



COUNTRY POLICY PROFILE

Austria

December 2015

**LOG FILE OF CHANGES IN SUPPORT
POLICIES AS COMPARED TO LATEST
MEMBER STATE PROGRESS REPORT**

The EurObserv'ER project

The EurObserv'ER Barometers monitor the renewable energy progress in each Member State of the European Union. Every two months a barometer dedicated to one particular renewable energy technology is being published. Moreover, once a year an [Overview Barometer](#) collects the main indicators published during the year and completes these with additional renewable sectors, which have not been detailed in the individual Barometers. Finally, the Overview Barometer also reports on socio-economic aspects: employment and turnover in the field of renewables, and the renewable energy investment climate. The country policy reports monitor policy developments by providing an overview of policy changes compared to the Member State Progress Reports (updated until December 2015).

All Barometers are available for download at <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/>. An overview of direct links to the Barometers is available in Annex C.

New Barometer releases are announced on Twitter (https://twitter.com/eurobserv_er).



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Abstract

Renewable energy policy in Austria exists on three levels: the Federal level, the regional level of the provinces (Bundesländer) and the local level of municipalities.

In Austria, electricity from renewable sources is supported mainly through a feed-in tariff. Since 2002, the Eco Electricity Act (Ökostromgesetz) sets feed-in tariffs for different renewable energy sources. The levels of feed-in tariffs are annually adapted and set in the Eco Electricity Ordinance (Ökostromverordnung). No use is made of any other instruments, such as quotas or certificates. Feed-in tariffs are basically set in annual regulations and may be set for several years. There is a special annual reduction in the feed-in tariff for photovoltaic systems. Unless new tariffs are set, the feed-in tariff is reduced by 1 % per annum for all other technologies.

Measures in individual provinces (investment funds and support programmes on state level) most notably in the renewable heat sectors are further important support schemes. The most substantial form of supporting small-scale RES heating and cooling is provided by the Environmental Assistance in Austria (UFI) programme. There are special investment incentives for solar thermal installations, heat pumps, geothermal and biomass heating plants.

In Austria, the main support scheme for renewable energy sources used in transport is *a quota system*.

Abbreviations

BiokraftQuG	Biofuel Quota Act (Biokraftstoffquotengesetz)
BGBI.	Federal Law Gazetter (Bundesgesetzblatt)
BMVIT	Ministry for Transport, Industry and Technology (Austria)
BTL	Biomass-to-Liquids
CHP	Combined heat and power plant (KWK Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung)
E-Control	Energie-Control Austria for regulation of electricity and gas (E-Control)
EEAG	Environmental and energy aid guidelines
EU-27	European Union, 27 Member States (excludes Croatia)
EU-28	European Union, 28 Member States (includes Croatia)
FEC	Final energy consumption
FIP	Feed-in premium (scheme)
FIT	Feed-in tariff
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GWh	Gigawatt hour
ha	hectar
HH	Households
HP	Heating plant
IEA	International Energy Agency
ktoe	Kiloton oil equivalent
MSW	Municipal solid waste
kWh	Kilowatt hour
MWh	Megawatt hour
N/A	Not available
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
OeMAG	Abwicklungsstelle für Ökostrom AG
Ökostromgesetz	Eco electricity Act
Ökostrom-Verordnung	Eco electricity ordinance
PEC	Primary energy consumption
PV	Photovoltaic energy
RE	Renewable energy
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RES-E	Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources
RES-H/C	Heating and Cooling from Renewable Energy Sources
RES-T	Transport from Renewable Energy Sources
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
RMSW	Renewable Municipal solid waste (renewable fraction in MSW)
RQS	Renewable quota scheme
tRÖE	tonne of Oil equivalent (Rohöleinheit – 1000t RÖE = 41,868TJ =11,64GWh)
TSO	Transmission system operator
VO	Ordinance (Verordnung)

Renewable energy mix

According to the [EurObserv'ER Bridging Report](#) the amount of renewable energy in Austria for the year 2013 was 9872.9 ktoe, +83.7 ktoe (+0.9%) compared to 2012. The 2012 share of renewable energy in Austria amounted to 32.1%, and for 2013 this share amounted to 32.6%; the target for 2020 has been defined as 34%.

In this total amount, the 2013 contribution from renewable electricity amounted to 4631.5 ktoe (53864 GWh), -86.8 ktoe (-1.8%) compared to 2012, for renewable heat the amount was 4575.8 ktoe, +168.7 ktoe (+3.8%) compared to 2012 and for renewable energy in transport the 2013 realisation was 665.7 ktoe, +1.8 ktoe (+0.3%) compared to 2012.

