

Europe renewable energy malta

Energy in Malta describes energy production, consumption and import in Malta. Malta has no domestic resource of fossil fuels and no gas distribution network, and relies overwhelmingly on imports of fossil fuels and electricity to cover its energy needs. Since 2015, the Malta-Sicily interconnector allows Malta to be connected to the European power grid and import a significant share of its electricity.

At 4.9%, Malta had the lowest share of renewables as part of gross inland energy consumption in the EU in 2017.

The specific needs of Malta as an island state with regards to energy policy are recognised in EU law. In particular, Malta has unique automatic derogations from Articles 9 (unbundling of transmission systems and transmission system operators), 26 (unbundling of distribution system operators), 32 (third-party access) and 33 (market opening and reciprocity) of the Electricity Directive 2009/72/EC;

The energy intensity of Malta was 85.3 kg of oil equivalent per EUR1,000 of GDP 2017, which is relatively low compared to other EU countries.

Final energy consumption was 495 ktoe in 2017. Transport accounted for the largest share of this final energy consumption, at 209 ktoe, followed by services at 126 ktoe, households at 94 ktoe and industry at 57 ktoe.

Malta has a high proportion of petrol to diesel cars and a limited number of alternative fuel vehicles. In 2017, 68% of passenger cars were petrol cars, 32% diesel and 0.47% powered by alternative fuels.

Malta has four electricity plants operational and the total combined nominal installed capacity is 537.8 MW. The Malta-Sicily Interconnector, which has been in operation since April 2015, allows for an electricity link between the Maltese Islands and the Italian electricity market has bidirectional flow capacity of 200 MW. This is said to have increased Malta's energy security and supply flexibility.

Malta has some of the lowest household electricity prices in the EU. In 2018, the average household electricity price was 0.1306 EUR/kWh, only higher than those in Hungary, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

The European Union Directive 2009/28/EC set Malta's target share of renewable energy at 10% by the year 2020.

According to the EU fact sheet in January 2007 the potential of wind energy in Malta is substantial. In 2010 the investment subsidy of 25% was available for private consumers for wind power up to 3.7 kW (urban wind turbines). Excess electricity fed into the grid was purchased at

EUR 0.07 per kWh.

Large-scale offshore wind projects have been considered in Malta, yet have so far not been realised. Unofficial consultations were held before 2013, yet were said to have ended following a change of government in that year. Current wind power generation in Malta remains very low.

A 2018 pilot project led by MCAST was conducted to investigate the potential of floating off-shore solar farms to provide energy for Malta.

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