



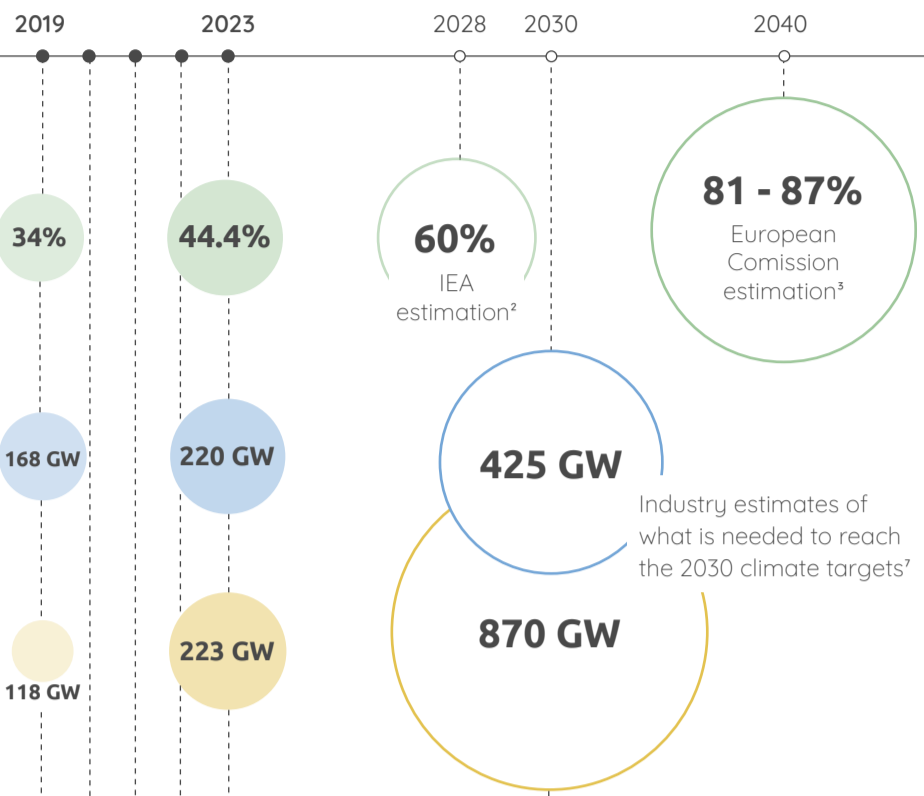
Von der Leyen's first mandate: the foundation for Europe's energy transition

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Ursula von der Leyen's first term at the helm of the European Commission is about to end as the EU elections loom. But how has von der Leyen's first mandate been in terms of energy? Since 2019, the continent has changed drastically and the EU energy sector has experienced a renewables revolution.

A renewed energy mix

Renewables¹ are now the source of nearly half of the continent's electricity.



Wind capacity⁴

Wind alone now generates more electricity than gas⁵.

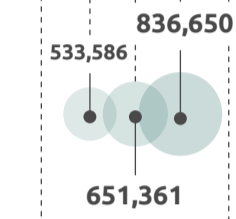
Solar capacity

In the last 5 years, the EU has almost doubled its solar capacity, an unprecedented boost⁶.



Renewables, a boost for green jobs

The boom in solar and wind power is being felt in the job market⁸.



Investments in the energy transition increase

In the last five years, the amount of capital invested in clean industries has more than tripled⁹.



If Europe wants to stay competitive in the net-zero industrial era and reach its climate targets by 2030, investments in clean technologies must double, according to think tank I4CE¹⁰

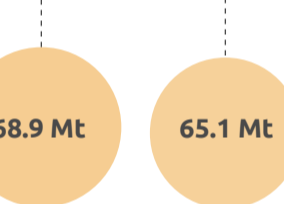
Energy demand at historic low

Gas consumption has fallen by just over 19% since 2019¹¹.



Fossil fuel imports going down¹²

The EU has drastically reduced its energy dependence on Russia - but also generally reduced oil and gas imports and overall demand¹³.