The most important technology in Austria (2013) is heat from biomass (4217.7 ktoe). Second technology is hydropower (3932.9 ktoe). Third comes biodiesel (422.8 ktoe). The growth rates range from -100.0% (for geothermal electricity) to 72.7% (for solar power (photovoltaics and concentration solar power)) (Source: EurObserv'ER Bridging Report, 2015, www.eurobserv-er.org)

Table: Renewable energy production in Austria. Data have been expressed in ktoe and refer to the years 2012 and 2013

Austria		2012	2013	Difference	
		ktoe			Growth
Renewable Electricity	Hydropower	4101.9	3932.9	-169.0	-4.1%
	Geothermal	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-100.0%
	Solar	29.0	50.0	+21.1	+72.7%
	Tidal & wave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
	Wind	211.8	270.9	+59.2	+27.9%
	Biomass	375.6	377.6	+2.0	+0.5%
	Total	4718.3	4631.5	-86.8	-1.8%
Renewable Heat	Geothermal	22.0	22.0	0.0	0.0%
	Solar	174.4	177.8	+3.4	+1.9%
	Biomass	4065.9	4217.7	+151.8	+3.7%
	Ambient heat	144.8	158.3	+13.5	+9.4%
Total	4407.1	4575.8	+168.7	+3.8%	
Renewable Transport	Bioethanol/bio-ETBE	77.5	67.0	-10.5	-13.5%
	Biodiesel	412.9	422.8	+9.9	+2.4%
	Renewable hydrogen	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
	Renewable electricity	173.4	175.7	+2.4	+1.4%
	Other biofuels	0.1	0.1	+0.1	+71.4%
	Total	663.8	665.7	+1.8	+0.3%
Total Renewable (calculated)		9789.2	9872.9	+83.7	+0.9%

Source: EurObserv'ER 2015

Recent RES Policy Developments

The current EurObserv'ER policy profile is listing recent policy changes in the EU Member States. Starting point for this monitoring is the situation as it has been described in the country's Progress Report (which were due end of 2013). All Renewable Energy Progress Reports are available in English language from www.eurobserv-er.org (translated versions).

Date	Technology	Policy change
January 2014	All RES	Austria published its NREAP progress report in January 2014, see Section 2 (page 5=PDF page 11) to Section 4 (page 25=PDF page 31) for a description of policy measures and support schemes.
March 2014 – October 2014		<no change to be reported>
November 2014	Biofuels	The Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) released the 2014 Biofuel report. In 2013 Austria achieved a substitution target of 6,19% (against the biofuel ordinance target of 5,75%)
December 2014	PV	The Government released an amendment to the Electricity Ordinance lowering the feed in tariffs for PV. No more support for PV systems larger than 200 kW.
May 2015	All RES	The BMVIT has released the annual market statistics on biomass, PV, wind, solar thermal and heat pumps given policy, technical and socioeconomic information on all renewable sectors.
October - December 2015		No major policy change to be reported

Note to the reader: the above overview had been compiled with care. However, in case you miss recent developments please be invited to inform EurObserv'ER on policy changes in a Member State. For communication use e-mail (policy@eurobserv-er.org) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/eurobserv_er).

Glossary

Auctions for granting renewable energy support	An auction is a process, organised by a governmental renewable energy implementation agency, of granting production or investment support to a specified volume of eligible renewable energy (or renewable energy generation capacity) based on the lowest bids per unit of renewable energy (or renewable energy generation capacity) by eligible renewable project developers.
Degression rate	See under 'Sliding feed-in tariff'
Feed-in tariff (FiT)	A technology-specific support scheme which provides for a technology-specific remuneration per unit of renewable energy payable to eligible renewable energy producers, typically for a period of 10-20 years. The FiT level is set <i>ex ante</i> by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA). It is to cover all future production costs including a <i>normal</i> rate of return to capital invested. In many schemes priority network access is offered to eligible renewable electricity generators, whilst a designated third party - e.g. the transmission or distribution network operator concerned - is being mandated to pay the FiT remuneration due. 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.
Feed-in premium (FiP)	A technology-specific support scheme which provides for a technology-specific subsidy 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 (see under 'Floating FiP') rate, projected by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA) to enable renewable energy generation investments deemed commercially attractive by project developers without yielding supra-normal profits.
Floating FiP	A feed-in premium, which is periodically adjusted to exactly offset the 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)

NRA	National Regulatory Agency
Renewable quota scheme (RQS)	A renewable quota scheme 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. Typically the renewable quota target is increased gradually over time. Renewable quota systems are also known under terms such as quota (obligation) schemes or renewable portfolio standards.
Request for tenders (RFT)	A request for tenders (RFT) is a formal, structured invitation to suppliers, to bid, to supply products or services. In the public sector an official fee is needed to fortify and secure the tender bid engagement/win documents, such a process may be required and determined in detail by law to ensure that such competition for the use of public is open, fair and free from bribery and nepotism. For example, a government may put a certain level of MW of offshore wind energy at a pre-defined location 'out to tender'; that is, publish an invitation for other parties to make a proposal for the construction of offshore wind farms, on the understanding that any competition for the relevant government contract must be conducted in response to the tender, no parties having the unfair advantage of separate, prior, closed-door negotiations for the contract. An evaluation team will go through the tenders and decide who will get the contract. (source: adapted from Wikipedia.org)
RD&D funding	The funding of research, development and demonstration activities and programmes. For technologies far remote from commercial maturity, government grants or subsidies might be considered. For technologies close to commercial maturity which are not taken up for commercial research anyway, instruments such as fiscal instruments (tax credits, accelerated depreciation, etc.) and public-private partnerships may be considered, based on shared public and private RD&D funding.
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.
Tenders	See 'Request for tenders'

References

Austrian Biomass Association 2015: [Overview of regional support schemes](#) for biomass heating systems (German), Österreichischer Biomasse Verband, (sourced December 2015).

