An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a river and a waterfall. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the surrounding trees are dense and green. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the intricate patterns of the water and the forest canopy.

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NORTH SEA HYDROGEN WORKSHOP

Germany's Energy Transition: Policy-Driven Trends in
Hydrogen and CCS

20 October 2025 | Dr Janina Pochhammer and Dr Niels Lange, LL.M (Stellenbosch)

Hydrogen

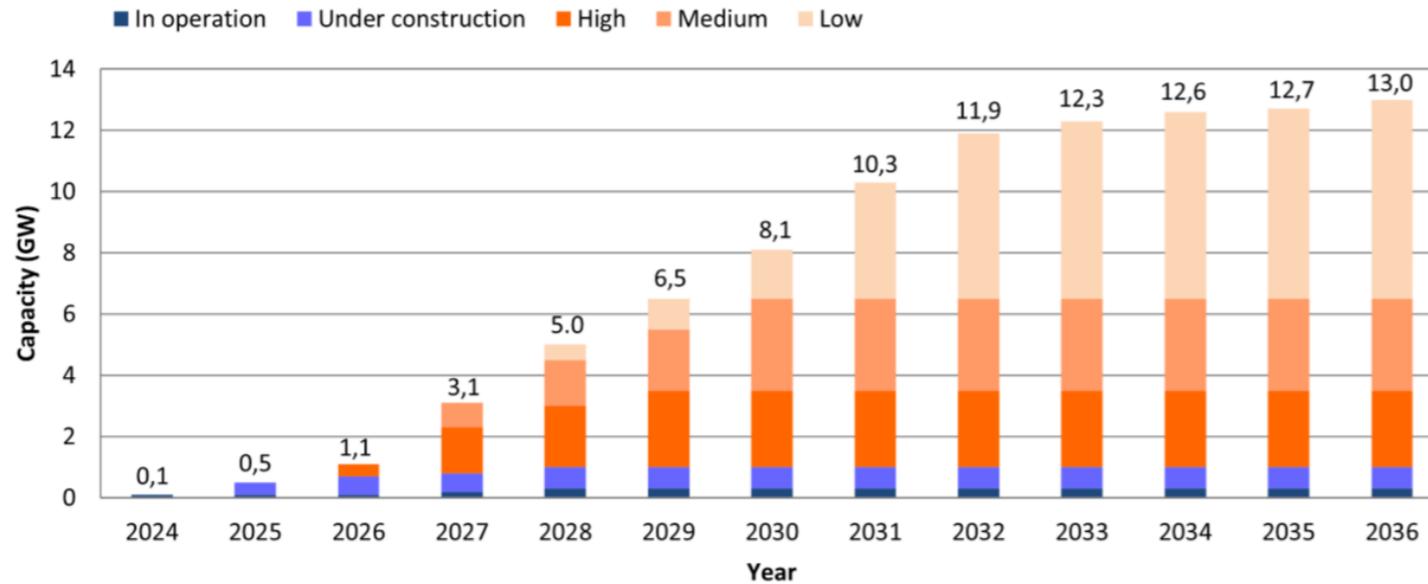
Selected Milestones in German Hydrogen Policy



Hydrogen Numbers

2.3 GW by 2030 with Secured Financing

Capacity of electrolysis projects until 2036 in gigawatts by **Implementation** status and **Probability of realization**



Hydrogen

Energy Transition Monitoring Report and Policy Conclusions

Outcome:

- Hydrogen plays a central role for Germany's energy transition, esp. as storage and system flexibility option
- Identified challenges
 - High uncertainty in demand and supply
 - Cost and market challenges
 - Alignment of domestic and imported hydrogen
 - Infrastructure development

Hydrogen

Energy Transition Monitoring Report and Policy Conclusions

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Policy Conclusions:

- **Simplify regulations**
- **Target early support** to sectors with existing demand (e.g. refineries, process heat)
- **Align infrastructure rollout** with real demand signals
- **Promote market-based incentives** and **flexible, project-driven targets** over fixed capacity goals
- **Foster EU & global cooperation** for cost-efficient imports and shared infrastructure

