Monthly Progress Update

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Austria

Renewable Energy

New PV support scheme accelerates energy turnaround

Since the launch of the *PV-Förderung Neu* support scheme in April 2013, 5,000 installations have been put into operation. According to a statement by Niki Berlakovich, Austrian Minister for the Environment, this support scheme has already had a significant impact on the development of renewable energies in the country. The programme budget of € 36 million has the capacity to bring into service approximately 24,000 installations per year. Hans Kronberger, of Bundesverband Photovoltaic Austria states that 2013 will set new records for photovoltaic installations. The *PV-Förderung Neu* support scheme is active until 30 November and € 25 million of the budget is still available.

Read more (in German): [http://www.lebensministerium.at/presse/umwelt/130808Photovoltaik.html](http://www.lebensministerium.at/presse/umwelt/130808Photovoltaik.html)

Energy Networks

Cooperation between Upper Austria and Climate and Energy Fund started

Following a conference in Alpbach (Alpbacher Technologiegespräche), the Department of Economy and Research of Upper Austria and the Climate and Energy Fund (KLI.EN) have initiated a strategic and operative cooperation. This measure was undertaken in order to create an international leading region in the field of energy. The cooperation agreement includes collaboration in relation to workshops, expert exchanges and events. In autumn this year, the cornerstones of the cooperation will be further developed. The focus lies on the following fields:

- Exploitation of energy saving potentials and promotion of energy efficiency;
- Further development of energy infrastructure and integration of renewable energy sources;
- Expansion of a knowledge-based and intelligent production location in Upper Austria;
- Intensive expansion of energy research;
- Bundling of regional energy political forces in order to participate in the development of relevant frameworks on National and European level.


Adaptation

Adaptation action plan to be implemented

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (see MPU Issue 3), which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2012 and by the Provincial Governors’ Conference in May 2013, is now adopted by the Provincial Environment Ministers. The Federal Ministry of
Agriculture, Environment and Water Management is in charge of the coordination and continuous monitoring of the implementation process. The performance report will be released in the end of 2014. However, the results of a study executed by the Ministry dealing with the potential impact of non-adaptation will be published at the end of the 2013 calendar year.

Read more (in German): [http://www.lebensministerium.at/presse/umwelt/130809klimawandel.html](http://www.lebensministerium.at/presse/umwelt/130809klimawandel.html)
Belgium

Renewable Energy

**Flemish energy suppliers boycott the grid use fee for solar panels**

Since 1 January 2013, also owners of solar panels with a maximum installed capacity of 10 kW are obliged to pay a yearly grid use fee of about €53 (excl. VAT). So far, a number of energy suppliers boycott this fee due to pending hearings in court. On 9 August 2013, Flemish Minister Van Den Bossche accused those energy suppliers who refuse to implement the charge to support discriminatory practices in the electricity market. The minister calls for the Flemish regulator VREG to mediate and settle the dispute.


**Modification of the terms of reference for wind energy in the Walloon Region**

On 11 July 2013, the Walloon Government decided to modify the terms of reference for wind energy in the region. The decision the observations of municipalities and the results of an impact study. On 1 August 2013, the Walloon Ministry of Environment presented the new terms of reference for wind energy. The most important modification regards the minimum distance between wind turbines and housings, which has been increased from 450 to 600 meters. As a result, the authorized areas for wind turbines now only represent 37,000 hectares (2.2% of Walonia) instead of 52,000 ha (3.1% of the territory) as planned in the first version of the terms of reference. Finally, the initial target of 4,500 GWh by 2020 was reduced to 3,800 GWh.


**Launch of a program for the development of biogas plants in Walloon farms**

On 28 July 2013, the Walloon Minister of Agriculture Carlo Di Antonio presented the programme “BIOMETH 10” to encourage, support and supervise the installation of nearly 40 biogas plants with a capacity of less than or equal to 10kW in Walloon farms. The aim is to increase the energy independence of farms by reducing their dependence on fossil fuels for their thermal and electrical needs. Farms will be selected on the basis of their application. The applications received will be reviewed in September 2013. The signing of the agreements will take place in November 2013, in order for the first installations to be operational in 2014.


Bulgaria

Waste

Minister of Environment sacks senior officials due to irregularities in OP "Environment"

On 2 August, the Bulgarian Minister of the Environment, Iskra Mihaylova, has dismissed 23 senior officials from her Ministry due to irregularities in projects funded by the EU’s Operational Programme “Environment”. The inefficient implementation of these projects resulted in financial corrections and severe delays. Mihaylova stated: “Nearly BGN 600 million have been redirected from the water sub-division because they remained unabsorbed, and there is a serious threat that the same will happen with BGN 200 million for the capital Sofia’s long overdue waste plant”. These figures correspond to 300 to 100 million Euros, respectively. The total program includes EU investment of close to 1.5 billion Euros.

According to Mihaylova, Bulgaria must catch up on the delayed construction of regional household waste depots in order to avoid penalties under an ongoing EU infringement procedure. Originally, Bulgaria was supposed to build 24 waste depots by 2009 under the Operational Programme "Environment"; however, only 2 of them have been constructed so far. Therefore, Bulgaria now faces fines in the amount of several tens of thousands of euro per month for non-compliance with the EU Accession Treaty and the EU’s Waste Framework Directive.

The delays are of particular concern also because the 2014-2020 Operational Programme is currently being drafted.


Croatia

Renewable Energy

Tender for the development of energy cooperatives

In a collaborative initiative, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Croatian Cooperatives Association, Green Action (Zelena Akcija) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation announced a tender for the provision of technical assistance in the development of energy cooperatives in Croatia. Three local cooperatives will be selected and applications will be accepted until 16 September 2013. The successful bidders will be provided with a technical and economic analysis of the project, including pre-investment studies for project development of renewable energy sources. The tender is open for cooperatives already registered or in the process of registration for activities related to renewable energy projects.

Cyprus

Renewable Energy

_Vassilikos power station resumes operation_

All 5 plants of Vassilikos power station, the largest and the newest power station in Cyprus, are again in operation. It should be mentioned that the power station was extensively damaged after an explosion at the Evangelos Florakis naval base in July 2011. As a consequence, almost half of the electricity supply on the island was interrupted. As it was underlined by the spokesperson of EAC (Electricity Authority of Cyprus), the repair process was initiated in June 2012 and as of August 2013 all power plants are completely repaired and in full operation. In addition, additional measures were undertaken during the repair process so that the power station can now use natural gas. Within the power station, three power plants have an installed capacity of 130 MW each, while the other two have an installed capacity of 220 MW.

