

Bulgaria

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.

Bulgarian target: 16% (2005 = 9.4%)

Key issues

Bulgaria is approaching its RES-E target for 2010. Large-scale hydro power is currently the main source of RES-E, but its technical and economic potential is already fully exploited. Good opportunities exist for biomass, since 60% of land is agricultural, and about 30% is forest cover. Total wind energy capacity of around 2,200 - 3,400 MW could be installed. Solar potential exists in the East and South of Bulgaria, and 200 MW could be generated from geothermal sources.

Main supporting policies

A new act on RES was adopted in June 2007 for diversifying energy supply, environmental protection, to set the terms for sustainable local and regional development, and to increase the capacity of SMEs and RES producers etc. Suppliers are required to purchase all renewable electricity that has a certificate of origin. The public utility company and the end suppliers, respectively, shall purchase the entire quantity of energy generated from renewable and alternative energy sources, except for the power generated by hydroelectric power plants with installed capacity of over 10 MW, at preferential prices.

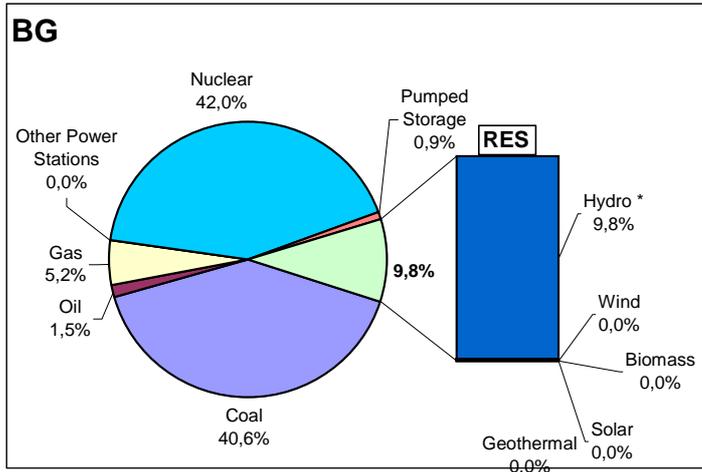
A bill is foreseen for 2011 on the market mechanisms for encouraging production of electricity and heating power from renewable energy sources.

In order to promote RES, Bulgaria is currently implementing the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Credit Line (BEERECL). RES projects are eligible for a 20% grant. Loans worth more than EUR 12.8 million have already been granted.

Biofuels, if not blended with other fuels, have been exempt from excise tax since 2005 (note: not all types of bioethanol are included).

Key figures¹

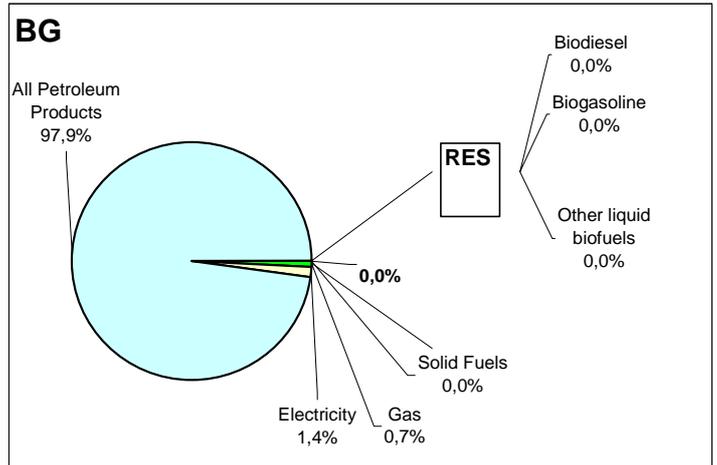
Gross Electricity Generation by fuel (2005)



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.

Final Energy Consumption by Fuel, Transport (2005)



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

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

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