

# The Solar Revolution Germany's major future electricity source

and what's in for local supply chains

November 2022







We have to switch our energy system over as quickly as possible, out of fossil fuels and into renewable energy sources.

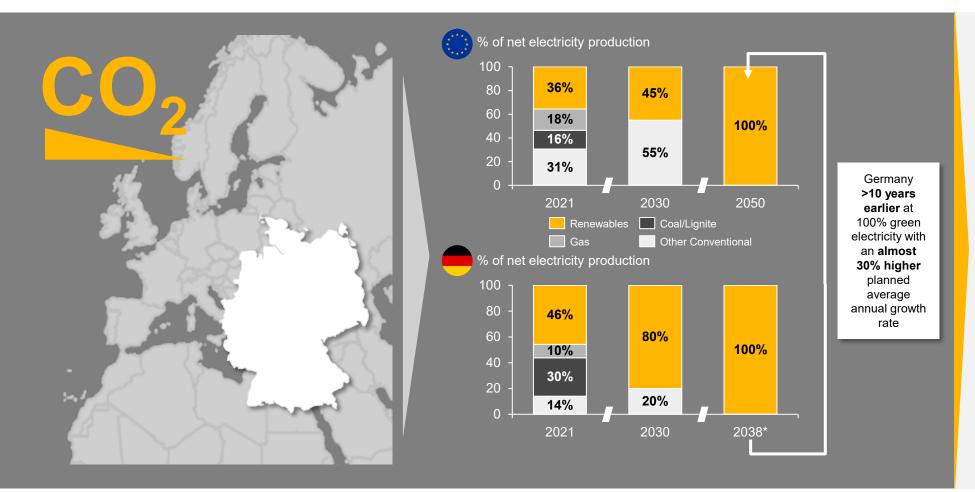
This sends a clear signal to the markets and will give solar energy a decisive shot in the arm.

#### **Robert Habeck**

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

## New ambitious renewable energy targets are driven by the urgent need for decarbonization due to the climate crisis...

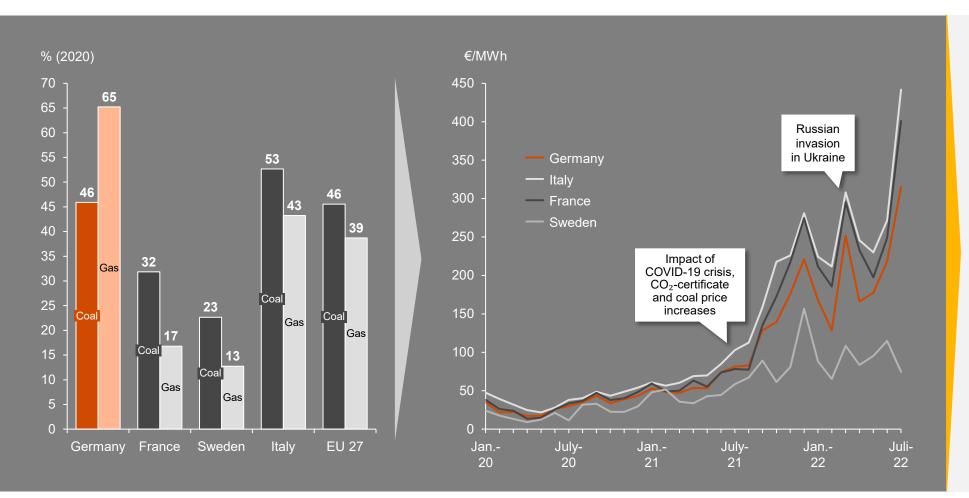
Share of renewable energy in current and future net electricity production in Germany and the EU



- The increasingly visible and often dramatic impacts of climate change within Europe and Germany require an acceleration of the decarbonization of all sectors including electricity.
- The share of conventional generation technologies in the European and German electricity mix is still high but shall be reduced significantly.
- The new German coalition has set unprecedented target levels for this technological transition path; far above European average.