Hydrogen

Draft Act to Accelerate the Availability of Hydrogen

Objective:	Significant acceleration of the hydrogen market ramp-up and thus contribute to Germany's transformation towards a climate-neutral economy by establishing fast, simplified, and coordinated approval procedures with clear requirements and deadlines.
Scope:	Not only electrolysis facilities, but also storage, import and transport facilities , such as hydrogen storage facilities, hydrogen import facilities, ammonia import facilities, methanol import facilities, conversion plants for hydrogen derivatives to hydrogen, hydrogen pipelines
Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Simplified and accelerated approval processes for hydrogen infrastructure projects▪ Projects are deemed to be of overriding public interest (priority consideration in approval decisions)▪ Limited remedies for third party challenges against approvals for hydrogen infrastructure projects▪ Electronic administrative processes▪ Acceleration of public tendering procedures (e.g., possibility of merging of lots)
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Draft submitted to the Federal Council (Bundesrat) on 10 October 2025▪ Draft further still needs to be introduced to, discussed and adopted by the Bundestag▪ No clear timeline has been published yet

Carbon Capture Storage Current Policies

Status Quo

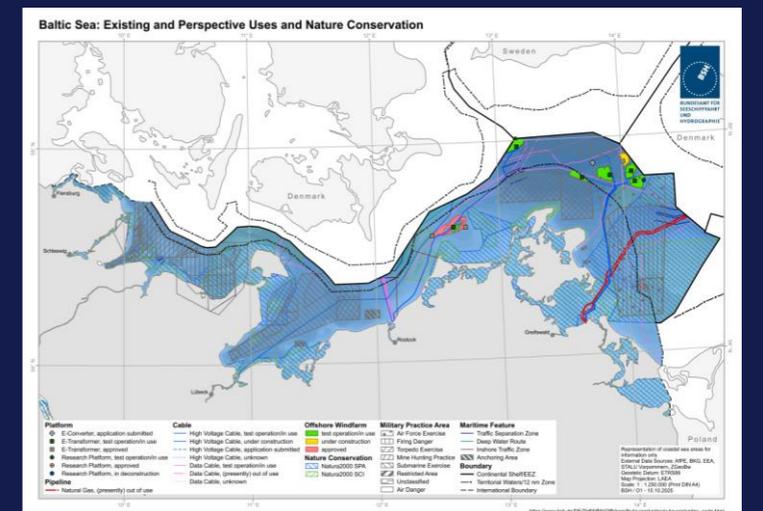
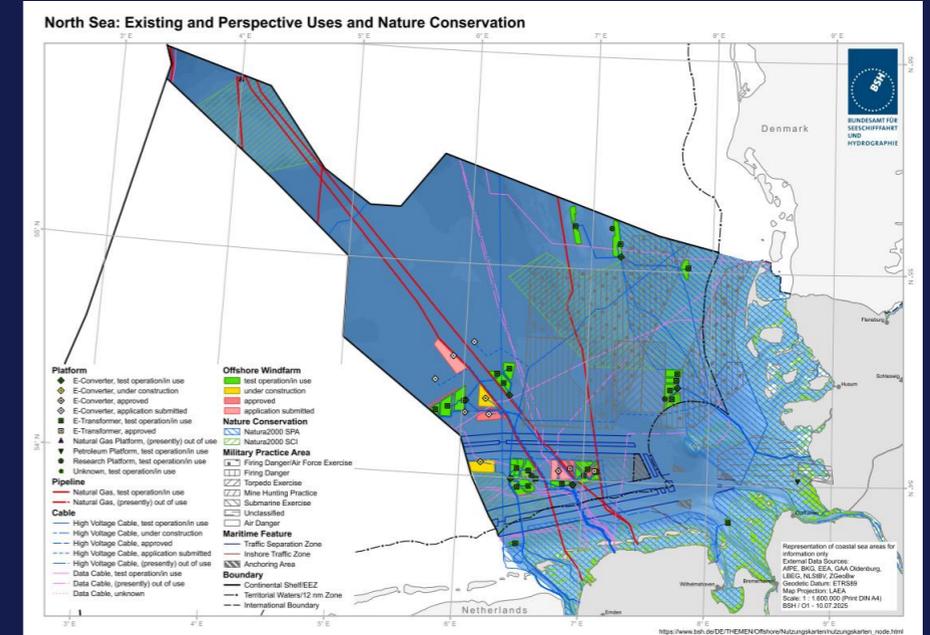
- CCS is currently prohibited and limited to research purposes and not for commercial use

Draft Act to Amend the Carbon Dioxide Storage Act (September 2025)

- Permitting commercial use of carbon capture storage
- Limited to offshore storage
- Onshore storage remains prohibited (opt-in option for federal)
- Nature conservative zones remain closed for CCS
- Permitting of mixed-use pipelines

Ancillary Measures (October 2025)

- Enabling International CO₂ Export & Storage
- Amendment of Domestic CO₂ Storage & Marine Regulations



Key Takeaways and Outlook

- Hydrogen and CCS continue to play a key role in Germany's energy transition
- However, the outlook remains ambivalent
 - Framework conditions are still evolving, but the overall direction is positive
 - Support also for low-carbon hydrogen
 - No new subsidy framework expected; focus shifting from domestic electrolyser support toward hydrogen imports
 - CCS is permitted, though implementation will remain limited

Key Takeaways and Outlook

- Hydrogen and CCS continue to play a key role in Germany's energy transition
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“The future demands more market orientation, openness to technology, innovation, as well as holistic and system-based approaches. All options for flexibility are needed. Digitalization is essential, and European cooperation is urgently required.”

