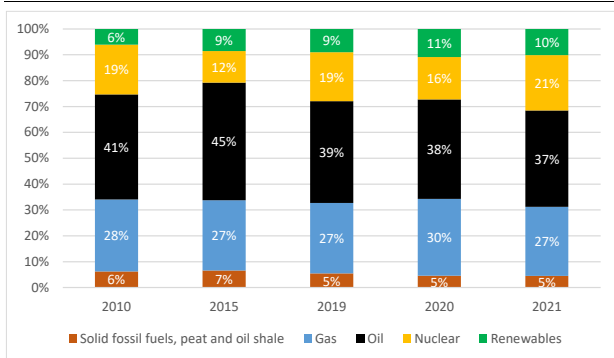


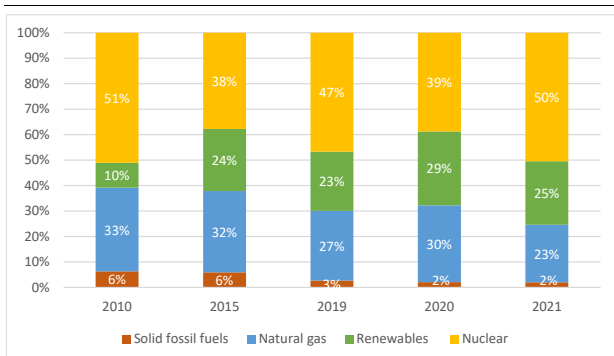
Key energy figures

Graph 1: Energy mix



Source: Eurostat

Graph 2: Electricity mix



Source: Eurostat

Saving energy

1. Key energy savings measures

Belgium is implementing energy efficiency measures to reduce further its reliance on gas.

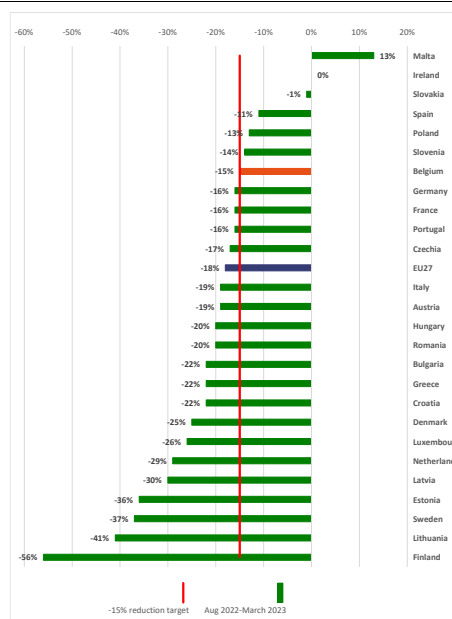
- National **awareness-raising campaigns** (“J’ai un impact”, April 2022).
- **Measures in the public sector:** reduced lighting, temperature control, energy efficiency of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, insulation, which lead to a decrease of **2.4 TWh** between December 2022 and February 2023).
- **Measures in the private sector** (higher premiums for renovation, insulation, hybrid heat pumps), and in **industry** (demand side management, fuel switch with

28.5TWh/y that have been replaced with alternative fuels, mainly oil).

2. Gas Demand Reduction

Belgium has reduced its gas consumption by **14.5%** in the period **August 2022-March 2023**, below the decrease of EU consumption (18%) and slightly lower than the 15% voluntary gas demand reduction agreed at the EU level ⁽¹⁾.

Graph 3: Natural gas demand reduction (August 2022-March 2023)



(1) Cyprus does not use natural gas

Source: Eurostat, DG ENER calculations

Diversification of energy supplies

1. Key actions

Import dependency from Russian natural gas was 12% in 2021 (equalling to 3.9 bcm). Between January and March 2023, Belgium received 2.5 bcm of Russian gas via LNG (vs. 5 bcm in 2022) ⁽²⁾.

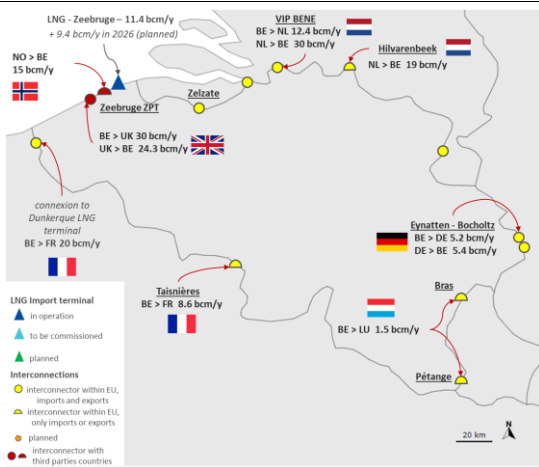
2. Gas Infrastructure Developments

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/1369 of the Council of 5 August 2022.

⁽²⁾ European Commission (based on Refinitiv and ENTSO-G).

Belgium has gas pipeline connections to six countries⁽³⁾: Netherlands, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, and France. It has a large liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification terminal in Zeebrugge. As a result, Belgium could increase the LNG imports and export gas to neighbouring countries in 2022. The government planned to increase the export capacity from Belgium to Germany. The project is included in the 5th Projects of Common Interest List, with a reported additional 9 bcm/y export capacity for 2023.

Map 1: **LNG terminals and cross-border interconnections**



(1) Existing gasification capacity in Zeebrugge: 2 million cubic metres/hour; 11.4 bcm/year; two more units under construction (3.9 bcm/year in 2024; 1.8 bcm/year in 2026).

Source: DG ENER

3. Gas Storage

Belgium operates one underground storage facility⁽⁴⁾ with a total capacity of around 0.8 bcm, representing only 4% of its total yearly demand.