Czech Republic

Horizontal Measures

*Rusnok cabinet fails to reach majority – early elections possible*

During a parliamentary vote of confidence on 7 August 2013, the cabinet of caretaker Prime Minister Jiří Rusnok failed to receive the support of the majority of the MPs. After Rusnok had been appointed as new Prime Minister by President Miloš Zeman in July, the vote of confidence had to take place within 30 days. The most likely solution of the political stalemate will be early parliamentary elections.


Renewable Energy

*Parliament approves amendment of support mechanism for renewables*

On 16 August 2013, the Czech Parliament approved the proposal of the Minister of Industry, Jiří Cienciala to amend the Renewable Energy Act (*Zákon o podporovaných zdrojích energie*). According to the draft law only new solar energy plants put into operation before 31 December 2013 will be supported. Wind, hydro or biomass plants put into operation before 31 December 2014 will be eligible for support only if the building permit was issued before the draft law will enter into force. The amendment also envisages prolonging the controversial “solar tax” on revenues of solar power plants which now has been set at 10%. Because of the retroactivity of this measure, the Czech Republic could face arbitration proceedings from the side of the European Commission.

Furthermore, the draft law amends the cost distribution of the feed-in and premium tariff scheme for renewables. The Ministry of Industry argues that it was necessary to ensure the competitiveness of the Czech business sector and therefore intends to increase state subsidies for the support of renewables. On the one hand, the renewable energy fee for consumers would be lowered from its current level of CZK 573 and set at a maximum amount of CZK 495 per MWh. On the other hand, however, the state would have to collect additional CZK 11 billion in 2014 in taxes to finance this measure. In order to come into effect, the amendment will have to be approved by the senate and to be signed by the President.


Energy Efficiency

First call under New Green Savings programme has started

On 12 August 2013, the State Environmental Fund started accepting applications under the first call of the New Green Savings programme. The programme supports energy efficiency measures in households and is expected to boost the Czech economy. In the first day alone, some 1,213 candidates submitted applications for a total amount of CZK 275 million. The Ministry of Environment has earmarked CZK 1 billion for the first call and plans to add another CZK 800 million from the sale of emission allowances. The caretaker government in resignation promised to further provide CZK 1-2 billion from the state enterprise Lesy ČR. The first call focuses on energy efficiency and insulation measures, the construction of houses with very low energy consumption as well as the exchange of environmentally unfriendly heat sources. Under the first call, households which were affected by the floods are treated preferentially and shall receive a twenty% discount on all types of measures. The Ministry plans to make the first payments in fall and will stop accepting applications when funds are exhausted, but no later than 29 November 2013.


Waste

Fee for historical e-waste abolished for small electric appliances

Starting from 13 August 2013, purchasers of small electric household appliances and equipment will no longer be obliged to pay the so-called fee for historical e-waste. Originally, this fee was charged in order to provide funds for the disposal of e-waste, which came on the market before 13 August 2005. Only since this date, producers of electric appliances are obliged to take care of the ecological disposal of their products. As a result, they simply added the costs of disposal to the prices of their products. The fee for historical e-waste however was charged separately and applied to products which were introduced onto the market before this obligation. For larger appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines or dishwashers, this fee will apply until 2015.

Denmark

Horizontal Measures

The Government’s climate plan

On 14th August 2013, the Danish government presented the “Government’s Climate Plan. Towards a society without greenhouse gases” (Regeringens klimaplan. På vej mod et samfund uden drivhusgasser) which aims at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2020 compared to 1990. To facilitate the implementation of the target, an inter-ministerial working group developed an instrument catalog containing 78 measures which address emissions from transport, agriculture, buildings and waste. The catalogue includes, for example, measures such as the reduction of speed limits on highways from 130 to 110 km/h, reduced nitrogen standards in agriculture or a tax on nitrous oxide from waste water. The instrument catalogue complements the political agreement on energy policy, which was already concluded in March 2012 and was a first major step towards achieving the reduction goal. On basis of the climate plan, the government plans to introduce a climate change bill to Parliament in the coming parliamentary year.


DKK 800 million for the green transition

On 25th August 2013 the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building announced that the government plans to allocate DKK 800 million (€ 107 million) from its 2014 budget for “green transition” measures. The final decision on the 2014 budget will be taken in autumn 2013.

Read more (in Danish): http://www.kebmin.dk/nyheder/regeringen-goe-alvor-groenne-omstilling
The proposal of the budget 2014 can be found here (in Danish): http://www.oes.cs.dk/bevillingslove/doctopic?book=BEVPUBL.FFL14T&searchtype=3

Transport

Ministry of Transport will work on a roadmap for greener transport

The Danish Ministry of Transport together with the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building will work on a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels in the transport sector by 2050. This initiative is one of the measures outlines by the Danish government in the “Government’s Climate Plan” of 14th August 2013. The roadmap is expected to be published in spring 2014.

Read more (in Danish): http://www.trm.dk/da/nyheder/2013/roadmap+for+gr%C3%B8n+transport/
Read more (in Danish): http://www.trm.dk/~media/Projekttopl%C3%A6g%20for%20udfasning%20af%20fossile%20br%C3%A6ndstoffer-1.pdf
Estonia

Horizontal Measures

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications will develop new Energy Sector Strategy

On 8 August 2013, the Government decided to develop a new Estonian Energy Sector Strategy, which will serve as a basis for the Estonian energy policy up to the year 2030 and replace the currently applicable strategies. The strategy aims at ensuring competitiveness while taking into account the main goals of the state's energy policy, which is to guarantee the security of supply for a reasonable price. In addition, the environmental sustainability aspect and the European Union long-term energy and climate policy will play a key role when elaborating the energy strategy. The new long-term plan will also improve security for investors and take into account the changes in the European Union energy regulations. According to the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Mr. Juhan Parts, the decision to design a new development plan reflects the rapid changes in the energy sector during the last years. According to the Minister, Estonian energy resources continually allow the country to maintain a very low energy dependency. Furthermore, Estonia has developed a considerable know-how in the sector of oil-shale production and processing. However, the new strategy will need to continue working on ways to diversify Estonian energy portfolio, which also means finding better synergies among different types of energy production, including electricity, liquid fuels and heat. The new strategy is expected to be published by November 2013.


