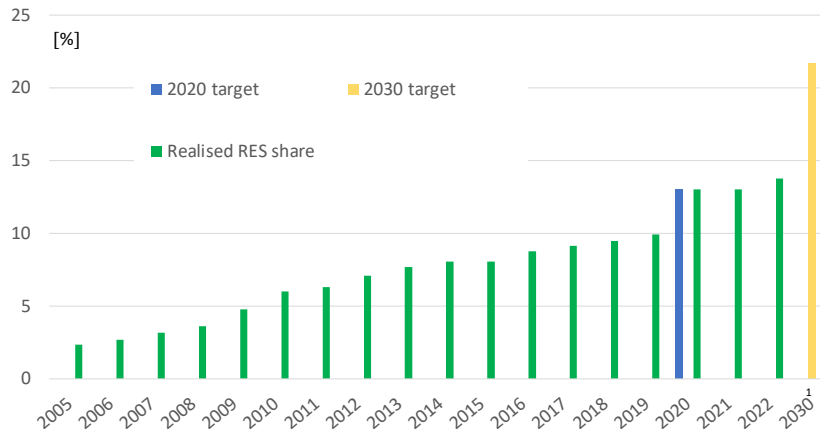


## Belgium

### Renewable energy status

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



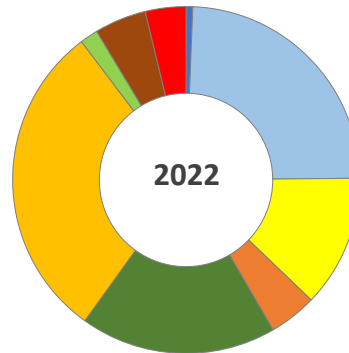
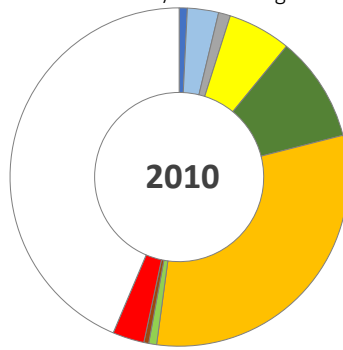
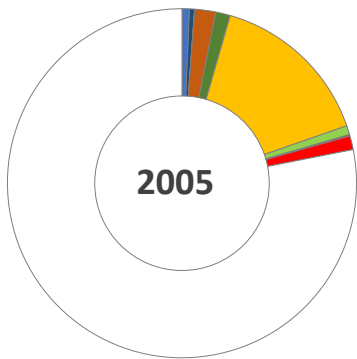
Source: Eurostat

#### Abbreviations used:

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

#### Data for 2022

Overall RES share: 13.8%    Avoided fossil fuels: 5.9 [Mtoe]  
 Overall RES 2020 target: 13%    Avoided fuel expenses: 4 884.5 [MEUR]  
 Overall RES 2030 target: 21.7%    RES Turnover: 3 380 [MEUR]  
 Share RES-E in electricity: 29.1%    RES Employment: 17 200 [jobs]  
 Share RES-T in transport: 10.4%    RES imports<sup>2</sup>: 808 [MEUR]  
 Share RES-H/C in heating: 10.4%    RES exports<sup>2</sup>: 691 [MEUR]



- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Solar PV and CSP
- Solid biofuels
- RES in transport
- Renewable heat consumed
- Renewable heat derived
- Heat pumps
- All other renewables
- Gap towards 2020

Source: Eurostat

	2005	2010	2022		
	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Energy in ktoe	Employment in FTE	Turnover in MEUR
Hydropower	29.1	32.9	30	300	70
Wind power	20.1	126.1	1 161	4 000	860
Solar PV, and CSP	0.1	48.2	591	2 300	440
Solid biomass	82.5	256.1	214	2 400	690
Ren. energy in transport <sup>3</sup>	56.9	427.1	877	1 700	450
Renew. heat consumed	643.7	1 316.7	1 428		
Renew. heat derived	35.5	31.9	81		
Heat pumps	5.4	19.9	232	5 100	1 050
All other renewables	54.2	128	182	1 400	320

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).

