COP31: CTI panel highlights

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Energy crises, electrification and the path to a just energy transition: lessons from Climate Transparency

At COP31, Climate Transparency brought together experts from UNEP and partner organisations working in Brazil, China, Germany, Indonesia and Türkiye to discuss how successive energy crises have shaped national energy policies and the transition away from fossil fuels. Building on CTI's recently published country profiles and UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, the discussion explored the role of clean electrification in strengthening energy security and accelerating climate action.



Key messages from the discussion



UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre
Director

The emissions gap remains substantial — and action cannot wait

Presenting UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, **Anne Olhoff** highlighted that global emissions have yet to start declining. Even full implementation of current NDCs would leave a significant gap between climate commitments and the reductions needed to limit warming.

- NDC reductions by 2035: 11-15%, from unconditional targets alone to including conditional targets.
- Reductions needed by 2035: 45% for the lowest possible 1.5°C overshoot pathway.

All reductions are relative to 2025 levels.
Source: UNEP, 2026.

Energy crises have reinforced the economic case for moving away from fossil fuels

Successive energy crises have exposed countries to price volatility, import vulnerabilities and fiscal pressures. While emergency support measures have cushioned immediate impacts, fossil fuel subsidies and renewed investments in gas can reinforce long-term dependence. **Redirecting public resources towards renewables, batteries and public transport emerged as a key priority for reducing these vulnerabilities.**

Clean electrification is an opportunity for climate action and energy security

Electrification can reduce fossil fuel demand and exposure to price shocks, but its climate benefits depend on renewable energy deployment and progress in transitioning away from fossil fuels in a fair, equitable and orderly manner. Its growing prominence and the tensions around it in COP31 negotiations, including the proposed 35 by 35 electrification goal, highlight the need for coordinated policies, financing and a just transition.

Climate Transparency

National perspectives: Different starting points, common challenges



Brazil
Centro Brasil no Clima

Rising gasoline prices and fiscal deficits highlight the need for reform. Electrification can help break the cycle of price shocks, subsidies and fiscal pressures. Ending fossil fuel subsidies on both the supply and demand sides, and redirecting support towards batteries and public transport, are key priorities.



China
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology – Guangzhou

Rapid technological progress is driving electrification and contributing to declining oil consumption. The main challenge is to accelerate this transformation further, as China has the potential to move faster in its energy transition.



Germany
Germanwatch

Repeated energy-price shocks and renewed political support for gas highlight the costs of continued fossil fuel dependence. Reducing spending on fossil fuel imports and subsidies, while advancing electrification alongside the transition away from fossil fuels, remains a key priority.



Indonesia
Institute for Essential Service Reform

As a coal exporter and oil importer, Indonesia faces significant economic pressures from energy crises and costly fuel subsidies. Ambitious renewable energy and electrification plans face tight implementation timelines and financing challenges. Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies and expanding solar energy could help accelerate the transition.



Türkiye
Istanbul Policy Center

Reducing energy import dependence, rather than emissions alone, is a major driver of the transition. While energy plans aim to reduce oil and gas use, the updated NDC remains insufficiently ambitious. Electrification is gaining prominence in COP31 discussions, alongside calls for an urgent coal phase-out.



CTI Director
Director of Climate Policy (ICM)

From dialogue to action

The discussion reinforced the economic and fiscal case for accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels. Reducing exposure to price shocks, redirecting fossil fuel subsidies and investing in renewable-powered electrification can strengthen energy security while supporting climate goals. **Action cannot wait for the next NDC cycle:** countries need to translate commitments into concrete policies and investments that support an affordable and just energy transition.

Explore the resources

- Climate Transparency (CTI). (2026). Responses to the energy crisis of G20 countries: The role of electrification in the transition away from fossil fuels — Country Profiles. **DOWNLOAD HERE.**
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2026). Emissions Gap Report 2026: The point of return. **DOWNLOAD HERE.**