Renewable Energy

New wind park opened in Paldiski

On 13 August 2013, Eesti Energia (internationally operating under the name of Enefit) and Nelja Energia opened a new wind park in the northern tip of the Pakri peninsula, located in north-western Estonia. The leaders of the two enterprises welcomed the opening of the wind park and said it was a clear example of successful cooperation between two energy producers. The Paldiski wind park is situated in a very suitable area for wind farms: the plateau is located approximately 23 meters above sea level, which guarantees good wind conditions throughout the year. The new wind park comprises of 18 turbines, each with a capacity of 2.5 MW, and the cost of the park was € 62 million. Together with the older wind turbines already in place, the wind park now covers the electricity needs of approximately 50,000 families. This in turn means that the closest town – Paldiski – produces 100% renewable energy and the production surpasses the city’s demand. Currently, Estonia has 126 wind turbines with a total capacity of 269.4 MW, which covers approximately 6% of the Estonian total electricity consumption.

Energy Efficiency

Renovation support for apartment buildings to be continued

In the beginning of August 2013, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Mr. Juhan Parts, signed a renewed contract with the financing institution Kredex, a company responsible for providing loans and support for energy efficient renovations. According to the new deal, the state will provide € 3 million for the energy efficient renovation of approximately 50 apartment buildings, with the rate of the support varying from 15 to 35%. “This programme has so far already allowed renovating over 500 apartments and the fact that there is continuing demand for it shows its success and we need to carry on with it. The goal is to reduce expenses on heating and to encourage investments in a more sustainable environment”, the Minister said. The current contract is an extension to the sum allocated to the programme from the state budget and to the sales of the AAUs to Luxembourg in 2010. The new budget period 2014-2020 foresees a total of € 102 million for the programme.

Read more (in Estonian): http://www.mkm.ee/korterelamute-renoveerimistoetus-jatkub/Energy Networks
Finland

Horizontal Measures

New laws on electricity and natural gas to become applicable in September

In the beginning of August 2013, the Government sent new laws on electricity and natural gas to be signed by the President, which will become applicable from the 1 September 2013. The changes apply to the Electricity Market Act, Natural Gas Market Act and contain a new law on the Energy Market Authority. The laws transpose the EU’s Third Internal Energy Market Package directives into national legislation and aim at raising reliability of distribution networks in case of large disturbances. The legislation also aims at providing better service to customers in scarcely populated rural areas and to the society as a whole. For example, the changes to the Electricity Market Act foresee that the distribution system shall be designed, constructed and maintained in such a way that the failure of the distribution system as a result of a storm or snow load cannot cause an interruption of electricity supply for more than 6 hours (in urban areas) or 36 hours for other areas. Additionally, the compensation rates for customers subject to long-term power cuts will be increased. The new laws also promote easier access for producers to electricity and natural gas networks, including for wind power and biogas.

Law on the Energy Market Authority: [http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2013/20130591?search%5Btype%5D=pika&search%5Bpika%5D=Energiamarkkinavirasto](http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2013/20130591?search%5Btype%5D=pika&search%5Bpika%5D=Energiamarkkinavirasto)

Renewable Energy

Changes in legislation to promote wind energy

On 21 August 2013, the Government discussed changes to the Land Use and Building Act, which aim at simplifying the permit procedures related to the construction of wind power plants. The currently applicable legislation does not allow deviations to be applied to construction projects which would have a significant impact on an area. The proposed changes would allow municipalities to issue deviation decisions for already constructed areas that have been designated industrial areas or harbors on a town or city plan. The changes would therefore facilitate the construction of single industrial-sized wind power plants in areas where the environmental impact is estimated to be the lowest. According to the changes, building permits would be given to wind power plants according to the wider scheme governing wind power construction, even if the wider plan has yet not been ratified due to pending appeals. This is expected to reduce the time necessary to obtain building permits and to improve security for investors.

France

Horizontal Measures

Publication of the governmental report on France’s energy balance

On 30 July 2013, the Directory General of Environment and Climate published its report on France’s energy balance for the year 2012. According to the Energy Ministry, the most important results are the following:

- “Final energy consumption adjusted for climatic variations decreased by 0.7%, largely as a result of economic factors;
- The transport sector remains the largest energy consumer, in front of the residential sector, far ahead of the industrial sector, third sector and agriculture;
- The energy mix of final energy consumption remained stable in 2012, but with a significant increase in the relative share of renewable thermal energy;
- The domestic production of primary energy amounts to 136 Mtoe, which represents a decrease of 1.2% compared to 2011;
- The energy bill of France for 2012 achieved a new record, reaching almost € 69 billion, mainly because of the general increase in the price of imported energy.”

Read more (in French): http://www.journaldelenvironnement.net/article/les-grandes-tendances-energetiques-de-l-annee-2012-35888

Taxation

"Climate-energy contribution" under discussion in France

The Minister of Environment, Philippe Martin, announced in August 2013 that the proposal for a climate-energy contribution (contribution climat énergie) has been approved by Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault. According to article 1 of the proposal (Proposition de Loi No. 1317), the consumption of energy products used as fuel that are listed in Article 265 of the Customs Code (Code des Douanes), as well as the consumption of coal, lignite and coke (as cited in Article 266 of the Customs Code) and the consumption of uranium used to produce electricity are subjected to the payment of the 'climate-energy contribution'. Nonetheless, further details such as the extension and amount of levy were not released yet. The introduction of a carbon tax was already considered in France during the government of Nicolas Sarkozy, but the project was dropped back. Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, spokesperson of the French government, stated that the intention is not to create a new tax, but the greening of existing energy taxes. More details are planned to be released in September.

Read more (in French): http://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2013/08/22/la-loi-de-transition-energetique-pas-une-liste-de-centrales-a-fermer-dit-le-ministre_3465012_823448.html
The proposal is available at (in French): http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/propositions/pion1317.asp
Energy Generation

Increase of the electricity rates

On 31 July 2013, a decree was issued introducing an increase of electricity prices from 1 August 2013. This increase aims to cover the costs of the French Utility Company EDF. Accordingly, “blue rates” (“tarifs bleus”) applying to households and companies subscribing to an electricity supply between 3 and 36 kVA were raised by 5%. The “yellow rates” (“tarifs jaunes”), applying to companies or collectivities subscribing to an electricity supply between 42 and 240 kVA, were increased by 2.7% on average from 1 August 2013. Only industrial companies (electricity supply over 240 kVA) were not subjected to an increase of electricity prices.

