

Germany's Wind Industry Doomed as New Policy Caps Wind Power Capacity

April 17, 2016 by [stophesethings](#)

Sigmar Gabriel signs wind industry's death warrant :



The wind industry, its parasites and spruikers, around the globe, hail Germany as *THE* wind power 'Super Model'. Trouble is, in Germany – as elsewhere – the 'gloss' has well-and-truly worn off – and the 'Model' is looking more than just a little worse for wear.

The Germans went into wind power harder and faster than anyone else – and the cost of doing so has caught up with a vengeance. The subsidies have been colossal, the impacts on the electricity market chaotic and – contrary to the environmental purpose of the policy – CO2 emissions are rising fast: if "saving" the planet is – as we are repeatedly told – all about reducing man-made emissions of an odourless, colourless, naturally occurring trace gas, essential for all life on earth – then German energy/environmental policy has manifestly failed (see [our post here](#)).

Elsewhere in the World, we're led to believe that Germans love these things to bits; that the laws of economics have no application in Germany; and that they're well on the way to a 100% wind powered future.

But, in truth, political reality has inevitably caught up with its economically and socially disastrous Energiewende: rural communities are joining forces and fighting back to protect their health and homes from incessant turbine generated [low-frequency noise and infrasound](#); [Doctors have demanded a moratorium](#) on new wind farms to the same end; [political parties are being formed](#) to take on the insanity of Green-groupthink; and German Industry – [being slaughtered by escalating power costs](#) – is demanding an end to the madness, at least the businesses that haven't already packed up and headed for the US where power prices are around 1/3 of those in Germany.

Then – as with every other power market that's been perverted by throwing \$billions in subsidies at wind power which (apart from what's ripped out of power consumers and/or taxpayers) [has NO commercial value](#) – there is the crushing impact which the massive subsidies for wind power has on conventional generators.

All the above have combined in a perfect political storm, which has led to Sigmar Gabriel, its Economy Minister, declaring an end to the outlandish free run wind power outfits have enjoyed to date: putting a wind industry killing cap on German wind power capacity.

With all the petulance we've come to expect from the wind-cult, German Greens have reacted like spoilt brats, wailing that their beloved wind industry is as good as doomed. Here's a couple of takes on Germany's huge about face on its once undying support for wind power.

Germany To Abandon \$1.1 Trillion Wind Power Program By 2019

The Daily Caller Andrew Follett 8 April 2016

Germany plans to stop building new wind farms by 2019, gradually turning away from its \$1.1 trillion wind power program, according to a Thursday report in Berliner Zeitung.

The government plans to cap the total amount of wind energy at 40 to 45 percent of national capacity, according to the report. By 2019, this policy would cause a massive reduction of 6,000 megawatts of wind power capacity compared to the end of 2015's capacity.

"The domestic market for many [wind turbine] manufacturers collapses completely," Julia Verlinden, a spokesperson for the German Green Party, [told Berliner Zeitung](#). "With their plan, the federal government is killing the wind companies." Verlinden goes on to blame the political influence of "old, fossil fuel power plants."

Germany's government, however, has been very supportive of wind power.

The government estimates that it will spend [over \\$1.1 trillion](#) financially supporting wind power, even though building wind turbines hasn't achieved the government's goal of actually reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

Germany created lucrative subsidies and tax benefits for wind power in 2011 after it [decided to abandon nuclear power entirely by 2022](#) following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan. German utilities [are already suing the government for \\$21 billion over the nuclear shutdown plan](#).

Electricity from new wind power is [nearly four times as expensive](#) as electricity from existing nuclear power plants, according to analysis from the Institute for Energy Research. The rising cost of subsidies is passed onto ordinary rate-payers, which has [triggered complaints that poor households are subsidizing the affluent](#).

Nuclear power made up 29.5 percent of Germany's energy in 2000 — in 2015, the share dropped [down to 17 percent](#).

