

The Hamburg Declaration on Wind Power's Response to the Energy and Climate Crises

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Joint statement by BWE, GWEC, VDMA and WindEurope

Recent geopolitical events have exposed the world's overreliance on an insecure and volatile fossil fuel supply. The war against Ukraine has made this situation even clearer. This is a wake-up call. Transitioning to a resilient and sustainable energy system with renewable electricity at its core is essential.

It is essential to respond to the increasingly dire impacts of climate change, fossil fuel dependency and soaring electricity prices which are impacting citizens and communities around the world. And it is essential for the competitiveness of our economies and prosperity for society at large.

Wind energy is clean, competitive, quickly deployable and scalable – be it on land or at sea. The wind industry has achieved huge growth in the last decade and currently installs around 95 GW worldwide each year. But according to the IEA, this volume needs to quadruple over the course of this decade to stay on-track towards climate neutrality. Roadmaps to an energy-secure and climate neutral world by 2050 place wind power at the very heart of the solution to the current energy and climate crises.

The international finance community is already backing wind as the energy transition technology of choice (€168 billion was invested globally in onshore and offshore wind capacity in 2021, BloombergNEF) and the sector is pushing the boundaries of innovation. Each year, wind turbines become more powerful, more sustainable and better suited to energy system integration. The wind industry is an agent of positive change and economic revitalization in nearly every region of the world.

Meeting the urgency of the moment requires wind energy deployment to rapidly scale up worldwide and, in tandem, the global wind supply chain needs to be in a position to deliver. This will allow the industry to continue supporting sustainable development and quality jobs as it expands, with 1.25 million workers currently and tremendous job creation opportunities ahead.

This year, nearly 20 governments from around the world are visiting Wind Energy Hamburg to work with industry in accelerating wind power. For our societies to tackle the joint energy and climate crises and reap the full benefits of wind energy, the wind industry must continue to collaborate with governments and society to achieve the following actions in the next 1-3 years:

- **Put wind and renewable energy at the center of political decision-making with a reliable long-term perspective of steady, large-scale expansion.** Clear and ambitious policy frameworks for the deployment of wind and renewable energy, with a long-term horizon of 10+ years, can help to align energy and climate goals with market forces.

- **Accelerate the permitting of wind energy projects by simplifying, streamlining and digitalizing permitting processes.** Speeding up the approval and construction of onshore and offshore wind projects can contribute to a climate neutral energy system, while supporting the harmonious co-existence of the wind industry alongside other land and ocean interests and users. Faster approvals are also necessary to unlock more projects and strengthen the supply chain. All bureaucratic and logistical bottlenecks must be tackled by effective policy measures.
- **Recognize wind energy as a strategic sector as part of national and regional industrial policies and ensure that turbine manufacturers and the wind supply chain have full and unrestricted access to the components and materials they need.** Concrete industrial development plans and the right trade policies can allow the wind industry to plan for healthy and sustainable supply chain development.
- **Ensure policy frameworks deliver an accelerated and secure shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable electricity as this is the most cost effective and energy efficient way to decarbonise most of our economy.** In aviation, shipping and the parts of industry that cannot be electrified directly governments must prioritise the uptake of renewable hydrogen. In the current crisis, governments must avoid taking measures which will lock in long-term fossil fuel generation, and instead mobilize investment in renewable generation and continue to implement carbon pricing mechanisms.
- **Accelerate investment in electricity grids to underpin the transition to a highly electrified and renewables-based energy system.** Shifting to a modern and flexible energy system urgently requires grid planning, investment and buildout to scale up infrastructure which can deliver, manage and store increasing volumes of renewable energy.

The global wind industry is determined and committed to accelerate the transition to an energy system based on renewable electricity. We affirm that this is the only sustainable solution to the current energy and climate crises.