

Climate protection

Cabinet decides new CO2 levy

Fuel will become more expensive from 2021: because consumers will then have to pay extra for every ton of carbon dioxide. From 2026, the installation of new oil heaters will be prohibited - with exceptions.

October 23, 2019, 11:14 a.m. / Updated October 23, 2019, 11:28 am / Source: ZEIT ONLINE, Reuters, dpa, tst / [337 comments](#) / / 



Wind turbine in front of the cooling towers of a coal-fired power plant in Jänschwalde © Carsten Koall / Getty Images

The Federal Government has adopted the regulations for a CO2 price for fuel, heating oil and gas planned in the climate protection program. The cabinet approved a bill that for the first time in Germany provides for a tax on CO2 emissions in the transport and building sectors.

In 2021, a levy of ten euros will be levied on the ton of CO2 . It is expected to rise to 35 euros by 2025 and then be released entirely within the framework of a national trade in pollution rights of up to 60 euros. As of 2021, gasoline and diesel could become three cents per liter more expensive. Once emissions trading has been fully approved, fuel could become around 20 cents more expensive.

MORE ON THE SUBJECT

Coalition climate package

Climate package

Doesn't hurt at all

[<https://www.zeit.de/mobilitaet/2019-10/klimapaket-co2-ausstoss-klimaschutzgesetz-autoverkehr-staatseinnahmen>]

Climate package

Courage to implement

[<https://www.zeit.de/wirtschaft/2019-10/klimapaket-kabinettsentwurf-klimapolitik-klimaschutzgesetz-bundesregierung-umweltschutz>]

Coalition Committee

That is in the coalition's climate program

[<https://www.zeit.de/politik/2019-09/koalitionsausschuss-klimaschutz-klimakabinett-klimapolitik-co2-steuer>]

So consumers will not pay the CO2 price directly. It is already collected from the 4,000 refineries or gas suppliers who then pass the charge on, for example, at the petrol pump or when filling the heating oil tank.

After a long struggle, the [<https://www.zeit.de/politik/2019-09/koalitionsausschuss-klimaschutz-klimakabinett-klimapolitik-co2-steuer>] federal government had agreed to levy a national tax and later convert it into emissions trading [<https://www.zeit.de/politik/2019-09/koalitionsausschuss-klimaschutz-klimakabinett-klimapolitik-co2-steuer>] . The SPD initially favored a tax, but the Union insisted on emissions trading along the lines of industry. However, this will only take effect after 2025 with a minimum price of 30 euros and a maximum price of 60 euros. Because of this mixture of fixed price and free trade, there are doubts among environmental law experts as to whether the regulations are also legally secure.

Industrial companies and power plants already have to buy CO2 pollution rights as part of European emissions trading, which are becoming scarcer every year. Those who produce in a particularly environmentally friendly way can sell rights through the stock exchange to those who need additional ones. This is how a price is formed.

The now planned national emissions trading scheme in the transport and building sectors will later be merged with this European system. So far, there has been an eco-tax in Germany - a bundle of taxes that has been intended to incentivize climate protection and energy saving since the 1990s .

Die Ministerrunde hatte schon Mitte Oktober bereits Vorlagen aus dem Finanzministerium mit Steuermaßnahmen vor allem im Verkehrs- und Gebäudesektor beschlossen

[<https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2019-10/klimapaket-klimapolitik-kabinett-mobilitaet-energiewende-steuern-beschluesse>]. Dazu zählt, dass Bahnfahrten im Fernverkehr künftig günstiger und Flugreisen teurer werden sollen.

"Attraktive Austauschprämie"

Das Kabinett beschloss zudem ein Einbauverbot für neue Ölheizungen ab 2026. Allerdings gibt es laut des Gesetzesentwurfs Ausnahmen – wenn etwa ein Haus weder mit Gas noch mit Fernwärme versorgt werden kann und die Heizung auch nicht aus erneuerbaren Energien betrieben werden kann. Wer seine alte Ölheizung durch ein klimafreundlicheres Modell ersetzen lässt, soll eine "attraktive Austauschprämie" bekommen.

Alle Kabinettsentwürfe werden nun im Bundestag weiter beraten, unter anderem in Ausschüssen. Vor der Abstimmung darüber im Plenum sind Änderungen möglich.

STARTSEITE › [<https://www.zeit.de/index>]