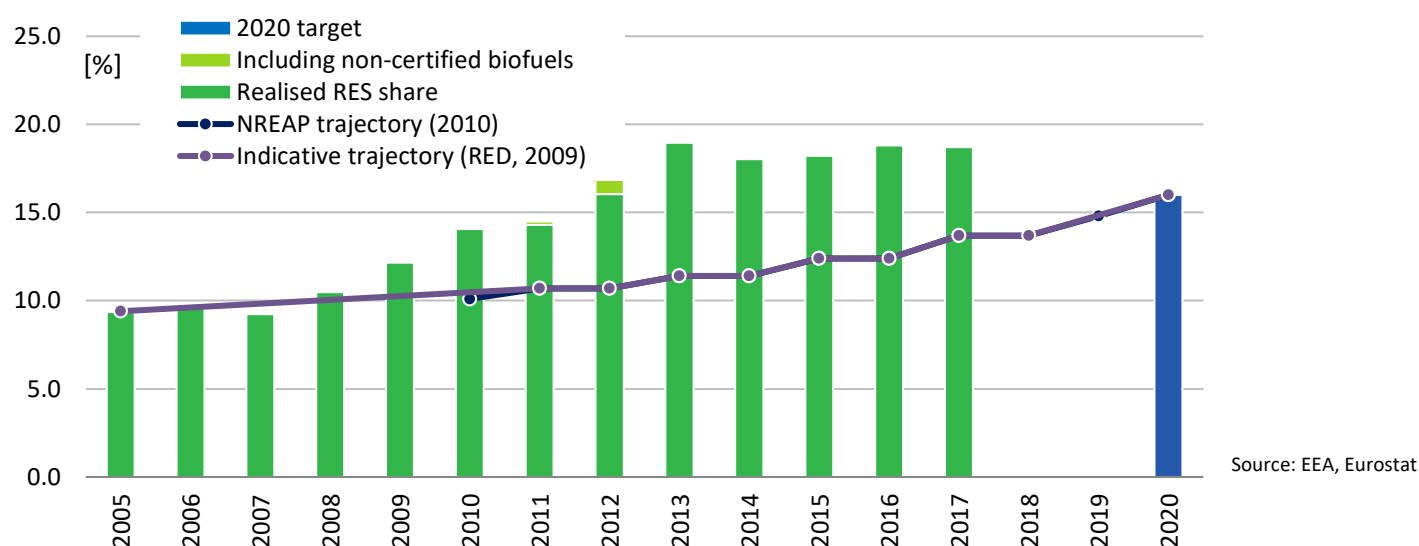


Summary

Main support policy: Renewable electricity in Bulgaria is promoted primarily through a feed-in premium scheme for renewable power plants with a capacity of 4 MW or higher. For such plants below 4 MW a feed-in tariff scheme is in place. The grid operator is mandated to purchase and dispatch electricity at a guaranteed price for eligible generators. The use of renewable energy for heating and cooling is promoted through a subsidy from the European Regional Development Fund, several loan schemes, and through an exemption for building owners from property tax. Main Bulgarian support scheme for renewable energy in transport is a biofuels quota scheme. Furthermore, biofuels are fostered by means of a fiscal regulation mechanism. There is a professional training programme for RES-installers as well as a building obligation for the use of renewable heating and for the exemplary role of public authorities.

