

Baden-Württemberg Climate Protection Act

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. A commitment to climate protection is essential to effectively counteract climate change. The Baden-Württemberg Climate Protection Act (KSG BW) establishes a statutory framework for the state's climate protection policy.

The Climate Protection Act entered into force on July 31st, 2013. The Climate Protection Act underwent a comprehensive revision in 2020, then was amended again in October of 2021.

One central element of the Climate Protection Act is the establishment of climate protection targets that create a framework for the state's climate policy: The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions step by step by at least 65 percent in comparison to 1990 by the year 2030, and ultimately to achieve net greenhouse gas neutrality* by the year 2040.¹ Comprehensive monitoring is used to check how effective the state is in achieving climate protection targets. Additional climate protection measures are initiated if there is a potential for deviation from the target path. In addition, the climate protection advisory board was created as a board focused on independence and scientific activity designed to support the process for achieving climate protection targets.

In addition, the Climate Protection Act also includes concrete measures. This includes, in particular, obligatory municipal heat planning for districts and large district towns, as well as the obligation on new buildings, following substantial roof replacements on existing buildings, and on parking structures that exceed a certain number of parking spaces to install photovoltaic systems. In addition, a target has been established for regional planning, according to which territories with a size representing at least 2 percent of the region's area must be defined for the use of wind energy and photovoltaic systems in open areas.

Protecting the climate requires the support and participation of all sectors of society. Because of this, the Climate Protection Act includes a general climate protection obligation for citizens, and specific regulations for the state, the municipalities, and the economy.

¹ Net greenhouse gas neutrality is the balance between human-caused greenhouse gas emissions from sources, and the reduction in greenhouse gases by lowering.