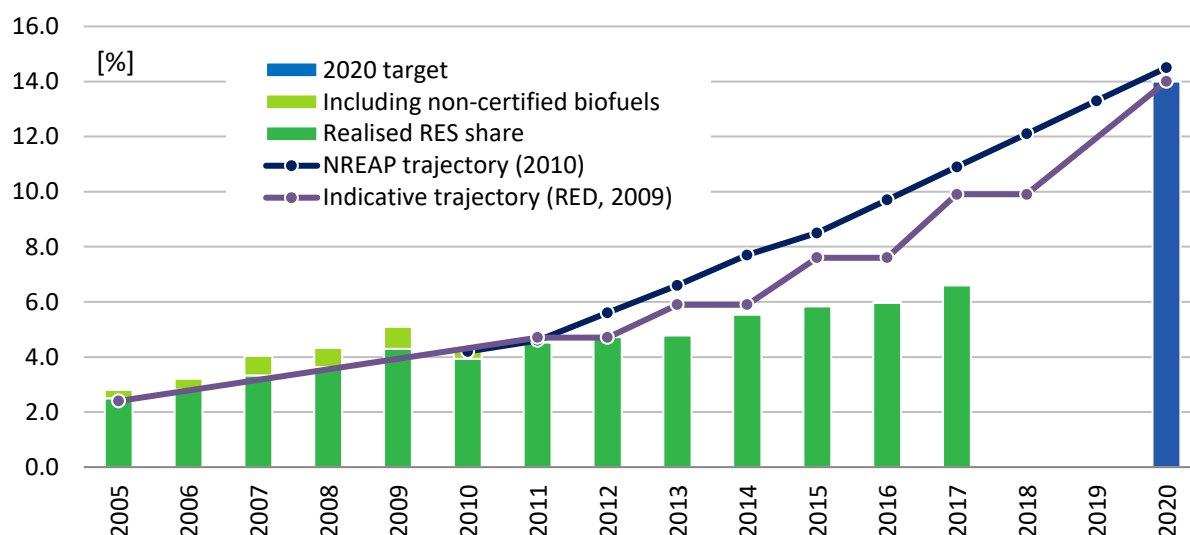


### Summary

Since 2011 the main support instrument for new renewable electricity, gas and heat projects is the SDE+ scheme, a tender-based feed-in premium scheme. Other support instruments include a range of fiscal facilities, a reduced-interest “green loan” instrument and net metering for household and community renewable electricity generation installations. Main support instrument for renewable liquid and gaseous transport fuels is a biofuels quota scheme.