Becoming climate-neutral – staying competitive - Report by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, page 7

Your Taylor Wessing Contact

Janina Pochhammer heads our Practice Group Projects, Energy & Infrastructure. Janina advises national and international clients on infrastructure projects and large scale industrial plant construction projects worldwide.

Whether offshore wind farms or production plants in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, she negotiates project agreements (in particular plant construction, supply and service agreements, EPC and EPCM contracts) on behalf of her clients, assists in the implementation of the projects in claims management and enforces her clients' rights in litigation before state courts and in national and international arbitration proceedings (including ICC or DIS rules). Her focus lies on renewable energy (in particular wind on- and offshore and solar energy), chemical and pharmaceutical production plants, shipbuilding (esp. FPSOs and offshore platforms) as well as on complex process and production plants. As a member of our Industry Group Aerospace & Defence, she further advises on large procurement projects.

In addition to Janina's many years of experience and extensive knowledge of the industry, clients particularly value her pragmatic approach and negotiating skills.

Languages

- German, English, Spanish



Recommended lawyer industry focus energy, [The Legal 500 2024](#)

Recommended lawyer for plant construction and construction including construction litigation, [The Legal 500 2024](#)

"Often recommended" for the energy sector: transactions & financing, [JUVE 2021/2022 – 2023/2024](#)

Recommended for plant construction and the energy industry, [The Legal 500 2023 & 2024](#)

"Very good advice on the construction of offshore wind parks" Competitor, [JUVE Rechtmarkt 1/2024](#)

"Janina Pochhammer deals exclusively with plant construction, therefore has very good industry know-how and is also an extremely strong negotiator", [The Legal 500 Germany 2024](#)

Best Lawyer for Real Estate Law, [Best Lawyers™ in Germany, Handelsblatt 2022 / 2023 / 2024](#)

"Janina Pochhammer has a very structured and extremely fast way of working and is characterized by a high level of commitment and very professional advice.", [The Legal 500 2021](#)

"Janina Pochhammer shows high commitment paired with remarkable practical relevance and very fast support in complicated project structures.", [The Legal 500 2020](#)

"Often recommended", "maintains the overview even in complex situations" Client, [JUVE 2020/2021](#)



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Key Areas of Expertise

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- Plant Construction
- Commercial Agreements



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Your Taylor Wessing Contact

Niels is a member of our practice area Projects & Infrastructure and Energy industry group. He advises national and international clients on renewable energy projects, industrial plant construction and infrastructure projects in Germany and abroad throughout their entire life cycle.

His particular focus is on contract drafting and contract negotiation of project agreements (in particular plant construction, supply and service agreements, EPC and EPCM contracts, FIDIC based contracts) as well as project implementation, especially in the areas of solar energy (ground-mounted and rooftop installations) and offshore wind.

He gained experience from the corporate perspective during a client secondment at an international manufacturer of wind turbines, where he also deepened his knowledge of the sector and industry.

Languages

- German, English



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- Plant Construction



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Clean Energy League Tables 2024

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Chambers TOP RANKED

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<p>'Large, broad-based team with qualified advisors, very practical.'</p> <p>'High level of expertise in energy law, binding, reliable, pragmatic, customer-orientated.'</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #008080;">The Legal 500 Germany Energy Sector 2025</p>	<p>'The team provides us with excellent interdisciplinary advice. This collaboration also works smoothly across several locations.'</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #008080;">The Legal 500 Energy Sector 2024</p>
<p>'The colleagues at Taylor Wessing have in-depth knowledge of the industry and therefore know-how to offer customised solutions in the shortest possible time. The collaboration with our in-house colleagues runs smoothly and is always very professional.'</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #008080;">The Legal 500 Energy Sector 2024</p>	<p>'The team is very client-orientated and is well positioned across the various areas of expertise that are relevant for energy supply contracts. Partners and associates act on an equal footing and cooperation across offices is excellent.'</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #008080;">The Legal 500 Energy Sector 2023</p>

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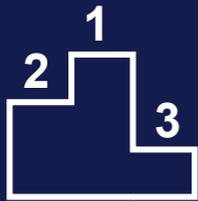


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