BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS

Annual Report 2025

Beyond Fossil Fuels e.V.
Berlin, Germany | beyondfossilfuels.org

Registered Association under German Law | eingetragener Verein

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1.

Mission & Vision



Origins

Beyond Fossil Fuels e.V. has its roots in **Europe Beyond Coal (EBC)**, launched in 2017 with the goal of phasing out coal across Europe by 2030 because of the effects of coal on the environment, health, and the climate. Within a few years, this collective impact model helped secure coal exit commitments from the majority of European countries, putting Europe on track to phase out most of its coal plants by 2030. That success demonstrated the power of coordinated civil society action at continental scale.

Building on this work, **Beyond Fossil Fuels (BFF)** was launched in 2023 as an expansion of EBC — uniting civil society organisations and think tanks in a joint effort to transform the entire European power sector. Previously hosted by Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, BFF was established as an independent non-profit organisation registered in Germany in March 2025, governed by its members through a General Meeting and an elected Board.

Mission & Vision

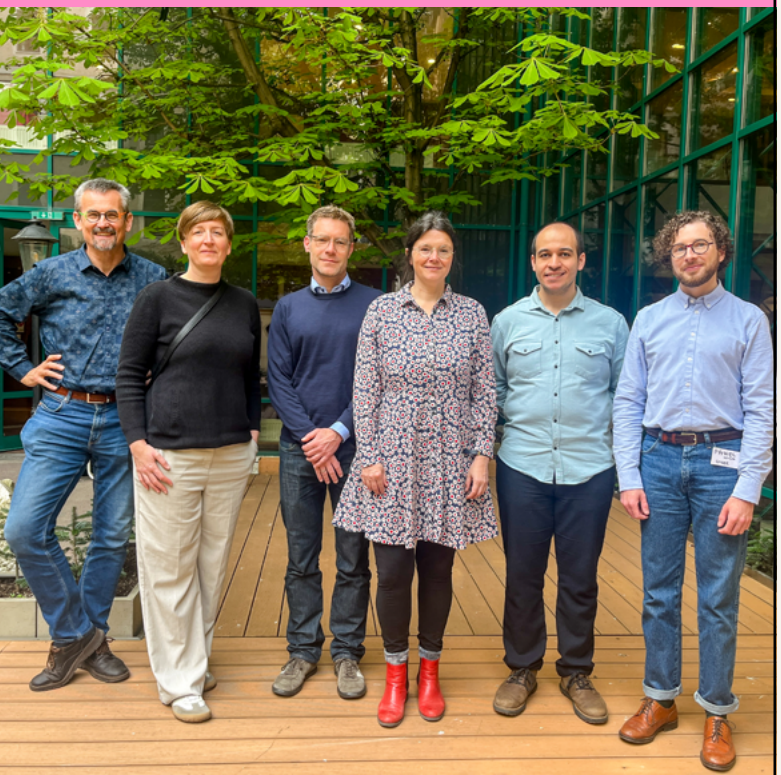


BFF is committed to transforming the European power sector into a fossil-free, secure, affordable, renewables-based system by 2035 — one that benefits people, enables electrification for a thriving economy, and respects sustainable limits. This mission is pursued as part of a global movement.

BFF plays an important role in accelerating the European energy transition in order to protect the environment and the climate, with knock-on effects for the rest of the world.

2.

People



The Board

Beyond Fossil Fuels e.V. is governed by a Board elected by the General Meeting and managed by a dedicated Secretariat.

The Board is responsible for overseeing all of the organisation's activities. Its key duties include preparing for and convening BFF General Meetings, implementing their resolutions, checking the association's finances and legal obligations, and ensuring accurate record-keeping and reporting. The Board also appoints and supervises the Managing Director.

BOARD MEMBER	ORGANISATION	BASED IN
Christiane Gerstetter	ClientEarth	Germany
Nina Stros	Greenpeace	Slovenia
Constantin Zerger	Deutsche Umwelthilfe	Germany
Petr Hlobil	CEE Bankwatch Network	Czech Republic
Paweł Czyżak	Ember	Poland
Yağız Eren Abanus	Center for Spatial Justice	Türkiye

2.

The Secretariat

People



The BFF Secretariat has an office in Berlin, Germany. In 2025, it employed **35 people working remotely across Europe.** It has three departments: campaign, communications and operations.

