

## Historic coal year 2018

**The end of hard coal mining and the future of lignite – is Germany finally facing the neglected side of the Energiewende?**

*Media study tour*

**17-20 June 2018**

**Cologne – Duisburg – Bottrop – Ibbenbüren, Germany**



An out-of-service locomotive once used in the east German lignite mining region of Saxony-Anhalt. Elsewhere in Germany, trains towing coal are still in operation – and the country continues to be the world's largest producer of lignite

*Photo: Carel Mohn*

## Coal in Germany 2018: The end of an epoch – and fundamental questions

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*Is the world's largest lignite producer finally facing the thorny issue of the future of coal in its energy system?*

*Long considered to be a clean energy pioneer, what is keeping Germany from following most of its European neighbours in phasing out coal?*

*As the last two remaining hard coal mines will close by the end of 2018, how do local communities find new forms of employment and tax revenue?*

*On the Paris pathway of ending fossil fuel extraction, is there a future for the German tradition of trade union-brokered social pacts?*

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**2018 will be a historic year for the use of coal in Germany. Two landmark developments exemplify the crossroads Germany has reached with regard to the future of coal.**

- By the end of this year, the two last remaining hard coal mines in Germany will be shut down, thus ending the domestic production of this mineral. However, substantial amounts of hard coal will continue to be imported to fuel the country's 50-plus coal power plants. And the end of hard coal mining – undertaken because of a lack of profitability – will leave untouched the issue of lignite mining.
- Simultaneously, Germany is about to launch a highly anticipated task force on phasing out coal power - the most prominent blemish on the country's climate record – once and for all. The government will nominate the coal exit commission shortly. Intense fighting over the commission's makeup preceded the announcement, because it is considered crucial to the path Germany will take to ditch this extremely CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive fossil fuel.

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### ***Handing the thorniest issue of the Energiewende over to a commission***

*The coal commission – officially called Special Commission on Growth, Structural Economic Change and Employment – is supposed to bring policymakers, industry representatives, labour unions, and possibly environmental NGOs to the table to decide, before the end of 2018, on a roadmap and a clear end date for coal-fired power production. But even before the official launch, media reports suggested the government had already given up on the timetable.*

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Germany must exit coal-fired power generation to reach its goal of becoming largely greenhouse gas-neutral by mid-century, as the technology is the country's single-largest source of carbon emissions.

Burning coal to generate power provides employment to around 30,000 people in Germany. This is only a fraction of the number employed by the wind industry. Since coal mining is highly concentrated in three German regions, the transition poses a difficult structural challenge.

The debate over the future of coal has shifted considerably in Germany. Only three years ago, many policymakers shunned the issue because it was considered a political suicide. But in the wake of the Paris Climate Agreement, all players have accepted that coal-fired power generation is incompatible with the energy transition's climate targets.

Coal workers, environmental NGOs, politicians, citizens, industry, and energy companies have already intensely debated the shape and speed of a coal exit. The discussion focuses on lignite, or brown coal, as Germany still heavily relies on its mining and use.

During our three-day media study tour to Germany's industrial heartland of North Rhine-Westphalia, we will visit one of the huge opencast lignite mining pits in the Rhineland, see the Ibbenbüren hard coal mine, and get acquainted with local post-coal business projects. In meetings with leading energy experts, policymakers, corporate leaders, and regional planners, we will seek answers to the questions Germany is facing as it confronts the long-neglected 'dark side of the Energiewende'.

TOP 10 EUROPEAN POLLUTERS					Lignite, Hard coal power plants	
RANK		PLANT	OWNER	2017 CO <sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS (Mt)	YEAR ON YEAR CHANGE	
1	→	 Belchatow	 PGE	37.6	8%	
2	→	 Neurath	 RWE	29.9	-5%	
3	→	 Niederaußem	 RWE	27.2	9%	
4	→	 Jänschwalde	 LEAG	23.6	-1%	
5	→	 Weisweiler	 RWE	18.9	1%	
6	→	 Schwarze Pumpe	 LEAG	11.4	-7%	
7	↑	 Lippendorf	 EPH	11.4	6%	
8	↓	 Kozenice	 ENEA	11.2	-7%	
9	↓	 Boxberg	 LEAG	10.6	9%	
10	↑	 Maritsa East 2	 TPP	10.5	9%	
11	↓	 Torrevaldaliga N.	 ENEL	9.7	-4%	

According to British climate NGO Sandbag, seven German lignite power stations are among Europe's top ten CO<sub>2</sub> polluters

