

## News!

1. Listen to the recording. The accent you'll hear is Sarah from Australia. Really try and focus and concentrate on what you are listening to. Don't panic if you can't understand every word. Try and see if you can understand the general idea. Feel free to take notes and then after you've heard it once, tell me about what you have heard.
  
2. Now listen again for more specific details and be ready to answer questions about what you have heard.
  - a. What have Austria and Sweden done?
  - b. Which was the first country to go coal-free?
  - c. When did this happen?
  - d. Which country will stop using coal next?
  - e. How far ahead of schedule is this?
  - f. What milestone did the UK reach in the COVID-19 lockdown?
  - g. How long has the UK been using coal-based power?
  - h. How many other European countries will eliminate coal within five years?
  - i. Which other countries are planning to end coal-fired power by 2030?
  - j. What did Kathrin Gutmann say?
  - k. Now let's look at some of the vocabulary:
    - to become
    - to ditch
    - to wave
    - to stride
    - a milestone
    - to kick start

### **Recording No. 7 – Sarah – Australia:**

Austria and Sweden have become the latest European countries to ditch coal-based energy; they join Belgium, which was first to go coal-free in 2016. Portugal will also wave goodbye to coal next year, two years ahead of schedule.

Several other European nations are striding towards a fossil-free future. The UK hit a milestone during the COVID-19 lockdown by going two months without coal-based power for the first time since it kick started the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. Along with France, Slovakia, Ireland and Italy, the UK expects to eliminate coal within five years. The Netherlands, Finland, Hungary and Denmark are all planning to end coal-fired power by 2030.

“Coal is now in terminal decline all across Europe,” says Kathrin Gutmann of the UK-based lobby group Europe Beyond Coal.