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Renewable Energies Grow Strongly Again in 2007

Germany is well on the way to meeting its ambitious targets for the expansion of renewable energies. This is demonstrated by the most recent data on the development of renewable energies in 2007, which have been published today by the German Federal Environment Ministry. According to calculations carried out by the Working Group on Renewable Energies – Statistics (AGEE-Stat), renewable energies achieved a share of 14.2 percent of gross electricity consumption in 2007. This is one fifth more than the previous year. The increase recorded in one year is therefore enough to supply a city the size of Hamburg with electricity.

Although its growth has slowed down somewhat, wind energy supplied by far the largest share of the electricity generated from renewable energies. This trend was reinforced by the fact that, after two generally low-wind years, 2007 was characterised by an above-average supply of wind. There were also marked advances when it came to the generation of electricity from biomass, which – together with landfill and sewage gas and the organic share of waste – overtook hydropower for the first time.

Taken altogether, renewable energies supplied about 222 terawatt hours (TWh) of energy in the electricity, heating and fuel sectors in 2007. Their share of Germany's total energy consumption therefore rose to 8.5 percent last year. In 2007, renewable energies saved a total of approx. 114 million tonnes of CO2; of which about 57 million tonnes were attributable solely to the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG).

Renewable energies have become ever more important as an economic factor. For instance, turnover from the installation and operation of plants in Germany rose by nearly 10 percent to approximately 24.6 billion euros. This was also associated with further growth in the number of jobs in the sector, which now employs about 249,000 people.

This year, with its revision of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), the German Federal Government is setting the parameters for the continued stable expansion of renewable energies in electricity generation. In addition to this, the preconditions for faster progress on the heating market will also be put in place with the adoption of the Renewable Heat Act (EEWärmeG). Germany is therefore consolidating its role as a pioneer in the expansion of renewable energies.

Increases in the consumption of renewable energies in individual sectors from 2006 to 2007 in Germany (final energy in TWh; 1 terawatt hour is 1 billion kWh):

Electricity
Heating
Fuel
Total

Changes

2006
2007
2006
2007
2006
2007
2006
2007
2006/2007

[TWh]
[%]

All figures provisional as at March 2008; any inconsistencies due to rounding of figures.
* Solid, liquid, gaseous biomass, biogenic share of waste, landfill and sewage gas.
Sources: BMU based on data supplied by the Working Group on Renewable Energies - Statistics (AGEE-Stat).

Hydropower
20,0
20,7
-
-

20,0
20,7
+ 3,5%

Wind energy
30,7
39,5
-
-

30,7
39,5
+ 28,7%

Biomass*
19,2
23,8
78,8
84,2
40,4
44,4
138,4
152,4
+ 10,1%

Photovoltaics
2,2
3,5
-
-

2,2
3,5
+ 59,1%

Solar thermal energy
-
-
3,3
3,7

3,3
3,7
+ 12,1%

Geothermal energy
< 0,1
< 0,1

1,9
2,3

1,9
2,3
+ 21,1%

Total
72,1
87,5
84,0
90,2
40,4
44,4
196,5
222,0
+ 13,0%

Note: The figures published by the Federal Environment Ministry for 2007 are provisional.

Further Information:

- Graphics and tables: Development of renewable energy sources in Germany in 2007