

Important notice: this report has been submitted in the language of the Member State, which is the sole authentic version. Translation into the English language is being provided for information purposes only. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data or information provided in the translation, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.

Report to the EU in accordance with the Renewable Electricity Directive (2001/77/EC)

Article 3(3)

“Member States shall publish, for the first time not later than 27 October 2003 and thereafter every two years, a report which includes an analysis of success in meeting the national indicative targets taking account, in particular, of climatic factors likely to affect the achievement of those targets and which indicates to what extent the measures taken are consistent with the national climate change commitment.”

Article 6

1. Member States or the competent bodies appointed by the Member States shall evaluate the existing legislative and regulatory framework with regard to authorisation procedures or the other procedures laid down in Article 4 of Directive 96/92/EC, which are applicable to production plants for electricity produced from renewable energy sources, with a view to:

- Reducing the regulatory and the non-regulatory barriers to the increase in electricity production from renewable energy sources,
- Streamlining and expediting procedures at the appropriate administrative level, and
- Ensuring that the rules are objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, and take fully into account the particularities of the various renewable energy source technologies.

2. Member States shall publish, not later than 27 October 2003, a report on the evaluation referred to in paragraph 1, indicating, where appropriate, the actions taken. The purpose of this report is to provide, where this is appropriate in the context of national legislation, an indication of the stage reached specifically in:

- Co-ordination between the different administrative bodies as regards deadlines, reception and treatment of applications for authorisations,
- Drawing up possible guidelines for the activities referred to in paragraph 1, and the feasibility of a fast-track planning procedure for producers of electricity from renewable energy sources, and the designation of authorities to act as ‘mediators’.”

**Report in accordance with the European Directive on Renewable Electricity –
Attainment of the national indicative targets
Progress report on the measures taken**

1. Introduction

By this report, the Dutch Government meets its obligations as laid down in Article 3(3) and Article 6(2) of Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2001 on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market (OJ L 283).

2. The Dutch targets for renewable electricity and climate protection

The Dutch target for attaining renewable electricity generation as formulated in EU Directive 2001/77/EC is 9% in 2010.

The Dutch climate target is a 6% reduction of greenhouse gases in the period from 2008 to 2012 in relation to 1990 emission levels (Parl. Doc. II 1999/2000 27 089 (R 1652), No 2, p. 2). The Climate Policy Implementation Memorandum lays down an interim target of 5% renewable energy in 2010. This is consistent with the Kyoto objectives laid down in the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention (Bulletin of Treaties, Trb. 1998, 170 and 1999, 110). Any measures contributing to increasing the share of renewable electricity in national electricity supply therefore also contribute to attaining the climate objective.

3. Achieving the national indicative targets

In 2003 electricity production from renewable energy sources in the Netherlands was 3645 GWh and in 2004 it was 4956 GWh. In 2003 and 2004 total electricity consumption was 109 789 GWh and 112 893 GWh respectively. The share of national renewable electricity production in national consumption was therefore 3.32% in 2003 and 4.39% in 2004. Table 1 shows the contribution of the various production methods for renewable electricity to total production in 2002 to 2004. The principal growth was in the use of biomass and wind energy, which are by far the most important sustainable energy options in the Netherlands. Given current trends, it is expected that the 9% target can be properly achieved in 2010.

Table 1 Electricity production (GWh) from renewable energy sources in the Netherlands.

	2002	2003	2004
Electricity sources, total	1 073	1 421	2 006
Hydropower	110	72	97
Wind energy	946	1318	1 876
Solar energy	17	31	33
Bio-energy, total	2 024	116	2 441
Waste incineration	942	959	902
Biomass incineration	1 082	757	1 539
Other	532	508	509
Total national production	3 629	3 645	4 956

CO₂ emission reduction

According to the method used, laid down in the Renewable Energy Monitoring Protocol, national renewable electricity production has led to a 3.43 Mton CO₂ emission reduction in 2003 and 4.35 Mton in 2004.

Climatological factors

Wind supply in the Netherlands and water supply in the country's rivers are climatological factors that have a significant impact on generating renewable electricity.

Wind

Annual wind supply is recorded on the basis of an index which is the quotient of the wind supply measured in one year and the average wind supply (since 1988). In 2003 wind supply was 79% of this average: index = 79. In 2004 wind supply was 92% of this average: index = 92. (*source: WSH*).

Water

Water supply in the country's rivers in 2003 was about 72% of the multi-annual average (based on the Rhine and Maas rivers: 2 117 m³/s) and in 2004 it was about 82% of the multi-annual average (*source: RIZA*).

4. Measures to stimulate renewable electricity

The Dutch Government deploys a wide range of instruments to stimulate renewable electricity. These can be divided into financial and non-financial measures.

