

Note: Climate Transparency invites Media to join our *Brown to Green Report* launch webinar at 16.00 hrs CET 14 November – details below.

Embargo 06.00 hrs CET 14 November 2018.

Missing the target: power and transport most urgent in G20 country climate action – report

82% of the G20's energy supply still comes from fossil fuels, according to the 2018 *Brown to Green Report*, released today.

In Saudi Arabia, Australia and Japan fossil fuels make up even more than 90% of the energy supply, with little or no change in recent years. The 20 major economies play a key role for achieving the Paris targets because they alone account for 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

“The recent IPCC 1.5°C report showed us the world needs to ramp up action on climate change. Power generation from coal, oil and gas, and transport produce the biggest chunk of emissions in the vast majority of G20 countries,” said one of the report's co-authors, Jiang Kejun of the Energy Research Institute in China.

“No G20 government is really getting a grip on these sectors – especially Australia, the United States, Russia and Indonesia, who are all lagging behind. But some countries are already moving ahead, like the United Kingdom or France with their decision to quickly phase out coal and fossil fuel-based cars,” he said.

“The G20 economies actually need to cut their emissions by half by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C,” said co-author Jan Burck of Germanwatch.

“But instead of responding to the urgency of climate change, the G20 countries continue to pour money into factors that drive climate disruption, like fossil fuel subsidies, instead of taking stronger action. Saudi Arabia, Italy, Australia and Brazil provide the highest amount of subsidies per GDP,” he said.

[see below for full list of quotes from partners]

The *Brown to Green Report* is the world's most comprehensive annual review of G20 climate action, and this is its fourth edition. It has been compiled by Climate Transparency, a global partnership of 14 climate research organisations and NGOs from the majority of G20 countries, many from emerging economies. The report draws on the latest emissions data from 2017 and covers 80 indicators on decarbonisation, climate policies, finance and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Providing country ratings, it identifies leaders and laggards in the G20 (1).

“Global emissions need to peak in 2020. The Brown to Green report provides us with an independent stocktake of where we stand now. This is valuable information for countries when they declare their climate contributions in 2020,” said Christina Figueres, Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (2010-2015) and Convenor, Mission 2020.

Key findings

- None of the G20 economies' climate pledges are on a 1.5°C-compatible pathway, with only India coming close, at a 2°C-compatible pathway. The world is still heading to a warming of 3.2°C. G20 countries must roughly halve their emissions by 2030, but few have longer term reduction strategies to achieve this. Saudi Arabia, Australia and Russia are lagging behind.
- In the **power sector**, South Africa, Australia and Indonesia have the G20's highest emissions intensity due to a very high share of fossil fuels. However, none of these countries have adequate policies to phase out coal, but South Africa has recently published a plan to reduce its use of coal. 14 countries of the G20 countries need a coal phase-out plan. Canada, France, Italy and the United Kingdom have set phase-out dates, but they do not use much coal.
- No G20 country has a 100% **renewable energy** target by 2050 in place. Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom are rated high for their renewable energy targets and policies.
- On **transport**, France, Japan and the United Kingdom lead with phase-out plans for fossil fuel cars. Despite ambitious targets, however, France's emissions in the transport sector continue to increase because of an increasing demand for mobility as well as insufficient policies, e.g. to effectively conduct a modal shift in freight transportation. At the bottom of the leader board are the United States, Canada and Australia, who all have the highest transport emissions per capita and either insufficient – or no – emissions standards for cars.
- The European Union is the only G20 economy with a plan for a 1.5°C-compatible **buildings sector**. While Canada and Germany have the highest emissions-intensity for buildings, they have both targets to make all new buildings zero-energy.
- In the **industry sector**, the European Union is the only real leader on emissions reduction policies. South Africa, Russia and China have the highest emissions intensity in the sector. It is worth noting that developed country emissions would be around 10-20% higher if the emissions from energy-intensive goods produced elsewhere were considered.
- On **forestry**, Indonesia, Brazil and Argentina have the highest forest loss in the G20 since 1990, and none show any signs of reversing this trend.
- Many G20 governments are putting policies in place to **green the financial system** and re-direct finance towards low carbon, climate resilient development. However, few have joined these green plans up with systematically phasing out or redirecting “brown” financing.
- Only Canada and France generated more from **carbon pricing** in 2017 than what they spent on fossil fuel subsidies in 2016. Canada's carbon pricing schemes are under legal challenge in several provinces.

