

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Edited by
Jeffrey Brainard



CLIMATE POLICY

Carbon emissions increase—as do ways to track them

NOT
GOOD

Carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels are on track to rise 1% this year from the 2021 level, making it harder for many nations to reach their goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, scientists from the Global Carbon Project said last week. They cited an easing of pandemic precautions, including increased air travel, as one reason for the rise. Most researchers say the world is unlikely to meet the net-zero goals and limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050. But two new tools announced last week will aid efforts by improving the ability to

Transmission lines carry electricity from a coal-fired power plant in Weisweiler, Germany.

track, verify, and regulate greenhouse gases. One tool, developed by the Climate TRACE coalition, uses satellite imagery and machine-learning algorithms to detect and measure emissions from 72,000 sources, including power plants. Separately, the United Nations unveiled the Methane Alert and Response System, which will use data from new satellites capable of spotting large leaks of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The announcements came as politicians at the U.N. climate conference in Egypt debated whether and how wealthy countries should pay for climate-related damages to low-income nations.