

Poland



A recent surge in new renewables-based electricity generation gives hope to the 63% of corporate executives who want to see Poland move away from coal-fired electricity within ten years.

Nearly nine in every ten (89%) of the country's business executives advocate for a rapid acceleration to a renewables-based power system. The trajectory of the country's electricity mix is heading in this direction. Electricity demand met from coal reduced by almost one quarter (23%) between 2021 and 2023, although it still comprises more than half (54%) of Poland's total electricity generation.¹ An additional nearly 17% derives from other fossil fuels, notably fossil gas.² As a result of this strong dependence on fossil fuels, almost half (49.2%) of the country's total emissions come from electricity and heat.³ Consequently, annual per-capita greenhouse gas emissions of 8.7 tonnes place Poland above the European Union average of 6.9 tonnes, albeit 1.5 tonnes below where the country was two decades ago.⁴

Recent growth in renewables has strong support from business leaders, although one third (33%) believe financial incentives would accelerate this trend rapidly. Wind and solar produced a record 23.5% of Polish electricity in 2024, with the former leading the way.⁵ Confirmation in early 2025 by Poland's state-owned energy firm Polska Grupa Energetyczna of a new 1.5GW offshore wind farm provides a boost to the nearly two-thirds (63%) of business executives who advocate for a renewables-based power system by 2035.⁶ Once operational, the 30 billion złoty (US\$7.79 billion) Baltica 2 wind farm will provide sufficient electricity for around 2.5 million households.⁷

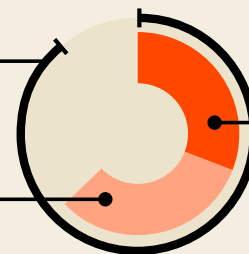
Do you think your government should transition away from fossil fuels to a renewables-based electricity system?

NET: Yes

89%

Yes, within
10 years

32%



¹ <https://ember-energy.org/data/electricity-data-explorer/>

² <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/european-electricity-review-2025/>

³ <https://www.iea.org/countries/poland/emissions>

⁴ https://ourworldindata.org/explorers/co2?country=POL~OWID_EU27&hideControls=false&Gas+or+Warming=All+GHGs+%28CO2eq%29&Accounting=Production-based&Fuel+or+Land+Use+Change=All+fossil+emissions&Count=Per+capita

⁵ <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/european-electricity-review-2025/>

⁶ The Baltica 2 project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Danish renewable energy firm, Ørsted. <https://orsted.com/en/media/news/2025/01/orsted-and-pge-take-final-investment-decision-on-b-1424240111>

⁷ Ibid.

Electricity policy

A strong commitment by the government towards the phase-out of coal and the rapid adoption of renewables will improve the climate credentials of both Poland and Polish companies, increasing the competitiveness of both. Should Poland fail to shift fast enough to renewables-based electricity, however, almost half (45%) of business executives worry that their companies could face regulatory penalties and additional taxes. A major hurdle to transitioning the country's national grid is the protracted timetable for the phase-out of coal. Under the roadmap laid out in the 2024 draft of the government's National Energy and Climate Plan, Poland does not anticipate exiting from lignite until 2044 and hard coal until 2049.⁸ This undermines otherwise ambitious developments for accelerating a renewables-based electricity system, which include plans for improved grid planning, as well as demand-side responses and storage (although indicative targets for the latter are not provided).⁹ A rapid exit from coal has the strong support of business leaders surveyed, especially those who favour the government prioritising renewables when investing in new electricity generation projects, more than four-fifths (81%) of whom want to see coal-fired power phased out within the next decade.

Business 'asks'

Nearly two-fifths of business executives (39%) believe that the uptake of renewable projects would accelerate if policymakers reconsidered plans to use gas as a replacement for coal. This fits with the majority (67%) of senior executives who say they want a direct transition from coal-fired power to exclusively new renewables, grids, and storage, avoiding the interim use of gas. Here, encouragement comes from the decision by regional legislators in Eastern Wielkopolska, Koszalin, and Wałbrzych, plus municipal authorities in the Upper Silesian capital of Katowice, to join the Powering Past Coal Alliance.¹⁰ Were the central government to follow suit, it would bring national policy into line with Poland's pledge at COP28 to contribute towards the tripling of renewables capacity globally by 2030, and transition away from fossil fuels.¹¹ Nearly one third (31%) of business executives support a transition to a renewables-based electricity system by 2030, with a similar number (32%) indicating 2035. Due to age and increasing costs (exacerbated by a planned removal of subsidies), the contracts for 8GW of coal-fired electricity are due to be terminated in 2026, with a further 3GW following in 2030.¹²

Top benefits to your country for transitioning away from fossil fuels (% who chose the following)



⁸ <https://www.gov.pl/web/climate/national-energy-and-climate-plan>

⁹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/87125ae9-14dc-4d3d-9952-b0f55f5db0a7_en?filename=SWD_Assessment_draft_updated_NEC_Poland_2024.pdf.pdf

¹⁰ <https://poweringpastcoal.org/news/heart-of-polands-largest-coal-region-joins-the-global-push-for-coal-phase-out/>

¹¹ <https://www.iea.org/reports/cop28-tripling-renewable-capacity-pledge>; <https://unfccc.int/news/cop28-agreement-signals-beginning-of-the-end-of-the-fossil-fuel-era>

¹² <https://www.forum-energii.eu/en/from-2025-coal-will-leave-the-polish-energy-system-in-waves>