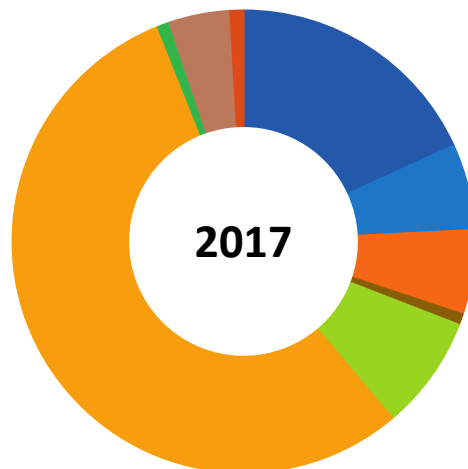
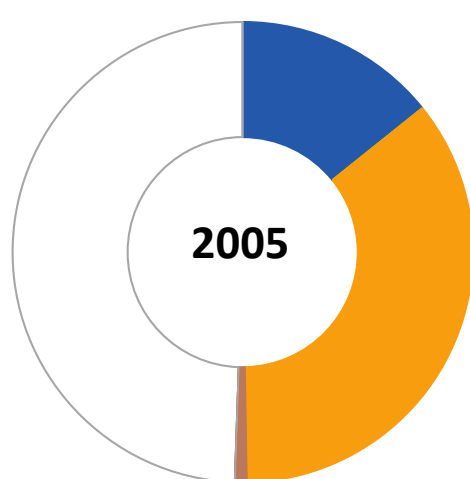


Abbreviations used:

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

Data for 2017

Overall RES share:	18.7%	Avoided fossil fuels:	3.1 [Mtoe]
Overall RES 2020 target:	16.0%	Avoided fuel expenses:	0.7 [billion euro]
Share RES-E in electricity:	19.1%	RES Turnover:	880 [MEUR]
Share RES-T in transport:	7.2%	RES Employment:	22700 [jobs]
Share RES-H/C in heating:	29.9%		



- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Solar PV, CSP and water heaters
- Solid biomass
- Biofuels in transport
- Renewable heat consumed
- Renewable heat derived
- Heat pumps
- All other renewables
- Gap towards 2017

Source: Eurostat, 2019.

	2005		2017		
	Energy		Energy	Employment	Turnover
Hydropower	290.4 ktoe		371.3 ktoe	2300 Jobs	120 MEUR
Wind power	0.5 ktoe		122.8 ktoe	500 Jobs	30 MEUR
Solar PV, CSP and water heaters	0.0 ktoe		120.6 ktoe	1900 Jobs	80 MEUR
Solid biomass	0.0 ktoe		15.5 ktoe	8700 Jobs	280 MEUR
Biofuels in transport	0.0 ktoe		163.0 ktoe	7700 Jobs	280 MEUR
Renewable heat consumed	723.2 ktoe		1124.6 ktoe		
Renewable heat derived	0.7 ktoe		17.3 ktoe		
Heat pumps	16.7 ktoe		87.4 ktoe	700 Jobs	40 MEUR
All other renewables	0.0 ktoe		18.6 ktoe		
Gap towards 2017	1009.4 ktoe				

Source: Eurostat, EurObserv'ER, 2019.

Hydropower jobs & turnover only covers 'small hydropower'. 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 autoproducer plants. Its counterpart is the final heat consumption in the final consumption sectors (such as households).



CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

In Bulgaria, *electricity from renewable sources* is mainly promoted through feed-in premiums. As of 1 July 2018, feed-in tariff contracts with RES-E producers with an installation of at least 4 MW capacity were terminated and the producers concerned RES producers, which enjoyed feed-in tariffs have been offered to enter into a feed-in premium contract. Pre-existing renewable electricity producers with a plant below the 4 MW capacity threshold remain eligible to a feed-in tariff. New roof top or facade photovoltaic installations with a maximum installed capacity of 30 KW and to certain installations using combined cycle and indirect use of biomass are eligible to a feed-in tariff as well.

The use of *renewable energy for heating and cooling* is promoted through a grant from the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Fund and through an exemption for building owners from property tax. In general, all heating technologies are eligible for support. Buildings with a useful total built-up area (TBA) over 500 square meters and which are occupied by a public body or frequently visited by citizens are subject to an obligatory energy efficiency audit and have to provide an energy performance certificate. Any investment project for a new building with a total floor coverage of over 1000 m² must comply with the possibilities of using decentralised systems for the use of renewable energy. In these buildings, at least 15 percent of the total heating and cooling needed for the building shall have to be produced from renewable sources.

The main support scheme for *renewable energy sources used in transport* is a biofuel quota system. This scheme obliges companies importing or producing petrol or diesel to ensure that biofuels make up a pre-defined percentage of their annual fuel sales. Furthermore, biofuels are supported through a tax credits mechanism: a reduced rate of excise duty is applied to unleaded petrol or gas oil if a share of more than 4 % of bioethanol or biodiesel has been added. In Bulgaria a purchase grant of €10,000 is provided for electric vehicles since.