However, these rates remain below those recommended by the French Regulatory Commission (CRE - Commission de Régulation de l’Énergie). In a report released in early June, the CRE namely estimated that for the year 2013, the required increase of electricity rates should lie between 8.6% and 9.6%.

Renewable Energy

100 biogas plants to be installed by 2020 in the Region of Midi-Pyrénées

On 31 July 2013, the Region of Midi-Pyrénées signed together with the Energy Minister and the Minister of Agriculture an agreement for the installation of 100 biogas plants by 2020. According to the president of the Region, Martin Malvy, these facilities, coupled with "the use of most of the agriculture and food waste, could lead to the production of 2,200 GWh of electricity by 2020, which is equivalent to 25% of the gas consumption of the Midi-Pyrénées".

The agreement also provides for the establishment of a regional committee for anaerobic digestion co-managed by the state and the region. It falls within the National Plan for Anaerobic Digestion and Nitrogen (EMAA - Plan Energie Méthane Autonomie Azote), submitted by the Government in March 2013, as well as in the Regional Energy Plan of Midi-Pyrénées for the creation of renewable energy production units and the control of energy expenditure in the housing sector.

Increase of the feed-in tariff for biogas from livestock manure

A decree published on 7 August 2013 increased the feed-in tariff of biogas produced from livestock manure. The new decree introduced a new category of installations eligible for a feed-in tariff. The calculation system of the feed-in tariff remains however the same: it is
calculated on the basis of the capacity and the energy efficiency of the installation. It is the capacity of the system that determines the amount of the premium. From 8 August 2013, the premium amounts to 2.6 ct € per kWh for facilities less than or equal to 300 kW; 2.1 ct € per kWh when the capacity of the installation is equal to 500 kW and 0 ct € per kWh for installations with a capacity higher or equal to 1000 kW. This measure falls within the National Plan for Methane and Nitrogen (EMAA - Plan Energie Méthane Autonomie Azote), which envisages the installation of 1000 biogas plants in France by 2020.

Read more (in French): http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Hausse-du-tarif-d-achat-de-l.html
Germany

Horizontal Measures

*KfW: € 10.4 bn approved for environment and climate protection projects*

In the first half of 2013, KfW approved roughly 39% of its total commitments in the field of environment and climate protection. This is an increase of €500 million compared to 2011.

Read more (in German): https://www.kfw.de/KfW-Konzern/Newsroom/Aktuelles/Pressemeldungen/Pressemeldungen-Details_152832.html

Renewable Energy

*Upcoming Parliamentary Elections: Party Programmes on the integration of renewable energy sources*

On 22 September 2013, Germany will elect a new parliament. The election programmes of the main five parties reveal different approaches on how to successfully design the energy transition, especially with respect to market integration, cost distribution and electricity market design. The Christian Democrats (CDU) set a focus on planning reliability, the Social Democrats (SPD) on the role of the energy transition as an international model, the Greens on the target of 100% renewables, the Liberals (FDP) on energy prices and competitiveness, and the Left on alleviating the burden for private consumers and middle class. All parties envisage a fundamental reform of the Renewable Energy Sources Act as one of the first projects of the new government. While no retroactive changes to the granted feed-in tariffs are planned, the SPD, for example, promotes a stepwise reduction of feed-in tariffs and the FDP a substitution of fixed tariffs with a premium on the stock exchange price. The Greens, SPD and the Left plan to eliminate or reduce the subsidies for industry, while the CDU wants to keep the reliefs. The election programmes can be accessed under the following links (in German):


*Decreasing electricity prices due to expansion of renewable energy sources*

The cost-reducing effect of the expansion of renewable energies can now be traced on all trading markets of the electricity markets. For 2014, the European Energy Exchange (EEX) quoted the price for the supply of base load electricity in Germany with €ct 3.661 per kWh which is 24% lower than last year. German Renewable Energy Federation BEE President Dietmar Schütz commented that “so far only companies that are capable of short-term buy on the spot market benefited from the current low market prices. In the future, also those businesses with long-term supply contracts will be able to benefit from cheaper stock prices”.

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Feed-in tariff for PV decreases by 1.8 %

On 1 August 2013, the Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway (Bundesnetzagentur) announced that the feed-in tariff for PV will decrease on 1 August, 1 September and 1 October by 1.8 % respectively. The degression rate is being adapted every three months on the basis of the newly installed capacity in the past 12 months.

Energy Efficiency

Renewable heat saves 40 million t of greenhouse gas emission per year

Calculations on energy consumption in the heat market done by the working group energy balance (AG Energiebilanzen) revealed a 4% increase in the first half of 2013. Despite the hard winter, the growth in consumption can also be attributed to old and inefficient heating infrastructure. Moreover, the working group stressed that the predominant use of fossil fuels for heating has a negative effect on Germany’s climate balance. Heat from renewable sources has a share of 10% in the heat market and accounts for an annual saving of greenhouse gas emissions of 40 million tones CO2eq (2012).

Energy Networks

Cabinet of Ministers passed draft on amending the Electricity Network Charges Ordinance

As a reaction to the European Commission’s concern about generous exemptions for energy intensive companies, the Federal Minister for the Economy Rösler presented a draft law that foresees a stronger role of energy intensive industry in shouldering the rising grid costs. The amount of the electricity network charge varies according to consumption levels and yearly hours of grid use.
Greece

Renewable Energy

Low electricity demand increases RES share

Electricity production during the first seven months of 2013 has been reduced on average by 5%. More specifically, at the transmission grid, electricity production from conventional fuels has dropped by 11%, while the share of RES increased by almost 45%. On average, the RES share on electricity production ranges between 13% to 16% while it reached 19% during July, thus covering electricity demand during peak hours. Furthermore, the capacity factor of lignite power plants, owned by the Public Power Cooperation of Greece S.A. has and continues to be the main source of electricity production in the country, but production has recently been radically reduced to 60% of its operational capacity. The following development shows that the level of RES penetration in Greece has affected the operation of old lignite power plants, which have become economically less viable.