German Government 'Plans To Stop And Reverse Wind Power'

The Global Warning Policy Forum Frank-Thomas Wenzel & Berliner Zeitung 8 April 2016

[Translation from original [German article](#) by GWPF]

Frankfurt am Main – If the green energy plans by the German Federal Government are implemented, the expansion of onshore wind energy will soon come to a standstill and then go into reverse.

It is a success story: According to figures by the Federal Network Agency, in the twelve months from February 2015 to January 2016 new wind turbines with a net capacity of nearly 3,600 megawatts were installed.

What is the future of wind energy in Germany?

This depends entirely on political developments. In early March, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel presented a draft for the amendment of the Renewable Energies Act (EEG). The new rules regulate the subsidy levels for renewable energy. The new regulations are to be adopted in coming months. The draft says, inter alia, that the amount of renewable energy in the electricity mix will be limited to a level of 40 to 45 percent by 2025. At the end of last year the level was already nearly 33 percent.

What does this mean for the expansion of wind energy?

A study by consultants ERA on behalf of the Green Party's parliamentary group concludes that under these provisions the development of wind energy will collapse fairly soon: A target of 45 percent would mean that only 1500 megawatts could be installed annually after 2018, according to the study. That's less than half as the average of wind energy installed in the past five days.

How does this affect the amount of electricity produced?

The 1500 MW of new-built wind turbines would be insufficient even to replace older ones against new ones, the ERA-authors write. This means that wind generation capacity is actually shrinking. "As a consequence, there will be an economic stagnation of electricity from onshore wind energy already in the 2020s", the study claims. From 2022 onwards, the amount of wind power will begin to shrink. With a 1,500 megawatts limit the government would undermine its own goals of a so-called expansion corridor of [2400-2600](#) megawatts.

What would the 40 percent cap mean?

A 40% cap for wind energy completely stop the construction of new wind farms by of 2019, according to the ERA study. Overall, this would reduce onshore wind power by almost 6000 megawatts compared to the end of 2015 – which would mean a massive slump in wind power generation by 18 terawatt hours.

What does this mean for companies that build the plants?

"The domestic market for many manufacturers collapses completely," says Julia Verlinden, spokesperson for Energy Policy in the Green Party's parliamentary group. "With their plan, the federal government is killing the wind companies." This although wind energy is a cost-effective technology which can replace nuclear and coal power plants, she adds.

Who are the vested interests behind the government's new plan?

Julia Verlinden claims that Energy Minister Gabriel seeks to protect "old, fossil fuel power plants against green competition". There is a core of truth in this argument. It's about power plants by the big energy companies RWE, Eon, EnBW and Vattenfall. All four companies are badly damaged, because they have relied too long on coal and nuclear power. As a result, these sectors are now threatened by massive job cuts. Trade unionists are putting pressure on to support these companies. Moreover, the Quartet are to bear the costs for the demolition of nuclear power plants and the disposal of nuclear waste.

What plans for the transformation of energy mean?

"With the planned EEG amendment Sigmar Gabriel wants to set himself a monument as the wrecker of the green energy transition," said Green Party Vice Oliver Krischer. While the rest of the world is investing in solar and wind power, Germany's federal government is going into reverse.

[Global Warming Policy Forum](#)

The usual understated response from the Greens:

"The domestic market for many manufacturers collapses completely," says Julia Verlinden, spokesperson for Energy Policy in the Green Party's parliamentary group. "With their plan, the federal government is killing the wind companies."

What Julia might like to consider is how throwing \$1.1 trillion at a wholly weather dependent power source, that requires 100% of its capacity to be backed-up 100% of the time by conventional generation sources, ever made any economic or environmental sense.

But that would be to add logic to an analysis that wind-cultists can't bring themselves to make. No, far easier to rant and wail. What Sigmar Gabriel has done, isn't about killing industry, it's about economic triage: the wind industry isn't a business, it's a subsidy sucking parasite, which if left unchecked will drive real businesses to the wall. Germans have finally worked it out, much to the horror of the wind industry and its beleaguered band of worshippers – their German experiment has manifestly failed; and all they can do now is howl.

