

Germany's vice chancellor wants to store carbon from 'hard to abate' industries under the sea



Germany is planning to allow carbon to be stored underground at offshore sites, the country's vice chancellor announced yesterday.

Europe's biggest economy is making good progress with expanding its renewable energy sources and usage.

But a solution is needed for the carbon dioxide emitted by some sectors such as the **cement** industry that are "hard to abate," said **Robert Habeck**, who is also the economy and climate minister.

Germany, which is home to many energy-intensive industries, aims to cut its emissions to net zero by 2045.

Where could Germany store carbon dioxide?

Habeck's proposed "carbon management strategy" still needs to be turned into detailed legislation.

If given the green light, it will enable the transport of **carbon** dioxide and its storage under the sea in Germany's exclusive economic zone, except in marine conservation areas.

It doesn't foresee allowing storage sites on land, but Habeck said that could be considered later if German state governments approve.

Is carbon capture and storage effective and safe?

Opponents maintain that so-called **carbon capture and storage** (CCS) is unproven at scale and has been less effective than alternatives such as solar and wind at decarbonising the energy sector.

Habeck, a member of the environmentalist Green party, recalled opposition to carbon storage when it was discussed in the 2000s.

But he said "the technology has been developed further [...] and from my point of view it is mature and safe," and that it is now being used elsewhere, not just in research projects.

Neighbouring **Denmark** last year launched an ambitious project that aims to bury vast amounts of carbon dioxide beneath the North Sea.



“Time has run out,” Habeck said at a news conference in Berlin. “In the 2000s, you could perhaps say, ‘let’s wait and see what might happen’; today we see that we haven’t found any technological solution for cement and other areas that ensures **climate neutrality**.”

“We are heading toward exceeding **1.5 degrees**, which means that we are no longer in a luxury or comfort zone where we can somehow wait,” Habeck added. “We have to use what we have.”

Which other European countries could invest in CCS?

Habeck said it will be “a few years” before Germany can store CO₂ under the sea, and that it would be wise to coordinate European initiatives.

As well as the Danish project, he pointed to **Norway**, the Netherlands and the **United Kingdom**.

Environmental group Greenpeace complained that the German plans “bear the mark of the energy industry and heavy industry” and would allow even industries for which there are “climate-friendly solutions” to carry on as they have to date.

“That is expensive, not sustainable and encumbers future generations with further long-term liabilities,” Karsten Smid, an energy expert with the group's German branch, said in a statement.

Source: [EURONEWS](#)