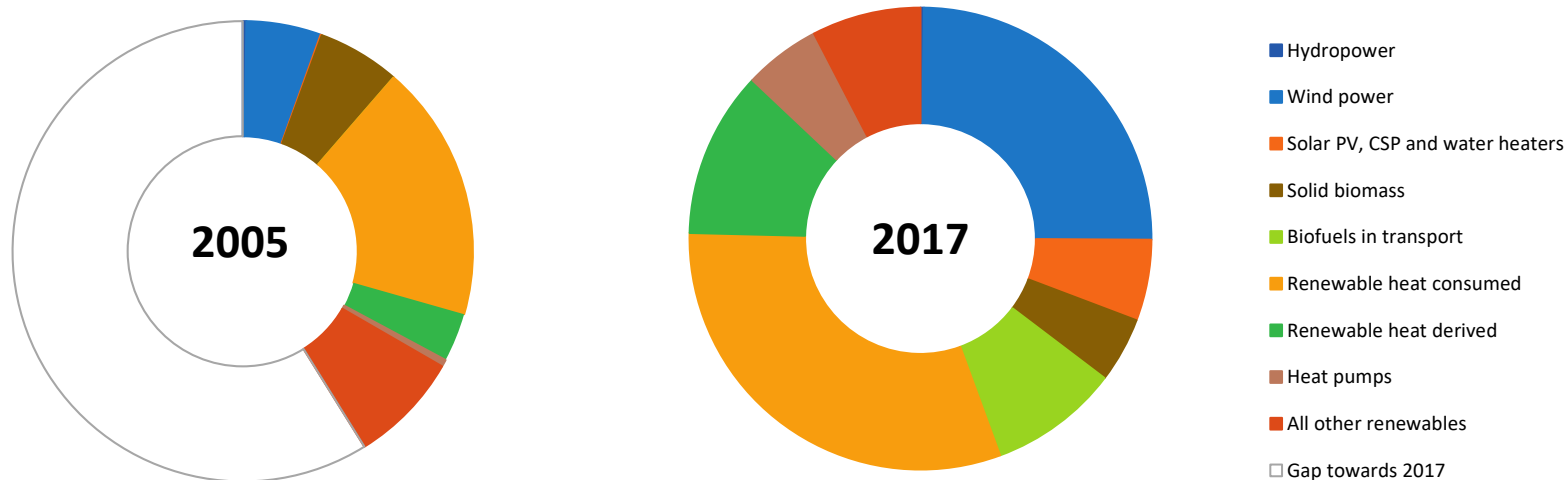
Source: EEA, Eurostat

### 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:	6.6%	Avoided fossil fuels:	5.2 [Mtoe]
Overall RES 2020 target:	14.0%	Avoided fuel expenses:	1.2 [billion euro]
Share RES-E in electricity:	13.8%	RES Turnover:	3790 [MEUR]
Share RES-T in transport:	5.9%	RES Employment:	28700 [jobs]
Share RES-H/C in heating:	5.9%		



Source: Eurostat, 2019.

	2005		2017	
	Energy		Energy	Employment
Hydropower	8.6 ktoe		8.1 ktoe	<100 Jobs
Wind power	174.9 ktoe		829.0 ktoe	5800 Jobs
Solar PV, CSP and water heaters	3.0 ktoe		189.5 ktoe	6100 Jobs
Solid biomass	193.2 ktoe		152.4 ktoe	4800 Jobs
Biofuels in transport	0.0 ktoe		303.0 ktoe	2800 Jobs
Renewable heat consumed	601.9 ktoe		1034.1 ktoe	
Renewable heat derived	114.2 ktoe		388.7 ktoe	
Heat pumps	16.8 ktoe		178.5 ktoe	6800 Jobs
All other renewables	260.3 ktoe		254.3 ktoe	
Gap towards 2017	1964.8 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).

