

NECPs and EU funds

Displaying the link between NECPs and EU funds in the area of biomass and waste

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Biomass in CEE

Worrying trend in CEE countries: tackling the need for Renewable Energy investment and increase in consumption **through the extended use of biomass.**

- In some countries biomass represents almost 50% of their Renewable Energy supply, sometimes up to 80%
- Most NECPs foresee an increase in biomass use in the next decade.

Biomass in CEE

Bulgaria

- In 2020, in H/C, **biomass represents already 30% of energy consumption**
- By 2030, **40%** of households using wood
- Low-efficiency of the current heating system specially in households
- Plans for combined burning of biomass and fossil fuels
- Increased logging plans in high-biodiversity value forests

Estonia

- Overcuts forests **30% more than grows back**
- Continues peat extraction

Biomass in CEE

Slovakia

- Logging grew by **75%** from 1990 to 2015
- **Huge amount of EU funding in building large-scale wood-based heat and power plants**
- **Share of solid biomass was 45% of total RE in primary energy supply in 2017**
- Plans to almost **double** the installed capacity of solid biomass utilities by 2030

Czech Republic

- Projected increase of biomass consumption in the NECP
- Such an increase suppose that the country would either have to **import biomass** from abroad or resort to unsustainable sourcing of its own biomass in order to meet the projected demand

Biomass in CEE

Latvia

- Share of solid biomass in final energy consumption will increase by **13,3% by 2030**
- Exports of wood was the most significant export sector in 2017 (20% of total export value)
- **Growing consumption of biomass in other countries might influence forest resource demand in Latvia**
- Harvest rate already causing significant reduction in CO2 capture

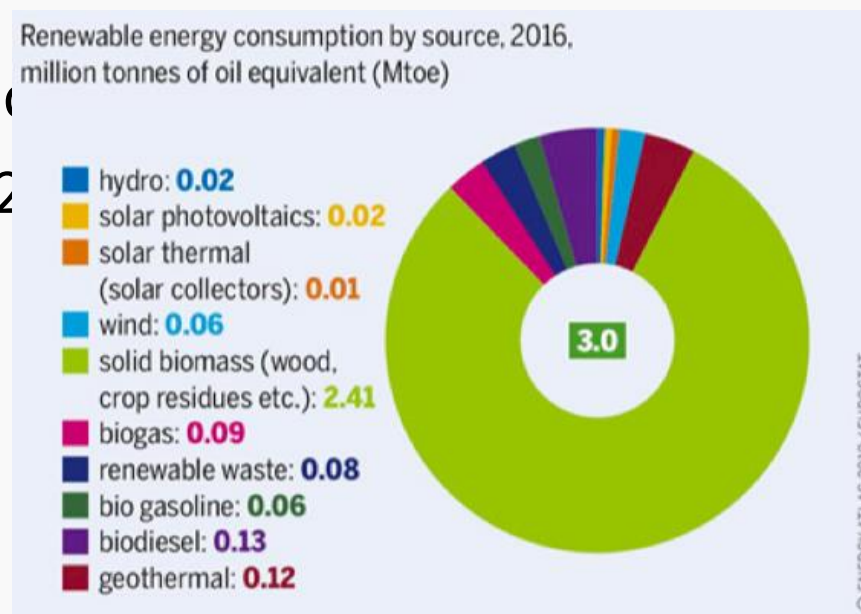
Poland

- Already over-reliance on co-firing coal and biomass for RE production
- **Biomass accounting for 70% of total RE**
- Plans to further expand its role in energy production
- Expects CO2 emissions from biomass to grow and CO2 storage by forests to decline dramatically as a result

Biomass in CEE

Hungary

- Already over-reliance on biomass and with unsustainable or illegally obtained wood
- **80%** of renewable energy comes from solid biomass
- Plans to increase its solid biomass use by 20%



Relation with EU Funds

- NECPs are the guiding document for energy and climate measures and policies post-2020
- Any widespread use of biomass is detrimental
- **These plans should find their translation in Member State's programming for structural funds**
- **It is all the more important to get involved to be able to challenge such plans.**

Waste incineration

5 countries are planning an expansion of their capacity in their NECPs

Why is it a problem?

1) It is incompatible with EU rules

- At odds with EU waste policies that prioritise prevention, reuse and recycling of waste
- Burning waste for energy is among the least preferred options in the waste hierarchy laid out in the Waste Framework Directive, which requires Member States to implement to implement separate collection of biodegradable waste by the end of 2023

2) It is bad for the climate

- Burning waste for energy generates much higher GHG emissions than waste management methods
- Also less resource-efficient than recycling as it destroys resources that need to be replaced, therefore creating demand for more extraction and manufacturing of new materials
- Lock-in carbon-intensive technologies that may soon become obsolete as the EU implements its waste and circular economy policies. There will be less and less biogenic content due to wider separate collection, and less high calorie content as Europe cuts down on plastic waste. May then be forced to revert to fossil fuels or increase the use of unsustainable biomass

3) It pollutes the air

- Big emitter of major air pollutants and toxic residues
- Endangering the health and wellbeing of local communities

4) It diverts national and EU funds away towards incineration projects !

- BG, HU, LV, PL, SK already not on track to meeting their recycling targets
- Will use up a significant share of available financial resources
- Crowding out prevention, reuse and recycling projects in terms of access to finance and organisational capacities of the project promoters

3) It diverts national and EU funds away towards incineration projects

BG: Planned incinerator in Sofia set to use **25% of BG's EU funds** for waste management

HU: companies dealing with incineration are already **benefiting from most public subsidies** and preparing to request funding from the Modernisation Fund

PL : Gdansk incinerator accounts for around **50% of the total EU funds** spending on waste management in PL.

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Recommendations for Waste

1. Developing waste incineration with energy recovery **should not be treated** as a climate measure in the NECPs
2. It **should not be supported** with public finance
3. Member States should be encouraged to include sustainable alternatives in the final versions of their NECPs

Recommendations for Biomass

- 1) Spending billions of Euros from the **Modernisation Fund** needs to be properly planned to secure a sustainable energy transformation
- 2) Strong **sustainability criteria** for support of solid biomass from public finance
- 1) Consider **other policies** to truly support only sustainable biomass such as Natura 2000, Biodiversity strategy, Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection and CAP