



Joint media research tour on just transition and the coal phase-out(s) in Germany

Study visit for journalists from Australia and South East Asia to Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany

from 16 to 19 June 2019

Overview

Coal has long powered Europe's biggest economy. Despite Germany's enthusiastic uptake of renewables, the country still uses and mines more coal than any other in Europe. Now, Germany has officially set in motion the process of giving up the carbon-heavy fuel.

With [greenhouse gas](#) emissions stubbornly high, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government set up the [coal commission](#) last year to devise a plan to transform the German economy for the post-coal era. After months of fraught negotiation, the commission recommended shutting down the last coal-fired power plant by 2038 at the very latest.

Yet this is not the beginning of the [coal exit](#) story. Following a 2007 agreement between government, industry and unions, Germany closed its last [hard coal](#) mine in 2018, bringing an end to 200 years of extracting the fossil fuel that made German industrialisation possible, but was less and less economically viable. However, Germany is still the world's biggest producer of carbon-intensive [lignite](#), or [brown coal](#). It has three active [lignite](#) mining regions, where many jobs and livelihoods depend on the fuel.

Germany is not alone. Giving up coal is a global imperative. So what can other countries learn from the country of the Energiewende?

- How will Merkel's government turn the coal commission's recommendations into effective legislation?
- How will [lignite](#) mining regions use the promised 40 billion euros in government support to restructure their economies over the next two decades?
- Should the German state dole out compensation payments to the energy companies whose power plants and mines will have to be wound down?
- And how do the people affected by the phase-out plans feel about it?

These will be some of the questions we will be looking at during our four-day tour of Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state – and the location of both the Ruhr Area (the country's industrial heartland) and the Rhenish District area, the world's single largest lignite mining region.

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Programme

Sunday, 16 June

Individual arrival of participants

16.00 *Refreshments and drinks*

Welcome, introduction & getting to know each other

with *Lisa Upton*, Senior Communications Advisor, Climate Council Australia and *Carel Carlowitz Mohn*, Director Media Programmes, Clean Energy Wire

Location: Eden Hotel Früh am Dom, Sporergasse 1, 50667 Cologne, Room „Tagungsraum 2“, it is possible to store your luggage in room “Tagungsraum 1”

17.00 **Germany’s 2019 national coal phase-out compromise: What it is about, how it would work, how it was achieved**



with *Reiner Priggen*, Member of the German Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment (“Coal Commission”), Chair of the Renewable Energy Association of Northrhine-Westphalia and former Chair of the Green Party group in the State Legislature of Northrhine-Westphalia

Location: Eden Hotel Früh am Dom, Sporergasse 1, 50667 Cologne, Room „Tagungsraum 2“

The political and societal setting for the energiewende and the German coal phase-out(s)



with *Angela Hennersdorf*, Senior Correspondent Energy Markets, Die Wirtschaftswoche (weekly business magazine) and *Gero Rueter*, Environment Correspondent, Deutsche Welle (German international public broadcaster)

Location: Eden Hotel Früh am Dom, Sporergasse 1, 50667 Cologne, Room „Tagungsraum 2“

19.00 *Dinner*

Location: Eden Hotel Früh am Dom, Sporergasse 1, 50667 Cologne

21.00 *Transfer to Bochum by bus, overnight stay in Bochum at Ibis Styles Bochum Hauptbahnhof*

Location: Kurt-Schumacher-Platz 13-15, 44787 Bochum

Monday, 17 June

(optional)

6.40 *Transfer*

If you join this programme slot, you have to store your luggage in the bus by 6.30 am.

7.00 Meeting with Professor **Stefan Berger**, Social historian at Ruhr University



*Location: House for the History of the Ruhr / Haus der Geschichte des Ruhrgebiets
Clemensstraße 17-19, 44789 Bochum*

Official start

8.00 *Bus transfer*

8.30 **Coal, employment and social justice: The trade unions' view of the 2019 coal phase-out compromise**



with *Ralf Bartels*, Director Mining and Energy Policy of IG BCE (mining and chemical industry trade union)

Location: IG BCE Bochum, Alte Hattinger Straße 19, 44789 Bochum

10.00 **Political Conditions, social partnership and the experiences of the employees after six decades of structural adjustment in the coal industry in Germany**



with *Michael Mersmann*, Director Global and European Affairs of IG BCE,
Norbert Maus, former chair of the works council at RAG

