European sleeper train network, cross-border regional trains, cheaper ticket prices, simplified ticketing and strengthened passenger rights.
- Establish a mobility guarantee that allows EU citizens of all ages in urban and rural areas to enjoy climate-friendly and barrier-free mobility by expanding the public transport network and increasing the frequency of service.
- Accelerate the transition to electric vehicles in Europe: extend the 2035 ban on the registration of new combustion engines to lorries and buses and shift subsidies for company and leasing vehicles from combustion engines to battery-powered vehicles. Ensure that small, cost-effective and resource-efficient electric vehicles are cheaper than their harmful competitors. Ensure that such vehicles are also accessible for households with lower incomes, drawing on successful examples such as France's social leasing programme.

# 5. MAKE BUILDINGS IN THE EU FUTURE-PROOF AND LIVEABLE

The buildings sector accounts for over a third of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. A climate-neutral EU is inconceivable without a climate-friendly buildings and heating sector. The EU's efforts in the buildings sector are insufficient for achieving the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. There is also a lack of socially just solutions.

## We call on you to:

- Double the renovation rate of European buildings by 2030. The introduction of **building-specific minimum efficiency standards** for residential buildings through a new amendment to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is the most promising measure for achieving this goal. Develop solutions that protect financially weaker tenants and owners and combat **energy poverty**.
- Promote an earlier phase-out of **fossil-fuel-based heat generation** in the EU. The phase-out of fossil fuels by 2040 as defined in the EPBD is not sufficient to achieve the EU's climate mitigation targets. Do not rely on the extensive use of hydrogen for heating buildings, as this cannot provide a secure and affordable energy supply.
- When creating living space in the EU, focus on **conversion, reutilisation and renovation** instead of emission- and resource-intensive new construction. In this way, you can also counteract the further sealing of surfaces, which heats up residential areas and increases flood risks. Favour building materials such as wood and concrete instead of cement.



## 6. MAKE AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION CLIMATE-FRIENDLY

The recent Europe-wide protests show that farmers in the EU urgently need secure prospects for the future. Agriculture in the EU faces the challenge of reducing emissions while ensuring a sustainable, healthy diet for all. To achieve both goals, habitats and biodiversity must be restored; soil, air and water quality, improved; and natural carbon sinks, strengthened.

## We call on you to:

- Implement the existing land-use targets of the European Green Deal and formulate ambitious **climate, biodiversity, water and air protection targets** by 2040 for the agricultural and land-use sector. Support farmers in realising these goals through a targeted funding policy, as well as sales and value creation opportunities. Organic farming is a climate-friendly cultivation system that deserves a special focus here.
- **Consider pricing the main greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture and forestry** starting in 2030 through, say, levies. Pricing must be accompanied by redistribution and compensation measures. Create incentives for the expansion of natural carbon sinks, without crediting emission savings in agriculture and forestry as compensation for emissions in other sectors.
- After 2027, **redirect area-based direct payments from the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) towards goods and services that have climate and environmental benefits**. Payments must be based on the actual needs of farms and paid out in an unbureaucratic manner. In this way, farmers can finance targeted adaptation, climate and environmental protection measures, create synergistic effects with biodiversity measures, and maintain a diverse agricultural structure with many varied farms.
- Promote the **rewetting of wetlands such as floodplains and peatlands and establish value chains for wet peatland utilisation**. This will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by drained peatlands and strengthen valuable ecosystems.
- Introduce a **European framework law for sustainable food systems** to jointly regulate agriculture and food – from labelling to public procurement. Strengthen the position of producers in the food chain through effective market regulation measures and build sustainable regional food value chains so that people in the EU can continue to eat healthily and sustainably in the future.