The Secretariat is led by a Managing Director (**Mahi Sideridou**) and an executive team also consisting of the Campaign Director (**Kathrin Gutmann**) and Communications Director (**Margherita Gagliardi**).

2.

People



Coalition Members

BFF's campaign is **supported by a coalition of over 60 civil society organisations** and think tanks working across the European continent — including the EU, Western Balkans, Türkiye, the UK, Norway, Switzerland, Moldova, and Ukraine. Members are united by a shared commitment to transforming the European power sector into a fossil-free, renewables-based system by 2035. By the end of 2025, coalition members included:

350.org | **Aarhus Center** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) | **AirClim** (Sweden/Nordic) | **Amis de la Terre** [Friends of the Earth France] | **BankTrack** | **BoMiasto** (Poland) | **BOS - Belgrade Open School** (Serbia) | **Carbon Tracker** | **CDE - Centre for Transport and Energy** (Czechia) | **Cittadini Sostenibili** (Italy) | **Coal Action Network** (UK) | **CEE Bankwatch Network** | **CEKOR - Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development** (Serbia) | **Center for Environmental Initiatives - EcoAction** (Ukraine) | **ClientEarth** | **Iklim Degisikligi Politika ve Arastirma Dernegi** [Climate Change Policy and Research Association] (Türkiye) | **CZZS - Center for Environment** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) | **DUH – Deutsche Umwelthilfe** [Environmental Action Germany] | **E3G – Third Generation Environmentalism** | **ECCO Think Tank** (Italy) | **Eko-svest** (North Macedonia) | **Eco-Team** (Montenegro) | **EcoZ - Youth Ecological and Security Zone** (Kosovo) | **Ekotim** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) | **EKO-UNIA** [The Ecological Association] (Poland) | **Ekosfer** (Türkiye) | **Ember** | **EIA - Environmental Investigation Agency** | **Estonian Green Movement** [Friends of the Earth Estonia] | **EEB - European Environmental Bureau** | **Frank Bold** (Czechia) | **Friends of the Earth Scotland** | **German Zero** | **Global Energy Monitor** | **Green Home** (Montenegro) | **Yesil Düsunce Dernegi** [Green Thought Association] (Türkiye) | **Greenpeace** | **Hnutí DUHA** [Friends of the Earth Czech Republic] | **IIDMA** [International Institute for Law and the Environment] (Spain) | **Legambiente** (Italy) | **Natuur en Milieu** [Nature and Environment] (Netherlands) | **Mekanda Adalet Derneği** [Center for Spatial Justice] (Türkiye) | **Mission Possible** (Poland) | **MTVSZ** [Friends of the Earth Hungary] | **PGN** [Polish Green Network] | **Pracownia na Rzecz Wszystkich Istot** [Association Workshop for All Beings] (Poland) | **Protect the Planet** (Germany) | **Razom We Stand** (Ukraine) | **Re:Common** (Italy) | **Reclaim Finance** | **RERI - Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute** (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina) | **Re-set** (Czechia) | **Rinascimento Green** (Italy) | **ShareAction** | **The Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation** | **The Climate Reality Project** (Europe) | **The Green Tank** (Greece) | **Urgewald** (Germany) | **WWF** | **YUVA Derneği** [Yuva Association] (Türkiye) | **Za Zemiata** [Friends of the Earth Bulgaria] | **Zala Brīvība** [Green Liberty] | **Zero** (Portugal)

2.

People



Networks

The BFF Secretariat **works together with around 500 colleagues from civil society organisations and think tanks throughout Europe.** It collaborates with European and global NGO and business networks and associations.

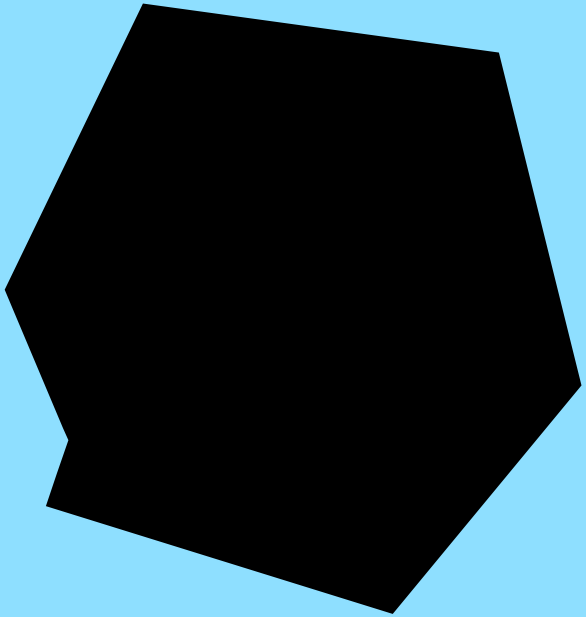
BFF is a member of the **Turkish "Climate Network" (İklim Ağı)**, a coalition of 15 Turkish climate-focused civil society organisations. BFF also has one formal partner: **Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe**, the network within which BFF was originally hosted and with which the Secretariat maintains close operational ties.

