



By 2035, Germany plans to complete all its electricity needs with supplies from **renewable resources**.

Europe's biggest economy has been pressured from other Western nations to depend less on Russian gas. However, its plans left the country with few options; by 2022, it wants to **phase out** coal-fired power plants and to shut its nuclear power plants.

According to officials, the country's energy from wind or solar power should be 80% by 2030. By then, solar energy would more than triple. The country's onshore wind energy power should double to up to 110 **gigawatts**, and offshore wind energy power should reach 30 gigawatts. All of the energy would be the same as the power of 10 nuclear power plants.

The German Finance Minister referred to renewable electricity resources as the energy of freedom.

Difficult words: **renewable resource** (an energy source that can't be used up, such as wind or sunlight), **phase out** (to gradually stop using something), **gigawatt** (a unit of power equal to one billion watts).



Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *renewable source*, *phase out* and *gigawatt*
2. What does Germany plan to do by 2035?
3. What have other Western nations pressured Europe's biggest economy to do?
4. What does Germany want to do with its coal-fired power plants and nuclear power plants?
5. By 2030, how much of Germany's energy should come from solar or wind power?
6. How much solar and wind power would Germany need to have the same power of 10 nuclear power plants?
7. What did the German Finance Minister refer to as the energy of freedom?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Why do you think the German Finance Minister call the renewable electricity resources the energy of freedom?
2. What is the primary source of energy in your country?
3. Where does your country import its energy from? (*oil or coal*)
4. Will your country eventually shift to using renewable electricity resources in the future?