



# Correction: Who owns the German subsurface? Ownership and sustainable governance of the subsurface in Germany

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This erratum addresses a mistake in subsection ‘4.2 Lignite’, regarding seemingly due payments for missing carbon reduction targets.

The argument refers to EU Member States’ compulsory acquisition of compensation certificates under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), when falling short of emission reduction targets for sectors outside the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS). However, due to the energy sector’s inclusion in the ETS, it is excluded from the ESR’s scope. This also concerns the original paper’s Appendix A3, which calculates these costs in detail. As a result, the Appendix A3 and the following paragraph are irrelevant.

‘Unfortunately, the continuation of lignite combustion will also cost Germany large amounts of compensation payments. The Paris Agreement specifies that a CO<sub>2</sub>-surplus must be compensated through the European emissions trading system (Höhne and Fekete 2019). According to the federal government’s 2019 projection report and climate protection plan, missing the target will cost between 25.8 and 27.8 billion € for the energy sector alone (BMU 2016, 2019) (“Appendix A3”). Lignite contributes to almost half of these costs.’

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