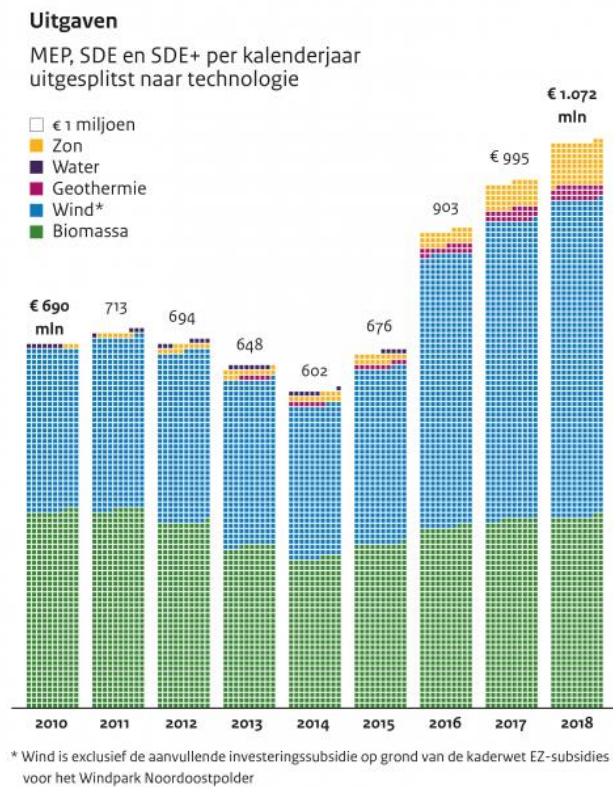


### ***CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY***

The Netherlands is mandated by renewable energy directive 2009/28/EC to achieve a share of renewables in gross final energy consumption of 14% by 2020. Boasting the highest population density in Europe (415 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in 2018) and negligible hydropower potential, the country is endowed with a relatively modest renewables resource base, rendering achievement of this target an ambitious task. Whereas, so far, biogenic energy boasts the largest share in Dutch renewable energy production, the renewable sources with largest potential are wind onshore and notably offshore as well as, to a lesser extent, solar PV. Although allocating over the past 10 years significant public funding for renewable energy stimulation, the country risks to significantly under-comply its 2020 renewable energy target. In the national Energy Agreement (SER, 2013) was concluded between the Dutch government and key Dutch societal organisations in year 2013, which states a renewables target of 16% and an offshore wind sub-target of 4.5 GW by 2023. Since then decarbonising the Dutch energy sector got more robust political support. Political commitment to push renewable energy deployment was further reinforced by the government decision in March 2018 to phase out natural gas production from the giant Groningen natural gas field within 12 years and adopting of the Climate Law in May 2019. With a GDP of €billion 913 and government expenditures of €billion 277 in year 2018, annual spending on Dutch support schemes MEP, SDE, and most importantly, SDE+ stood at € 1072 million in 2018 against € 690 million in 2010: see Table 1 below. The SDE+ support budget limit for a sequel of 3 tender rounds in March 2019 was €5 billion; in autumn 2019 another 3-rounds tender sequel will be held with a budget limit of €5 billion as well. These amounts concern budgets for SDE+ support applications over the whole SDE+ support contract period (15 years for most technologies). The support budget for 2019 totalling € 10 billion is substantially higher than annual support budgets before 2017. The annual budget (also in two tranches) for 2017 and 2018 was even € 12 billion.

With the SDE+ support intensification the Dutch government aims at speeding up renewables deployment to reduce the gap towards compliance of the 14% renewables target by 2020. Focal points of Dutch renewables policy include offshore wind development to an installed base of 4.5 GW by 2023, onshore wind development to an installed base of 6 GW by 2020 (which seems optimistic at present, September 2019) as well as the take-off of renewables-based hydrogen development. Green hydrogen is envisaged to play a significant role as from 2030 onward.

Table 1. Total annual expenditures on the Dutch renewables support schemes SDE+, SDE and MEP by renewable source, 2010-2018



Source: [www.rvo.nl](http://www.rvo.nl)

Since 2011 the main support instrument for new renewable electricity, gas and heat projects is the SDE+ scheme, a tender-based feed-in premium scheme. From 2003 to 2005 the MEP scheme, a fixed feed-in premium scheme, and from 2007 up to 2010 the SDE support scheme, a floating feed-in premium scheme, was in force. Over the past 2 decades the Netherlands has been a testing ground for renewable energy support schemes with cumulative learning from previous support scheme flaws.

Each year a sequel of tender rounds are organized. Before the start of each annual tender sequel, for each SDE+ eligible technology a reference cost of energy, i.e. the maximum cost per unit of energy (called “base rate”) is determined, as well as the maximum subsidy-eligible number of full load hours and the projected long-term market value per unit of energy. For each tender round a maximum reference cost of energy (“maximum base amount”) and a funding budget limit is specified. The maximum base amount rises with each consecutive tender round of the annual sequel.

Except for offshore wind, SDE+ tenders are technology-neutral, hence open for every SDE+ eligible technology. But a developer of a renewable energy generating project, wishing SDE+ subsidy for applying a certain eligible technology, can only file a cost of energy claim that is equal or lower than the minimum of: (i) the maximum acceptable reference cost of the tender concerned and (ii) the published, ex ante postulated, technology-based reference cost of energy concerned. After a tender round is closed all valid applications are ranked by claimed subsidy amount per unit of energy, based on the requested amount of subsidy (maximised by the technology-specific reference cost of energy). Subsidy applications with the lowest subsidy claim per unit of energy are accepted until the subsidy budget limit for tender has been reached. Applicants with a rejected subsidy bid can opt for applying in the next SDE+ tender round. With each consecutive tender of an annual SDE+ tender sequel the competition for the available SDE+ subsidy tends to increase and so does the risk of a rejected application. Except for offshore wind, the SDE+ tender procedures aim at technology-neutral competition, but also at providing funding-limited access to SDE+ support for, to date, relatively expensive renewable electricity, gas and heat technologies. Separate technology-specific SDE+ tenders are organized for specific offshore wind project concessions. Moreover, the shallow connection fees charged to Dutch power plants is especially beneficial to offshore wind farms and other marine power technologies, as also the transmission cost of power produced offshore to the onshore transmission network is socialized. As for most renewable electricity generation technologies a support contract period of 15 years obtains (as from the commissioning date of the installation concerned), both SDE and SDE+ are relevant to date.