Source: Sandbag/Clean Energy Wire

**“We managed the hard coal exit so that workers were able to cope with the changes. It was done together with them. That’s how it has to be with lignite as well”**

*Chancellor Angela Merkel, [15 May 2018](#)*

# The programme

## Sunday, 17 June 2018

*Individual arrival of participants in Cologne*

15.00 *Individual check-in at hotel (optional)*  
*Location: Hotel IBIS Köln am Dom (Cologne Central Station), Bahnhofsvorplatz, 50667 Köln*

15.30 **Welcome, outline of the programme, getting to know each other**

- **Sven Egenter**, executive director, Clean Energy Wire
- **Carel C. Mohn**, director media programmes, Clean Energy Wire

*Location: Hotel IBIS Köln am Dom*

16.00 **The past, the present, and the future of coal in Germany: Overview and introduction**  
Presentation by and Q&A session with:



- **Philipp Litz**, policy advisor, Agora Energiewende

17.30 *Walk to dinner location WARTESAAL AM DOM, Johannisstraße 11, 50668 Köln*

*Dinner*

18.30 **North Rhine-Westphalia and its perennial question: is there life after coal?** Lessons for the age of the Paris agreement after six decades of structural change in Germany’s industrial heartland.



A discussion between:

- **Dietmar Brockes**, member of the state legislature of North Rhine-Westphalia, spokesman of the FDP party group on industrial and energy policy, and
- **Josef Hovenjürgen**, member of the state legislature of North Rhine-Westphalia for the CDU, member of the parliamentary sub-committee on mining security, Secretary General of the CDU North Rhine-Westphalia
- **Reiner Priggen**, former chair of the Green Party group and member of the state legislature of North Rhine-Westphalia (2000-2015), Chair of the Renewable Energy Association North Rhine-Westphalia (LEE)

*Overnight stay at Hotel IBIS Köln am Dom (Cologne Central Station), Bahnhofsvorplatz, 50667 Köln*

## Monday, 18 June 2018

07.45 *Checkout at Hotel IBIS Köln am Dom*

08.00 *Bus transfer to the Rhenisch lignite mining region*

09.00 **Emissions, evictions, resettlements: the physical realities of lignite mining in the Rhineland**



Guided tour of the world's largest lignite mining region with stopovers at an opencast mining pit, Hambach Forest, a village designated for eviction, and a resettled community

- **Antje Grothus**, regional coordinator coal policy, Climate Alliance Germany

12.00 *Lunch*

*Location: Parish hall Buir, Bahnstraße 42, 50170 Kerpen-Buir*

12.45 *Second part of guided tour with Antje Grothus*

13.30 **The twin challenges of climate change and the Energiewende: how the Rhenisch lignite mining region can prepare for a post-fossil fuel era without facing an economic rupture**



Presentation by and discussion with

- **Ralph Sterck**, executive director, Innovationsregion Rheinisches Revier (IRR) GmbH

*Location: Forum Heppendorf, Am Schlehdorn 5-7, 50189 Elsdorf-Heppendorf*

15.00 **Phasing out coal and the issue of security of supply: the Quirinius project - bundling renewable energy generation in a virtual power plant - responding to the security of supply issue**



Presentation by and discussion with

- **Kurt Vetten**, chief executive, SME Management GmbH

*Location: Forum Heppendorf, Am Schlehdorn 5-7, 50189 Elsdorf-Heppendorf*

16.30 *Bus transfer to Duisburg*

18.00 **Arts & Coal: an artistic reflection of the “dark side” of the Ruhr Valley dedicated to the life and work of coal miners**

Guided tour of the “Arts &Coal” special exhibition at the DKM Museum Duisburg

*Location: Museum DKM, Güntherstr. 13–15, 47051 Duisburg-Dellviertel*

*Walk to the dinner venue*

19.00 *Dinner*



**Supplying coal mines, recultivating mining sites, establishing arts collections – structural change as witnessed by a family-owned construction company**

Speaker:

- **Klaus Maas**, founder of the DKM Museum, managing partner, Unternehmensgruppe maas

Special guest:

- **Kai Rüsberg**, journalist for public broadcasters Deutschlandfunk and WDR, long-time journalistic observer of the structural changes and the energy policy debate in North Rhine-Westphalia

*Location: mimi e rosa vino e cucina, Dellstrasse 36, 47051 Duisburg*

*Transfer to and check in at Hotel Conti Duisburg, Düsseldorfer Straße 131 – 137, 47051 Duisburg*