3.

Key Achievements 2025

In 2025, BFF achieved meaningful advances across all its workstreams and delivered a measurable impact on communications and coalition building.

Coal Phase-Out: Milestones Across Europe



Europe’s coal exit continued in 2025, and BFF consistently highlighted national milestones to demonstrate that it is both feasible and beneficial for the climate, people and the economy.

Key external milestones included:

- **Finland** closing its last active coal plant in April;
- **Ireland** becoming coal-free with the closure of the Moneypoint plant in June;
- **Italy** near-eliminating coal generation;
- **Spain** recording a coal-free summer.
- In **Bulgaria**, the second-largest lignite-fired power plant, Maritsa Iztok 3 (908 MW), announced closure.

Coal Phase-Out: Milestones Across Europe





In Poland, a significant **breakthrough** came with the announcement by the Polish Energy Group (PGE) that it will begin phasing coal out from Turow from 2030 and deploy renewables in the area. The mining city of Katowice joined the Powering Past Coal Alliance.

A creative campaign co-led with Greenpeace Poland, Polish Green Network, and CEE Bankwatch used videos and articles featuring mayors and citizens from four municipalities (Wadroze Wielkie, Potegowo, Margonin, and Kleczew) to build public support for onshore wind.

Two murals depicting wind turbines alongside traditional folk-art patterns were unveiled to the public in Konin and Kleczew.

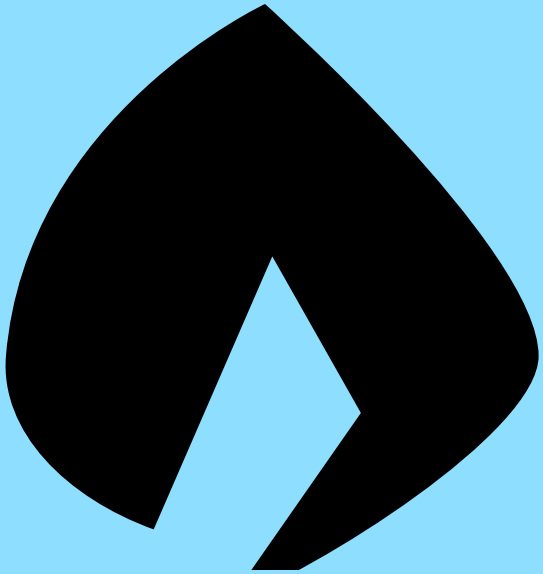
Coal Phase-Out:
Milestones Across Europe



In Türkiye, BFF led public communication efforts against the planned expansion of the Afsin Elbistan coal plant, working alongside CAN Europe, TEMA Foundation, Greenpeace, and 350.org.

Europe's coal exit continued in 2025, and BFF highlighted national milestones to demonstrate that it is both feasible and beneficial for the climate, people and the economy.