Regarding the *promotion of renewable electricity*, the tender-based floating feed-in premium scheme SDE+ is the main support scheme for new installations to date. Settlement of the premium occurs ex post annually based on the difference between the cost of energy specified in the SDE+ support contract and either the average market energy value during the past calendar year or the floor adjustment value, whichever of the two is higher. Also the floor adjustment value is specified in the contract. It amounts to two thirds of the projected long-term energy price set by the SDE+ implementing agency in the run-up to the annual SDE+ tender sequel during which the successful application bid for an SDE+ support contract was made. Each year the supported quantity of energy is capped by the technology-specific number of full load hours. Moreover for SDE+-eligible solar PV installations 10% of the supported quantity is assumed to be self-consumed. The average market value of self-consumed energy is set higher than the average market value applicable to energy injected into the grid. As a result, the SDE+ support per MWh for the 10% “self-consumed” portion is less. The predecessor of SDE+ support scheme is the SDE scheme, a technology-specific fixed premium scheme. It is in place for SDE-eligible installations for which a SDE support contract was granted in the period 2005-2007. Given a 15-year contract period for most SDE-beneficiary installations, the SDE scheme will be completely phased out around 2023. Other promotion instruments for renewable electricity deployment are:

- fiscal instruments, including: (i) the EIA (energy investment tax credit) regulation granting capped company tax credits to companies that invest in a renewable electricity generation installation, (ii) exemption for so-called environmental protection tax (an energy tax) over corporate consumption of electricity that was self-produced from Dutch renewable electricity generation installation owned by the company concerned and (iii) a tax credit for households who invest in a green fund which provides officially accredited green loans for

the finance of investments in *inter alia* non-biogenic renewable electricity generation installations

- investment subsidies for PV installations made available at ad hoc basis to households by municipalities
- net metering. The first category installations are the ones owned by small-scale electricity prosumers (producers/consumers) with a small feed-in connection ( $\leq 3 \times 80A$ ). Their suppliers will settle the annual electricity bill based on their net consumption of grid electricity. If any of these prosumers have achieved an annual net surplus quantity exchanged with the grid, they are entitled to a buy-back rate over this surplus, specified in the delivery service contract they have concluded with their respective supplier. In the Netherlands small-scale electricity consumers, including prosumers, are charged a fixed, capacity-dependent, network tariff, ensuring stable revenues for network operators from all small-scale electricity consumers. Small-scale prosumers avoid energy tax, value-added tax and other surcharges on the electricity bill over their self-produced electricity consumption. The second category of installations profiting from net metering are the ones owned by energy communities, who successfully passed the fairly complex acceptance procedure for the so-called "Postcoderoos" regulation. Members of these energy communities are eligible to an energy tax credit over the "virtual consumption" by each of them of electricity produced by their "Postcoderoos" installation up to a certain maximum quantity per annum. In principle, this regulation enables households devoid of an own house with a suitable roof to benefit from net metering as well.

Also for the *promotion of renewable heating and cooling* several support instruments are used:

- the tendered premium support scheme, SDE+, is also available to producers of green gas (including biogas and biomethane) for final consumption and heat production based on biogas, biomass (CHP installations), geothermal, solar thermal energy .
- fiscal instruments tax, including: (i) the EIA (energy investment tax credit) regulation granting capped company tax credits to companies that invest in a renewable heat production installation on aerothermal energy (heat pumps), hydrothermal energy (heat pumps), biogas, biomass, geothermal heating or cooling energy, solar thermal heating energy (solar heat collectors), (ii) investment subsidy scheme, ISDE, available for households and small-scale business companies who invest in solar heat collectors, heat pumps, biomass boilers, biomass pellets stoves, (iii) a tax credit for households who invest in a green fund which provides officially accredited green loans for the finance of investments in *inter alia* renewable heating and cooling installations based on geothermal and solar thermal energy as well as gas purification equipment to produce quality biomethane suitable for injection into the natural gas grid.

Instruments for the *promotion of renewable transport fuels* are:

- a biofuels quota scheme, which obliges companies importing or producing automotive gasoline, gas or diesel fuels to comply with a pre-set minimum biofuels quota with regard to their annual fuel sales in energy content terms; "biotickets", a kind of tradable green certificates, are used for ensuring compliance with the annual quota concerned
- tax credit schemes for investments in biofuels and hydrogen transport fuels, including: (i) the EIA (energy investment tax credit) regulation, (ii) the MIA/VAMIL company tax credits

schemes: MIA facilitates tax credits up to 36% of the eligible investment, whilst VAMIL facilitates accelerated depreciation for 75% of the eligible investment with certain caps applicable to both schemes.