## Tuesday, 19 June 2018

07.30 *Checkout at Hotel Conti Duisburg*

07.45 *Bus transfer to Bottrop*

08.30 **Visit to the Tetraeder mine dump at Bottrop, introduction to the multi-billion euro Emscher renaturalisation project (once Germany's dirtiest river),**

Guided tour of the Tetraeder site with



- **Andreas Pläsken**, spokesman of the City of Bottrop
- **Jens Hapke**, head of media relations, Regionalverband Ruhr (regional planning authority)

*Location: Haldenereignis Emscherblick, Halde Beckstraße, Bottrop-Batenbrock*

09.45 *Bus transfer to Essen*

10.30 **State aid, social pacts, coal nostalgia, and high-tech investments: a provisional account of 60 years of state planning and policy experiments with structural change in the Ruhr area**



Presentation by and discussion with

- **Professor Rudolf Juchelka**, Duisburg-Essen University, Institute of Economic Geography

*Location: Duisburg-Essen University, Schützenbahn 70, Gebäude SR, 45141 Essen*

12.00 *Bus transfer to Ibbenbüren*

*Lunch*

15.30 **More than a catchword? Stakeholder and citizen involvement in regional planning. How regional authorities want to breathe new life into the Ibbenbüren colliery?**



Presentation by and discussion with

- **Monika Umlauf**, head of the Planning Department, City of Ibbenbüren

*Location: Ibbenbüren Technical Town Hall, Roncallistraße 3-5, 49477 Ibbenbüren*

17.30 *Transfer to Hotel-Restaurant Brügge*

18.00 *Dinner*

19.00 **Cross-border journalism and the global energy transition: Taking stock of participants' experience in and expectations for cooperation**

In this informal dialogue session with study tour participants and CLEW staff, we want to discuss the future of energy transition journalism around the world. We would like to understand the difference the international journalism network we are building could make in fostering cross-border cooperation.

- **Media study tour participants and CLEW staff**

*Overnight stay at Hotel-Restaurant Brügge, Münsterstraße 201 49479, Ibbenbüren*

**Wednesday, 20 June 2018**

- 08.15      *Checkout at Hotel Restaurant Brügge*
- 08.30      *Bus transfer to Ibbenbüren colliery*
- 09.00      **The RAG hard coal mine at Ibbenbüren: guided tour of Germany's last hard coal mine in operation**  
*Location: RAG Anthrazit, Tor 4, Zechenstraße, Ibbenbüren*
- 11.30      *Joint bus transfer to Cologne Bonn Airport*  
*(alternatively, it is possible to join CLEW staff travelling back to Berlin by rail)*
- 15.00      *Arrival at Cologne Bonn Airport*  
  
*Individual departure of participants*



**The Tetrahedron in Bottrop (German: Bottrop Tetraeder or officially Haldenereignis Emscherblick) is a walkable steel structure in the form of a tetrahedron with a side length of 60 metres, resting on four 9 metres tall concrete pillars. It is located in Bottrop, Germany, on top of the former coal mine dump Halde Beckstraße**

*Photo: Frank Vincentz*



## From A to I: Background info on the programme

A

**Agora Energiewende** is one of the leading energy policy think tanks in Germany. Established in 2012 by the European Climate Foundation (ECF) and Stiftung Mercator, Agora Energiewende undertakes and commissions research on the Energiewende with an emphasis on the energy sector. The Council of the Agora brings together key stakeholders from politics, business, media, and civil society to forge a broad consensus on the policy framework for the Energiewende. Agora Energiewende has a commissioned budget of 15 million euros until 2021 and employs about 30 staff.

**Philipp Litz** is policy advisor at Agora Energiewende. Previously, he worked as project manager in the energy department of Deutsche Umwelthilfe's Berlin offices (German Environmental Aid). He studied political science and political economy with a focus on European integration and sustainable environmental and climate policy in Dresden and Berlin.

- ➔ Agora Energiewende's website (in English and German):  
<https://www.agora-energiewende.de/en/>

B

**Dietmar Brockes** is spokesman on industrial and energy policy of the Free Democratic Party's (FDP) group in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Since the 1980s, this centre-right party has firmly pushed economic liberalism, and promoted a free market economy and privatisation. The FDP is a member of the Liberal International and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE).