Financial measures

- Environmental Quality of Electricity Production (MEP). In July 2003 the Environmental Quality of Electricity Production scheme (MEP scheme) was introduced to encourage investment in sustainable energy. Under the MEP scheme, Dutch producers of renewable electricity feeding into the public grid receive a fixed fee per kWh for a guaranteed period of ten years. The amount of subsidy covers the unprofitable component and therefore differs for each renewable energy option, with the amount of subsidy for offshore wind energy taken as the maximum. The MEP scheme is linked with a system of green certificates. The subsidy is financed by all electricity consumers who pay a levy specifically for this scheme but are compensated for this through income tax. The MEP scheme stimulates the supply of renewable energy. With the introduction of the MEP scheme, the earlier subsidy scheme (Regulatory Energy Tax, REB), which was related to the renewable energy demand, has been phased out. In light of experience gained with the MEP scheme, the legislation governing the scheme will be adapted on a number of points next year. However, the principal characteristics of the scheme (covering the unprofitable component and providing a guaranteed fixed amount of subsidy throughout the MEP period) will remain unchanged.
- Energy Investment Deduction scheme (EIA). This is a scheme providing tax incentives for investment in renewable energy projects.

- CO₂ Reduction Plan. Under this scheme, incentives are provided for projects that may reduce CO₂ emission. Renewable energy projects occupy a prominent place under this scheme.
- Subsidies Decree for Renewable Energy Programs in the Netherlands (BSE-DEN). Under this decree, a budget was made available in 2003 and 2004 to stimulate R&D projects for renewable energy, feasibility studies, knowledge transfer and demonstration projects.

Non-financial instruments

The study of remaining problems in the legislative area with regard to achieving renewable energy projects, reported on in 2003, has in the meantime produced a number of specific results:

- In 2003 mention was made of the Dutch Government's **Better Administration for Citizens and Industry (B4)** scheme of 2002 which was intended to simplify the complexity of legislation and licensing procedures. Within the B4 framework, the focus in 2003/2004 was on energy projects, including wind energy and biomass. Further to the latest analysis (2004), it was decided to apply the possibilities provided for in the Spatial Planning Regulation (WRO) for streamlining licensing procedures to wind energy projects and biomass projects > 50 MW. This is known as the National Projects Procedure (RPP). The aim of the RPP is to reduce the period required for amending land-use plans (by local authorities) from several years to one year, where possible. Furthermore, the time to complete other licensing procedures required for a project is also reduced on the basis of the RPP. This can be achieved by bringing together all licences into a single consultation procedure in which objections can be raised and in which there is only one single appeal possible for all licences together. The Ministry of Economic Affairs will be in charge of energy projects for which the RPP procedure is used. To this end, preparations are under way to set up a separate projects office at the Ministry. The abovementioned changes to the wind energy and biomass project procedures (under the RPP) require further adjustments of existing legislation. It is expected that in 2006 the RPP will be ready for use with renewable energy projects.
- The **Biomass Action Plan**, which in the 2003 report was also discussed under the section concerning the "study of remaining problems", was presented to the Lower House of Parliament at the end of 2003. The Biomass Action Plan takes stock of outstanding problems hampering the use of biomass in the Netherlands, involving all stakeholders. The problems still outstanding are divided into six areas: 1) financial-economic problems, 2) licensing problems, 3) communication, 4) biomass supply and availability, 5) problems concerning knowledge and technology, and finally 6) problems concerning the "level playing field within the EU". The main visible result produced to date (summer 2005) under the Biomass Action Plan is a Bio-energy Projects Implementation Guide which contains specific recommendations to expedite and improve the construction of bio-energy installations. Activities intended to tackle problems within the abovementioned areas are continued in various ways, including in the Renewable Energy Supply Platform.

In this context, it is also appropriate to highlight the fact that in 2004 the Dutch Government decided to start up a general Licences Project. The project covers all licensing procedures which industry has to follow. In this framework, a licensing

simplification task force was set up in April 2004 to make specific proposals which for industry should lead to a quicker and efficient way of granting licences and reducing administrative costs. In the meantime, the task force has presented its report, leading to a follow-up process which should produce specific results at the end of 2006 (e.g. fewer licences).

The sections below provide an overview of other non-financial activities and measures pursued by the Dutch Government in 2003/2004 which are of significance for the procedures involved in the use of renewable energy in the Netherlands.

Wind energy

- In 2002, an agreement (BLOW) on land-based wind energy was concluded between the central government, the provinces and the municipalities with the aim of achieving at least 1500 MW wind capacity by 2010. Each province has been assigned a specific task. Halfway through 2004, the 1000 MW milestone of total implemented wind energy capacity was attained. The BLOW reports for 2003 and 2004 also show that good progress is being made. It is expected that the 1500 MW target will be amply achieved.
- Activities of the Wind Energy Task Force (TFW) whose main task is to overcome administrative problems and ensure that stagnating wind energy projects are reactivated.
- A pool of experts operating within the SenterNovem implementing organisation, to which local authorities in particular may turn for support in preparing wind energy projects.
- Regional guidance through customised support from SenterNovem.
- Establishment of an administrative/legal framework for the development of offshore wind energy.
- Study of the integration of 6000 MW offshore wind capacity in the land-based electricity grid, focussing among other things on licensing procedures.

Biomass

- Guidance by SenterNovem for initiators of small-scale projects.
- Stimulating municipalities and provinces (via SenterNovem) in starting up projects.

Building-related renewable energy (GGDE, including solar energy)

- Stimulating municipalities (through SenterNovem) to incorporate building-related renewable energy early in the building process.
- Stimulating housing corporations with GGDE potential to make practical use of this form of energy.