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORTING POLICIES

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of support instruments used to promote the deployment of renewable energy in Bulgaria.

Table 1: Overview of support schemes to promote renewable energy in Bulgaria

	NON-FISCAL SUPPORT SCHEMES						FISCAL AND OTHER STATE FUNDED INCENTIVES			
	Feed-in tariffs 1)	Feed-in premium	Tenders	Quota obligation with Tradable Green certificates	Quota obligation without Tradable Green certificates	Net-metering/ net-billing	Investment subsidies 2)	Tax credits mechanism I 3)	Tax credits mechanism II	Soft loans
RES-E										
- Offshore wind										
- Onshore wind										
- Solar	x									
- Hydro										
- Geothermal										
- Solid biomass	x									
- Biogas	x									
RES-H/C										
- Solar thermal	x						x	x		
- Geothermal	x						x	x		
- Biomass	x						x	x		
- Biogas	x						x	x		
- Small scale installations, e.g. solar thermal collects, heat pumps, biomass boilers and pellet stoves	x						x	x		
- Others, i.e. aerothermal, hydrothermal	x						x	x		
RES-T										
- Bio gasoline					x			x		
- Biodiesel					x			x		

1) Since 1 January 2016 open to new small-scale projects (PV and biomass-based CHP) up to 30 kW only.

2) Grant from the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Fund.

3) Investments in renewable heating & cooling installations in buildings are tax-deductible from property tax for building owners.

Sources: RES-Legal Europe (2019), EurObserv'ER

Table 2: Overview of instruments used at present in Bulgaria

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Description</i>
Feed-in tariffs	Guaranteed sale of electricity at a pre-set preferential price during the support contract period. For RES-E and RES-H&C projects commissioned before February 2015. Apart from certain small-scale projects, new projects do not get feed-in support.
Investment subsidies	RES-H&C projects are eligible for a grant from the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency Fund
Tax credits scheme	Renewable heating & cooling installations in buildings are eligible for an exemption from property tax for building owners.
Tax credits scheme	Investments in renewable heating & cooling installations in buildings are tax-deductible from property tax for building owners.
Biofuels quota scheme	Importers/suppliers of transport fuels are subject to a renewable quota scheme for biofuels. Compliance based on sample testing rather than certificates-based. No (direct) incentives for other alternative transport fuels.

For further information:

CEER, 2017. Status Review of Renewable Support Schemes in Europe.

http://www.ceer.eu/portal/page/portal/EER_HOME/EER_PUBLICATIONS/CEER_PAPERS/Electricity/2017/C16-SDE-56-03%20Status%20Review%20RES%20Support%20Schemes.pdf

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<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps> (European Union), last accessed June 2017

Eurostat, 2017. Energy from renewable sources. http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Energy_from_renewable_sources

REN21, Global Status Report 2017 http://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/170607_GSR_2017_Full_Report.pdf

IEA/IRENA Joint Policies and Measures database

<https://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/renewableenergy/?country=Bulgaria>

Member State Progress Report, available at the Renewable Energy pages of the European Commission, <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy>

RES Legal database, <http://www.res-legal.eu/search-by-country/bulgaria/>

http://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2016/08/bulgarian-renewable-energy-support-scheme-approved-by-the-ec-following-5-years-of-application?cc_lang=en

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6289_en.htm

<http://globalcompetitionreview.com/insight/the-european-middle-eastern-and-african-antitrust-review-2017/1067815/eu-energy>

<https://www.iea.org/policiesandmeasures/pams/bulgaria/name-25061-en.php>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/energy-union-factsheet-bulgaria_en.pdf

(European Commission/ DG ENER, Energy Union Factsheet Bulgaria, November 2017)

European Alternative Fuels Observatory, <http://www.eafo.eu/content/bulgaria> ;

<http://www.eafo.eu/eu>



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Disclaimer

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