Location: IG BCE Bochum, Alte Hattinger Straße 19, 44789 Bochum

12.00 *Transfer to Essen by bus*

13.00 *Lunch at RAG*

13.15 **The RAG model and the phase-out of hard coal mining in Germany**



with *Joachim Löchte*, Director of Environment, Health and Occupational Safety at RAG and *Kemal Razanica*, Senior Manager HR

Location: RAG Aktiengesellschaft, Im Welterbe 10, 45141 Essen

15.00 *Transfer to Zeche Zollverein by bus*

15.30 **Zeche Zollverein: A shiny but empty shell of glorious days gone by – or the nucleus of post-industrial development in the Ruhr Area**



Guided tour of the UNESCO-protected former hard coal colliery

Location: UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein, Gelsenkirchener Str. 181, 45309 Essen

Monday, 17 June

17.00 *Transfer by bus of all participants to Bottrop*

17.30 *SEA participants stay in Bottrop, Australian participants go by bus to Bochum*

19.00 **The social and local dimensions of winding down the mining industry**



For South East Asian members of group: A community meeting with citizens of Bottrop, location of the last hard coal mine in Germany (closed in 2018) organised by KAB Essen (Catholic Workers Movement)

*For Australian members of the group the A meeting with former employees in the coal mining industry, organised in cooperation with Professor Stefan **Berger**, Ruhr University Bochum*

Location: Spielhaus, Verwaltungsgebäude Prosperstr. 71/1. 46236 Bottrop

Location: House for the History of the Ruhr / Haus der Geschichte des Ruhrgebiets, Clemensstraße 17-19, 44789 Bochum

20.30 *Transfer*

Transfer by bus

to Oberhausen and overnight stay at Parkhotel Oberhausen, Teutoburger Straße 156, 46119 Oberhausen

Tuesday, 18 June

8.00 *Transfer by bus*

8.30 **Of brownfields, recultivation and new approaches to regional planning**
 Guided tour of the Tetrahedron Bottrop, a panoramic viewpoint on top of a former mining debris dump and one of the locations of the International Architecture Exhibition "Emscher Park"



*Michael **Schwarze-Rodrian** and Jens **Hapke** of the Ruhr Regional Planning Authority and Mario **Sommerhäuser**, Head of Department River Basin Management at the public water board Emschergenossenschaft and Lippeverband (EGLV)*

Location: Tetrahedron Bottrop, Beckstraße 57a, 46238 Bottrop

10.00 *Transfer by bus*

Tuesday, 18 June

- 10.30 **Welding steel with the sun: Meet Technoboxx, a local SME metal works company that is teaming up with a research institute to switch its power supply to 100% solar power**
-  With *Ulrich Kaak*, Innovation City Management GmbH and *Peter Schwerdt* of Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology UMSICHT
Location: Technoboxx GmbH & Co. KG, Gohrweide 25, 46238 Bottrop
- 12.00 *Lunch and transfer by bus to the Rhenisch lignite mining region*
- 13.30 **On the route to emission-free power generation: How RWE, Germany's second-largest utility and operator of the Rhenisch lignite mines plans to reinvent itself**
-  Meeting with *Guido Steffen*, RWE and *Viola Baumann*, innogy SE and tour of a wind park and of the open pit mine Garzweiler operated by RWE by bus
Location: Infozentrum des Tagebaus Garzweiler, Erftstraße 111, 41517 Grevenbroich
- 15.30 *Transfer by bus*
- 16.00 **Preparing for the day after: Promoting regional economic development beyond the coal phase-out in the Rhineland.** The work of the *Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier*
-  with *Nicole Monath*, Project Coordinator BioEconomics and Resources and *Christian Wirtz*, Head of Media Relations
Location: Technologiezentrum Jülich, Technologiezentrum Jülich GmbH, room B1 Karl-Heinz-Beckurts-Str. 13, 52428 Jülich
- 18.00 *Transfer by bus*
- 19.00 **The power that affects the locals:** A community meeting with miners, farmers, local residents and businesspeople affected by the rise and fall of lignite mining
Location: Pfarrheim Holzweiler (tbc)
- 21.00 *Transfer by bus to hotel and overnight stay in the Rhenisch lignite mining region*
Location: Park-Hotel Kerpen, Kerpener Strasse 183, 50170 Kerpen-Sindorf