One of the main drivers behind the increase of electric vehicles is fiscal stimulation. However, the fiscal discrimination in favour of electric vehicles is set to be reduced substantially within short. In addition to national market stimulation instruments, there are various provinces and municipalities which subsidize the installation of electric and hydrogen charging points and which have battery and fuel cell electric vehicles and buses procurement programmes. Specific measures to foster the purchase of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) include:

- Zero emission cars are exempt from paying registration tax. For other cars the system is progressive, with 5 levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that pay progressively increasing amounts of registration tax.
- Zero emission cars are exempt from paying road taxes. Plug-in hybrid cars (< 51 gr CO<sub>2</sub>/km) pay 50% of the road tax for a regular car.
- In the Netherlands, income tax has to be paid on the private use of a company lease car. This is done by imposing a surcharge of 4-25% of the catalogue value on the taxable income. For zero emission cars this percentage is 4%. This instrument is the most effective in getting more zero emission vehicles on the road. The trend is to reduce the fiscal discrimination over time in favour of zero emission company lease cars.
- The Netherlands has a system of facilitating company investments in clean technology, by making these investments partially deductible from corporate and income taxes. Zero emission and plug-in hybrid (and not with a diesel engine) cars are on the list of deductible investments, as are the accompanying charging points.

The Netherlands has submitted its draft National Energy and Climate Plan (Government of the Netherlands, 2018). Note that the Dutch final NECP is due to integrate the specifics of the *Klimaatakkoord* (National Climate Agreement)<sup>1</sup> reached between the Dutch government and major Dutch civil society organisations on 28 June 2019. This may lead to major adjustments, compared to the Dutch draft NECP. As gross final energy consumption is in the denominator of the share of renewables indicator and in keeping with the energy efficiency first principle, both the ambitions on energy efficiency and the ambitions on renewables as such in the Dutch draft NECP are interesting to highlight.

The Dutch final and primary energy consumption in 2017 reached levels of 50.3 Mtoe and 64.5 Mtoe respectively.<sup>2</sup> The corresponding projected levels for 2030 are 46.6 Mtoe and 44.5 Mtoe respectively. The projected Dutch year 2030 contribution to EU primary energy consumption target compliance is considered by the European Commission “sufficiently ambitious”. However, the European Commission considers the Dutch projected contribution to EU final energy consumption to show a “modest” ambition level. A specific national contribution to the EU targets for renewable energy has yet to be provided. The projected range of the renewables share in Dutch gross final energy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.klimaatakkoord.nl/actueel/nieuws/2019/06/28/klimaatakkoord-in-stukken>

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph, including notably the table it encompasses, borrows heavily from European Commission (2019).

consumption, 27-35%, is above the share of 26 % in 2030 that results from the formula in Annex II of the Governance Regulation.<sup>3</sup> The indicative trajectory to reach the Dutch contribution in 2030 is not yet included in the draft NECP. The following table presents an overview of Netherlands’ objectives, targets and contributions under the Governance Regulation, concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy only:

National targets and contributions	Latest Available data	2020	2030	Assessment of 2030 ambition level by the European Commission
National contribution for energy efficiency:				
Primary energy consumption (Mtoe)	64.5	60.7	46.6	Sufficient
Final energy consumption (Mtoe)	50.3	52.2	44.5	Modest
National target / contribution for renewable energy:				
Share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy (%)	6.6	14	27-35	Above 26% (result of RES formula)*

\*) European Union (2018): Annex II

Source: European Commission (2019)

#### OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORTING POLICIES

The main RES support measures applied in the Netherlands are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 below. See the previous section for more details.

<sup>3</sup> European Union (2018).

