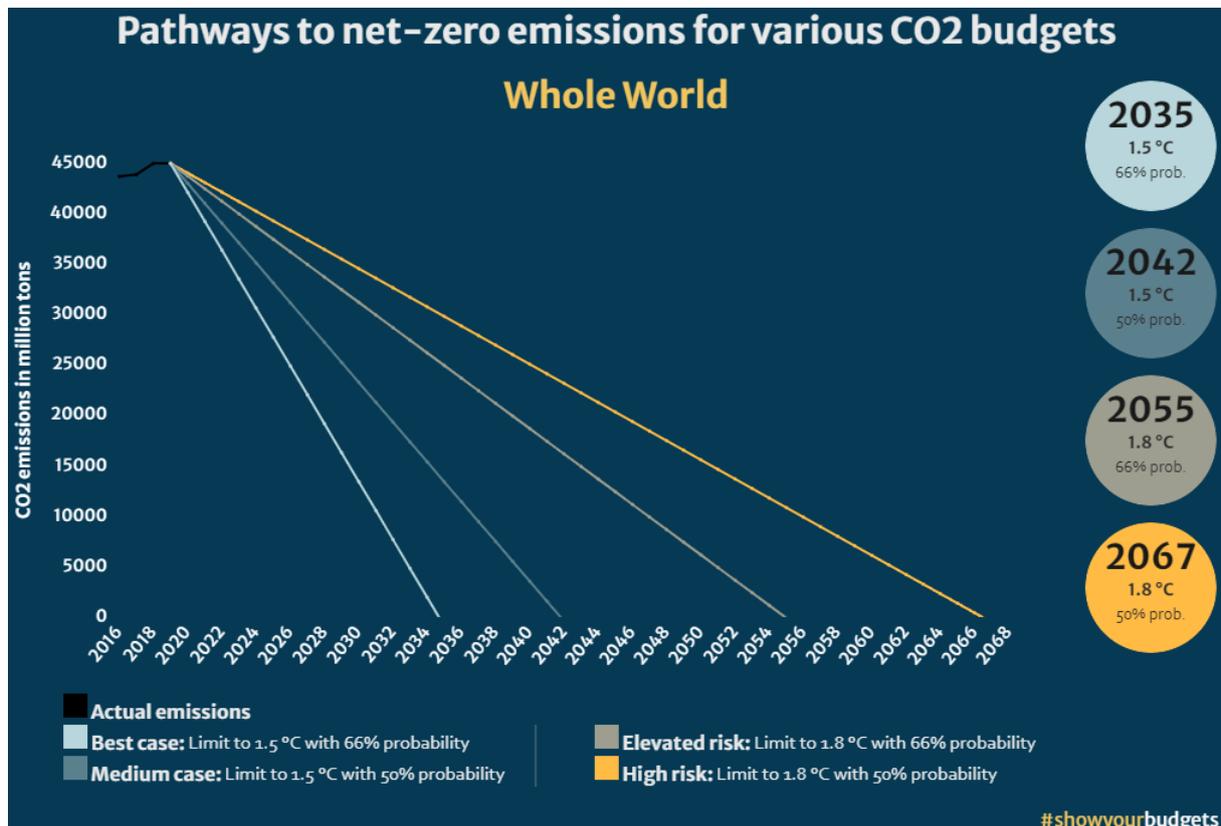


Press release: #showyourbudgets goes live

We have developed a website that shows for every country in which year it needs to be climate neutral. With this information the general public and the media can easily evaluate whether any given country is doing enough to fight the climate crisis. The basis for the calculation of the end-years are the IPCC carbon budgets and the actual emissions of countries.



Methodology

1. The IPCC provides carbon budgets for the world for different temperature goals e.g. 1.5 and 1.8 degrees and different probabilities of reaching them like 50% and 66%.
2. These budgets are allocated to countries based on their share of the world population on January 1, 2016.
3. Afterwards the actual emissions in the years 2016 to 2019 are deducted. Hence we have the remaining budget on January 1, 2020.
4. This budget is then divided through the 2019 emissions to see for how many years a country could keep up these emissions. Finally, this number of years is multiplied by 2 to see how long the carbon budgets lasts if the country would reduce its emissions in a linear way.

This approach has been proposed by the climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf in a [blogpost](#). The approach has also been used by an advisory body to the German government in a [recent paper](#).