Wednesday, 19 June

- 8.00 Transfer by bus
- 8.30 **In-between the 2019 coal phase-out compromise and phase-out legislation**
 Guided bus tour of the Rhenisch lignite mining region with stops at the Hambach Mine, the Hambach Forest and villages affected by the mine
 with **Antje Grothus**, Member of the German Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment (“Coal Commission”) and representative of “Buirer für Buir” (local NGO)
- 12.00 *Lunch and Feedback talk*
Location: Bella Silicia, Lindenstraße 35, 52399 Merzenich
- 13.30 **Merzenich, the mayor and the mine: Why Georg Gelhausen, conservative mayor of a town at the very heart of a coal mining region can’t wait for the transformation beyond fossil fuels**
 with **Georg Gelhausen**, Mayor of Merzenich
Location: Valdersweg 1, 52399 Merzenich
- 15.30 *End of the programme and transfer to Cologne Central Station*
- 17.00 *Arrival at Cologne Central Station and individual departure of participants*

From A to L:

Background info on the programme

- A** Reiner Priggen is chair of the Renewable Energy Association of North Rhine-Westphalia (LEE). He was an appointed member of [Germany’s coal exit commission](#). The commission was tasked with finding economic prospects for coal workers and regions identifying measures to reduce carbon emissions in line with Germany’s climate targets, and setting an end date for coal-fired power. In February 2019 the commission proposed a coal exit by 2038 (see CLEW coverage below). Priggen is also the former chair of the Green Party group in NRW’s state parliament, and was an MP between 2000 and 2017. Priggen holds a diploma in mechanical engineering, and has been a member of the Green Party since 1984.
- LEE opposes measures limiting the rollout of renewable energies, and supports the introduction of a national carbon floor price in order to effectively decrease

➤ **Background info on the programme**

greenhouse gas emissions in the short term. The association also pushes for the revision of the renewable energy surcharge scheme and other power-related taxes in order to distribute costs more equally and to ease the financial burden on consumers and medium-size businesses.

- Short CV of Reiner Priggen (in German):
https://www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/Webmaster/GB_I/I.1/Abgeordnete/abgeordnetendetail.jsp?k=01418
- LEE's website (in German):
<http://www.lee-nrw.de/>
- A LEE position paper (in German):
<http://www.lee-nrw.de/energiewende-als-chance-zum-aufbruch/>
- Recent CLEW articles on Germany's official launch of the coal exit task force:
<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/german-commission-proposes-coal-exit-2038>

B

Angela Hennersdorf is Senior Correspondent for Energy Markets at the WirtschaftsWoche (WiWo). WiWo is a German weekly business news magazine. Its target audience is managers and business people.

- WiWo's website (in German):
<https://www.wiwo.de/>

Gero Rueter is an Environment Correspondent and a radio and online editor at Deutsche Welle (DW), where he developed a European environmental magazine. Previously he was editor and writer for the Spanish-language TV magazine Europe Semanal and also did investigative TV reports for consumer magazines such as Plus-Minus and Market. In 2000 he was awarded the German Business Film Prize.

DW is the German international public broadcaster. The service is available in 30 languages. DW's satellite television service consists of channels in English, German, Spanish, and Arabic. While funded by the German government, the work of DW is regulated by the Deutsche Welle Act meaning that content is intended to be independent of government influence.

- DW's website (in English):
<https://www.dw.com/en/>

C

Professor Dr. Stefan Berger is professor for social history and social movements at the Ruhr University Bochum, Director of the Institute for Social Movements and Chairman of the Board of the History of the Ruhr Foundation, where he researches on industrial heritage among other topics.

Background info on the programme

- Staff page of Stefan Berger on the website of the Ruhr University Bochum (in English):
<http://www.isb.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/mitarbeiter/berger/index.html.en>
- Institute for Social Movements' website (in English):
<http://www.isb.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/isb/index.html.en>
- History of the Ruhr Foundation's website (in English):
<http://www.isb.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/sbr/index.html.en>

D

Dr. Ralf Bartels is Director Mining and Energy Policy and **Michael Mersmann** is Director Global and European Affairs of IG BCE, a mining and chemical industry trade union, which plays a key role in Germany's energy transition. **IG BCE** is one of the eight industrial affiliations of the German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB) representing about one tenth of all DGB members. It covers workers in the following industries: mining (especially coal), chemicals, natural gas, glass, rubber, ceramics, plastics, leather, petrol (and related products), paper, recycling, and water.