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Download the report and the country factsheets [here](#) under embargo and from 14 November [here](#) on the Climate Transparency website.

Register [here](#) for the online launch of the *Brown to Green Report*.

(1) The *Brown to Green Report* is the world’s most comprehensive annual review of G20 climate action – and its transition to a low-carbon economy. The report is an independent, in-depth assessment that draws on a range of the latest analysis and qualitative data from leading global experts in the field. It is largely based on the latest (2017) data on decarbonisation and emissions. This year it has added sections and breakdowns of climate vulnerability and looks at Just Transition.

The review is based on 80 indicators around emissions, decarbonisation, policy and finance, and presents clear summaries and sectoral comparisons at an overall G20 level, as well as drilling down to a concise, graphic national factsheet for each member state.

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STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE BROWN TO GREEN REPORT 2018

<p><u>CONNIE HEDEGAARD,</u> Former European Commissioner for Climate Action (2010-2014)</p>	<p>“The Brown to Green Report provides transparency about climate actions: Where are the gaps? Where are we running behind? And where does words and actions not fit? This mapping is a crucial tool for those who want more action.”</p>
<p><u>CHRISTIANA FIGUERES,</u> Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (2010-2015) and Convenor, Mission 2020</p>	<p>"Global emissions need to peak in 2020. The Brown to Green report provides us with an independent stocktake, where we stand now. This is valuable information for countries, when they declare their contributions in 2020."</p>
<p><u>MICHAŁ KURTYKA,</u> COP24 President</p>	<p>"Global climate action needs to be enhanced to safeguard the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. The Brown to Green report contributes to our knowledge on how to make a transition to climate-resilient low emission development. It shows where we stand, it is a learning platform and demonstrates good practices in G20 countries."</p>
<p><u>PAUL POLMAN,</u></p>	<p>“Business needs to lead in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The Brown to Green Report sends a strong signal to the G20 that financial markets and economic development are dependent on ambitious climate action.”</p>

Co-Chair of The Global Commission on The Economy and Climate, CEO of Unilever

QUOTES AND CONTACTS OF CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY PARTNERS FOR MEDIA

<p>Alvaro Umaña, Co-chair of Climate Transparency</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +1 301 537 5244, alvaro.umana@gmail.com Spanish, English, Portuguese</p>	<p>“This year’s Brown to Green report provides a vast array of detailed information for the public to hold the G20 governments to account on their climate action. While there are some positive developments, the continued reliance on – and funding of – fossil fuels is standing in the way of the G20’s transition to a low carbon economy. It’s time to pick up the pace.”</p>
<p>Peter Eigen, Co-chair of Climate Transparency</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +49 172 305 9009, peigen@transparency.org German, English</p>	<p>“Our transparent information from independent sources enables broad stakeholder participation in the public debate. We need this debate so that governments raise their ambition in climate action.”</p>
<p>Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +49 173 715 2279, n.hoehne@newclimate.org German, English</p>	<p>“Investment in renewable energy is on the rise globally replacing fossil fuels, which is a very positive sign. However, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the United States lack ambitious renewable energy targets and policies.”</p>
<p>Bill Hare, Climate Analytics</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +61 468 372 179, bill.hare@climateanalytics.org English</p>	<p>“The IPCC has demonstrated that it is indeed possible to limit warming to 1.5°C, but there are very few G20 members who are even close to this pathway, with many are still heavily reliant on coal, amid rising emissions.”</p>
<p>Charlene Watson, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> + 41 786 262 216, c.watson@odi.org.uk English</p>	<p>“As global temperature rises, so will the risks to economies from climate disruption, and the need for adaptation and mitigation finance. It’s in the G20’s own economic interests to shift from brown to green energy, but we’re still seeing major investment into the fossil fuel industry, along with huge subsidies.”</p>
<p>Argentina:</p> <p>Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +54 911 4070 0397, prensa@farn.org.ar Spanish, English</p>	<p>“As G20 host, Argentina is in the limelight this year – and should be well aware of the impact climate change will wreak on the global economy. While doing well on renewable energy, Argentina needs to prioritize the transition away from dirty energy sources, dump fossil fuel subsidies, and start action on its very high forest loss. We urge the G20 to also consider the impact climate also has on the financial and economic developments at their Summit this year.”</p>

<p>Brazil:</p> <p>William Wills, CentroClima, University COPPE/UFRJ</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +55 21 998719827, climatetransparency@lima.coppe.ufrj.br Portuguese, English</p>	<p>“Brazil's deforestation rate is on the rise, its fossil fuel subsidies are increasing, yet so is its share of renewable energy, where there are tremendous opportunities. Brazil has a high risk of negative climate impacts that are likely to strongly affect food production. We hope our new President will keep Brazil in the leadership of climate negotiations and increase climate action within the country in order to get our GHG emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.”</p>
<p>China:</p> <p>Jiang Kejun, Energy Research Institute</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +86 138 0119 9951, kjiang@eri.org.cn kjiang2015@163.com Chinese, English</p>	<p>“China is taking action and has reduced the share of fossil fuels in its energy mix. However, its emissions are rising again, and, as the world’s largest emitter, it needs to do more to address its coal industry. It is on track to over-achieve its climate pledge, a strong indication it could do more.”</p>
<p>France:</p> <p>Lola Vallejo, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> Press Officer: Brigitte Bejean, +33 1 45 49 76 37, brigitte.bejean@iddri.org Spanish, French, English</p>	<p>“France has announced ambitious plans to become a world leader on climate change, with a political commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, phase out thermal vehicles by 2040, raise carbon price domestically and mobilise climate-related finance internationally. Yet the country is currently on a path to overshoot its first two carbon budgets and needs to increase its planning and implementation efforts for effective decarbonisation.”</p>
<p>Germany:</p> <p>Jan Burck, Germanwatch</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +49 177 888 9286, burck@germanwatch.org German, English</p>	<p>“Germany’s climate action is a tale of two strategies – it has 1.5°C-compatible policies on the efficiency of new buildings and still very good renewables ratings, but is let down by no coal phase-out, increased fossil fuel subsidies and rising emissions. As a major G20 economy and the world’s largest consumer of lignite for the production of electricity, Germany urgently needs to address its coal problem.”</p>
<p>India:</p> <p>R R Rashmi, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> Thomas Spencer +91 877 94 89 229 Thomas.spencer@teri.res.in French, German, English</p>	<p>“We are seeing positive signs of climate action in India, the only country whose pledge is already on a well-below 2C pathway. We are among the G20’s most vulnerable countries to climate impacts and adapting to climate change is as important as mitigating its impacts. We are witnessing an unprecedented energy transition through the enhancement of our renewable energy supply. However, due to the variable nature of renewable energy we sustain our usage of fossil fuels until we have innovative storage solutions that can be implemented at scale.”</p>
<p>Indonesia:</p>	<p>“Indonesia is one of the G20’s most at-risk countries from the impacts of climate change. Yet it has the highest forest</p>

<p>Fabby Tumiwa, Institute for Essential Service Reform (IESR)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +62 811 949 759, fabby@iesr.or.id Bahasa, English</p>	<p>loss since 1990 in the G20, and needs to take more action to address this, and abandon its coal plant building plans.”</p>
<p>Japan:</p> <p>Yuji Mizuno, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</p>	<p>“Japan is experiencing extreme heatwaves and destructive typhoons never experienced before. Our Prime Minister did mention this natural environmental change in his recent policy statement but did not mention necessary climate policy. As one of the world’s largest emitters, we should take the climate threat seriously and show leadership to decarbonisation, especially among G20 countries as the G20 presidency next year.”</p>
<p>Mexico:</p> <p>Jorge Villarreal, Iniciativa Climática de México (ICM)</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +521 (55) 34557805, jorge.villarreal@iniciativaclimatica.org Spanish, English</p>	<p>“Mexico is not onto the right climate path to comply with the PA: more action and ambition is required as climate impacts will hit us hard. Despite that we are leading the G20 with decreasing, low energy-related emissions, have introduced carbon pricing and have contributed to the international community on financing developing country transition; our energy mix is still strongly based in fossil fuels.”</p>
<p>South Africa:</p> <p>Andrew Marquard, Energy Research Centre, University of Capetown</p> <p><u>Contact information:</u> +27 82 875 5474, andrew.marquard@uct.ac.za English, Afrikaans</p>	<p>“South Africa has the G20’s highest emissions intensity in the power sector due to our extensive reliance on coal for electricity generation. The country is facing many challenges in moving away from its coal-based economy, and its new electricity plan will be a big step forward, especially if it excludes the planned new coal plants and accelerates the retirement of old expensive coal plants. Luckily South Africa has incredible renewable resources, and renewable energy is now significantly cheaper than coal.”</p>