

# North Rhine-Westphalia - Germany

## Multilevel Climate Governance in NRW

To know more about multilevel governance in Germany, read our [case study here](#).

NRW enacted in 2013 its *Climate Protection Act*, making emissions reduction targets legally binding and defining adaptation targets. The Climate Protection Plan approved in 2015, is NRW's current roadmap to reduce GHG emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 55% by 2030. It initially includes 154 measures, previously identified, and elaborated through an innovative participation process: six working groups moderated by independent think-tanks organised workshops for municipalities, citizens, and businesses. Stakeholders can also follow the state of implementation of these 154 ([NRW](#)). NRW adopted in early 2021 the first Climate Adaptation Act of the whole country, along with a "climate protection audit", a new instrument to continue the current Plan and to check on a regular basis the efficiency of measures ([NRW, 2020](#)).

NRW does not state any binding measures for municipalities but greatly support them and 358 of the 396 municipalities developed a plan or employed a climate protection manager. They also benefit from guidelines, free tools and access to data through NRW's Energy Agency ([EnergyAgency.NRW](#)) or the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection (LANUV).

The State Lander does not directly fund local climate plans, but the "Kommunaler Klimaschutz.NRW" project call of €160m from State and European funds selected in 2018 28 projects that pursued "a holistic strategy and a model approach" ([KKS.NRW](#)) and to be achieved by 2021. The [KlimaExpo.NRW](#) is running from 2014 to 2022 to showcase climate

projects from around 500 municipalities and companies.

### Monitoring NRW's climate policy

With most of Germany's hard coal and lignite production, NRW emissions represent about 1/3 of nationwide emissions. In 2018, 261.2 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e were emitted in NRW, 5% less than in 2017 and 29% less compared to 1990. Half of 2018's emissions are from the energy sector followed by the industry (21%), transport (12.5%) and households (11%). Since 2014 emissions have mostly decreased from power generation, except in 2016 when new gas-fired power plants opened. Transport's emissions fell by 3% in 2018 despite the rise in vehicles, a fall mostly coming due continuous tightening of exhaust gas emissions values and improved fuel qualities. The number of registered hybrid and electric vehicles also increased significantly in 2018. As for households, emissions decreased by 12% in 2018 due to lower energy consumption, mild weather, and energy efficiency gains. Conversely, emissions from product use increased by 13% due to cars and building air conditioning systems ([NRW, 2020](#)).

### Adaptation

Impact of climate change on all areas of environment and human living is currently monitored through more than 30 indicators related to seven fields: atmosphere, water, ecosystems and biodiversity, ground, and agriculture and forestry. NRW is therefore able to monitor the slow evolution of the humas, tropical nights, weathering, etc ([LANUV, 2021](#)).

EMISSIONS EVOLUTION OF NRW 1990-2018 (IN MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) - Source: [NRW, 2020](#)

