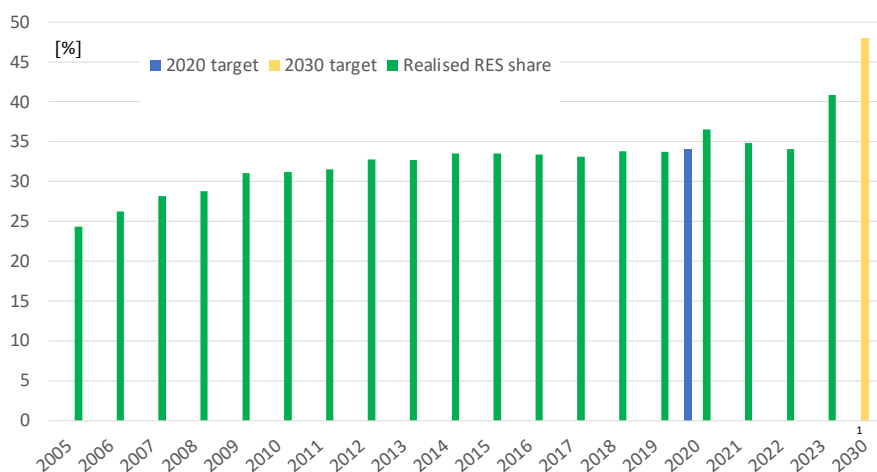


Austria

Renewable energy status

Share of energy from renewable sources in total gross final energy consumption



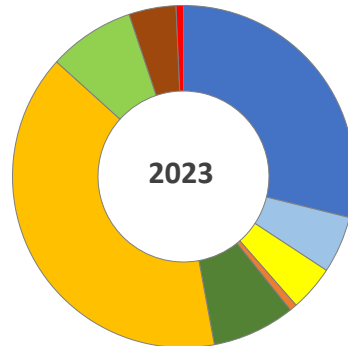
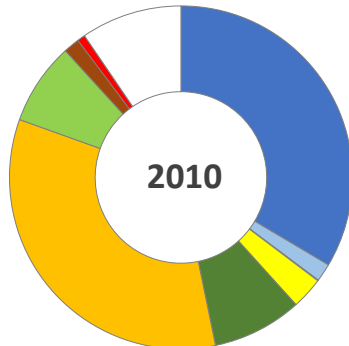
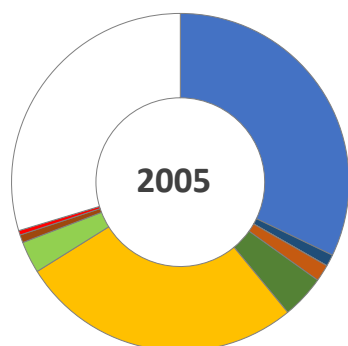
Source: Eurostat

Abbreviations used:

RES: renewable energy sources
RES-E: renewable electricity
RES-H/C: renewable heating/cooling
RES-T: renewable transport fuels

Data for 2023

Overall RES share: 33.8%
Overall RES 2020 target: 23.0%
Overall RES 2030 target: 87.76%
Share RES-E in electricity: 13.21%
Share RES-T in transport: 39.39%
Share RES-H/C in heating: 33,8%
Avoided fossil fuels: 5.5 [Mtoe]
Avoided fuel expenses: 2 968[MEUR]
RES Turnover: 6 290 [MEUR]
RES Employment: 33 600 [jobs]
RES imports²: 844 [MEUR]
RES exports²: 197 [MEUR]



■ Hydropower
■ Wind power
■ Solar PV and CSP
■ Solid biofuels
■ RES in transport
■ Renewable heat consumed
■ Renewable heat derived
■ Heat pumps
■ All other renewables
□ Gap towards 2020