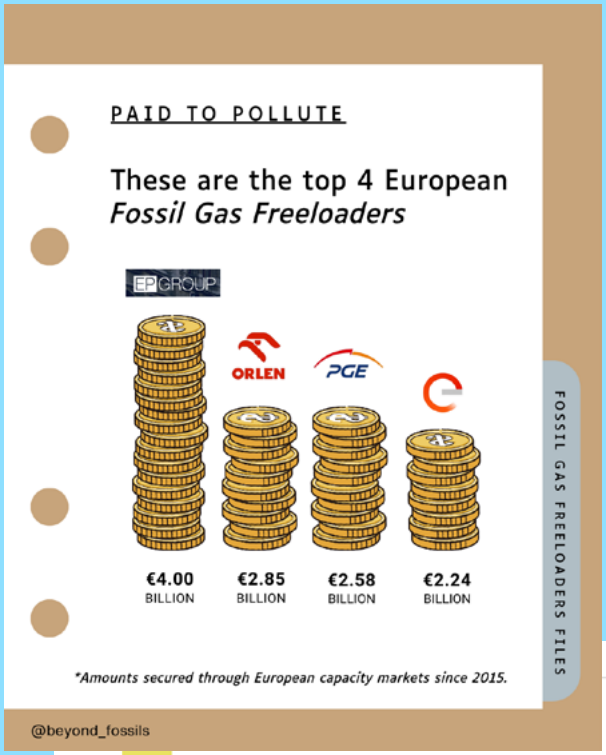
Challenging **Fossil Gas**

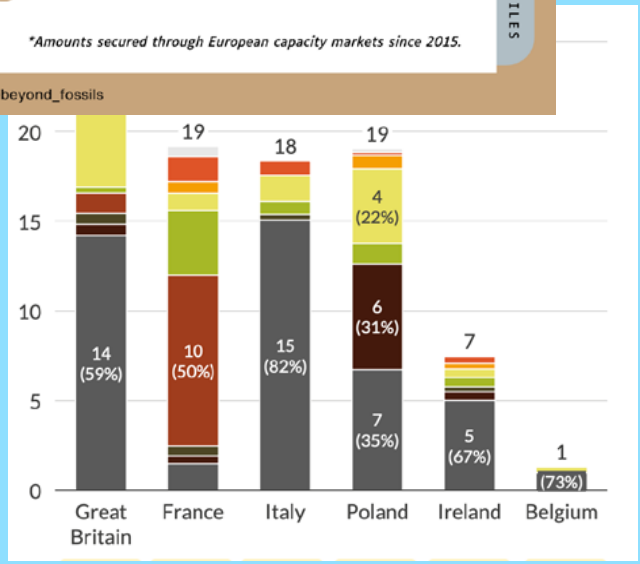


Fossil gas is often portrayed as a “less polluting” fuel or as “necessary” for system flexibility.

BFF consistently shows across different channels and formats how and why this function should be provided instead by renewable energy combined with storage, interconnections and demand-side response.

Challenging **Fossil Gas**



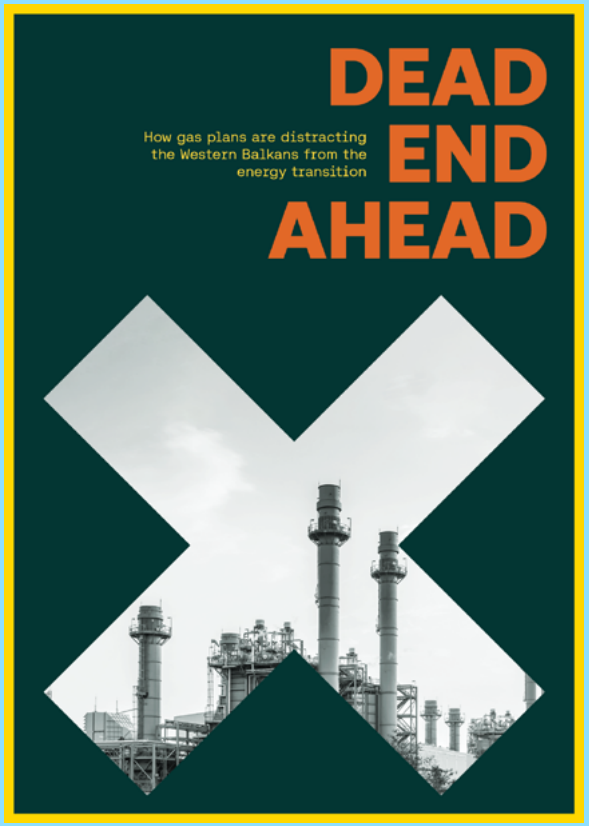


In 2025, BFF focused on the financial burden of fossil gas. In January, BFF published commissioned research by Aurora Energy Research, revealing that capacity market subsidies across **six European countries had provided contracts worth over €53 billion to fossil fuel plant operators since 2015 — with only 20% of the total going to clean flexibility.**

BFF also made **available to the public an easily-accessible database** of gas-fired power plants and projects in Europe for which payments have been contracted under capacity remuneration mechanisms. The report received excellent press coverage.

Building on this research, BFF published the ***Fossil Gas Freeloaders*** analysis, revealing that just 10 European utilities have secured €21.4 billion in gas plant subsidies via capacity markets since 2015.

