# Brussels solar energy for the environment

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The site also offers an estimate of the cost of installing solar panels, links to further information about the support available, and contact details for installation companies that can help.

"This map aims to counteract some common misconceptions that we all have in Belgium - that if you don"t have a south-facing property, it"s not worth it," said Benjamin Wilquin, secretary of APERe, the association for the promotion of renewable energies.

According to APERe, if every rooftop in Brussels were equipped with solar panels, they would produce 4% of all of the country"s energy needs. The Brussels region wants to quadruple its production of renewable energy by 2020.

The Early Morning Market Brussels (Mabru) opened up its roof for ENGIE to install the largest photovoltaic (PV) panel system in the City of Brussels, and one of the largest in the entire Brussels-Capital Region. With a surface area of over 13,000 m? and capacity of close to 2.2 MW, these panels will generate over 2 million kWh each year, equal to between 25 and 30% of the site"s consumption. This amount corresponds to the annual consumption of nearly 600 households and cuts CO2 emissions by 830 tonnes per year.

Following its successful launch on the retail market in August 2016, in late 2016 ENGIE launched a PV tender geared towards Belgian companies, and created a new subsidiary,ENGIE Sun4Business, to this end. By late 2017, it had already contracted or installed 10 MW of PV capacity, and intends to install 60 MW by 2020.

ENGIE Sun4Business is a partnership between ENGIE Electrabel and Orka, a Belgian company that has already rolled out dozens of projects related to solar energy in Brussels and Flemish companies. ENGIE Sun4Business financed the Mabru investment through the third-party investor system, meaning that Mabru will benefit from the electricity generated by the panels free of charge and will own the facilities after 10 years. ENGIE Fabricom, a subsidiary of ENGIE, installed the solar panels and will be in charge of their maintenance.

Do you produce more green energy than you use? And would you like to sell this surplus to your neighbours instead of putting it back on the grid? The "Bruxelles Environnement" service now offersfree assistance to do so.

After all, collective self-consumption of locally produced and consumed electricity is a promising way to make the energy transition possible for as many people as possible.

If you have solar panels, you can use your own production, but the excess electricity produced is still returned

to the grid. By setting up a so-called "energy community", to pool production and synchronise consumption, you can share your surplus energy with the neighbourhood at a rate that is interesting for all parties.

The principle of collective self-consumption can also be applied to other sources of green energy. In the Brussels Capital Region, however, photovoltaic installations have the greatest production potential.

The high-level event and the launch of the roadmap are coordinated initiatives in the context of Solar Heat Europe"s 30thanniversary, which represents an important milestone for the whole European solar thermal industry. To mark this milestone, the association aims to celebrate past achievements, but more importantly, to look at future steps and how the solar thermal sector can play a key role in the energy transition, lowering emissions, and finally, achieving net-zero in 2050.