Belgium reached 100% of its underground storage level by 1 November 2022⁽⁵⁾ and ended the

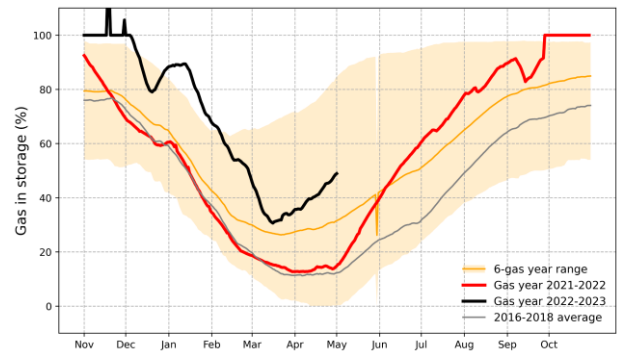
⁽³⁾ Gas pipeline connections to: Netherlands (49 bcm/year for imports, 12 bcm/year for exports), Germany (10 bcm/year), the UK (20 bcm/25 bcm), Norway (import capacity of 15 bcm/year), Luxembourg (export capacity of 1.5 bcm/year) and France (export capacity of 28.5 bcm/year).

⁽⁴⁾ Belgium has one underground storage facility: Loenhout managed by Fluxys.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2022 amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1938 and (EC) No 715/2009 with regard to gas storage.

heating season with a filling gas storage at 48.29% by 2 May 2023.

Graph 4: **Storage levels in Belgium**



Source: JRC calculation based on AGSI+ Transparency Platform, 2022

4. Nuclear fuel diversification

Nuclear capacity (6 GW in 2021) was initially set to be phased out completely by 2025. However, in **April 2022** the Belgium government decided to continue operating **2 GW until 2035**. Negotiations are ongoing between the government and the plant owners.

Energy Platform

Regional Group of reference: North-West Europe.

National companies participating to the Industrial Advisory Group: Eurogas, European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), Hydrogen Europe (HE).

On Wednesday, May 10, the European Union launched its first international tender for joint gas purchases. A total of 25 international suppliers and more than 110 companies have decided to participate and intend to purchase 11.6 billion cubic meters of gas. Deliveries are expected to take place between June 2023 and May 2024.

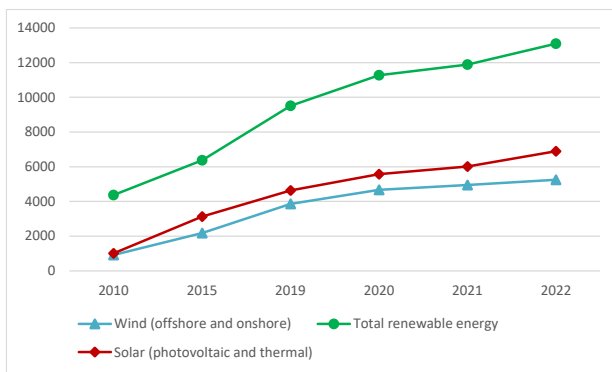
Accelerating clean energy

1. Installed Renewable Capacity

In **2022**, Belgium installed around 1.2 GW of renewable capacity, bringing the total to **13 GW** (vs. 11.8 GW in 2021).

In **2022**, the annual growth rate of installed renewables power capacity rose to **10%**, compared to only 5% in 2021.

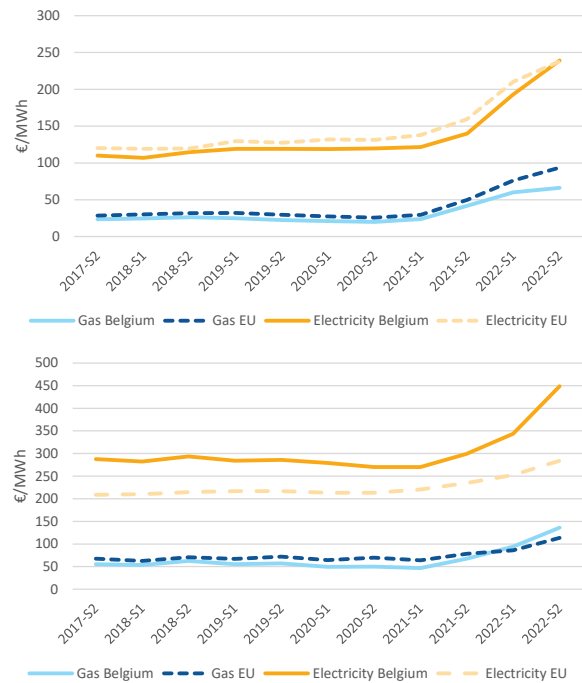
Graph 5: **Installed wind and solar power capacity (in megawatt)**



(1) The renewable power capacity data reflects the capacity installed and connected at the end of the calendar year.
 (2) In 2022, Belgium installed around 0.3 GW of wind power capacity (vs. 0.2 GW in 2021)
 (3) In 2022, Belgium installed around 0.8 GW of solar power capacity (vs. 0.4 GW in 2021)
Source: IRENA, RE Capacity statistics, 2023

Energy price developments

Graph 6: **Belgium's energy retail prices for industry (top) and households (bottom)**



(1) On electricity, the band consumption is for DC households and ID for industry
 (2) On gas, the band consumption is D2 for households and I4 for industry
Source: Eurostat

Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)

- **EUR 4.5 billion in grants** (updated, representing approximately 1% of 2021 GDP).
- **No loans requested yet**
- **Adoption date by Council: 13 July 2021**
- **First payment request in preparation**
- The first annual RRF event with stakeholders took place on 23 March 2023.
- **Climate target:** 49.6%