

Poland

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.

Polish target: 15% (2005 = 7.2%)

Key issues

Progress towards the RES-E target in Poland is slow. The penalties designed to ensure an increased supply of green electricity have not been adequately used. The potential of hydro power, biomass and landfill gas is high in Poland. Hydro power plants have not been fully used to date, biomass resources (in the form of forestry residues, agricultural residues and energy crops) are plentiful in Poland, and landfill gas is promising as well.

Main supporting policies

Polish RES-E policy includes the following mechanisms:

- Tradable Certificates of Origin introduced by the April 2005 amendment of the Law on Energy (1997).
- The Obligation for Power Purchase from Renewable Sources (2000, amended in 2003) involves a requirement on energy suppliers to provide a certain minimum share of RES-E (3.1% in 2005, 3.6% in 2006, 4.8% in 2007 and 7.5% in 2010). Failure to comply with this legislation leads - in theory - to the enforcement of a penalty. In 2005, these were not sufficiently enforced.
- An excise tax exemption on RES-E was introduced in 2002.
- The Energy Act of April 2007 incorporates a principal support mechanism of Certificates of Origin for RES-E: all energy companies selling electricity to end users have to obtain and present for redemption a specified number of Certificates or pay a substitution charge.
- A liquid biofuel quality requirement regulation entered into force in September 2006.

Since January 2007, biocomponents for liquid fuels and liquid biofuels have been exempt from excise duty; preferential excise duty treatment was planned to increase under an Act of May 2007. An obligation to add a specified volume of bio-component to fuels was also introduced by two recent Acts (June 2006). Another element in this policy mix is structural funds, which can be used to improve the infrastructure of biofuels and other RES.

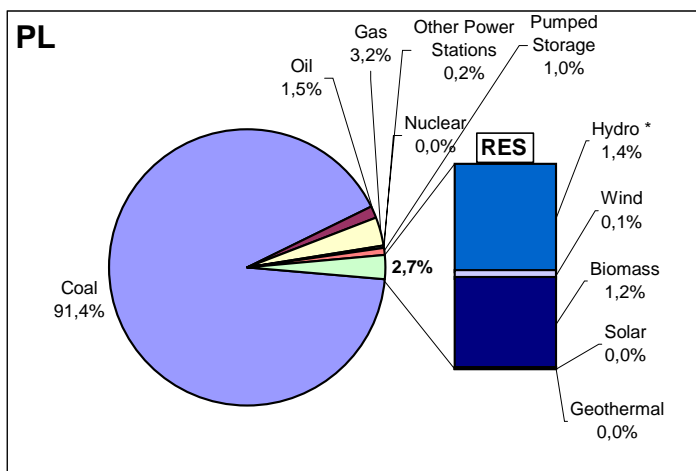
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Various financing mechanisms are available in the context of RES-H&C. The Environmental Protection Bank provides soft loans, EcoFund is able to organise non-repayable grants (since 1992) and low interest loans (since 2002), and through the Act on Support for Thermo-Modernisation Projects (1998), investments in the modernisation of thermal installations have been facilitated as well.

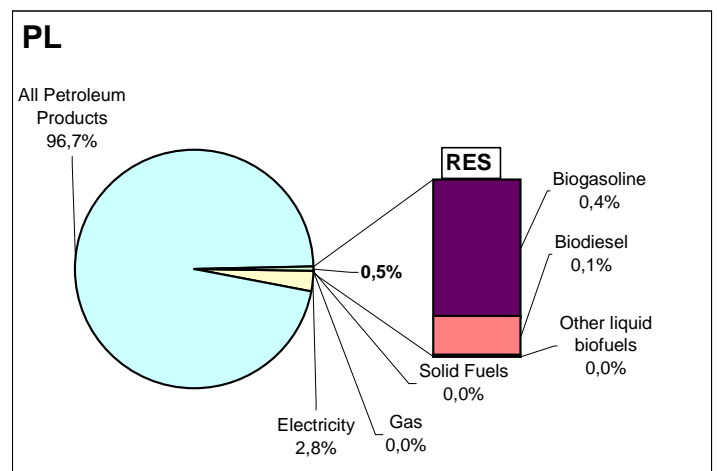
Support plans for bioenergy include energy crop plantation subsidy from January 2007 act, August 2006 plan covering biocomponents and liquid biofuels, and a long-term programme for biofuels promotion dated July 2007.

Key figures¹

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/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/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

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

¹ Reliable and complete data for heating and cooling is not yet available from Eurostat

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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

CHP: Combined Heat and Power

GWh: gigawatthour

ktoe: Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent

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

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