Table 2: Overview of support schemes to promote renewable energy in the Netherlands

	NON-FISCAL SUPPORT SCHEMES					FISCAL AND OTHER STATE FUNDED INCENTIVES			
	Feed-in premium (SDE+)	Tendering	Quota obligation with Tradable Green certificates	Quota obligation without Tradable Green certificates	Net-metering/ virtual net metering	Capital subsidy, grants (e.g. ISDE) <sup>4</sup>	Tax regulation mechanism I (EIA)	Tax regulation mechanism II (MIA/VAMIL)	Soft loans
<b>RES-E</b>									
- Offshore wind	x	x					x	x	
- Onshore wind	x	x			x		x	x	x
- Solar	x	x			x		x	x	x
- Hydro	x	x			x		x	x	x
- Geothermal	x	x					x	x	x
- Solid biomass	x	x					x	x	
- Biogas	x	x					x	x	
<b>RES-H/C</b>									
- Solar thermal	x						x		x
- Geothermal	x						x		x
- Biomass	x						x		
- Biogas	x						x		
- Small scale installations, e.g. solar thermal collects, heat pumps, biomass boilers and pellet stoves						x	x		
- Others, i.e. aerothermal, hydrothermal							x		
<b>RES-T</b>									
- Bio gasoline			x					x	
- Biodiesel			x					x	

Sources: RES Legal, EurObserv'ER

<sup>4</sup> Note for the editor: use footnotes to add more information if appropriate.



Table 3: Brief description of key policy instruments aimed at promoting RES in the Netherlands

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>SDE+: Support Scheme for Sustainable Energy Production</b> <i>Stimulerings Duurzame Energieproductie</i>	Floating feed-in premium scheme which is used to promote RES-based electricity, gas and heating. SDE+ subsidies are allocated through a quasi-tendering process, where energy producers compete against each other for feed-in premium support. It encompasses a system of two annual three-phased admission rounds with escalating reference cost of energy rates which favours low cost renewables technologies. In 2020 the prevailing SDE+ scheme will evolve into a broader support scheme, entitled stimulation of sustainable energy transition ( <i>Stimuleringsregeling Duurzame Energietransitie</i> ), SDE++. SDE++ will apply the same support allocation methodology as SDE+, but unlike SDE+ the future support scheme will also include non-renewable CO <sub>2</sub> reduction technologies, such as notably carbon capture and storage (CCS).
<b>ISDE: Sustainable energy investment subsidy scheme</b> <i>Investeringssubsidie Duurzame Energie</i>	Provides both private persons and small-scale business with a subsidy for the purchase of solar thermal collects, heat pumps, biomass boilers, and pellet stoves.
<b>EIA: Energy Investment Allowance</b> <i>Energie investeringsaftrek</i>	A tax relief programme which gives a direct financial advantage to companies that invest in energy-saving equipment and sustainable energy. In year 2019 entrepreneurs may deduct 45% of the investment costs for such equipment (purchase and/or production costs) from their company's pre-tax profits, over the calendar year in which the equipment was purchased. The business assets that qualify for the EIA for the year 2019 are set out in the Energy List 2019.
<b>MIA/VAMIL: Environmental Investment Rebate</b> <i>Milieu-investeringsaftrek</i> <b>Arbitrary depreciation of environmental investments</b> <i>Willekeurige afschrijving milieu-investeringen</i>	The MIA scheme, offering a tax refund on environmental investment, and the Vamil scheme providing for voluntary depreciation on environmental investment, are two different schemes run by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate and the Ministry of Finance. The aim of both of them is to encourage Dutch entrepreneurs to invest in their business operations in an environmentally friendly way. The MIA scheme allows investment tax credits up to 36% of the investment cost of an environmentally sound investment from pre-tax corporate profit while the Vamil scheme facilitates accelerated depreciation for 75% of eligible investment costs.
<b>Green fund</b>	The Dutch government grants a tax benefit to consumers who invest in a green fund, which enables banks to offer loans at lower interest rates to officially accredited 'green' projects. For a project to qualify for such a loan it should apply for a declaration on the basis of the Regulation Green Projects issued in 2016. The declaration is valid for 10 or 15 years depending on the application.
<b>Green Deal Programme</b>	Introduced by the Dutch government in 2011 with the aim of identifying sustainable projects (not only energy related) that would benefit from streamlined permitting and planning procedures, specific advice and/or the introduction of public-private funding structures. Eligible projects vary from large-scale geothermal research projects, industrial heat utilisation projects and smart grid projects, to smaller-scale biomass projects in the horticultural industry. Support provided is focus on facilitation (non-financial) rather than direct subsidisation.

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

PBL, Stimulerings Regeling Duurzame Energietransitie SDE++, <https://www.pbl.nl/sde>

**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 depression", 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 depression 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.



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