

Policy Background

A European energy policy must pursue the objective of a sustainable, competitive and secure supply of energy. If the EU continues on its present course, this key objective will not be attained. In January 2007, the European Commission adopted an energy policy for Europe. This was supported by several documents on different aspects of energy and included an action plan to meet the major energy challenges Europe faces. Each European citizen must be informed of these challenges and the role they should play in meeting them.

Renewable energies help combat climate change while increasing security of supply.

Key Issues

France has centred its RES approach around feed-in tariffs on the one hand, and a tendering procedure on the other. Hydro power has traditionally been important for electricity generation, and the country ranks second when it comes to biofuel production, although the biofuels target for 2005 was not met. France has vast resources of wind, geothermal energy and biomass, and wind power and geothermal electricity have shown growth. In addition, there exists potential in the area of solid biomass.

Current national RES target

The RES-E target from the EU Directive for France is 21% RES-E share of gross electricity consumption in 2010. National targets for biofuels have been set at 2% by 2005, 5.75% by 2008, 7% by 2010, and 10% by 2015.

Progress towards meeting national targets

France's share of RES-E shrunk from 15% in 1997 to 12.64% in 2004.

A share of 1% of biofuel use target has been registered for 2005.

Main supporting policies

The French policy for the promotion of RES-E includes the following mechanisms:

- *Feed-in tariffs* (introduced in 2001 and 2002, and modified in 2005) for PV, hydro, biomass, sewage and landfill gas, municipal solid waste, geothermal, offshore wind, onshore wind, and CHP.
- *A tender system* for large renewable projects.

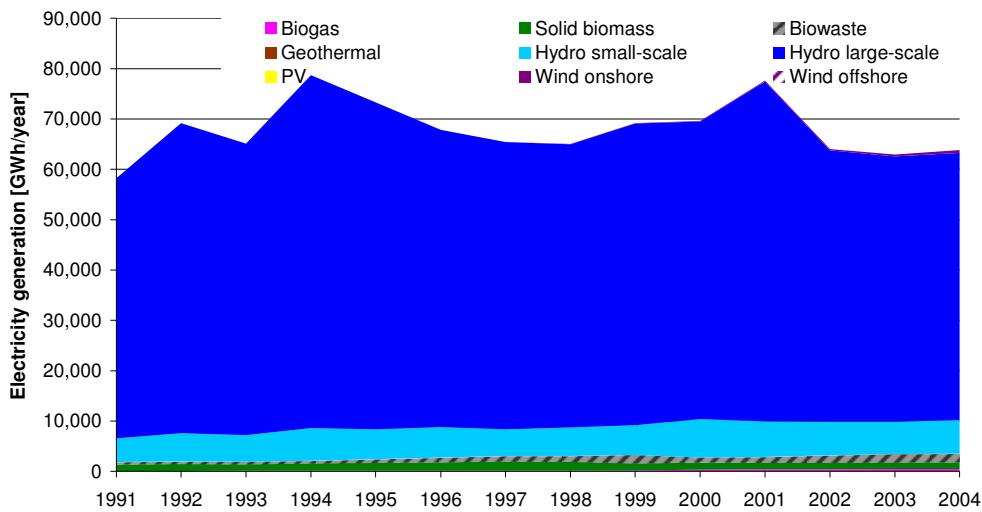
Both tax reductions and capital grants are in place in order to promote biofuels.

Stimulating the uptake of RES-H is done in three ways. Tax credits of 50% are available, a 5,5% reduction in VAT has been introduced for residential energy equipment using RES, and subsidies up to 40% are granted for biomass heating plants.

Key renewable energy statistics

Electricity from RES: In France, the main source of RES-E is hydro power. The level of production of large-scale and small-scale installations combined represented 59,712 GWh, compared to 64,439 GWh overall. The second and third principal sources are biowaste (1,671 GWh) and solid biomass (1,371 GWh). PV demonstrates an average annual growth of 90% (between 1997 and 2004), and for onshore wind power this figure is 58%. In 2004, this meant a volume of 606 GWh and this increased further to 1,051 GWh in 2005.

Electricity generation from renewable energy sources by type (GWh)



Source: European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm

Biofuels: France is currently ranked 2nd highest in the EU in terms of biofuel production and use. A continued increase in the level of production (502 ktoe in 2005 compared to 306 ktoe in 1997) helps consolidate this position. Only a minor part of these efforts result in the production of bioethanol (64 ktoe), biodiesel being the main product (492 ktoe).

Heating and cooling: RES-H in France is predominantly based on the use of biomass (wood burning). Solar thermal collectors and heat pumps have registered average annual growth rates of 9% and 6% respectively between 1997 and 2004.

	Penetration 1997 (ktoe)	Penetration 2004 (ktoe)	Av. Annual growth [%]
Biomass heat	9151	9442	0%
Solar thermal heat	16	29	9%
Geothermal heat incl. heat pumps	122	189	6%

Source: European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm

Good example: Project "RENAISSANCE in Lyon"

The Lyon-Confluence project involves the launch of tenders for the development of new constructions which aim to reach specific targets for energy efficiency and use of renewable energies. It also adopts a comprehensive approach which guarantees optimum integration of these two main components of sustainable construction technology.

The project should facilitate more rapid introduction of sustainable standards into the private construction sector. By providing finance for reducing initial overheads and operational costs, RENAISSANCE hopes to encourage developers to enter the renewable energy sector.

The local project also intends to benefit from the expertise and experience of other countries and partners in the development of an ESCO and of methods of heating provision at local level as well as the use of biomass as a viable alternative to fossil fuels for heating. The local project of Lyon is included in RENAISSANCE section of the CONCERTO initiative, in cooperation with the city of Zaragoza.

For further information

To find out more about renewable energy, 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 renewable energy 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>

Further fact sheets on France and other Member States can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/facts_en.htm

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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