



Press Release

Solid Biomass Energy consumption in EU in 2018 remains stable at 99.3 Mtoe

EurObserv'ER releases Solid Biomass Barometer 2019

Free Download: <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-solid-biomass-barometers/>

Paris, January 2020

Key data for European Union solid biomass sector in 2018

- **99.3 Mtoe** Primary energy consumption from solid biomass in the EU in 2018 (99.6 in 2017)
- **68.2 Mtoe** Heat consumption from solid biomass in the EU in 2018 (68.9 in 2017)
- **99.5 TWh** Electricity production from solid biomass in the EU in 2018 (94.7 in 2017)

Main findings of the EurObserv'ER Solid Biomass Energy Barometer 2019

Solid biomass is the main renewable energy source in the EU primarily used for producing renewable heat. Solid biomass is mainly used in the form of wood chips and briquettes but includes many other forms such as wood waste, pellets, sawdust, straw, bagasse or black liquors from the papermaking industry. The energy recovery of this matter is basically channelled into producing heat. The demand for heat declined in the European Union, due to a milder winter, while there was a rise in electricity production. All in all, the sector's primary energy consumption was stable (0.3% lower than in 2017) and is just below the 100 Mtoe threshold (99.3 Mtoe). For electricity generation, the 2018 output increased by 5.1% over 2017 (by 5 TWh), which took it over the 100 TWh threshold with 103.2 TWh in 2018. Growth was essentially driven by the UK, Finland and Bulgaria where conversions of large coal-fired plants to solid biomass fuels have been observed. From 2021 onwards - solid biomass use for energy will be subject to strict EU sustainability criteria.

European wood pellet consumption rises by 8% in 2018 to 26.1 million tonnes. In 2019, the UK was the European Union's biggest wood pellet user with 8.5 million tonnes, ahead of Italy (3.3 million tonnes), Denmark (3.1 Mt), Germany (2.2 Mt), Sweden (1.8 Mt), France (1.6 Mt), Belgium (1.5 Mt), Austria (0.96 Mt), the Netherlands (0.57 Mt), Spain (0.57 Mt), Poland (0.45 Mt) and Finland (0.44 Mt).

One of the sector's fundamental ongoing trends is the conversion of large power plants, i.e. the gradual substitution of coal-fired plants by biomass plants, not by demolishing and rebuilding, but by adapting the plants to run on the new fuels.

The next EurObserv'ER barometer will be dedicated to Wind power sector.



Links and free downloads

- **REPORT:** “The State of renewable energies in Europe”, 18th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/18th-annual-overview-barometer>
- **EurObserv'ER DATABASE:** <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/online-database>
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About EurObserv'ER

Since 1999, EurObserv'ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting dynamics in 10 renewable energy sectors (PV, wind, hydropower, geothermal energy, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the EU-28 and worldwide.

Note for editors

Suggested report citation: *EurObserv'ER 2019: “Solid Biomass Barometer 2019”*,

www.eurobserv-er.org.

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