



To say that Volkswagen has been a late starter when it comes to e-mobility would certainly be an understatement. After years of neglecting the segment, Europe's largest car maker is now starting to challenge its competitors.

## ENERGY POLITICS

- 3 | **Editorial**
- 7 | **News:** Germany's new political line-up, Hede-gaard calls for backloading to be fast-tracked.
- 9 | **"People now expect Germany to be able to act more decisively"**  
Interview with EU energy and climate policy expert Oliver Geden on the opportunities and challenges of defining the EU's common energy and climate targets for 2030.
- 10 | **EREC:** New guidebook on establishing small hydropower cooperatives, small hydropower campaign to promote rural electrification.
- 12 | **A long and winding road**  
There are increasing conflicts about how the EU should safeguard its energy supply. Binding expansion targets for 2030 are needed.
- 16 | **Weathering the offshore storm**  
Andreas Reuter, director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology (IWES), on developments in the offshore sector.
- 18 | **"To curb the expansion of wind energy..."**  
That's the new German government's intention according to CSU MP Josef Göppel.

## COUNTRY MARKETS

- 21 | **News:** Climate fears over lignite boom, RWE threatens legal action against Hesse.
- 22 | **"We need to focus on quality"**  
Interview with Horst Seide, president of the German Biogas Association, on the biogas sector's prospects.
- 24 | **Crossing borders**  
Manufacturers of biogas plants are suffering a massive slump on the German market, prompting attempts at further expansion abroad.
- 28 | **Russian roulette**  
Russia has introduced an auctioning model to promote renewables, but the funding hinges on a crucial value-added clause.
- 32 | **"We need a stable long-term framework"**  
Interview with Jacopo Moccia, EWEA's head of political affairs, about opportunities for growth in the European wind industry.

## BUSINESS

- 33 | **News:** RWE cuts its UK offshore work, Siemens agrees Cape Wind deal, Vestas shares on the up.



Wind turbines look set to benefit from “unmanned aerial vehicles”, as drones are officially known.



German biogas companies are facing a gloomy future domestically – but booming markets abroad offer some respite.

### 34 | Solar factories edge into the black

The solar sector is enjoying renewed optimism. The mood is less upbeat in US biofuel and UK wind as their respective governments bend to pressure for reform.

### 38 | Solar's back

The growing international demand for solar panels is gradually putting an end to the photovoltaic industry's two-year consolidation phase.

### 49 | A small bundle of energy

From the outside, it doesn't look like much. But Volkswagen's first all-electric car could prove to be a winner – if weren't for its hefty price tag.

### 51 | King of the hybrids

Porsche has produced the first German plug-in hybrid, the Panamera S E-Hybrid, which has a horsepower of 416 hp. It's a dream to drive – but is it really green?

## TECHNOLOGIES

40 | **News:** Better than the lotus effect, shrinking forests, December storms smash British wind-power record, new solar absorber.

### WIND POWER

### 42 | Flying free

Small drones powered by multiple propellers are taking over the skies. The technology is also proving useful for inspecting wind turbines.

### COVER STORY

### 46 | A cautious approach to e-mobility

Volkswagen, Germany's largest car manufacturer, is trying to catch up in the e-car segment but is not yet producing any real innovations.

## ENERGY PEOPLE

53 | **News:** Yves Rannou, Teresa Tan, Dominique Ristori, Zhou Weiping

## Service

54 | Company directory

6 | Events

58 | Addresses