## ...and for energy independence and diversification of energy sources due to the European energy crisis.

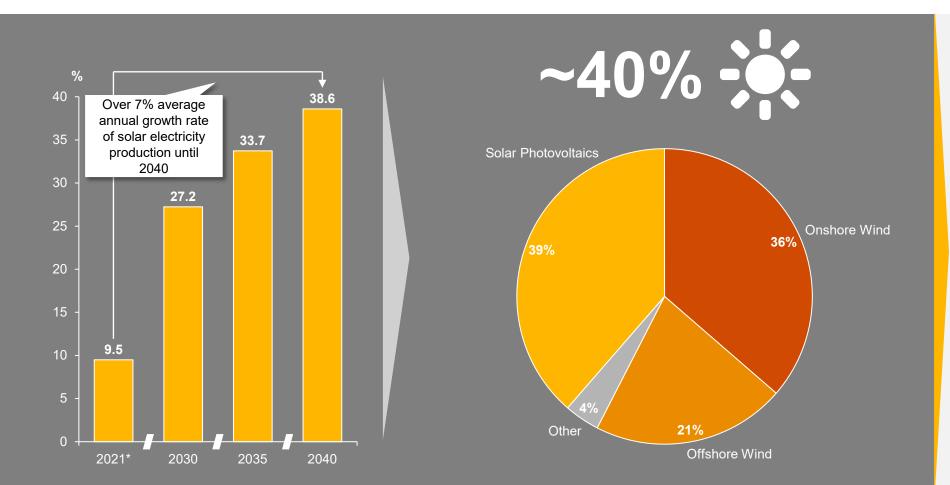
Share of Russian imports of gas and coal for selected European countries and their recent electricity price increase



- Germany and other major European economies have a high dependency on Russian gas and coal imports.
- Compared to its European peer group Germany's dependency on Russian gas is above average
- The high dependency on Russia's gas and coal and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis are the main catalysts contributing to the rising electricity costs.

### Solar Photovoltaics has been identified as a major source of electricity in the future German electricity mix...

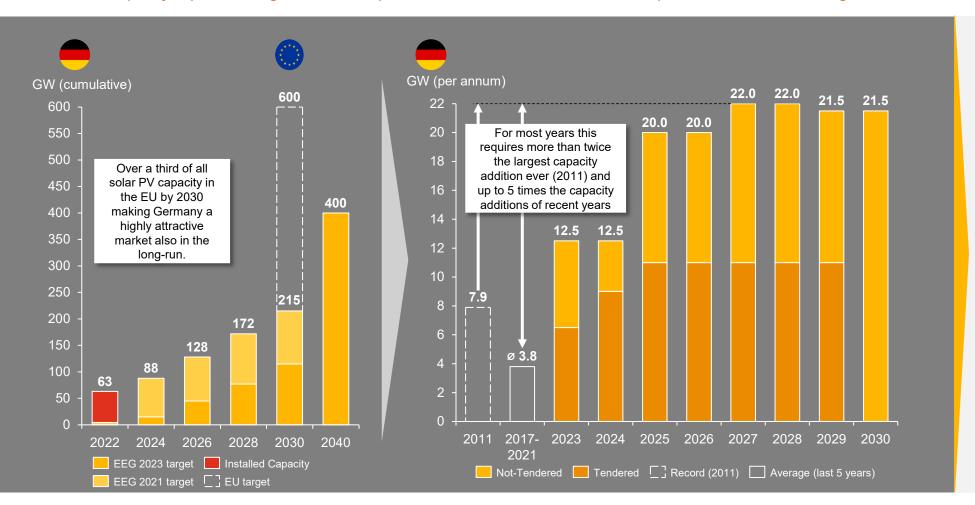
Expansion targets for Solar PV as a share of gross electricity generation in Germany and the projected German electricity mix for 2040



- The German government sets the target of covering 80% of Germany's electricity consumption with renewable energies as early as 2030 and increasing this share to 100% by 2038.
- Solar PV shall be a major source for electricity production in 2040 covering almost 40% of generation.
- Over the next 20 years solar electricity generation will have to increase by over 7% annually.

### ...requiring a massive increase in the amount of annual Solar PV installations in Germany.

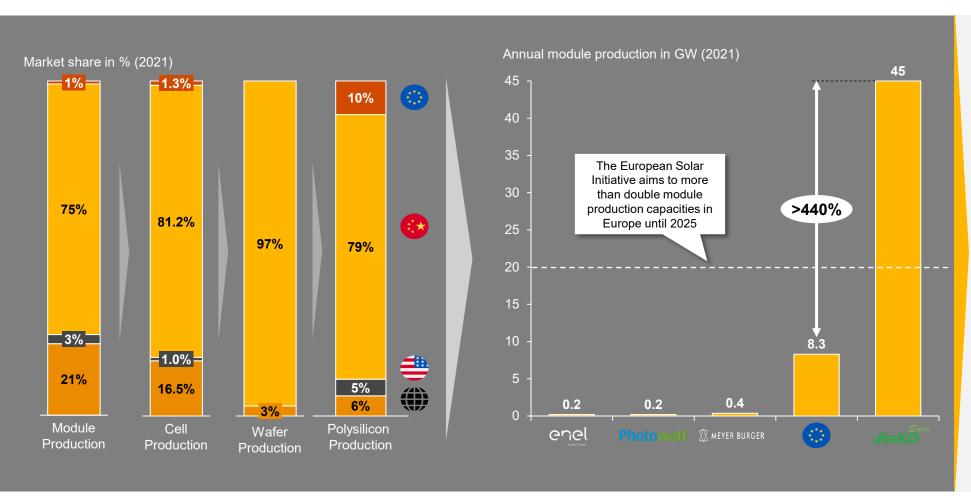
Solar PV capacity expansion targets and the required amount of annual GW addition required to achieve those targets