<sup>1</sup> From Integrated National Energy Climate Plan

<sup>2</sup> Referring to the International Trade chapter from the publication: EurObserv'ER - *The State of Renewable Energy in Europe, 2022 edition*

<sup>3</sup> 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). Access to the grid prioritizes renewable energy, and grid expansion is the responsibility of distribution grid operators. Electricity from renewable energy sources is given priority in both connection to and use of the grid. Policies also include training programs, certification schemes, and research and development initiatives at the federal and regional levels.

### RES H&C

Renewable energy in heating and cooling is supported by the federal government through tax deductions on investment costs for companies. Other policies promoting heating and cooling are indirect measures such as RD&D programmes, a certification scheme for heat pumps installations and training programmes for RES-H installers (RESCert). Region-specific measures include a renewable heating quota in Flanders and zero-percent interest loans for RES-H implementation in Wallonia. In Brussels, energy subsidies and investment assistance are provided for heat generation from renewable sources. Flanders has a quota system and premium schemes set up by grid operators and municipalities. Wallonia offers energy subsidies, zero-percent loans, and investment incentives for companies.

### 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. As transport is a matter of federal competence in Belgium, there are no regional support schemes for the production of biofuels.

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

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Description</i>
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<b>Renewable quota scheme, certificates-based</b>	<p>Belgium promotes renewable electricity through a certificate-based quota system. Offshore wind power and hydropower are governed nationally, while other renewable sources have regional support schemes. Suppliers must provide green certificates to prove a portion of the electricity comes from renewables, with quotas varying by region. 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.</p> <p>Federal website: <a href="https://www.creg.be/nl/a-z-index/groenestroomcertificaten">https://www.creg.be/nl/a-z-index/groenestroomcertificaten</a>  Brussels website: <a href="https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/themes/hernieuwbare-energie-11/mechanisme-van-de-gsc-35">https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/themes/hernieuwbare-energie-11/mechanisme-van-de-gsc-35</a>  Wallonia website: <a href="https://www.cwape.be/">https://www.cwape.be/</a>  Flanders website: <a href="https://www.vreg.be/nl/wetgeving-energie">https://www.vreg.be/nl/wetgeving-energie</a></p>
<b>Feed-in premiums</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Tendering</b>	<p>Applied in offshore wind sub-sector. The objective is to add a minimum of 3.15 GW and a maximum of 3.5 GW in the Princess Elisabeth Zone (PEZ) by 2030. Preliminary studies are conducted to provide information to potential bidders and reduce their costs. The PEZ is divided into three parcels, each with a specific maximum installed capacity.  Website: <a href="https://economie.fgov.be/en/themes/energy/belgian-offshore-wind-energy">https://economie.fgov.be/en/themes/energy/belgian-offshore-wind-energy</a></p>
<b>Net metering</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Tax credits scheme</b>	<p>Renewable heating and cooling installations in buildings are eligible for an exemption from property tax for building owners. Besides, the Belgian government passed in 2022 a temporary VAT reduction to the delivery and installation of photovoltaic and thermal solar panels, solar water heaters and heat pumps. <a href="https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/energy-investment-allowance-eia%23">https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/energy-investment-allowance-eia%23</a></p>
<b>Biofuels quota</b>	<p>Importers/suppliers of transport fuels are subject to a renewable quota scheme for biofuels. Compliance based on sample testing rather than certificates-based.</p>
<b>Supercap mechanism for industrial sectors</b>	<p>In 2018 the Flemish Government introduced also a “supercap” mechanism for specific sectors (NACE-code). The supercap mechanism comes on top of the already foreseen exemptions and is granted subject to conditions. The supercap means that the contribution to RES-support at enterprise or establishment level is capped to 4% of the gross added value of the enterprise/establishment.</p>

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## 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

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