- IG BCE's website (in German):
<http://www.igbce.de/>

Norbert Maus is former chair of the works council at RAG and **Joachim Löchte** is Director of Environment, Health and Occupational Safety at RAG.

RAG is the largest German coal mining corporation. The company headquarters are in Essen in the Ruhr area. Its board of trustees consists of, among others, federal and regional government officials as well as unions. In 2017 RAG's business areas of chemicals, energy and real estate were transferred to the new business entity Evonik Industries AG, which are majority owned by the RAG-Stiftung. Its corporate profits are used to finance the costs that arise due to the former mining activities in the Ruhr region. RAG assumes - by its own account - long-term responsibility in the mining regions, including helping to regulate the water balance in the Ruhr area both underground and above ground after the cessation of hard coal mining in 2018.

- RAG's website (in German):
<https://www.rag.de/>

E

Zeche Zollverein is a large former industrial site in the city of Essen, which was once the largest mining town on the European continent. The Zeche Zollverein has been inscribed into the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites since 2001, and is one of the anchor points of the European Route of Industrial Heritage. The first coal mine on the site was founded in 1847, and mining activities took place from 1851 until December 23, 1986. Zeche Zollverein is currently the location of the Ruhr Museum and other cultural institutions symbolizing the transformation of the Ruhr area from a coal mining region to a cultural centre.

Background info on the programme

- Zeche Zollverein's website (in English):
<https://www.zollverein.de/zollverein-unesco-world-heritage-site/>

F

KAB Essen is the local branch of the Catholic Workers Movement in the Diocese of Essen. KAB is a Catholic social association in which main members and volunteers work together for an active shaping of church and society. Its roots lie in the Christian labour movement of the 19th century. Today it is the strongest employee organisation in Germany besides the trade unions. KAB is an education movement that provides vocational personal trainings for its members and all interested parties. It also offers its members free legal protection advice. It advises and represents its members on questions of social and labour law and before the respective courts.

- KAB Essen's website (in German):
<https://www.kab-essen.de/startseite/>

G

Michael Schwarze-Rodrian is the head of the European and Regional Networks Unit Ruhr and EU Representative at the Regionalverband Ruhr (RVR), while **Jens Hapke** is its head of media relations. RVR is the regional planning authority, representing the eleven cities and four districts of the Ruhr region. It is responsible for, among other things, important infrastructure projects. It also provides support to regional economic and tourism projects.

- RVR's website (in English):
<https://www.rvr.ruhr/en/>

Mario **Sommerhäuser** is Head of Department River Basin Management at the public water board **Emschergenossenschaft and Lippeverband** (EGLV). His work includes River basin management planning, restoration measures, further development of an integrated water management with regard to SDG's and sustainability goals, stakeholder participation, citizen science and environmental education projects, ecosystem services and added value projects. EGLV is involved in the rehabilitation of the river system in the Ruhr that began 25 years ago and will be finished in 2-3 years. The project has so far transformed 300km of river and added 200km of cycleway along the river, which attracts lots of tourists.

- EGLV's website (in English):
<https://www.eglv.de/en/>

H

Ulrich Kaak is Digitisation Officer at Innovation City Management GmbH. **Innovation City Management GmbH** (ICM) aims for a climate-friendly urban redevelopment using holistic *Smart City* approach, which includes citizens, real estate owners, energy providers, the city administrations and businesses. Since 2010 ICM has been pursuing

Background info on the programme

the goal of reducing CO2 emissions in Bottrop by 50 percent by 2020 within the InnovationCity Ruhr | Modellstadt Bottrop pilot project.

Peter Schwerdt is an engineer working at the **Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology (UMSICHT)**, a pioneer for sustainable energy and raw materials management. It supplies and transfers scientific results into companies, society and politics by researching and developing sustainable products, processes and services together with its partners.

- ➔ Innovation City Management GmbH's website (in German): <https://icm.de/>

Fraunhofer UMSICHT'S website (in English): <https://www.umsicht.fraunhofer.de/en.html>

RWE is a German electric utilities company and the second largest electricity producer in Germany. It operates the Garzweiler opencast mine, which is located in the north of the Rhenish lignite mining area. In 2016, REW separated its renewable energy generation, power grid and retail operations into a separate company – **Innogy SE**.

Guido Steffen is press spokesperson for RWE and **Viola Baumann** is press spokesperson for Innogy SE.