Challenging **Fossil Gas**



BFF and **CEE Bankwatch** published a briefing (September 2025) showing that Western Balkan governments' gas build-out plans remain as high as two years ago despite increasing risks of failure and stranded assets.

BFF also collaborated with **German member organisations and experts** in order to assess the government's plan for new fossil gas plants and subsidies for gas via a new market mechanism.

Financial System:
Engaging Banks and Utilities



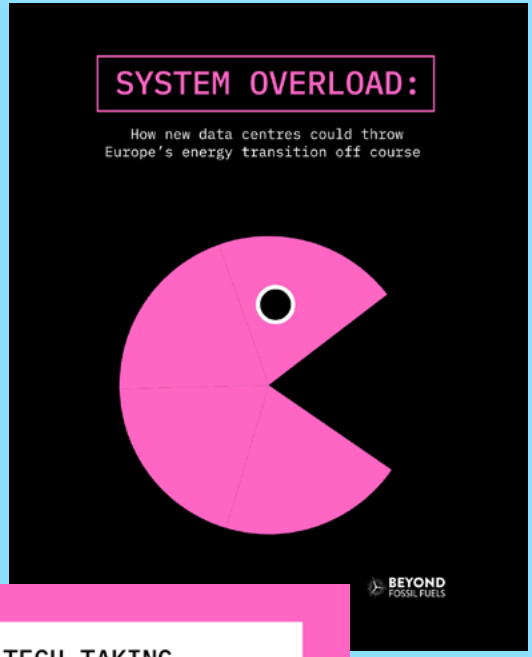


BFF and Re-Set published *Behind the Mask: Investigating EPH's Coal Exit Claims* (February 2025), revealing that energy utility EPH is transferring coal assets to a closely related entity rather than genuinely divesting. BFF also co-hosted a civil society conference on the fossil-fuel business model of EPH, in Cottbus, Germany (April 2025).

Together with Reclaim Finance, BFF launched the *Power Utilities Tracker* (April 2025), analysing the transition plans of ten major European utilities. The conclusion was that not one of them had published a clear plan to transition away from fossil fuels, and seven of the companies intended to carry on burning gas well into the future, including building new gas-fired power stations in Europe.

BFF also engaged with **BNP Paribas**, focusing on the need for the bank to set specific targets for financing grids and storage (April 2025).

Data Centres: A New Frontier

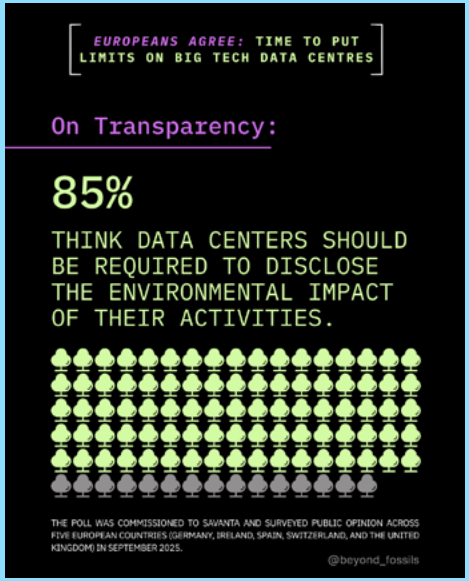




In 2025, **BFF launched a new campaign on the risks for climate and energy from the unchecked growth of data centres.** It was launched at the AI Summit in Paris with the release of the ***System Overload*** **report** (February 2025), which was mentioned in 80 articles reaching an estimated 464 million readers. The report laid out the impact that unchecked data centre growth could have on Europe's energy transition — particularly as facilities in Ireland, Germany, the UK, Greece, and Italy seek to power their energy needs with on-site fossil gas generation. **It co-convened a coalition of more than 20 European organisations.**

