

Austria

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.

Austrian target: 34% (2005 = 23.3%)

Key issues

With a share of 70% RES-E of gross electricity consumption in 1997, Austria was the leading EU Member State for many years. Large hydropower is the main source of RES-E in Austria. More recently, a steady rise in the total energy demand has taken place, and a decrease of the share of RES-E has been noted. In May 2006, the annual allocated budget for RES-E support was reduced, and annual tariff adjustments have been implemented.

In 2006, biofuels accounted for 3.54% of transport fuel sold in Austria.

Main supporting policies

Austrian policy supports RES-E through feed-in tariffs that are adjusted annually by law. The responsible authority is obliged to buy the electricity and pay a feed-in tariff. The total budget available for this will decrease due to a decision taken in May 2006. Within the new legislation, the annual allocated budget for RES support has been set at EUR 17 million for "new RES-E" up to 2011. This yearly budget is pre-allocated to different types of RES (30% to biomass, 30% to biogas, 30% to wind, 10% to PV and other RES). Within these categories, funds will be given on a "first come - first served" basis.

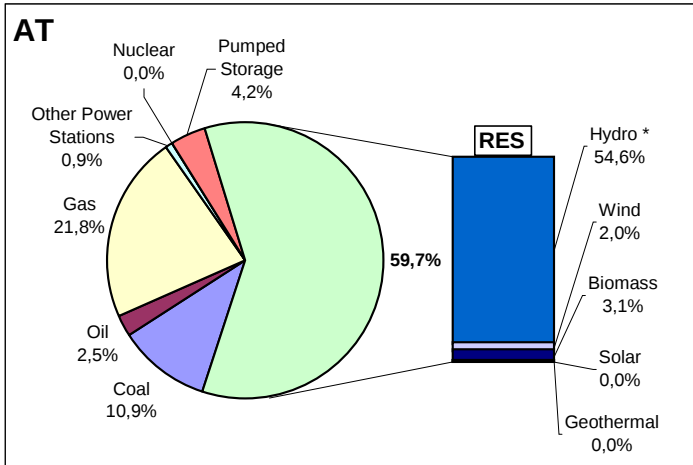
Biofuels are completely exempt from fossil fuel taxes. On 1 October 2007 an Order entered into force regarding a tax rebate for biofuel blends.

A variety of federal programmes for the support of RES-H is being applied. These consist mainly of investment subsidies.

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Key figures¹

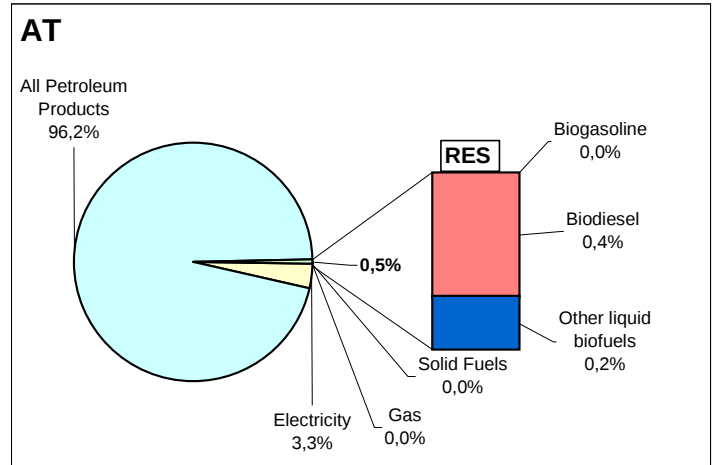
Gross Electricity Generation by fuel (2005)



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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