Source: Eurostat

	2005	2010	2023		
	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Employment in FTE	Turnover in MEUR
Hydropower	3 303.5	3 447.6	3 681,1	2 700	500
Wind power	114.9	174.7	686,6	3 100	570
Solar PV, and CSP	1.8	7.6	549,9	9 700	1 710
Solid biomass	164.7	308.7	88,6	8 500	1 8300
Ren. energy in transport ³	427.1	871.1	1 001,7	2 800	430
Renew. heat consumed	2 787.2	3 466.5	5 048,5		
Renew. heat derived	314.1	797	1 040,1		
Heat pumps	77.7	155.8	568,4	3 900	730
All other renewables	43.9	76.7	88,6	2 900	520

Source: Eurostat, EurObserv'ER

FTE = Full time equivalent, PV=Photovoltaics, CSP=Concentrated Solar Power. Biofuels in transport only covers compliant fuels (employment and turnover additionally cover the non-compliant biofuels). Derived heat includes heat produced in main activity producer plants and heat sold produced in auto-producer plants. Its counterpart is the final heat consumption in the final consumption sectors (such as households).

¹ From Integrated National Energy Climate Plan

² Referring to the International Trade chapter from the publication: EurObserv'ER - *The State of Renewable Energy in Europe, 2024 edition*

³ Employment and turnover are only referring to biofuels in transport.



CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

RES-E

The Renewable Energy Expansion Act (EAG), effective since 2022, targets 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2040. It supports renewable energy via market premiums, investment subsidies, energy communities, and the Austrian Grid Infrastructure Plan (ÖNIP). Market premiums for photovoltaic, biomass, wind, and hydropower are set through tenders or administrative applications. The Electricity Investment Subsidy Ordinance 2024 offers subsidies for photovoltaic systems, hydropower, wind power, and biomass, processed via the EAG center managed by OeMAG. Additional provincial funding exists for renewables and energy efficiency.

RES H&C

The Austrian Renewable Heat Act, effective from 29 February 2024, prohibits fossil-powered heating systems in new buildings. It aims to phase out coal heating by 2035 and all fossil gas heating by 2040. The "Away from Oil and Gas" campaign, with a budget of EUR 2,445 million for 2023-2027, supports the transition to renewable heating. Additionally, Austrian provinces offer subsidies for eco-friendly heating systems.

Meanwhile, the proposed Green Gas Act (Erneuerbares-Gas-Gesetz, EGG) to replace natural gas with renewable gas failed to pass the Nationalrat (Parliament) in July 2024. The proposed legislation aimed to gradually replace a certain proportion of natural gas with renewable gas. Under the draft, gas suppliers providing gas to Austrian end-consumers in exchange for payment would be required to substitute 0.35% of the gas volumes supplied with renewable gas. By 31 December 2030, gas suppliers should have replaced 9.75% – equivalent to a minimum of 7.5 TWh – of the gas volumes distributed to end-consumers in 2030 with renewable gases. It is highly unlikely that this act will come into force.

RES-T

Austria has already set itself the following targets for 2030: By 2030, Austria wants to be in first place in the EU-27 in terms of the proportion of new registrations of zero-emission cars. At least 1.6 million fully electric cars should be on the road in Austria by 2030. Austria is one of 33 countries that joined the Global Memorandum of Understanding on Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles (Global MOU), committed to reaching 100% zero-emission sales in 2040 and 30% by 2030 at COP28 and is among only a few countries worldwide which has an electric vehicle support policy with a direct link to support for renewable power.

In addition to numerous tax reliefs, there purchase incentives for electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure through several funding programmes are available. Depending on the investment and type of funding applicant (private individuals, companies, local authorities), different funding programmes can be used. In addition to the federal government, some federal states also provide funding.