- ➔ RWE's website (in English): <https://www.group.rwe/en/the-group>
- ➔ Innogy SE's website (in English) <https://iam.innogy.com/en/about-innogy/innogy-innovation-technology/your-innogy-contacts><https://iam.innogy.com/en/about-innogy/innogy-innovation-technology/your-innogy-contacts>

Nicole Monath is Project Coordinator BioEconomics and Resources at the Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier, where she works on the development of alternative utilisation possibilities for lignite and CO2 and the link to the bioeconomy. Monath holds a degree in Sustainable Energy Supply from the RWTH Aachen.

Christian Wirtz is Head of Media Relations.

The Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier develops mission statements, innovation strategies and action concepts for a region characterised by the extraction, conversion into electricity and refinement of lignite and supports structural change by initiating and implementing projects. It cooperates closely with its partners from science, industry, politics and associations within and outside the region.

- ➔ Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier's website (in German): <http://rheinisches-revier.de/>

➤ Background info on the programme

K

Antje Grothus was a member of Germany's coal exit commission appointed by the federal government. She is regional coal policy coordinator for **Climate Alliance Germany** (Klima-Allianz Deutschland) in its North Rhine-Westphalia office. She is also actively involved in a local initiative called "**Buirer für Buir**", which represents the interests of citizens affected by the Hambach lignite mine.

Climate-Alliance Germany is a network of 115 environmental groups, development groups, churches, trade unions, and consumer associations. Their objective is to shape the political framework needed to reduce Germany's greenhouse gas emissions by putting public pressure on decision makers to implement climate protection policies.

- Website of "Buirer für Buir" (in German):
<http://www.buirerfuerbuir.de>
- Climate-Alliance Germany's website (in German and English):
<https://www.klima-allianz.de/english/>

L

Georg Gelhausen is the Mayor of **Merzenich**, a town located in the Rhenish coal mining region close to the Hambach open cast mine. He is a member of the North Rhine-Westphalian CDU and strongly supports a fast transition beyond fossil fuels.

Organisational details

What languages will be spoken?

Presentations during the workshop will be either in English or in German. English-German simultaneous interpretation will be provided where necessary.

What about travel arrangements?

Local transport *during the workshop* will be organised by the Clean Energy Wire. Participants are kindly asked to organise their own travel to and from Cologne (Cologne Central Station).

Is there a possibility for individual research?

If you are interested in extending the study tour for individual research, please let contact the Clean Energy Wire. We will support you in finding the most relevant experts, stakeholders, and locations for your questions.

For more information, please contact:**Eva Freundorfer**

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www.cleanenergywire.org [#CLEWontour](https://twitter.com/CLEWontour)

About the organisers

Climate Council

The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate change communications organisation. We provide authoritative, expert advice to the Australian public on climate change and solutions based on the most up-to-date science available.

We're made up of some of the country's leading climate scientists, health, renewable energy and policy experts, as well as a team of staff, and a huge community of volunteers and supporters who power our work. As an independent voice on climate change, we get climate stories into the media, produce hard-hitting reports, call out misinformation as we see it and promote climate solutions such as the transition to renewables.

The Climate Council was founded in 2013 by tens of thousands of Australians to create a new, an independent and 100% community-funded organisation in response to the abolition of the Australian Climate Commission.

www.climatecouncil.org.au

Clean Energy Wire

Germany's transformation of its energy system from fossil fuels and nuclear power to one based on renewables and efficiency is one of the country's defining stories. The move to a climate-friendly economy has far-reaching implications: The Energiewende changes not only markets and business models but reaches deep into society and well beyond Germany's borders. This creates many fascinating stories and requires strong journalism to keep track of the progress and inform the debates.

What we do: Clean Energy Wire CLEW produces and facilitates top-quality journalism about the energy transition in Germany and beyond. Our CLEW Journalism Network fosters cross-border cooperation among reporters covering the move towards a climate-friendly society.

Why we do it: A global energy transition is the key to getting the climate crisis under control. As a real-world laboratory, renewable energy pioneer Germany showcases what the shift to a climate-friendly future means for citizens, businesses and society as a whole. Good journalism is central to drawing the right conclusions from the experience of Europe's biggest economy, and to inform the public debate across the globe.

Who pays for it: As a non-profit organisation, Clean Energy Wire CLEW can offer its services free of charge thanks to its funders, Stiftung Mercator and the European Climate Foundation. The annual budget for both projects together is on average 1.01 million euros for the funding phase 2017-2021.

www.cleanenergywire.org