- Halve food waste by 2030 by setting targets and measures for production, processing, retail, catering, households and pre-harvest losses. The disposal of edible food by retailers should be banned and the passing on of edible food by voluntary organisations should be made possible. Abolish the best-before date on long-life products and eliminate trade standards that cause less aesthetically pleasing food to end up in the bin.
- Drive forward an EU-wide reorganisation of livestock farming to achieve the climate targets for the agricultural sector. Incentivise a significant reduction in animal numbers, promote more climate-friendly livestock systems such as pasture farming, and restrict the import of animal feed. Promote a healthy and sustainable plant-based diet through health programmes, education initiatives and tax incentives.
- Implement the future principles from the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to harmonise the protection and use of Europe's seas. Translate the principles into concrete measures that sustainably protect marine ecosystems.





# 7. PROTECT CITIZENS FROM THE IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Especially for vulnerable people and regions, it is important that the EU supports the adaptation to climate impacts and prevents adverse health outcomes. The relevant obligations under the European Climate Law must be implemented as a matter of urgency.

## We call on you to:

- Promote climate adaptation of cities and municipalities at the EU level. Consider: heat in cities has serious health consequences, especially for people with disabilities, children, the chronically ill and the elderly. Their perspectives are particularly important for effective adaptation. Systematically strengthen the financial and political capacity of cities and municipalities so that they can implement tried and tested methods and protect the population. These include transitioning to sponge cities, unsealing, or adopting heat concepts that protect the population.
- Support concrete immediate measures and investments to adapt agriculture and forestry to the effects of climate change such as increasing incidences of drought, flooding and forest fires. Particular attention should be paid to using water resources efficiently, revitalising rivers and floodplains, and making European forests climate resilient.
- In addition to the Green Deal, adopt a Blue Deal to give people fair water access and use despite the threat of water scarcity. The supply of drinking water and the needs of the aquatic environment must take precedence over industrial use.



## 8. CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE

The European economies bear a historic responsibility for the climate crisis. Its consequences, such as droughts and floods, are most evident in the Global South. The EU has a duty to reduce emissions faster and finally leave fossil fuels behind. At the same time, it must support partner countries in dealing with the climate crisis. In this way, it will contribute to security and prosperity within the EU and across the world.

## We call on you to:

- Formulate an EU-wide climate target for 2040 that provides for a **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 95%** and is accompanied by increased climate mitigation measures by 2030. Ensure that the EU phases out fossil fuels as part of this climate target without creating dangerously large loopholes for carbon storage technologies (CCS). Targets and measures must be set out in an updated EU Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In addition to sectoral targets, the new NDC should include an interim target for 2035 that is compatible with a 1.5 degree pathway. The interim target should not be derived linearly from the 2040 target.
- Significantly expand **international climate financing** and tap into new sources such as a financial transaction tax or levies on fossil fuel companies. This money should flow into the new Loss and Damage Fund or other funds and be used in accordance with the polluter pays principle. Increase the share of financial support for climate adaptation in the Global South and support debt cancellation for particularly vulnerable and over-indebted countries.
- Provide more financial and technical support to the countries of the Global South by expanding fair **climate and energy partnerships** – for example, in the fields of green hydrogen and renewable energy. Promote the development of local value chains in these partnerships and improve energy access for the local population. People in the partner countries should be actively involved in decision-making and enjoy tangible benefits from such partnerships.
- Allocate revenues from the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** not only to transformation within the EU, but also to international climate finance. This will simultaneously increase European value creation and boost international support for the mechanism. Expand CBAM to other sectors following an evaluation.

# Members of Climate Alliance Germany:



# Imprint

## **Publisher**

Klima-Allianz Deutschland e.V.  
Invalidenstraße 35, 10115 Berlin  
Telefon: 030.780 899 512  
info@klima-allianz.de  
www.klima-allianz.de

## **Editor**

Lisa Jörke

## **Editorial collaboration**

Thomas Gehringer, Radka Geißler,  
Charly Heberer, Jacob Rohm,  
Alexandra Goritz, Konstantinos Tsilimekis,  
Silke Bölts, Daniel Moser, Lucais Sewell

## **Layout, graphics and images**

Jennifer Swienty  
PRÆGEWERK DESIGN

The images used were created with  
generative AI (Adobe Firefly).

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Wirtschaft  
und Klimaschutz

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages