

# SWITCH TO CLIMATE-FRIENDLY HEATING WITH SUPPORT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HELP THE CLIMATE

Start the green energy transition in your home

» 80 MILLIONEN GEMEINSAM FÜR  
**ENERGIEWECHSEL**

[energiewchsel.de](http://energiewchsel.de)

## THE NEW BUILDINGS ENERGY ACT: KEY FACTS

Around three quarters of heating systems in Germany still run on natural gas or heating oil. In order to break this dependency, the **amended Buildings Energy Act (GEG)**, in force since 1 January 2024, regulates the **mandatory switch to renewable energy when installing new heating systems**. Its aim is to ensure a heat supply that is predictable, cost-effective and stable. This not only strengthens our climate efforts but also reduces our dependence on energy imports and protects consumers from price increases for fossil fuels. After all natural gas and crude oil are also gradually becoming more expensive as a result of the introduction of carbon pricing. **Good to know:** the switch to climate-friendly heating systems is being supported by the Federal Government.

In addition to regulating the requirements for renewable heat and heating technology, the GEG lays down which **energy standards apply to new roofs, windows or insulated walls** to ensure your home is energy-efficient – whether you live in a new or old building.

### WHAT DEADLINES APPLY?

Since 1 January 2024, the following applies: every newly installed heating system in a new development area has to use at least **65 percent renewable energy**. For existing buildings or new buildings outside new development areas, transitional periods apply. In large cities (with more than 100,000 inhabitants), climate-friendly energy will become mandatory when replacing heating systems after **30 June 2026** at the latest, and in smaller municipalities (up to 100,000 inhabitants) after **30 June 2028** at the latest.

### HOW DO I SWITCH TO CLIMATE-FRIENDLY HEATING?

A range of different options are available:

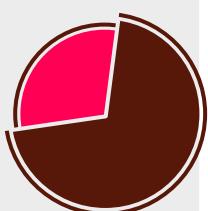
- Connecting to a heat network
- Heat pump
- Biomass heating
- Direct electric heating (for very energy-efficient buildings only)
- Heating based on solar thermal energy, if it is able to fully meet the heat demand
- Gas or oil heating, if operated with renewable fuels
- Hybrid heating systems based primarily on renewables and a proportion of fossil fuels
- Any combination of technologies that uses at least 65 per cent renewable energy (mathematical proof required)

Find out more about these options at:

[energiewchsel.de/geg](http://energiewchsel.de/geg)

### WHY DO THESE DEADLINES APPLY?

These deadlines give people planning to switch to renewable heating the opportunity to take municipal heat planning into account in their decision. Cities and municipalities use this, for example, to determine which neighbourhoods will be connected to a heat network in the future and which renewable heat sources will be used. Citizens can contact their municipal authority to find out about the status of its heat planning.



Heating accounts  
for around  
**70 %**  
of private household  
energy consumption



Around  
**32 Mn.**  
homes in Germany  
are still heated with  
fossil fuels

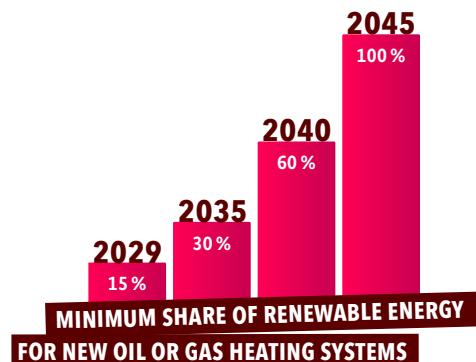


Renewables are to  
provide  
**65 %**  
of heating energy

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO GAS AND OIL HEATING SYSTEMS?

Existing heating systems can continue to be operated. This also applies if they break and can be repaired. If no repair is possible, an oil or gas heating system can be installed again in coordination with the municipal heat planning (until mid-2026 or 2028). However, this heating system will have to utilise an increasing proportion of renewable energy – such as biomethane or hydrogen – from 2029. At the same time, it is important to be aware that these fuels are associated with considerable price risks as their availability is limited.

**Please note:** In special cases of hardship, owners can be exempted from the requirements of the GEG.



The heating guide (in German) provides information on retrofitting options: [energiewechsel.de/geg-heizungswegweiser](http://energiewechsel.de/geg-heizungswegweiser)

## FUNDING SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR REPLACING OLD HEATING SYSTEMS

Comprehensive funding support is available for anyone who installs a climate-friendly heating system. The basic funding assistance for replacing a fossil-fuel heating system with a climate-friendly **heating system based on renewable energy** amounts to

**30 per cent of the costs.** There is an additional **20 per cent climate speed bonus** if an old fossil-fuel heating system is replaced by the end of 2028. Private households with an annual taxable income of up to 40,000 euros will receive a further **income-based bonus of 30 per cent** if the property is owner-occupied. The bonuses can be added together. Overall, funding is limited to **70 per cent** of the costs.

## WHAT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT?

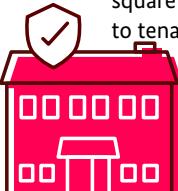
Anyone wishing to make their property more energy efficient can apply for further grants, for example for insulating external walls and roofs or for optimising ventilation systems. In total, up to **20 per cent** of the investment costs will be reimbursed. **As in the past, the basic funding assistance is 15 per cent – plus a five per cent bonus** if an individual renovation roadmap is submitted.



**It is important to note that** the bonuses and grants for replacing heating systems and for energy efficiency measures can be added together. In total, funding of a maximum of 90,000 euros (a maximum of 30,000 euros for replacing a heating system, and a maximum of 60,000 euros for other efficiency measures) can be claimed for a single-family home or the first residential unit in a multi-family home if an individual renovation roadmap can be provided.

## HOW ARE TENANTS PROTECTED?

Landlords can pass on up to ten per cent of the costs for climate-friendly heating to tenants. The monthly basic rent can be increased by a maximum of 50 cents per square metre, meaning the costs that may be passed on to tenants are capped.



## GOOD ADVICE ON SWITCHING TO RENEWABLE HEATING

Please visit [verbraucherzentrale-energieberatung.de](http://verbraucherzentrale-energieberatung.de) and [energie-effizienz-experten.de](http://energie-effizienz-experten.de) to find an expert near you. Anyone who has received advice from an energy efficiency expert is eligible for Federal support under the 'Energy Advice for Residential Buildings (EBW)' programme.

Further information on the GEG can be found at [energiewechsel.de/geg](http://energiewechsel.de/geg), funding opportunities at [energiewechsel.de/beg](http://energiewechsel.de/beg) and energy advice at [energiewechsel.de/energieberatung](http://energiewechsel.de/energieberatung).

## PUBLICATION DATA

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