Energy Networks

Interconnection of the island of Crete expected at the next Programming Period (2014-2020)

The Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Mr. Ioannis Maniatis, and the Minister of Development and Competiveness, Mr. Konstantinos Hatzidakis, decided at a meeting on 26 August 2013 to extend the connection of the continental transmission grid with the island of Crete. The interconnection is expected to be realized during the next programmatic period (2014-2020) as a Public Private Partnership and will be financed from the National Strategic Reference Framework 2014-2020 (the reference document for the programming of the European Union Funds). It is scheduled to be completed within 5-6 years with a budget of approximately €750-800 million. The interconnection constitutes a part of an international project that aims at connecting the Greek transmission grid with Crete, Cyprus and Israel; the international project has a total budget estimated at €3.5 billion.

Renewable Energy

*New subsidy programme for solar installations on buildings of public institutions*

On 5 August 2013, the Ministry of National Development announced a new subsidy programme, which promotes the use of solar energy installations on buildings of public institutions. The programme’s subsidy budget amounts to HUF 867.2 million (approximately € 2.9 million). The purchasing costs for solar energy installations can be refunded, up to 100%. Eligible parties are specialized social care institutions and residential child protection institutions, which are sustained by the General Directorate for Social Care and Child Protection and which are under the professional supervision of the Ministry of Human Resources. The call for tender will open on 5 September 2013 and will last until funds are exhausted. The programme is financed under the New Széchenyi Plan Green Investment System through revenues from the auctioning of allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).


Energy Efficiency

*Subsidy programme for renovations to increase energy efficiency in buildings terminated*

On 16 August 2013, the Ministry of National Development stopped the subsidy programme on renovations to increase energy efficiency of multi-storey dwellings (*Társasházak Energetikai Felújítása Alprogramjára*) due to exhausted funds. However, project applications dated no later than 21 August 2013 will still be accepted and processed. The initially announced closing date for project applications was 15 September 2013. The programme aims at renovations to increase energy efficiency, modernization of the heating system and the use of renewable energy sources in multi-storey dwellings (see MPU Issue 4 July). According to the Ministry of National Development, the great demand for this subsidy programme stresses the need for an additional one on energy related renovation in multi-storey dwellings. Future subsidy programmes under the National Energy Strategy for Buildings (*Nemzeti Épületenergetikai Stratégia*), which is currently being developed, will focus amongst others on multi-storey dwellings (see MPU Issue 2).


Read more (in Hungarian): [http://hvg.hu/gazdasag/20130816_Elfogyott_a_teglahazak_palyazati_kerete](http://hvg.hu/gazdasag/20130816_Elfogyott_a_teglahazak_palyazati_kerete)

Read more (in Hungarian): [http://www.hirado.hu/Hirek/2013/08/16/17/Sikeres_volt_a_teglahazak_energetikai_korszerusitesi_palyazata.aspx](http://www.hirado.hu/Hirek/2013/08/16/17/Sikeres_volt_a_teglahazak_energetikai_korszerusitesi_palyazata.aspx)
Agriculture

Vegetables and fruit production should increase by 1 million tons yearly

The Ministry of Rural Development announced that the Sector Strategy for Vegetables and Fruit (zőldség-gyümölcs ágazati stratégia) will soon be finalised and will be submitted to the Hungarian Government. The strategy intends to increase the yearly production of vegetables and fruit by 1 million tons per annum - from currently around 2.5 million tons. However, concrete measures under this strategy have not been published so far. Furthermore, the strategy aims at increasing employment in this sector by 100,000 persons. In this context, a subsidy programme on promoting the horticultural sector has been launched on 15 August 2013. Expenses for purchasing horticultural machinery and facilities will be refunded. The programme’s budget amounts to HUF 24 billion (approximately € 80.5 million) and covers 35% of the expenses. Intensification and further industrialization of the agricultural sector might increase greenhouse gas emissions in this sector.

Ireland

Renewable Energy

EU accepts the postponement of the end date of REFIT 1

On the 2 August 2013 the European Commission approved the extension of the end date of REFIT 1 to 2027 compared to the original set date of 2024. REFIT 1 is a RES support scheme that was initiated in 2006 and ended in 2009. More specifically, it is a feed-in tariff support scheme for small scale hydro, large and small scale wind and biomass plants that aims to increase Ireland’s total renewable energy consumption by 1,450 MW. However, delays in approximately 65 projects have occurred and given that REFIT 1 commits support to each individual contract for 15 years, Ireland submitted a request to postpone the end date to 2027. It is worth highlighting that despite the fact that some RES projects were not connected to the grid before the end of 2012 and will consequently not receive 15 years of support, Ireland submitted the postponement request for 2027 “in order to establish a legal certainty and in order not to have REFIT 1 programme prolonged indefinitely”.


Energy Efficiency

Initiation of public consultation for the revision of the methodology of energy efficiency rating in buildings

On 6 August 2013 the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland initiated a process of public consultation concerning the development of Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) for Building Energy Rating (BER). DEAP constitutes the official methodology of rating energy performance, as well as calculating CO2 emissions in residences. In addition, it is also a part of the Irish Building Energy Rating (BER) scheme. Comments and proposed changes from previous stages of the development of DEAP have been taken into consideration and have been included in the current proposed methodology. The public consultation process closes on 11th September 2013.

Italy

Taxation

65% Tax deduction

On 3 August 2013, Legislative Decree 63/2013 on energy efficiency in buildings was turned into a law via Conversion Law 90 of 2013 and was slightly modified. The incentive scheme, which grants a tax deduction for energy efficiency works on buildings, was originally raised to 65% over ten years earlier in 2013. The increase was supposed to come to an end at the end of 2013. However, with Conversion Law 90/2013 the Government was given the task to stabilize these incentives beyond 2013. A new act which regulates this kind of incentives is thus expected before the end of 2013.

Read more (in Italian): http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2013/06/05/13G00107/sg
Lithuania

Renewable Energy

Tendering procedures for wind and energy from biomass and biogas terminated

On 27 August 2013, the National Control Commission for Prices and Energy announced that tenders for wind energy and energy derived from biomass and biogas that had been launched in May and June 2013 (see MPU Issue 02/2013 and 03/2013) are now terminated. According to the Ministry of Energy, if all the projects that have already been issued permits are properly implemented, the total installed capacity would reach the allocated amount for financial support set by the Law on Energy from Renewable Sources.

Read more: http://www.regula.lt/lt/naujienos/index.php?full=yes&id=51956
Read more: http://www.regula.lt/lt/naujienos/index.php?full=yes&id=51960

Feed-in Tariffs for solar power decreased

The National Control Commission for Prices and Energy set new Feed-in Tariff (FiT) rates for electricity generators using renewable energy sources that will be applicable from 1 October to 31 December 2013. For all technologies the FiTs remain the same as in the 3rd quarter of 2013, with the exception of solar power. FiTs for solar power installations declined on average by approximately 7.6%.

