

RES-e Regions

WP 1: Regional Targets & Strategy

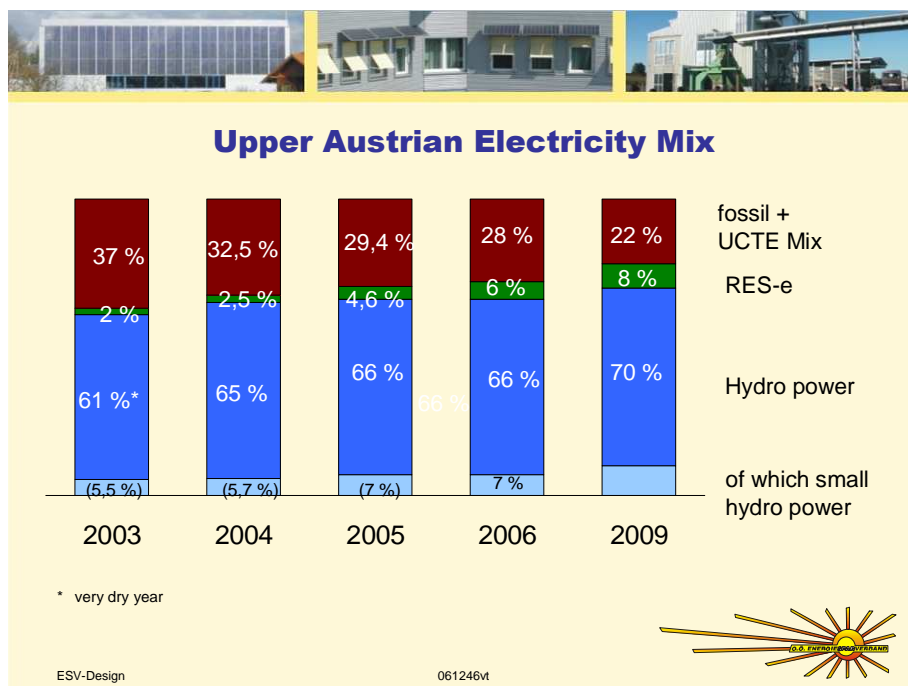
SUMMARY

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Present status & potentials

Upper Austria is a leading Austrian region in terms of renewable energy market development. Presently about 30% of the total primary energy consumption and 13% of the electricity consumption is covered by renewable energy sources. Including (large) hydro power, the share of RES-e even amounts to more than 72%.

Due to a regional support programme, a number of RES-e installations went into operation in the last years. Presently more than 1,170 PV plants, 12 biomass CHP plants, 80 biogas, 23 wind power and 590 small hydro power plants are in operation. In the last 2 years 183 small hydro power plants were renovated and the output was increased on average by 33% (31 GWh).

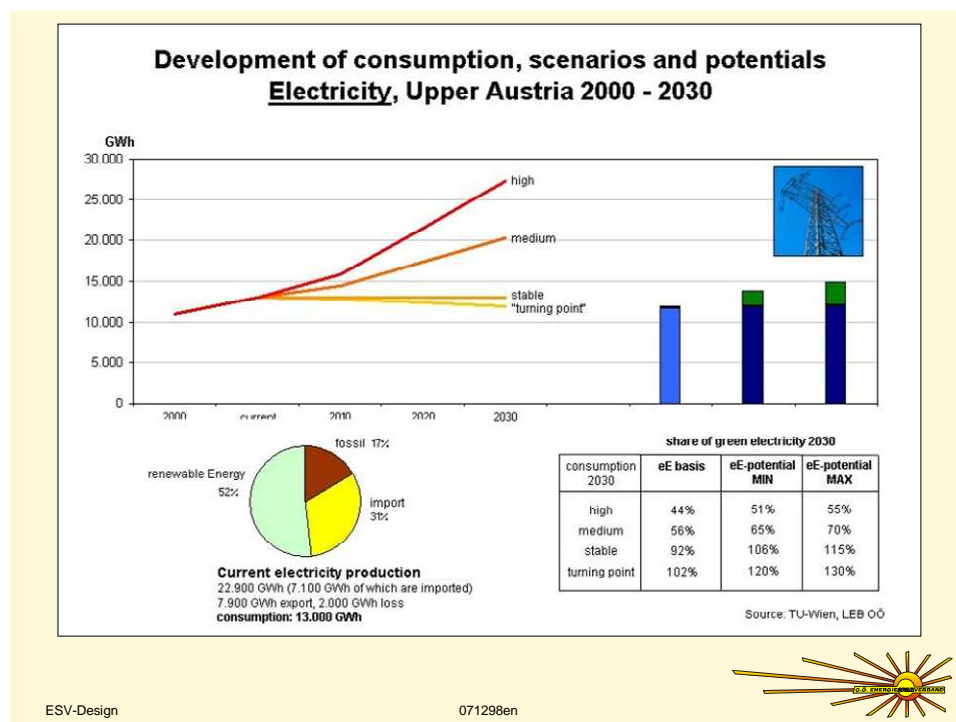


The RES-e target to be achieved Austrian-wide, following the implementation of the RES-e Directive, is 78.1% RES-e until 2010 (including large hydro power). In addition there are the following Upper Austrian targets (excl. hydro power):