Note: Normally only emissions from fossil fuels and cement are included in these calculations. However we also include emissions from land use and bunkers:

- Land use: We use the data from the "Bookkeeping of Land Use Emissions" model or short BLUE.
- Bunkers: We allocate the emissions from international aviation and shipping to individual countries based on their share of world GDP.

For additional information about the data and the computations please check out our [FAQ page](#).

Notable countries

Biggest emitters:

- China needs to be climate neutral between 2030 and 2054.
- The US needs to be climate neutral between 2020 and 2032.
- The EU needs to be climate neutral between 2032 and 2060.
- India needs to be climate neutral between 2072 and 2156.
- Russia needs to be climate neutral between 2022 and 2036.

Countries that have used up already some of the more ambitious budgets:

- Qatar has used up all but one budget. It is a major fossil fuel exporter with small population.
- Curacao has used up two budgets. It has a small population and a big refinery.
- Trinidad and Tobago has used up two budgets. It has a small population and is the leading Caribbean producer of oil and gas.
- Australia has used up two budgets due to its high per capita emissions and land use change.
- Kuwait has used up one budget due to oil and gas production.
- Bahrain has used up one budget for the same reason.
- Iceland has used up one budget mainly due to its aluminium industry.
- The UAE have used up one budget again due to oil and gas production.
- Brunei has used up one budget for the same reason.
- Canada has used up one budget due to high per capita emissions, oil production from tar sands etc. and due to land use change.
- Saudi Arabia has used up one budget due to its giant fossil fuel industry compared to its population.

Countries that are climate neutral:

Five countries are climate neutral: The Central African Republic, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Samoa and Senegal. All these countries have *negative* emissions from land use that compensate for all other emissions.

Selected European countries:

- Austria needs to be climate neutral between 2029 and 2051.
- France needs to be climate neutral between 2037 and 2072.
- Germany needs to be climate neutral between 2026 and 2046.
- Italy needs to be climate neutral between 2039 and 2077.
- Poland needs to be climate neutral between 2030 and 2054.
- Switzerland needs to be climate neutral between 2039 and 2075.
- The UK needs to be climate neutral between 2035 and 2066.

Q & A with Christian Mihatsch

Christian Mihatsch (48) is a German climate journalist and the initiator of *#showyourbudgets*. He follows the climate since the failed climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

What triggered you to develop this website?

I was annoyed that the German government praises itself for its climate policy and refuses to use a carbon budget as a base for its climate targets. Then I thought: What we need is a website such as *showyourstripes.info* that shows not the warming to date but the year when a country needs to be climate neutral.

Why does every country have four different carbon budgets?

The IPCC provides carbon budgets for different temperature goals such as 1.5 and 1.8 degrees. And it provides different budgets for different probabilities of reaching these goals such as 66% and 50% probability. The most ambitious budget gives humanity a 66% chance of stopping warming by 1.5 degrees. And with the most generous budget we risk going above 1.8 degrees with the probability of a coin toss.

And what does the data now say about Germany?

If Germany would take the Paris Agreement seriously and “pursue efforts” to limit warming to 1.5 degrees it would have to become climate neutral in 2026 and with the most generous budget in 2046. So the current goal of 2050 is reckless. The climate system has tipping points. Once we reach them warming can no longer be stopped and we risk an uninhabitable earth.

Is Germany an outlier?

No, unfortunately not. Most industrialized countries as well as China, Russia, Brazil or South Africa need to reduce their emissions to zero in less than 20 years if we want to stop global warming close to 1.5 degrees.

Which is the most worrying country?

When it comes to impact, it's clearly the US. This year it will exhaust its first budget. That's the budget for reaching 1.5 degrees with a 66% probability. In 2032 the US will even exhaust the most generous budget. This shows that radical change needs to come really, really fast.

What about the developing countries?

Some countries with low per capita emissions such as India and many countries in Africa have more time before they overdraw their carbon budgets. Five developing countries are even climate neutral already. There, forests etc. absorb more CO₂ than the economy emits from fossil fuel use. However there are other developing countries such as the oil states around the Persian Gulf that are close to climate bankruptcy.

What data do you use?

We use the most recent data from the IPCC, The Global Carbon Project etc. We were lucky that we could win Stefan Rahmstorf as a scientific adviser, so we are pretty sure about our data.

Who paid for this website?

Nobody. I approached a couple of foundations but couldn't get any funding. So I, the company that programmed the website, our graphic designer and Stefan Rahmstorf all did it for the greater good.