Brockes also heads the NRW state parliament's committee on European and international affairs. Prior to July 2017, he was the FDP group's economy spokesman for twelve years. He has been a member of the NRW state parliament since 2000. Before taking up politics full time, Brockes founded and managed his own company. He joined the FDP in 1989, and has since then been active in various party positions on regional and state levels. He holds a degree in business administration from Fontys Venlo University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

In April 2018, Brockes welcomed the changes the NRW parliament had enacted to its state development plan for energy, led by the governing coalition of the conservative CDU and the FDP groups. Among other things, the CDU and the FDP set a limit to the expansion of wind power, and imposed a minimum distance of 1,500 metres between newly built wind turbines and neighbouring residential areas.

- ➔ Dietmar Brocke's website (in German):  
<https://www.brockes.de/>
- ➔ <https://www.brockes.de/2018/04/17/brockes-perspektivwechsel-in-der-energiepolitik-n%C3%B6tig/>
- ➔ <https://www.brockes.de/app/download/7232909011/positionspapierenergie.pdf?t=1523976180>

**Josef Hovenjürgen** is a member of the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) for the centre-right CDU party, which is the senior partner in NRW's current coalition government. Hovenjürgen has a professional background in farming, and later he worked for the municipal government in Recklinghausen in the Ruhr area. He has held various elected local and regional government positions in the Ruhr area, and has been a member of the NRW state parliament between 1999 and 2000, and again since 2002. Hovenjürgen is a member of the parliamentary sub-committee on mining security.

- Short CV of Josef Hovenjürgen (in German):  
<https://www.cdu-nrw-fraktion.de/personen/josef-hovenjuergen>
- Josef Hovenjürgen's positions on key energy and climate policy issues (in German):  
<https://www.josef-hovenjuergen.de/politik/themen>

**Reiner Priggen** is chair of the Renewable Energy Association of North Rhine-Westphalia (LEE). The federal government has recently appointed him as a member of [Germany's coal exit commission](#), 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 production by the end of 2018 (see CLEW coverage below). He 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 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](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 recent 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/germanys-coal-exit-commission>  
<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/germany-starts-coal-exit-talks-bid-improve-patchy-climate-record>  
<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/reactions-germanys-official-launch-coal-exit-task-force>

C

**Antje Grothus** 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. The German federal government has recently appointed Grothus as a member of [Germany's coal exit commission](#).

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

D

**Ralph Sterck** is executive director of Innovationsregion Rheinisches Revier (IRR) GmbH (*Rhenish innovation region*) and head of the FDP group in Cologne's city council. A trained merchant, Sterck has been the managing director of the FDP's North Rhine-Westphalia group since 2003. As head of the IRR, he leads the organisation's efforts to ensure a successful structural change in the the Rhenish region. Together with industry, universities, the government, and other stakeholders, the IRR develops innovation strategies, as well as development and action plans that aim at transforming the Rhenish region from a lignite mining and coal-fired power generation centre into a modern, competitive industry location and a front-runner of Germany's energy transition.

- Ralph Sterck's website (in German):  
<https://sterck.fdp-koeln.de/>
- IRR's website (in German):  
<http://rheinisches-revier.de/>

E

**Kurt Vetten** is chief executive of SME Management GmbH. This project management and consultancy firm, founded in 2002, is based in the Rhein-Erft district. It advises public and private energy utilities and municipalities on issues related to energy, IT infrastructure, and local transmission grid systems. It also advises companies active in energy-intensive industry sectors. In 2017, Vetten's SME Management initiated the "Quirinus" project and brought together a consortium of grid operators, tech companies, and academia to research, build, and test a virtual power plant in Heppendorf near Cologne. Maintaining security of supply for the energy-intensive industries of the Rhenish region amid the increasing share of decentralised and fluctuating power from renewable sources is widely considered a key technical challenge. According to an [interview with energate](#), the "Quirinus" consortium seeks to become a front-runner in the development of the virtual power plant technology, which SME Management eventually wants to integrate into the grid system.

- SME Management's website (in German):  
<https://sme-management.de/>

F

**Museum DKM** is located in the heart of Duisburg, and was established by the founders of Stiftung DKM, Dirk Krämer and Klaus Maas, in 1999. The museum's collection comprises works by Ai Weiwei, Ulrich Erben, Richard Long, Ernst Hermanns, and other contemporary artists, as well as vessels from the earliest days of human civilisation. The 'Art & Coal' special exhibition is dedicated to the life and work of coal miners. It is an artistic reflection of the life of the miners and their families on the "dark side" of the Ruhr Valley, deeply shaped by their sense of identity, religion, and language. This special exhibition also features an exhibit that was lent to it by the family of Antje Grothus (see C).