Read more: http://www.regula.lt/lt/naujienos/index.php?full=yes&id=51951

Transport

93 environmentally-friendly buses for passenger transport companies across the country

After the finalization of public purchase procedures on 14 August 2013, the Ministry of Environment announced that Lithuania would buy 93 environment-friendly buses for Lithuanian passenger transport companies using the money received for the greenhouse gas emission allowances sold to Spain (LTL 89.7 million, approx. € 26 million) as part of the EU Emission Trading Scheme. The winning companies will receive Spanish “Castrosua City Versus CNG” and “Castrosua Tempus Hybrid/CNG” buses.

Read more (in Lithuanian): http://www.am.lt/VI/index.php#a/13459

Waste


The Ministry of Environment is currently drafting the 2014-2020 National Waste Management Plan. The plan will focus on waste collection and recycling, instead of waste incineration and landfills. Up to now, the majority of municipal waste is removed to landfills and only around
19% of it is being recycled. With the new plan in place the situation is expected to change. The main objectives of the plan are to achieve a 50% recycling rate of municipal waste with only 22% ending up in landfills, as well as to encourage re-use of waste for energy generation.

Read more: [http://www.am.lt/Vl/index.php#a/13474](http://www.am.lt/Vl/index.php#a/13474)
Latvia

Renewable Energy

**Electricity customer support fund created**

On 13 August 2013, in order to limit the increase of electricity prices, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the creation of an electricity customer support fund. This fund will compensate the increase of the renewable energy Compulsory Procurement Component (CPC). It is funded by the new tax on subsidized electricity. A tax rate of 14% is foreseen for energy produced from natural gas and a tax rate of 10% is foreseen for energy produced from renewable sources. The tax is scheduled to be in place until 2018, however, there is the possibility that it might be reduced or even abolished in case of reduced subsidies under the CPC scheme. A social support instrument to support households with low income in covering their electricity costs is also foreseen.


Taxation

**Natural resource tax for advertisement materials**

On 20 August 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the amendments to the natural resource tax. A new tax on advertisement paper is foreseen. The rate of 1,28 €/ 1 kg paper aims at increasing responsible behaviour of producers towards the environment.

Luxemburg

Renewable Energy

*Notice of the Chamber of Trade on the renewable energy policy in Luxembourg*

While the Luxembourgian Government plans to increase the feed-in tariffs for electricity from renewable energies from 2014, the Chamber of Trade issued a notice stating it should first and foremost “reduce administrative barriers” in order to support the development of renewable energies in the country. According to the Chamber of Trade, sites for renewable energy installations, especially for wind energy and biomass, should be identified for decentralized energy production. In addition, authorization procedures for renewable energy installations should be reduced and the capacity of electricity grids should be improved. In this respect, the Luxembourgian grid operator Creos presented in December 2012 its investment program providing for the expenditure of € 603 million for the reinforcement of electricity and natural gas grids for the period from 2013 to 2017.

Read more (in French): [http://www.creos.lu/index.php?id=476&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=33&cHash=222cebc28a9066f8a7d4bd643498d0a4](http://www.creos.lu/index.php?id=476&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=33&cHash=222cebc28a9066f8a7d4bd643498d0a4)
Malta

Horizontal Measures

*Former Prime Minister has doubts concerning the applicability of RES targets in Malta.*

Alfred Sant, former Prime Minister and Labour leader has doubts about the applicability in Malta of the European targets for renewable energy and questioned in his blog (inewsmalta.com) if such targets should apply to a small island state like Malta. According to Sant, the country is “too small to accommodate the necessary technology”.


Energy Networks

*Works on interconnector continue*

The works on the Interconnector project are running. In August 2013, two shunt reactors arrived on the island of Malta and are transported to Maghtab terminal station, which will be the landing point of the Interconnector on the Maltese side. The construction of the tunnel is supposed to be completed in the beginning of next year so that the Maltese electrical grid will be joined with the European grid.

The Netherlands

Renewable Energy

*Budget for the PV subsidy already exhausted*

Within the last 13 months, 90,000 applications have been submitted by private persons to receive subsidies for PVs. Within the framework of this subsidy scheme, private persons are awarded 15% of the purchase price with a maximum support of € 650 for the installation of PV systems with a peak capacity between 0.601 and 3.5 kWp. As published by the Ministry for the Economy on 8 August 2013, the foreseen budget of €50 million is now exhausted. In total, the installed capacity amounts to a yearly electricity production of 315 GWh.


Energy Efficiency

*Rentened appartments: Increasing number of green energy labels and PV panels*

According to a study published by Aedes (Union of Housing Association) in August 2013, the number of apartments achieving a green energy label (C or above) has increased more in 2012 than in previous years. Moreover, almost twice as many PV panels were installed on rented spaces compared to 2011. In total, more than 250,000 apartments have a better energy label in 2012 than in 2011. According to the final report, the number of homes with an A or B label increased by 52% and 23% respectively.


Poland

Renewable Energy

Auctions as a new support scheme for RES

On 19 August 2013 the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Janusz Piechociński, confirmed that the Polish government is currently working on a new support scheme for renewable energy to replace the system of green certificates. The new scheme would be based on auctions of differentiated contracts.


F-Gases

New guidelines for limitation of the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere

On 13 August 2013, the Polish Council of Ministers adopted guidelines for a draft law on substances that deplete the ozone layer and on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases, as proposed by the Minister of the Environment. The proposed measures are intended to reduce atmospheric emissions of certain fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances mainly from refrigeration, air conditioning and fire protection. The new Act will replace the Act of 20 April 2004 on substances that deplete the ozone layer (Ustawa z 20 kwietnia 2004 r. o substancjach zubożających warstwę ozonową Dz.U. 2004 No. 121, item. 1263).

Read more (in Polish): http://www.mos.gov.pl/artykul/7_aktualnosci/21158_dla_ochrony_powietrza.htm
The current Act available at (in Polish):
http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/Download;jsessionid=1D76BC69A6ECA4500CBB17301873DA5F?id=WDU20041211263&type=3

Other

New website on shale gas

On 14 August 2013, the Polish Ministry of Environment launched a new information website on shale gas (lupki.mos.gov.pl). The website is part of the initiative "Let's talk about shale" („Porozmawiajmy o łupkach”) implemented by the Ministry of Environment and co-financed by the European Union and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej). The website provides information on shale gas exploration in Poland, the existing and forthcoming legislation and on environmental aspects of the extraction.