- Germany will have to massively speed up its capacity addition of all types of Solar PV installations with some years over 22 GW new installations planned.
- For the years to come this means doubling or almost tripling the quantity added in the record year 2011 of 7.9 GW.
- Based on an average module capacity of 440 Wp this translates to a requirement of up to 50 million PV modules per year (e.g. 2027/28).

### Germany and the EU are, however, even less diversified with regard to Solar PV than with respect to fossil fuels...

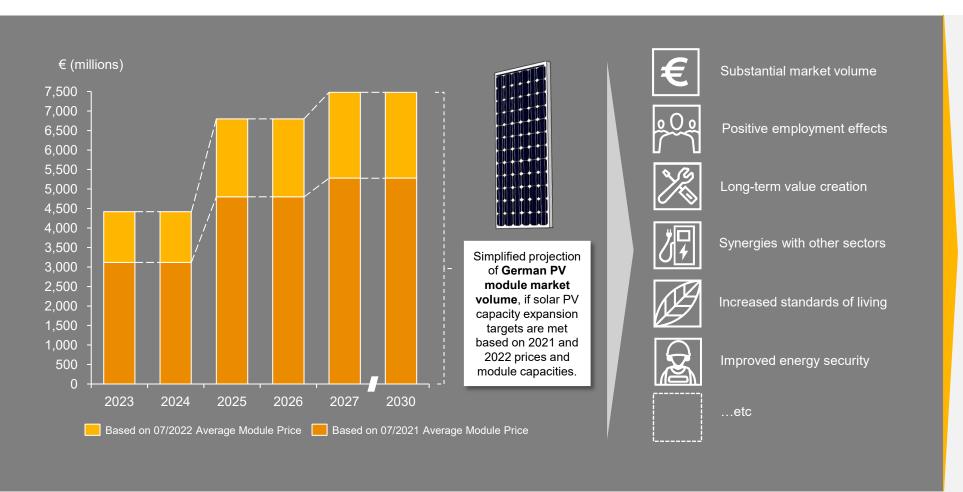
Module, cell, wafer and silicon production shares and comparison of module production capacities of selected European and Chinese producers



- Since the politically induced decline of the German and European solar module industry around 2010 production of modules, components and raw materials is dominated by Chinese manufacturers.
- Production capacities of Chinese module manufacturers are often more than 100 time larger than any of the European competitors.
- The entire EU production capacity is well below individual major Chinese competitors (e.g. Jinko).

## ...which is not only strategically challenging but also does not raise the full potential for economic growth and employment.

Projected market volume of PV modules in Germany and selected economic, social, political and environmental benefits



- The capacity additions for solar PV could lead to an annual market volume of ca. 5-7 billion EUR in Germany by the midtwenties for PV modules alone.
- Adding inverters, cabling, mounting systems or transformers the overall market volume for PV components and all related services will be substantial.
- The number of employees in the PV sector could double to about 100,000 according to BSW-Solar.

## Solar PV will play an unprecedented role in the future German electricity mix offering many opportunities for the market

Key take-aways and implications

Decarbonization and Energy Security

The severe impacts of climate change and threats to energy security stress the **need for an accelerated decarbonization** of the German economy.

With an almost twice as high annual growth rate as its European peers, Germany aims for 100% renewable electricity by 2038 already.

The New Role of Solar PV

Based on the current expansion targets Solar PV will become a major source of electricity production in Germany by 2040.

Achieving these targets will require up to five times higher annual capacity additions as in recent years adding at times over 50 million new modules per year.

Supply-Chain
Dependencies and
Opportunities

other components, Germany's supply chains are even less diversified than those for coal and gas with only very marginal local production.

With an estimated potential annual volume of **5-7 billion EUR in Germany**, reviving the solar module market could be highly beneficial to energy security, employment and economic growth.



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