Data Centres: A New Frontier

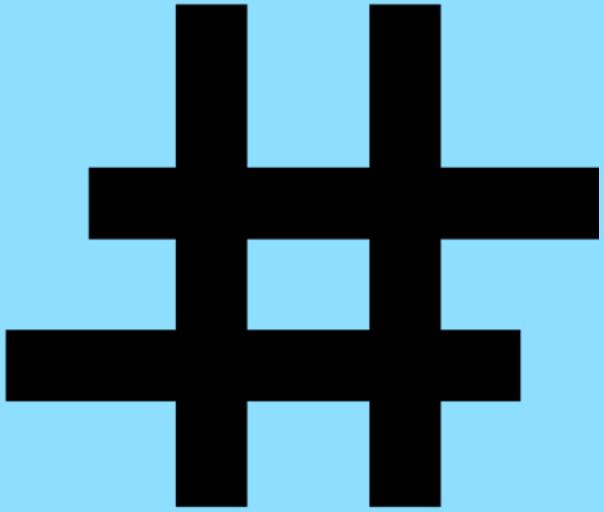




In October 2025, **BFF and partners published a polling study** across Germany, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK, revealing strong public backing for requiring data centres to be powered by new and additional renewable energy. This gained a lot of traction in the media and in public discourse.

BFF is currently at the heart of a growing European tech and climate community.

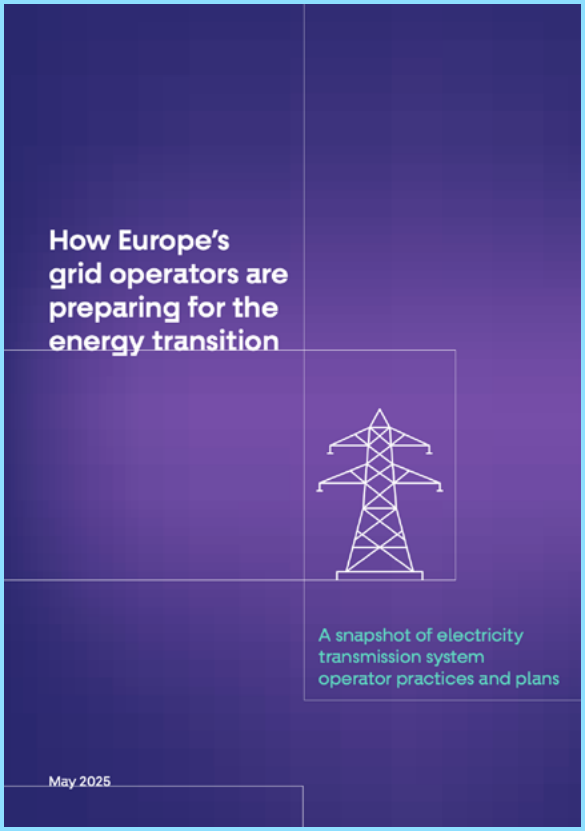
Grid Modernisation and Community Energy



BFF plays a leading role in civil society efforts to improve grid and energy market rules in Europe.

The April 2025 Iberian blackout created a critical communications moment for the energy transition. As speculative arguments circulated suggesting that a renewables-dominated grid is inherently unstable, BFF responded rapidly — providing background information, coordinating responses, and **publishing a public statement arguing that the blackout highlighted the need for resilient grids and clean flexibility, not a return to fossil fuels.** BFF subsequently published an in-depth blog post on grid planning and governance, and compiled a resource document for BFF members on the blackout for use in future campaigning.

Grid Modernisation and Community Energy



In collaboration with E3G, Ember, and IEEFA, BFF published ***How Europe's Grid Operators Are Preparing for the Energy Transition*** (May 2025), examining the practices of 32 electricity Transmission System Operators (TSOs) across 28 European countries.

It found that despite a wave of renewable energy projects seeking grid connections, most TSOs are still planning on the basis of outdated national energy scenarios and targets that don't reflect today's exponential growth in renewables.

This results in grid connection queues ballooning, billions of euros in clean electricity being curtailed, and investment in flexibility and grid balancing lagging behind.

Grid Modernisation and Community Energy



In November 2025, BFF **published its findings that high-level changes are needed to transform Distribution System Operators** into the enablers of the clean energy transition.

Meanwhile, BFF's work on **municipal energy transition offered tips on how local governments** (especially in Italy, Türkiye, and Poland) can protect public health, support local businesses, lower electricity bills, and strengthen community resilience.

Global Diplomacy



BFF supports the global civil society coal strategy, the international agenda to triple renewable energy capacity, and work on grids, storage, and electrification. Europe Beyond Coal and now BFF have an established track record of collaborating on coal and OECD-focused diplomacy and strategic communications, working closely with national groups from Europe and other regions, particularly Asia.

BFF with E3G and We Mean Business Coalition presented ***Powering up: Business Perspectives on Shifting to Renewable Electricity*** (April 2025), revealing through a global survey of nearly 1.500 executives in 15 countries that businesses strongly support an immediate transition to renewable electricity, with access to renewables seen as a key factor for investment and operations decisions.

