

[Home](#) > [Automakers](#)

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Audi CEO Duesmann says European automakers should stop using fossil fuels by 2040

Discussions around a possible embargo on Russian gas in light of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine have raised pressure on companies and governments to expand investment into renewable energy.

Reuters

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Duesmann: "We must put all our energy towards battery-electric vehicles for individual mobility."

BERLIN -- Europe's automakers should stop using fossil fuels by 2040, [Audi](#) CEO Markus Duesmann said.

Discussions around a possible embargo on Russian gas after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine have raised pressure on companies and governments to expand investment into renewable energy, with Mercedes-Benz promising new investments in wind and solar to help power its plants.

"Let's be courageous as Europeans and take it upon ourselves to give up on fossil fuels completely from 2040," Duesmann said at a conference. "We must put all our energy towards battery-electric vehicles for individual mobility."

Duesmann called for quicker expansion of renewable energy capacity in Bavaria, where Audi is based, and elsewhere.

Audi will [stop selling combustion engine cars](#) from 2033. Its parent Volkswagen Group will do so from 2035 in Europe and later in China and the United States, it has said.

Still, other automakers such as BMW have warned against focusing exclusively on producing electric vehicles too soon, with demand for combustion engines still high.

Germany's coalition government has said it is targeting a coal phase-out ideally by 2030 and aims to fulfil all its electricity needs with supplies from renewable sources by 2035.

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