

## Bridgetown europe renewable energy

The energy sector is responsible for more than 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the share of renewable energy across the different sectors of the economy is therefore a key building block to reaching the goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and becoming a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

Building on the 20% target for 2020, the recast Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU established a new binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32%, with a clause for a possible upwards revision by 2023.

On 18 May 2022, the Commission published the REPowerEU plan, which set out a series of measures to rapidly reduce the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels well before 2030 by accelerating the clean energy transition. The REPowerEU plan is based on three pillars: saving energy, producing clean energy and diversifying the EU's energy supplies. As part of its scaling up of renewable energy in power generation, industry, buildings and transport, the Commission proposed to increase the target in the directive to 45% by 2030.

To further accelerate the deployment of renewables, the Council adopted, following a Commission proposal of 9 November 2022, a temporary emergency regulation on 22 December 2022 to speed up permit-granting procedures for renewable projects and facilitate power purchase agreements.

The revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2023/2413 raises the EU's binding renewable target for 2030 to a minimum of 42.5%, up from the previous 32% target, with the aspiration to reach 45%.

With its Energy 2020 strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy (COM/2010/0639), the EU aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%, increase the share of renewable energy to at least 20% of consumption and achieve energy savings of 20% or more by 2020. All EU countries should also achieve a 10% share of renewable energy in their transport sector. In their national renewable action plans, they explained how they intended to achieve these goals by 2020.

Every 2 years between 2001 and 2018, EU countries reported on their progress towards the EU's 2020 renewable energy goals and the Commission, based on the national reports and other available data, produced an EU-wide report, giving an overview of renewable energy policy developments in EU countries.

Becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 is the objective behind the European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final), the very ambitious package of measures that should enable European citizens and businesses to benefit from sustainable green transition.

The use of renewable energy has many potential benefits, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the diversification of energy supplies and a reduced dependency on fossil fuel markets (in particular, oil and gas). The growth of renewable energy sources may also stimulate employment in the EU, through the creation of jobs in new "green" technologies.

This article provides recent statistics on the share of energy from renewable sources overall and in three consumption sectors (electricity, heating and cooling, and transport) in the European Union (EU). Renewable energy sources include wind power, solar power (thermal, photovoltaic and concentrated), hydro power, tidal power, geothermal energy, ambient heat captured by heat pumps, biofuels and the renewable part of waste.

Some countries used statistical transfers to maintain higher levels than their 2020 targets (which is an obligation for the 2021-2030 period). Statistical transfers are agreements between Member States to transfer a specified amount of energy from renewable sources from one Member State to another Member States. See Table 1a for more details on the statistical transfers a reported for reference year 2022.

The rest of this article's statistical findings deal with the developments from 2004 to 2022 in the share of energy from renewable sources in three areas: electricity, heating and cooling, and transport.

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