Table 1: Brief description of key policy instruments aimed at promoting RES in Austria

Instrument	Description
Climate Protection Act (Klimaschutzgesetz 2023, KSG)	<p>The Climate Protection Act (KSG), last amended in 2017, set maximum emission limits for various sectors until 2020 and regulated the development and implementation of effective climate protection measures.</p> <p>Even though the KSG did not include sector targets beyond 2020, it has not "expired" or been "repealed," and the coordination and reporting obligations still apply.</p> <p>Progress reports on the implementation of the KSG are to present to the National Council.</p> <p>https://www.bmk.gv.at/en/topics/climate-environment/climate-protection/austrian-climate-change-act.html</p>
Renewable Energy Expansion Act (Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz, EAG)	<p>The Renewable Energy Expansion Act (EAG) is the most important law for increasing the share of renewable energies in Austria's electricity production to 100% by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality in the country by 2040. It came into force in 2022 and regulates the central aspects of the support for renewable energies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market premium • Investment subsidies (grants) • Promotion of energy communities • Introduction of the Austrian Grid Infrastructure Plan (ÖNIP)
Market premium	<p>In Austria with the EAG market premiums based on tendering procedures and, market premiums based on application were implemented.</p> <p>A market premium can be secured through a tendering process for photovoltaic, hydropower, wind, biomass, and green gas facilities. For 2024, the annual tender volumes are set at 1,150,000 kW peak for photovoltaic, 15,000 kW for biomass, 582,000 kW for wind power, and 40,000 kW for joint tenders for wind and hydropower installations. Call for tender are</p> <p>With an administrative market premium, the premium is granted on application according to administratively determined subsidy amounts - in contrast to the tenders, the values to be applied are not determined on a project-specific basis, but on a technology-related basis (and in some cases differentiated according to output, fuel, etc.). The administered market premiums have lower tender volumes (system capacity of less than 500 kWp).</p> <p>The market premium is typically paid monthly.</p>

	<p>The Green Electricity Settlement Agency (Abwicklungsstelle für Ökostrom AG, OeMAG) was entrusted with the tasks of the EAG processing centre, i.e. the allocation, processing and monitoring of subsidies under the EAG.</p>
<p>Electricity Investment Subsidy Ordinance 2024 (EAG-Investitionszuschüsseverordnung-Strom-Novelle 2024)</p>	<p>The Electricity Investment Subsidy Ordinance 2024 regulates how and for what subsidies can be applied for. It came into force on 15 May 2024. Subsidies are provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and expansion photovoltaic system and electricity storage system up 1,000 kWp • New construction and revitalization of hydropower up to 2 MW • New construction and revitalization of wind power plants from 20 kW up to 1 MW • New construction and revitalization of biomass up to 50 kWel <p>Since 2024, applications have been submitted via the EAG processing centre: www.eag-abwicklungsstelle.at (German only)</p> <p>Additional to the federal level funding schemes, there are programmes for renewables and energy efficiency at provincial level.</p>
<p>Renewable Heat Act (Erneuerbaren-Wärme-Gesetz, EWG)</p>	<p>The Austrian Renewable Heat Act, which came into force on 29 February 2024 is part of the Austrian Heat Strategy.</p> <p>The law focuses on the prohibition of fossil-powered central or decentralised heating systems in new buildings by 2024. The initial draft of the Act planned to phase out coal heating systems by 2035, followed by the complete decommissioning of all fossil-powered gas heating systems by 2040.</p>
<p>Initiative “Away from Oil and Gas”</p>	<p>The campaign “Away from Oil and Gas” is to assist consumers, municipalities, and businesses in transitioning from oil-fired and gas-fired heating systems to renewable energy sources-based alternatives.</p> <p>The campaign has been allocated a budget of EUR 2,445 million for the period from 2023 to 2027. Additionally, Austrian provinces offer their own subsidy programs to support the adoption of environmental-friendly heating systems.</p>
<p>2030 Mobility Master Plan and Action programme: Renewable energy in mobility</p>	<p>Federal Subsidies for E-Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Mobility Funding for Private Individuals (2024): Supports the purchase of M1 and N1 electric cars, e-bikes, e-mopeds, e-motorcycles, e-light vehicles, and charging infrastructure. • E-Mobility Funding for Companies (2024): Provides support for companies, local authorities, and associations purchasing electric commercial vehicles, mopeds, motorbikes, and charging infrastructure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission-Free Commercial Vehicles and Infrastructure (ENIN): Funds the conversion of company fleets to non-fossil fuel vehicles and associated charging infrastructure through competitive tenders. • Emission-Free Buses and Infrastructure (EBIN): Supports the conversion of buses to emission-free drives and necessary infrastructure, aiming for 682 buses by 2026. • Charging Infrastructure in Underserved Areas (LADIN): Focuses on expanding fast-charging infrastructure in areas lacking access.
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For further information:

AustriaTech: Support Schemes RES-T (in German), <https://www.austriatech.at/de/ole-foerdersysteme/>

EAG processing centre (EAG-Förderabwicklungsstelle): <https://www.eag-abwicklungsstelle.at/>
(in German only)

Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy Mobility, Innovation and Technology (*Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie, BMK*);
https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/energiewende/erneuerbare/foerderungen/marktpraemie.html

Green Electricity Settlement Agency (Abwicklungsstelle für Ökostrom AG, OeMAG) (in German): <https://www.oem-ag.at/de/home/>
<https://www.klimaaktiv.at/foerderungen/aktionsprogramm-aktive-mobilitaet-mobilitaetsmanagement.html>

International Energy Agency (EA, 2024): Global EV Outlook 2024

Renewable Gases Service Center (in German):
https://www.erneuerbaresgas.at/news/erneuerbares-gas-gesetz_gescheitert

What is meant by ...?

Auctions for granting renewable energy support	An auction is a process of granting production or investment support to renewable energy projects based on the lowest bids by eligible project developers.
Feed-in tariff (FiT)	A support scheme which provides for a technology-specific remuneration per unit of renewable energy payable to eligible renewable energy producers. A proper, periodic review of FiT rates is often undertaken with the aim to prevent both too high FiTs so as to minimise regulatory rents, i.e. supra-normal returns and too low FiTs to preclude below-target market uptake because of FiT levels that are perceived by market participants to be less attractive. In addition, feed-in tariffs often include "tariff degression", a mechanism according to which the price (or tariff) ratchets down over time.
Feed-in premium (FiP)	A scheme which provides for a support level per unit of renewable energy to eligible renewable energy producers, typically for a period of 10-20 years, at a pre-set fixed or floating rate. The premium is typically adjusted periodically to exactly offset change in the average energy wholesale market price, based on a pre-specified benchmark market price. A floating FiP may move freely or may only be allowed to move within a pre-set interval.
Grants	Grants are non-repayable funds disbursed by one party (grant makers), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient, often (but not always) a non-profit entity, educational institution, business or an individual. (Source: Wikipedia.org)
Green public procurement	In Green public procurement contracting authorities take environmental issues into account when tendering for goods or services. The goal is to reduce the impact of the procurement on human health and the environment. (Source: Wikipedia.org)
Renewable quota scheme (RQS)	A RQS mandates certain market actors (typically retail suppliers or large energy end-users) to respect a pre-set minimum share or amount of their total energy procurements from renewable sources of energy. Typically a tradable green certificate (TGC) scheme is operated to enable the obligated parties to prove their compliance with the prevailing renewable quota target by means of TGCs.
Sliding feed-in-tariff	A FiT scheme which pre-sets technology-specific declining feed-in tariffs for certain prospective vintages in line with the technology-specific learning curve, as projected by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA). Often a degression rate is used indicating the %/annum decrease in the rate level.
Soft loans	Loans at concessional (below market-based) terms, for example at sub-market-conform interest rates, made available in several Member States to stimulate certain renewable energy technologies.
Tax credits	These are amounts a tax paying entity is allowed to deduct when declaring payable taxes, for example company tax or income tax, to the tax authorities, for example the producer tax credits (PTCs) used in the United States to stimulate among others wind energy deployment.



Disclaimer

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