Read more (in Polish): http://www.mos.gov.pl/artykul/7_aktualnosci/21151_nowa_strona_o_lupkach.html
Portugal

Renewable Energy

*Detailed rules for the allocation of power injection into the grid*

The legal regime of electricity produced from renewable sources was modified in 2012 by the Decree-Law 215-B/2012, which completed the transposition into national legislation of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Recently, Order 243/2013 of 2 August 2013 detailed conditions and criteria for the allocation of power injection into the grid, as well as detailed procedures for obtaining permits (i.e. *licença de produção* and *licença de exploração*) in line with the provisions of DL 215-B/2012.


Waste

*Changes related to rules concerning packaging and packaging waste*

Decree-Law 366-A/97 of 20 December 1997 set rules applicable to the management of packaging and packaging waste, transposing the provisions of Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council into national legislation. The decree aims to reduce the environmental impact of packaging and packaging waste by encouraging the reduction, re-use and recycling of materials; thus, supporting efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Decree-Law 366-A/97 was amended on 2 August 2013 by Decree-Law 110/2013 to include examples of what should be considered packaging and packing waste.

Romania

Energy Generation

*Chevron aims at fourth site for shale gas prospecting in the county of Vaslui*

In August, the District Council (Consiliul Județean) of Vaslui issued the Certificate of Urbanism (certificat de urbanism) for another prospecting site for shale gas in Vaslui County to Chevron Romania. This certificate is a first step in obtaining a construction permit for the prospecting installations. The respective site consists of three lots of land summing up to 29,000 km². In December 2012 and January 2013, Chevron Romania already obtained three Certificates of Urbanism for three other potential prospecting sites in Vaslui County. Chevron Romania will probably obtain construction permits for prospecting installations for these three sites in a next step. The timeline for the permitting procedure is unclear at this point.

Read more (in Romanian): [http://curierulnational.ro/Actualitate%20Companii/2013-08-22/Chevron+va+putea+exploata+gaze+de+sist+in+un+no+nu+za+in+Vaslui](http://curierulnational.ro/Actualitate%20Companii/2013-08-22/Chevron+va+putea+exploata+gaze+de+sist+in+un+no+nu+za+in+Vaslui)


Renewable Energy

*CEZ filed a complaint to the European Commission over delay in Green Certificate issuance*

The Czech energy company CEZ, has filed a complaint to the European Commission against the Romanian Government and its latest decision to postpone the issuance of a share of Green Certificates (GC) until 2017. For example, in case of wind energy 1 out of 2 GCs will be postponed. These postponed GCs will be issued starting with 2018 (see MPU Issues 1 April and 3 June). According to the company, this might lead to losses of € 230 million. The company stated in its complaint that the procedure for emitting the postponed CGs after 2017 has been unclear yet and not regulated by law so far. Thus, the company fears further legal changes with regard to the Romanian Green Certificate Scheme until 2017. The company is the largest investor in renewable energy sources in Romania and operates the largest Romanian wind park of 600 MW in the region of Dobrogea. According to CEZ, the company has invested more than €1 billion in Romania so far. According to the European Commission similar complaints by other companies about Romania’s modifications of its Green Certificate Scheme are currently investigated.


*Spectacular increase in PV capacity in the first half of 2013*

According to the Romanian Transmission System Operator (TSO) Transelectrica, installed capacity of PV installations increased from 49.3 MW on 31 December 2012 to 378.5 MW on
30 June 2013. Thus, installed capacity of PV-installations is now 7.6 times higher. Despite this impressive increase in PV-installations, these projects are still negligible compared to Romania's overall installed electricity generation capacity of approximate 20,000 MW. However, the records of the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE) show that permits have been issued for initiating another 39 PV projects.


Slovakia

Energy Generation

*Slovak Government approves partial budget increase for completion of Mochovce NPP*

At a shareholder meeting with the Slovenské Elektrárne on 31 July 2013, representatives of the Slovak Government and the Italian company Enel agreed to increase the budget for the completion of the Mochovce nuclear power plant by €260 million to a new total of €3.26 billion. It is important to note that the Slovak Government did not meet the original budget request of €800 million, with the Slovak Government leveling complaint against Enel for exceeding both the original budget and time schedule. Enel argues that additional measures were necessary to improve the safe construction and future operation of the plant. The company stresses that the completion of the nuclear power plant was the largest private investment in Slovakia’s history and its termination would have resulted in the loss of many jobs and would have led to a shortfall in public finances.

Slovenia

Renewable Energy

Slovenia’s support for RES is increasing

Slovenia’s Power Market Operator Borzen has published the Periodic Report for the Slovenian Feed-in Support System for the first half-year of 2013. The Support System for RES included nearly 3,200 power plants. The different types of RES-based power plants received payments totaling around € 45 Mio (e.g. hydro: € 4.4 Mio; solar: € 27.4 Mio; biogas and waste: € 7.9 Mio; biomass: € 5.4 Mio). Accordingly, the support from January to June 2013 averaged 141.40 €/MWh. In comparison with the first half-year of 2012, the support payments increased by 33%. The support increased in particular for solar power plants (46%), whereas it declined with regards to biogas plants. The reasons for this development can be explained by the massive connection of solar power plants in recent years and, on the other hand, the various difficulties associated with initiating biogas plants in Slovenia.

Read more (only available in Slovene): http://www.borzen.si/si/cp/Shared%20Documents/2013-6M-CP-objava.pdf
Spain

Renewable Energy

Production quotas of biodiesel not assigned
The Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (MINETUR) has failed to assign the production quotas of biodiesel. The process was initiated according to law via a resolution of MINETUR itself on the 9 February 2013. According to that resolution, the production quotas should have been assigned before the 10 August 2013.

Read more (in Spanish): http://www.energias-renovables.com/articulo/nuevo-varapalo-de-industria-al-biodiesel--20130801

Further negative reactions to the electricity sector reform
Following Royal Legislative Decree 9/2013, which substantially reformed the energy sector in Spain, the government received strong criticism from different actors in the energy market. In the month of August, in particular, the Association for Energy Saving and Efficiency (ANAE) indicated that the new regulation for self-consumption installation will increase amortization period for an investment from an average of 5.7 years to an average of 17. The Spanish Union of the Photovoltaic Sector (UNEF) has also lamented that the new regulations for self-consumptions will strongly limit the benefits of investing in renewables.