European **Steel**





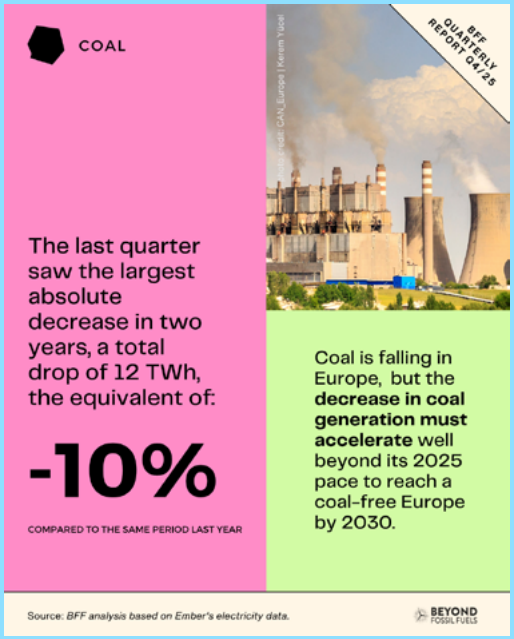


In 2025, BFF collaborated with a growing group of civil society and stakeholders working to advance the clean transition of the steel sector. Activities included cross-country initiatives to raise awareness of steel supply chain impacts, and improve accountability within the sector.

BFF co-led a project culminating in the publication of a report ***The State of the European Steel Transition (March 2025)***, developed with a broad coalition and setting out recommendations for the sector's transition.

In September 2025, **BFF coordinated a multi-country initiative highlighting environmental and public health impacts of selected steel production sites**, while encouraging downstream actors to improve the sustainability of their supply chains.

Data Analysis





Relevant energy sector data analysis and the development of tracking tools underpins all of BFF's efforts.

BFF maintains a **public European coal power plant database and coal exit tracker**, and updates CO2 datasets and new coal project data in cooperation with the Global Coal Plant Tracker. It also manages a **gas power plant tracker.** It produces **quarterly power sector updates** with headline statistics for its members.

In 2025, BFF launched and maintained a campaign metrics dashboard to monitor progress across Europe's power sector transformation, tracking trends in coal, fossil gas, wind, solar, greenhouse gas emissions, and overall generation — including gaps. Battery development monitoring for the EU and the UK was also added.

These tools supported BFF members, fed into public and journalist outreach, social media, and engagement with external experts, including the renewable energy industry, energy analysts, system operators, and government advisers.

4.

Communications Impact

In 2025, BFF expanded its communications capacity in order to help reshape the prevailing narrative around Europe's energy future. The aim has been to **ensure that renewables, clean flexibility, and electrification are widely understood and embraced, not only as necessary, but as exciting opportunities** to build a secure, resilient, climate-friendly, and affordable energy system. At the same time, BFF continued to highlight how fossil fuels cannot deliver these outcomes and in fact, are in direct conflict with them.

4. Communications Impact



BFF reinforced its **media presence** through coverage at international, European, and national levels, addressing both mainstream policy and business outlets as well as specialist energy, climate, and technology media for specific workstreams.

Its **social media presence** also grew significantly: **doubling its reach** on major platforms such as LinkedIn where BFF engages decision-makers, industry and peers, while establishing a new and rapidly growing audience on Bluesky, increasingly familiar to journalists.

In parallel, **BFF experimented with video and more informal, meme-based content formats on TikTok and Instagram** to broaden engagement with less energy-expert audiences, communities, businesses, and sectors navigating both the opportunities and the challenges of the energy transition.

4. Communications Impact





BFF also began a **brand refresh** process, which has already significantly strengthened its visual language and storytelling.

This includes a **stronger focus on people to complement data-driven** campaign outputs, through interviews and photography, as well as case studies highlighting successful projects and the communities, businesses, and sectors navigating both the opportunities and the challenges of the energy transition.

4. Communications Impact

Media coverage

- Business press
- News agencies
- EU policy press
- Specialist outlets
- National mainstream outlets

1.9k
mentions in the media

4.96bn
reach

US, DE, TR
top countries

Media Coverage


Energy industry

This article is more than 1 year old

UK has spent £12.5bn from energy bills on fossil fuel power plants in past decade

Research finds 60% of government contracts through backup 'capacity market' went to fossil fuel plants


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ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Campaigners slam billions in state funding for gas-fired power plants

The campaigners want governments to ditch all market mechanism supporting fossil fuels and back clean flexibility options instead.


