

Latvia energy independence

Latvia is a net energy importer. Primary energy use in Latvia was 49 TWh, or 22 TWh per million persons in 2009. In 2018, electricity consumption per capita was 3731 kWh;

The 2021-30 plan set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 65% compared to 1990. There is a target of being carbon neutral by 2050.

From 1 January 2023 Latvia banned the import of natural gas from Russia. The replacement comes from connections to LNG terminals, the Klaipėda LNG terminal in Lithuania, and from 2024 the recently-opened Inkoo LNG terminal in Finland;

JSC Conexus Baltic Grid is the natural gas transmission system operator in Latvia. International transmission pipelines are 577 km long, consisting of the Riga-Pahneva, Pleskava-Riga, Izborska-Inčukalns UGS, Riga-Inčukalns UGS I - line, Riga-Inčukalns UGS II - line, Vire-i-Tallinn pipelines. The total length of regional transmission pipelines is 613 km;

Almost half of the electricity used in the country is provided by renewable energy sources. The main renewable resource is hydroelectric power. Latvia has laws that regulate the building of power plants and plans to sell electricity at higher prices. This is a stimulus for investment, especially taking into consideration the fact that Latvia cannot offer big subsidies in order to attract investment. A production quota is approved for each renewable energy source every year.

The share of renewable energy in the gross final energy consumption in 2021 in Latvia was 42.1%, thanks to strong hydroelectric power;

In 2022 a wind farm is in the initial planning stage to be located in the Gulf of Riga, Latvia having rejected the idea of working with Estonia on a nearby project, the new plan is expected to supply 1 GW of clean wind energy, which would translate to 3 TWh (Terawatt-hours) of renewable energy;

It was agreed in 2018 that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would connect to the European Union's electricity system and desynchronize from the Russian BRELL power system. This is expected to be completed by February 2025. An interconnector linking Lithuania with Poland is to be built, called the Harmony Link Interconnector, which will be important on harmonising the system;

A back up plan, should Russia disconnect the Baltic states before 2025, would enable a connection to the European grid to be completed within 24 hours;

FILE - From left, then-Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins, Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and

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Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte attend a joint news conference during their meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, Friday, Feb. 3, 2023. The electricity grid operators of the three Baltic countries on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, officially notified Russia and Belarus that they will exit a 2001 agreement that has kept Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania connected to an electricity transmission system controlled by Moscow. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin, File)

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) -- The electricity grid operators of the three Baltic countries on Tuesday officially notified Russia and Belarus that they will exit a 2001 agreement that has kept Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania connected to an electricity transmission system controlled by Moscow.

The Baltic countries have already stopped buying electricity from Russia. And in a plan announced last year as part of moves to sever ties with Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine, they will shift their grid connections next February to the main continental European energy network in a move to end reliance.

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