Austrian Energy Agency 2015: [Infoguide on support schemes in Austria](#), (accessed July 2015).

BMVIT /EEG 2015: [Innovative Energietechnologien in Österreich- Marktentwicklung 2014, Biomasse, Photovoltaik, Solarthermie, Wärmepumpen und Windkraft](#), Berichte aus Energie- und Umweltforschung, 11/2015, Peter Biermayr, et al. (authors), Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie (editor), Mai 2015, (sourced June 2015).

EC 2014: [Members States' renewable energy progress reports 2013](#), (sourced February 2014).

Klima aktiv: [Website of Klima:aktiv](#), (sourced October 2013).

OeMAG : [All versions of the Ökostromgesetz \(2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2012\)](#) as well as the corresponding Ökostromverordnung (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and November 2014).

PV Austria 2015: [Fördersituation Österreich](#), (sourced June 2015).

RES Legal 2014: Legal Sources on renewable energy in Austria ([Electricity](#), [Heating and Cooling](#), [Transport](#)), last updated November 2014.

Solarserver 2014: [Österreich erlässt neue Ökostrom-Verordnung für 2015](#); Photovoltaik-Einspeisevergütung wird um 8 % gekürzt, Solarserver, 12 November 2014

Solarwaerme.at 2015: [Solaranlagen-Förderung für Private in Österreich 2015](#) (January 2015).

Umweltbundesamt 2014: [Biokraftstoffe im Verkehrssektor 2014](#), (sourced August 2015).

Wärmepumpe Austria 2015: [Förderungsliste Länder](#), 18 March 2015, (sourced August 2015).

Annex A: Renewable Electricity

Overview of Feed in tariffs for Austria in 2015 (Eco Electricity Ordinance of November 2014).

	Specification	Capacity / size	Support level 2015 in €/kWh ¹	Duration of payment
Wind power			9,27*	13 years
PV	KLI.EN investment grant roof-top or ground- mounted	up to 5 kWp	30% of investment costs but max. € 275 per kWp	n.a.
	KLI.EN investment grant: building integrated	up to 5 kWp	€ 375 per kWp	n.a.
	Buildings	5 -200kWp	11,50	13 years
	Stand alone	5 -500 kWp	10,00	13 years
Biogas (waste)	Sewage gas		5,94 (-1% for 2015)	13 years
	Landfill gas		4,95 (-1% for 2015)	13 years
Geothermal			7,43 (-1% for 2015)	13 years
Solid Biomass		up to 500 kW (70% fuel efficiency)	19,50	15 years
		up to 500 kW (60-70% fuel efficiency)	17,55	15 years
		500 -1000 kW	15,41	15 years
		1 -1,5 MW	15,11	15 years
		1,5 - 2 MW	14,62	15 years
Waste with high biogenic share*			5	15 years
Co - Firing of biomass*			6,12	15 years
Liquid Biomass	liquid biomass		5,74	15 years
	bonus for CHP		2,00	15 years
Biogas		< 250 kWel	19,11	15 years
		250 to 500 kWel	16,59	15 years
		500 -750 kW	13,07	15 years
		Up to 1 MWel	12,67	15 years
		bonus for CHP	2,00	15 years
		bonus for conditioning to natural gas standard	2,00	15 years
Hydropower		for first 500 000 kWh	10,55	15 years
		for next 500 000 kWh	7,59	15 years
		for next 1 500 000 kWh	6,63	15 years
		for next 2 500 000 kWh	5,53	15 years
		for next 2 500 000 kWh	5,22	15 years
		more than 7 500 000 kWh	4,97	15 years

¹ The tariffs for wind, geothermal, biogas, hydro power and biomass, are reduced by 1 % annually.

Annex B: Renewable Heat

Solar thermal:

An overview of the different regional support schemes for **solar thermal systems** on national level and in the single states can be found here at Solarwaerme.at (2015) GERMANY only.

<http://www.solarwaerme.at/docs/965.pdf>

Heat pumps:

An overview of the different regional support schemes for **heat pumps** on national level and in the single states can be found here at the **Heat Pump Association (2015)** GERMANY only.

<http://www.waermepumpe->

[austria.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder_WPA/foerderung/Foerderliste_WPA_laender.pdf](http://www.waermepumpe-austria.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder_WPA/foerderung/Foerderliste_WPA_laender.pdf)

Annex C

Links to all EurObserv'ER publications available for free download

'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe' (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-annual-overview-barometers>

Wind Energy Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-wind-energy-barometers>

Photovoltaic Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-photovoltaic-barometers>

Solar Thermal Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-solar-thermal-and-concentrated-solar-power-barometers>

Biofuels Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-biofuels-barometers>

Biogas Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-biogas-barometers>

Renewable Municipal Waste Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-renewable-municipal-waste-barometers>

Solid Biomass Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-solid-biomass-barometers>

Heat Pump Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-heat-pumps-barometers>