Bloomberg

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Green | Greener Living

Ireland Shuts Last Coal Plant as Europe's Phaseout Accelerates


Reuters

My News

Finland's last active coal-fired power and heat plant shuts down

By Anne Kauranen

April 1, 2025 6:23 AM GMT+2 · Updated April 1, 2025


FINANCIAL TIMES

Renewable energy

+ Add to myFT

Companies plan shift to green energy despite Trump-era rollbacks, survey shows

Majority of 1,500 executives polled back a long-term move away from fossil fuels


ENERGIA

L'Ai spingerà la domanda di elettricità in Europa dai data center del 160% entro cinque anni


ENERGY TERMINAL

Old mines reborn as solar farms powering clean energy transition, creating jobs

- Experts say transforming old, closed mines into solar farms can unlock renewable potential, supporting local communities and environment

Social Media Metrics



Average follower growth in 2025 (vs 2024):

+106% overall (all platforms)	**+74%** LinkedIn	**+29%** Instagram	**+100%** TikTok	**+280%** Bluesky

Average engagement rate:

9.2% overall (all platforms):	**+39%** increase vs 2024

Website traffic



62k people visited the website, mainly via direct traffic or organic searches.

Europe's Coal Exit is our most viewed page after the homepage.

49% engagement rate.

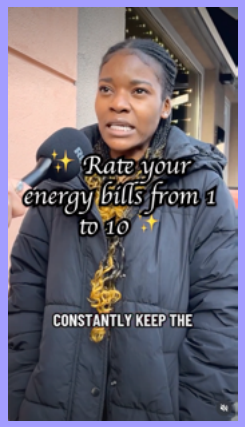
36% increase in engaged sessions year on year.

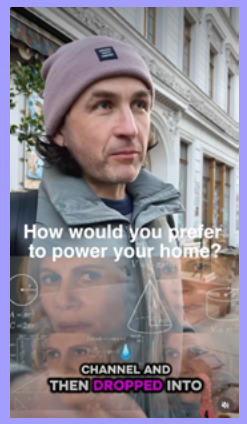
File downloads nearly doubled compared to the previous year.

Face-to-face comms projects









BFF coordinated a **photo opportunity at the opening of the AI Summit** (February) at the Grand Palais in Paris. The group carried a Valentine-themed banner reading “Big Tech, time to dump fossil fuels” and large black heart-shaped balloons.

Two street murals were commissioned on the theme of wind energy – BFF’s (literally) biggest output yet! These two murals celebrate wind as an integral and natural part of Polish life, culture, and landscape (June).

Berliners were asked on the street about their electricity bills and their views on the role of gas versus renewables, as well as the energy use of AI data centres (December). **These interviews were made into short, lo-fi clips** for our Instagram and TikTok.

5.

Financial Overview

Due to BFF being split in 2025 between CAN Europe asbl (Belgium) and BFF e.V. (Germany), the following figures are a synthesis and have not been audited by BFF e.V.'s auditor.

BFF's accounts are based on German generally accepted accounting principles (HGB §§ 238-263), adapted in line with the German auditors' institute's guidelines for associations (IDW RS HFA 14) and audited by Forvis Mazars.

5. Financial Overview

Breakdown of income 2025 rounded to the closest hundred.

Climate Breakthrough	€1,016,400
European Climate Foundation	€918,100
ClimateWorks Foundation	€396,500
Other donors*	€932,200
Total	€3,263,200

Breakdown of spending in 2025 rounded to the closest hundred.

Staff	€2,319,400
Travel	€109,500
Equipment	€9,800
Overhead, CAN Europe hosting, establishment of BFF e.V.	€350,700
Research, policy, communications	€473,800
Total	€3,263,200

* Three other philanthropic foundations that fund climate / energy work that have requested anonymity

BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS

Small Print

Beyond Fossil Fuels e.V. is registered as follows:
Association register: Charlottenburg District Court (VR 41721 B)
EU transparency register: REG 339276098674-71
German transparency register: DE172506227381
Tax number: 27/661/51374

With Gratitude

We extend our sincere thanks to every staff member, member organisation, and funder who contributed to the work of Beyond Fossil Fuels in 2025.