**Klaus Maas** is shareholder/owner and managing partner of the family-owned construction company *Unternehmensgruppe maas*, and a co-founder of the Museum DKM. In 1976, Maas entered the Duisburg-based family business as a fourth generation member, and between 1978 and 2015 he headed *Unternehmensgruppe maas* as chief executive. The company was established in the Ruhr area more than 100 years ago, and has since evolved into major a supplier and construction service provider for the mining industry. Today, it employs around 400 staff and consolidates different sub-companies/divisions specialised in the construction of mining and rail tracks, ports, and buildings. It has an annual turnover of around 80 million euros. Maas holds a diploma in business administration.

- Museum DKM's website (in German and partly in English):  
<http://dkm.31m.de/en/>
- Unternehmensgruppe maas' website (in German):  
<https://www.maasbau.de/>

**Kai Rüsberg** is a veteran journalist from Bochum working for the public broadcasters WDR and Deutschlandfunk. He is a long-time observer of the structural changes and the energy policy debate in North Rhine-Westphalia. Among other positions, Rüsberg was chief editor of an e-mobility and energy transition journal called e:motion. The social science graduate has appeared on TV and radio about a hundred times covering news and science stories, and has developed a smartphone-based news production technique he is now teaching at media academies such as Interlink and Deutsche Welle's DW Akademie. He also holds an annual lecture on communication policies at the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences.

- Kai Rüsberg's website (in German and partly in English):  
<https://ruhrnalist.de/>

## G

Located in **Bottrop**, Prosper-Haniel is one of the last two active hard coal mines in Germany. The post-war economic boom (*Wirtschaftswunder*) in the country was mainly fuelled by hard coal mined in the states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Saarland, which powered the industries of West Germany. In the late 1950s, hard coal lost its competitive edge and could no longer compete with cheaper imported coal. Eventually, the European Commission succeeded in its push for an end to Germany's extensive coal subsidy schemes. In 2007, the federal government and the state governments of North Rhine-Westphalia and Saarland agreed with the mining company RAG and the trade union IG BCE to phase out hard coal mining subsidies in the country by 2018. The last two remaining hard coal mines in North Rhine-Westphalia (the other one is in Ibbenbüren, see below) are to close down at the end of this year. Meanwhile, the city of Bottrop has built an indoor ski slope near the popular Tetrahedron lookout tower, built on top of a mine dump, to demonstrate how mine dumps can be given a new lease of life.

Bottrop is also leading by example in a different field. The river Emscher flows past the city of Bottrop on its way from Dortmund through the Ruhr region/Emscher Valley to finally meet the river Rhine near the city of Dinslaken. Once the dirtiest river in Germany, polluted especially by mining and heavy industrial activities in the region which discharged mostly untreated wastewater directly into the stream, it is now recovering through a multi-billion euro renaturalisation project called 'Emscher Conversion'. At the heart of this project, which started in 1992, is the construction of a 51-kilometre underground wastewater canal, which follows the course of the river Emscher, but now fully separates stream water and wastewater from its

riparian zone. Furthermore, a number of wastewater treatment plants have been built or upgraded along the river. The project is expected to be concluded by 2020 at a total cost of five billion euros. The section of the Emscher wastewater canal within the city limits of Bottrop is nearing completion..

**Andreas Pläsken** is spokesman of the city of Bottrop.

**Jens Hapke** is head of media relations at Regionalverband Ruhr (RVR). RVR is the regional planning authority, representing the eleven cities and four districts of the Ruhr region, and responsible, among other things, for important infrastructure projects. It also provides support to regional economic and tourism projects.

- ➞ City of Bottrop's website (in German):  
<https://www.bottrop.de/>
- ➞ Further information on the 'Emscher Conversion' and the Emscher association (Emschergenossenschaft) (in English):  
<http://www.eglv.de/en/emschergenossenschaft/emscher-conversion/the-conversion/emscher-wastewater-sewer/>

## H

**Professor Dr. Rudolf Juchelka** has been professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen and holding the chair of the Department of Economic Geography since 2007. In recent years, his main areas of research have been transportation and logistics. He earned his postdoctoral lecturer qualification from the university's Department of Mining, Metallurgy and Geosciences in 2004 with a thesis on 'Added value by restructuring'. He has written a number of publications on structural change in the Ruhr area, including the restructuring of inland ports, inner cities, and railway stations, and also on how tourism can play an important role in a successful transformation. Juchelka, a native of Aachen, studied geography, German language and literature, geographic economics, and education at the RWTH Aachen and the University of Bonn. He was awarded the BMW Scientific Award in 1995.