Read more (in Spanish): http://www.eldiario.es/economia/Gobierno-frena-efficiencia-autoconsumo-energetico_0_159584663.html
Sweden

No important developments identified in August 2013 regarding climate or energy policies.
United Kingdom

Renewable Energy

The offshore wind industrial strategy launched

On 1 August 2013, the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Energy Secretary Edward Davey launched a strategy aiming at reinforcing the UK’s position in offshore wind industry. As announced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the government will provide 20 million GBP (approx. € 23 million) for the new Manufacturing Advisory Service programme – GROW: Offshore Wind - in order to back up the supply chain of UK’s wind industry. The announced funding will come from the Regional Growth Fund. Additional 46 million GBP (approx. € 55.5 million) will be provided to the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Centre to foster innovation leading to new products on the market.

It is estimated that the UK offshore wind energy industry could create 30,000. Moreover, 7 billion GBP (approx. € 8 billion) can potentially be contributed to country’s economy.

Read more: http://www.growoffshorewind.com/

Statistics on Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, obligation period 5 published

On 1 August 2013, the Department for Transport (DfT) published its fourth report out of six providing statistics on the fifth obligation period (15 April 2012 to 14 April 2013) of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Inter alia, the report contains data on the amount of UK road transport fuel from fossil fuels and from renewable energy sources, as well as the number of Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) issued to suppliers of sustainable renewable fuel. According to the report, 1,337 million litres of renewable fuel have been supplied between 15 April 2012 and 14 April 2013, of which 1,031 million litres (77%) have been verified to be sustainable. Of the sustainable renewable fuel, bioethanol accounted for 56% of supply, followed by biodiesel (FAME) 39%. Biomethanol and methyl tertiary butyl either (MTBE) accounted for 5% of supply. In addition, there were small amounts of biogas and pure vegetable oil. During the fifth obligation period, 1,465 million RTFCs have been issued to the suppliers of sustainable renewable fuel.


25 million GBP funding for advanced biofuel demonstration projects

On 1 August 2013, Transport Minister Norman Baker announced a 25 million GBP (approx. € 29 million) funding for demonstration projects covering construction of waste to fuel and other advanced biofuel plants in order to support UK’s biofuel industry. According to the Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey, advanced biofuels have a great potential to contribute to the achievement of UK’s 2020 renewable energy targets, as well as to country’s long-term decarbonisation targets.
The announced funding will be provided for three years from 2015 onwards. Further details on the scheme shall be provided in autumn 2013.

Read more: http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/aug/01/uk-biofuel-plants-prize

Draft terms of the Contracts for Difference and Allocation Methodology for Renewable Generation published by DECC

On 7 August 2013, the DECC published the draft terms of the Contracts for Difference (CfD), as well as the Allocation Methodology for Renewable Generation. The published documents are complementary to the draft Electricity Market Reform (EMR) delivery plan published in July (see MPU Issue 4) and shall provide low-carbon energy generators and investors with policy certainty and secure their willingness to invest in major energy projects.

Industry is invited to provide feedback on the draft terms of CfD by the end of the summer. Final terms are expected to be published by the government in December 2013.


New sustainability criteria for biomass from 1 April 2015 onwards

From 1 April 2015 onwards, financial support under the Renewable Obligation (RO) will be provided only to those electricity generators using solid biomass or biogas feedstock and with generating capacity of 1 MW or more that will meet criteria for sustainable forest management. In addition, together with the annually provided sustainability report, these generators will be required to submit an independent sustainability audit. The new criteria are inter alia based on sustainable harvesting rates, protection of biodiversity, as well as respect of rights of indigenous populations.

The DECC announced that no further unilateral changes will be made to the sustainability criteria prior to April 2027. According to Greg Barker, Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, "the new criteria will provide the necessary investor certainty and, crucially, ensure that the biomass is delivered in a transparent and sustainable way."

Read more: http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/aug/22/regulations-fresh-row-biomass-power

Energy Efficiency

Statistics on Domestic Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation published

On 20 August 2013, the DECC published the statistical release on the Domestic Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) in Great Britain. The data disclosed that by the end of July 2013, 58,124 Green Deal Assessments were submitted; 286 households received offers from Green Deal Providers and confirmed that they would like to proceed; and 132 households signed the Green Deal Plan and already made some progress with
installing energy efficiency measures. The figures are rather lagging behind expectations. However, though the scheme has been launched in the end of January 2013, due to software and legal problems finance packages have been available only since May.

The statistical release also provides that by the end of June 2013 149,681 measures have been installed under the ECO; of which loft insulation accounts for 45%, cavity wall insulation for 33% and boiler upgrades for 18%. However, these are only provisional data, which still need to be checked by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem).


Energy Networks

*Modifications to the Transmission Use of System (TNUoS) charging methodology discussed*

On 1 August 2013, Ofgem announced its intention to approve modifications to the Transmission Use of System (TNUoS) charging methodology that regulates payments by generators for the use of electricity transmission grid in Great Britain. The new charges would be applicable from 1 April 2014 onwards.

The proposed amendments aim at facilitating timely transition to a low carbon energy sector and at the same time ensuring a stable and efficient supply of electricity in Great Britain's transmission network. As result of the amendments, the methodology would take better account of the type of electricity generator and the way the electricity grid is being used for the electricity transmission to demand location. The amended methodology would retain the currently established "locational element", i.e. generators situated further from the electricity demand would still face greater charges. In this way, the transmission network operation and upgrade costs are taken into account.


Waste

*Consultation on England’s Waste Prevention Programme launched*

On 6 August 2013, a consultation on a new Waste Prevention Programme for England has been launched, which is open until 23 September 2013. Stakeholders (local authorities, consumers and private companies) may provide their feedback on a range of proposals *inter alia* on potential savings by companies and local authorities through reducing waste and managing resources or increasing access to information on waste reduction. In addition, Government offers proposals on how to design longer lasting products, containing less hazardous parts, and how to diminish environmental impact of waste created by them.

The Waste Prevention Programme is part of the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and is scheduled to be finalized in December 2013.

Read more: [https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste/waste_prevention/](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste/waste_prevention/)