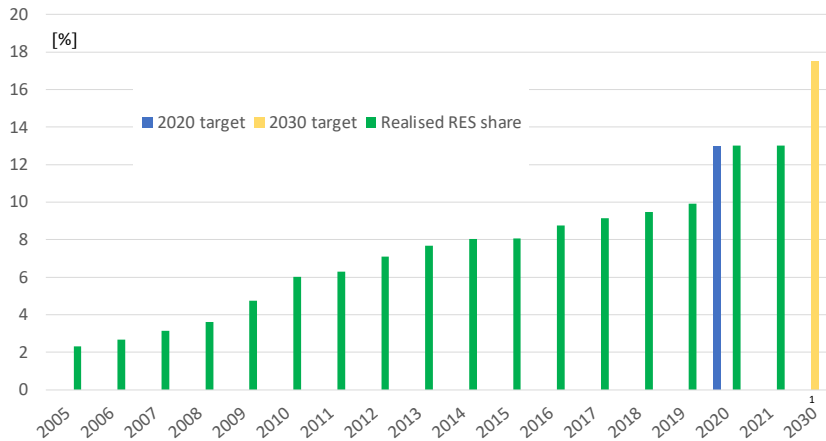


Belgium

Renewable energy status

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



Source: Eurostat

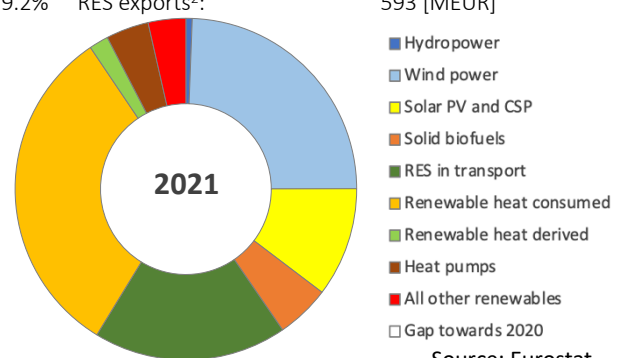
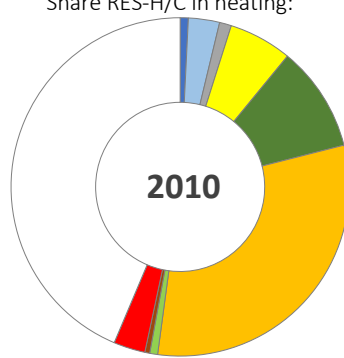
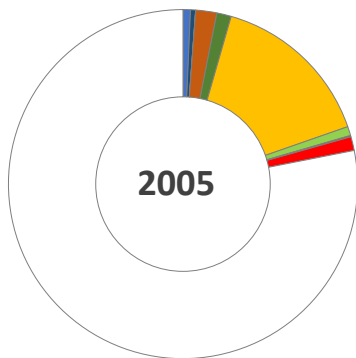
Abbreviations used:

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

Data for 2021

Overall RES share: 13%
 Overall RES 2020 target: 13%
 Overall RES 2030 target: 17.53%
 Share RES-E in electricity: 26.0%
 Share RES-T in transport: 10.3%
 Share RES-H/C in heating: 9.2%

Avoided fossil fuels: 5.3 [Mtoe]
 Avoided fuel expenses: 2 263 [MEUR]
 RES Turnover: 3 210 [MEUR]
 RES Employment: 14 200 [jobs]
 RES imports²: 561 [MEUR]
 RES exports²: 593 [MEUR]



Source: Eurostat

	2005	2010	2021		
	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Employment in FTE	Turnover in MEUR
Hydropower	29.1	32.9	27.8	200	40
Wind power	20.1	126.1	1 135.9	2 000	440
Solar PV, and CSP	0.1	48.2	483.1	4 300	840
Solid biomass	82.5	256.1	237.6	1 000	400
Ren. energy in transport ³	56.9	427.1	853.5	1 600	430
Renew. heat consumed	643.7	1 316.7	1 483.8		
Renew. heat derived	35.5	31.9	85.4		
Heat pumps	5.4	19.9	188.8	4 200	870
All other renewables	54.2	128	165.8	900	190
Gap towards 2020	3 305.8	1 846.6			

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, 2022 edition*

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



CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

RES-E

In Belgium the production of electricity from renewable sources is promoted mainly through a renewable quota scheme based on certificates. Offshore wind and hydropower are governed by national regulations. Rights to develop new offshore wind projects are granted based on tenders. Renewable electricity generators can use an obligation the national TSO Elia has to purchase green certificates at a minimum price set by law for offshore wind and hydropower. The minimum price works out as a feed-in premium for offshore wind projects (as well as for medium and large scale PV). The three Belgian regions (Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels) have their own standards for support for renewable energy. All three regions make use of a renewable quota scheme based on a framework from the federal government, including guaranteed price floors for certain technologies. The regional quota schemes may have region-specific features including the level of quotas set. The regions also have regional-specific complementary support measures such as investment premiums (all), net metering (all) and RES obligations on new public buildings (Brussels).