- ➞ Website of the Department of Economic Geography, Transport and Logistics at the University of Duisburg-Essen (in German and English):  
[https://www.uni-due.de/wigeo/eng\\_index.php](https://www.uni-due.de/wigeo/eng_index.php)

## I

The city of **Ibbenbüren**, on the northern edge of North Rhine-Westphalia, is home to one of the two last active hard coal mines in Germany. This colliery directly feeds most of its coal to the adjacent hard coal power plant in Ibbenbüren. At the end of 2018, the remaining two hard coal mines will be shut down (see G above). However, hard coal-fired power generation will continue with imported coal.

Once employing several thousand people, by the end of 2018 only 500 employees will remain to witness the eventual complete closure of the Ibbenbüren colliery. However, the city of Ibbenbüren is prepared to move forward and is looking to involve its citizens and other stakeholders in breathing new life into the mining site. It may follow the example of the city of Bottrop, which has shown how to successfully transform a mine dump into a popular tourist attraction(see G above).

**Monika Umlauf** is head of the city of Ibbenbüren's planning department.

- City of Ibbenbüren's website (in German):  
<https://www.ibbenbueren.de/index.php>
- RAG mining company's profile of the Ibbenbüren colliery (in German)  
<https://www.rag.de/unter-tage/bergwerk-ibbenbueren/>

## J

Coal-mining company **RAG** owns and operates Germany's last two coal mines and records around 1.5 billion euros in annual sales. It employs 12,000 people, of which more than three-quarters work in its mining division, which is scheduled to be wound down in 2018 when state coal subsidies end. Once mining operations close, RAG, formerly known as Ruhrkohle AG, will take responsibility for the long-term liabilities of the sector, including the upkeep of shafts and tunnels to prevent them from collapsing. This task will be financed by RAG's owner, the RAG Trust, which draws its funds from a two-thirds stake in Evonik, one of Germany's biggest chemical companies. In order to finance the mining costs in perpetuity, the RAG Trust will use the profits from Evonik, despite the chemicals part of Evonik being separate from RAG's coal division.

The official RAG website (in German):  
<http://www.rag.de/>

## Essential readings

- Clean Energy Wire news report: Germany gears up for official talks on coal phase-out, [CLEW News](#)
- Clean Energy Wire factsheet: Colour codes: How energy & climate policy differs among German political parties, [CLEW Factsheet](#)
- CLEW's *Reporter's Guide* offers journalists an overview of key stories, experts, and facts on Germany's energy transition  
[Download Reporter's Guide](#)
- CLEW's *Easy Guide* is a first, easy introduction to Germany's Energiewende, with definitions, explanations, facts, and contacts.  
[The Easy Guide](#)

# Organisational details

## **What are the costs?**

Participation in the media workshop is free of charge. All expenses incurred during the workshop, including food, accommodation, and transport, will be covered by the Clean Energy Wire.

Please note: participants must cover their own expenses for travel to and from Cologne (where the workshop will begin and end).

## **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 Bonn Airport or Cologne Central Station).

## **Is there a possibility for individual research?**

If you are interested in extending the study tour for individual research, please let us know. 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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 [#CLEWontour](https://twitter.com/CLEWontour)

 [@CLEWNetwork](https://twitter.com/CLEWNetwork)

# About the organisers

## Clean Energy Wire

Germany's Energiewende – the energy transition – is a project of global relevance. It is a reference point in a world that has embarked on a path to end the use of fossil fuels, laid out by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As the share of renewables in the power sector is growing rapidly, there is an increasing focus on how the world's second largest exporting nation and Europe's number one importer of oil and gas is tackling decarbonisation.

The Clean Energy Wire provides well-researched, fact-based, and unbiased information as well as support for international journalists reporting on decarbonisation and the energy transition in Germany. We believe that quality journalism plays a key role in promoting productive domestic and international debates, which are essential for the successful transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Clean Energy Wire is committed to the highest standards in journalism. Our [charter](#) sets out the guiding principles of our work, including independence from commercial, political, or other special interests.

As an independent non-profit and non-partisan organisation, the Clean Energy Wire can offer its services free of charge thanks to its funders: Stiftung Mercator ([stiftung-mercator.de](http://stiftung-mercator.de)) and the European Climate Foundation ([europeanclimate.org](http://europeanclimate.org)). It has a staff of nine and is located in Berlin.

[www.cleanenergywire.org](http://www.cleanenergywire.org)