Clean technology

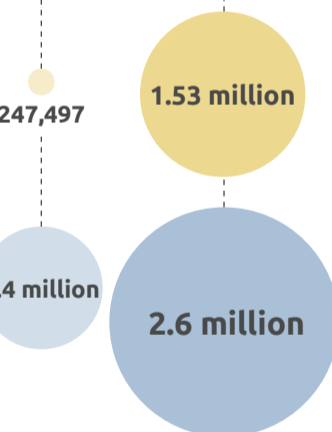
The uptake of clean technologies has advanced substantially. We look at two examples: electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Battery electric vehicles

Annual sales of EVs have multiplied in Europe. Today, full electric cars represent about 14.6% of total sales¹⁴.

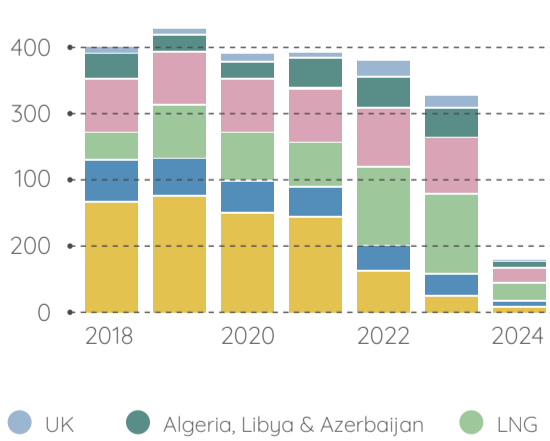
Heat pumps

Annual sales of heat pumps have almost doubled since 2019¹⁵.

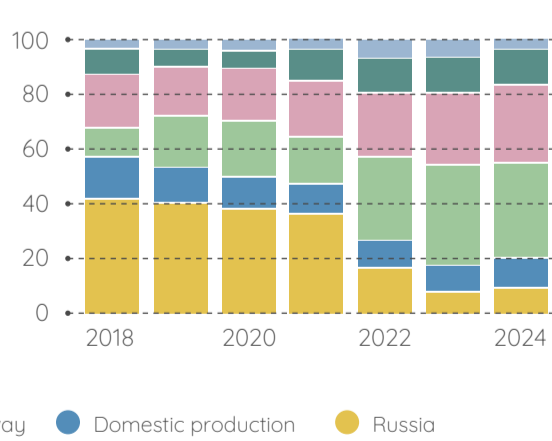


The EU's declining gas dependence on Russia¹⁶

Sources of EU gas, 2018-2024 Q1 (bcm)



Sources EU gas, 2018-2024 Q1 (%)



Sources:

- Renewables include wind and solar, hydro, bioenergy, geothermal, tidal and wave generation, extracted from Ember European Electricity review 2024.
- Extracted from International Energy Agency (IEA) Renewables 2023: Analysis and forecasts to 2028.
- Estimation in European Commission's impact assessment on a 2040 Climate Target.
- Data extracted from WindEurope market reports.
- Extracted from Ember European Electricity review 2024.
- Data extracted from [Solar Power Europe](#).
- Data extracted from [WindEurope](#) and [Solar Power Europe](#).
- Data extracted from [WindEurope](#) and [Solar Power Europe](#).
- Data extracted from BNEF Energy Transition Investment Data (2023). Clean energy investment includes electrified heat, electrified transport, storage and renewable energy (wind (on, and offshore), solar (large- and small-scale), biofuels, biomass and waste, marine, geothermal and small hydropower).
- Calipel, C. / Bizien, A. / Pellerin-Carlin, T. (2024) European Climate Investment Deficit report: An investment pathway for Europe's future, I4CE Institute for Climate Economics.
- According to figures provided by IEEFA.
- Data extracted from Eurostat database (Comext) and Eurostat Estimates (2023).
- Extracted from [S&P Global Commodity Insights](#).
- Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) annual sales in EU-27 countries. Data source: the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), based on aggregated data provided by national automobile associations, ACEA members and S&P Global Mobility.
- Data extracted from [European Heat Pump Association \(EHPA\)](#). Data covers 14 countries which made up 90% of the European heat pump market in 2023, according to EHPA.
- Graph replicated from [FT chart](#), showing data retrieved from ICIS. 2024=to March.