RES H&C

Renewable energy in heating and cooling is supported by the federal government through tax deductions and indirect measures such as RD&D programmes and training programmes for RES-H installers. There are region-specific complementary measures such as a renewable heating quota (Flanders) and zero-percent interest loans for RES-H implementation (Wallonia).

RES-T

Renewable energy use in transport is mainly supported through a federal biofuels quota scheme, which obliges companies importing or producing gasoline, gas or diesel fuels to comply with a pre-set minimum biofuels quota with regard to their annual fuel sales. Furthermore there are two fiscal stimulation measures in place. The first is a reduction in excise tax on automotive fuels, contingent on the share of biofuels in automotive fuels. The second is a full exemption on excise taxes for automotive fuels, applicable to rapeseed oil directly sold by manufacturers thereof to the final consumer.

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

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Description</i>
Renewable quota scheme, certificates-based	Obligation upon electricity suppliers to surrender on the settlement day of the current year a number of certificates corresponding to a pre-set minimum share of their annual sales volume last year. Federal website: https://www.creg.be/nl/a-z-index/groenestroomcertificaten Brussels website: https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/themes/hernieuwbare-energie-11/mechanisme-van-de-gsc-35 Wallonia website: https://www.cwape.be/ Flanders website: https://www.vreg.be/nl/wetgeving-energie
Feed-in premiums	Guaranteed premium during the support contract period on top of revenues from electricity sales: the guaranteed minimum certificate price granted by Elia works out as a feed-in premium for offshore wind and medium and large PV projects.
Tendering	Applied in offshore wind sub-sector Website: https://economie.fgov.be/en/themes/energy/belgian-offshore-wind-energy
Net metering	Possibility for an operator of small roof-top PV installations to settle electricity fed into the grid in the course of a calendar year at the retail electricity tariff (including taxes and surcharges up to a maximum level, i.e. the aggregated volume of electricity absorbed by the operator concerned from the grid during the same calendar year.
Tax credits scheme	Renewable heating and cooling installations in buildings are eligible for an exemption from property tax for building owners.
Biofuels quota	Importers/suppliers of transport fuels are subject to a renewable quota scheme for biofuels. Compliance based on sample testing rather than certificates-based.

For further information:

CEER, 2021. Status Review of Renewable Support Schemes in Europe for 2018 and 2019.
<https://www.ceer.eu/documents/104400/-/-/ffe624d4-8fbb-ff3b-7b4b-1f637f42070a>

European Alternative Fuels Observatory, <https://alternative-fuels-observatory.ec.europa.eu/transport-mode/road/Netherlands>

European Commission, 2020. Assessment of the final National Energy and Climate Plan of Belgium. SWD(2020) 900 final. Brussels, 14 October.
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/staff_working_document_assessment_necp_belgium_en_0.pdf

Eurostat, 2022. Renewable energy statistics;
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Renewable_energy_statistics

Government of Belgium, 2019. Belgian Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. Brussels, Belgium
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-09/be_final_necp_parta_en_0.pdf and
https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-09/be_final_necp_partb_en_0.pdf

International Energy Agency (IEA) database on policies and measures.
<https://www.iea.org/policies?topic=Renewable%20Energy>

International Energy Agency (IEA), 2022. Belgium 2022 Energy Policy Review.
https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/638cb377-ca57-4c16-847d-ea4d96218d35/Belgium2022_EnergyPolicyReview.pdf

International Energy Agency (IEA) Bioenergy, 2021, Implementation of bioenergy in Belgium – 2021 update. https://www.ieabioenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CountryReport2021_Belgium_final.pdf

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

REN21, 2021. Global Status Report 2021. https://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GSR2021_Full_Report.pdf

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

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

This document was prepared by the EurObserv'ER consortium, which groups together Observ'ER (FR), TNO (NL), RENAC (DE), VITO (BE) and Fraunhofer ISI (DE). This document has been prepared for the European Commission however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.