- 6% RES-e by 2007
- 8% RES-e by 2010

Energy Future 2030

The activities in Upper Austria in WP 1 of the RES-e project focused on the development of a regional strategy for 2030 (as one for 2010 already exists). The aim is to develop a regional strategy which continues the existing strategy (2000 – 2010) from 2010 to 2030. Basis of the process was an analysis of the present electricity consumption and the development of different scenarios of long-term RES-e potential.



In order to get input into the development of the "Energy future 2030" - regional strategy, the seminar "Energie Zukunft 2030" ("Energy future 2030") targeted at regional stakeholders interested in the energy future of Upper Austria. The seminar, organised on 26 April 2006, offered the possibility to discuss within workshops about future trends of green energy, especially renewable electricity until the year 2030. The seminar combined presentations with interactive workshops, in which the participants were invited to contribute actively.

Additionally, a dialogue platform was started - which is still ongoing - where key actors are invited to participate in the discussion on the strategy, including as one interactive element an on-line questionnaire.

Besides, a number of other activities were implemented, which were triggered by the RES-e project, including:

- Surveys
- Dialogue platform
- Round table event with stakeholders
- International conference "Energy Future 2030" on 3 March 2007
- Including RES-e in the regular meetings of the "electricity board" in Upper Austria
- Pilot project "Ried-Raab-Ranna" to reduce peak load
- RES-e in municipalities
- Legal measures (new regional electricity law)
- Press conferences and releases

Suggested Measures

Within the process "Energy Future 2030", the following measures are proposed:

Legal and administrative measures:

- Obligatory share of RES-e for public buildings
- Only RES-e for public administration
- Benchmarks for electricity
- Electricity efficiency criteria for electricity production
- RES-e "negotiation point" for complicated permission procedures

Financial measures:

- Third Party Financing
- Public Private Partnership
- Citizens shares
- (bank) guarantees for the construction of RES-e plants
- regional "pool" for RES-e plants

Information & awareness raising:

- RES-e campaign
- RES-e competition
- Publications
- Including RES-e in every energy advice session
- Training RES-e
- Best-practice examples

Benefits - implications for the regional economy

RES-e technologies are more and more becoming an important economic factor which offer not only environmental benefits but also good economic reasons for regional bodies to justify

political priority and strong commitment. The most important economic benefits as seen from a regional perspective are:

- most important of all is job & income creation: it is estimated that RES-e can contribute within the next 7 years to the generation of 7,000 new jobs
- security of supply: the energy import dependence is 50 % in the EU and - if nothing is done - will increase to 70 % by 2030! In Austria it is already around 66 % and also threatening to increase - apart from the geopolitical considerations, this imports mean that Austria spends 8 billion Euro per year on the import of fossil fuels - which - at least partly could be an income for our (RES-e) businesses
- CO₂-reduction: one example is are small hydro power plants: in the last 2 years 202 small hydro power plants were renovated with an investment of more than 40 mio € leading to an increased output of 30% (~ 50 GWh annually) and to a reduction of CO₂ emissions of about 20,000 t
- innovation: modern RES-e technologies are the results of R&D, of technological innovation and also bring about new business models.

In Upper Austria a number of companies active in the field of EE and RES are established which are already an important economic factor. A network – the Oekoenergie-Cluster (OEC) - was therefore established to support these companies in their market development. 145 companies and institutions are presently partners of the OEC, representing the RES sectors: solar energy, biomass, biogas, wind energy, heat pumps, geothermal energy and small hydro power, and of course RES-e is an important part.

In total, these companies achieve an annual turnover of about 1.6 billion €, they employ more than 3,400 people and their export share amounts to 50%. Presently 100 mio € is invested in new production facilities and 500 additional people are employed.

Conclusions

The dialogue platform, started in preparation of the seminar on 26 April last year, is still ongoing and the feed-back of stakeholders is included in the development of a detailed action plan to achieve the ambitious goals of the “turning point” scenario outlined in the “Energy future analysis”.

A strategy and action plan for the Energy Future 2030 is under development. The strategy together with the preparatory activities implemented within the RES-e project are presented and communicated to regional stakeholders and decision makers.