

# Latvia

## Renewable Energy Fact Sheet

### ***Policy Background***

The EU is working to reduce the effects of climate change and establish a common energy policy. As part of this policy, European Heads of State or Government agreed in March 2007 on binding targets to increase the share of renewable energy. By 2020 renewable energy should account for 20% of the EU's final energy consumption (8,5% in 2005). To meet this common target, each Member State needs to increase its production and use of renewable energy in electricity, heating and cooling and transport.

Although renewable energies are an integral part of our fight against climate change, they also contribute to growth, job creation and increase our energy security.

### ***Country targets***

The renewables targets are calculated as the share of renewable consumption to gross final energy consumption. Renewables consumption comprises the direct use of renewables (e.g. biofuels) plus the part of electricity and heat that is produced from renewables (e.g. wind, hydro), while final energy consumption is the energy that households, industry, services, agriculture and the transport sector use. The denominator for the RES share includes also distribution losses for electricity and heat and the consumption of these fuels in the process of producing electricity and heat.

*Latvian target: 42% (2005 = 34.9%)*

### ***Key issues***

In Latvia, almost half of the electricity consumption is provided by RES (47.1% in 2004), with hydro power being the key resource. The growth observed between 1996 and 2002 can be ascribed to the so-called double tariff, which was phased out in 2003. This scheme was replaced by quotas that are adjusted annually. A body of RES-E legislation is currently under development in Latvia. Wind and biomass would benefit from clear support since the potential in these areas is considerable.

### ***Main supporting policies***

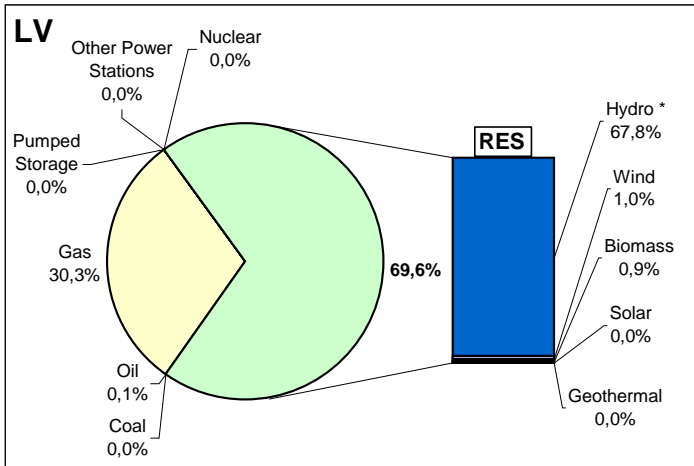
The two main RES-E policies which have been followed in Latvia are:

- Fixed feed-in tariffs, which were phased out in 2003.
- A quota system which has been in force since 2002, with authorised capacity levels of installations determined by the Cabinet of Ministers on an annual basis.

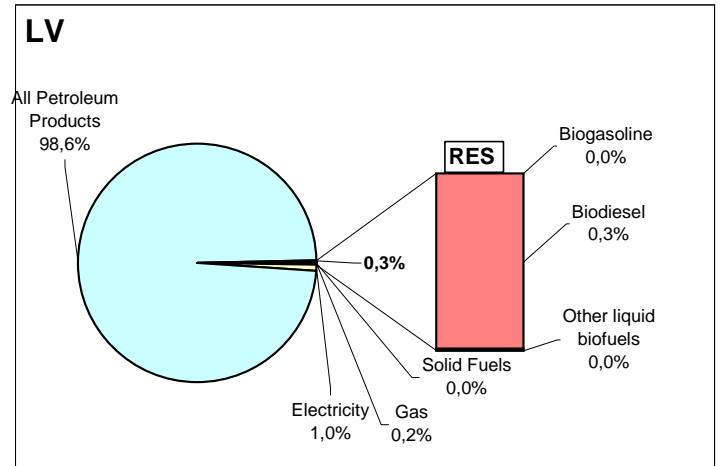
In addition, biofuels are subject to a reduced excise tax rate. Rapeseed oil is subject to 0% excise tax, regardless of its end use.

## Key figures<sup>1</sup>

Gross Electricity Generation by fuel (2005)



Final Energy Consumption by Fuel, Transport (2005)



Source: Eurostat

\* Not including generation from hydro pumped storage, but including electricity generation to pump water to storage. Municipal Solid Waste, Wood waste, Biogas included.

## For further information

To find out more about renewables, go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index_en.htm)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

To find out more about the current situation of renewables in the Member States, go to  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/electricity\\_member\\_states\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/electricity_member_states_en.htm)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share\\_res\\_eu\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm)

To find out more about support measures, go to  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/support\\_electricity\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/support_electricity_en.htm)

To find out about a project or contact an energy agency in your region, go to  
<http://www.managenergy.net/emap/maphome.html>

<sup>1</sup> Reliable and complete data for heating and cooling is not yet available from Eurostat

## Latvia - Renewable Energy Fact Sheet

### What is meant by.....?

*RES*: Renewable energy sources

*RES-E*: Electricity production from renewable energy sources

*RES-H*: Production of heat and cold from renewable energy sources

*Biofuels*: Mainly includes biodiesel and bioethanol

*Biomass*: Includes solid biomass, biowaste and biogas

*PV*: Photo-voltaic - technology for the production of electricity from solar energy

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