

Important Bio energy projects and discussions in Slovakia.

Current projects.

- 1.1 a. Replacement of brown coal fired boilers by a biomass fired boiler (Capacity: 605 kWth) at the School Forest Enterprise of the Technical University in Zvolen;
- b. Energy Saving in the Slovak Dairy Industry - carried out at the company Mliekospol, Nove Zamky;
These demonstration projects have been financed within Programme PSO supported by Dutch Government (1999-2001); Joint Implementation the Slovak Republic - The Netherlands, 1998.
- 1.2 Biogas plant implemented within the Project "Biogas Technologies for Regenerative Energy Supply in Eastern Europe" at the Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra. The Project was financed within ECC Programme: INCO-COPERNICUS, 1998-2000.
- 1.3 The Project: "Biomass Utilisation in Schools - replacement of brown coal fired boilers by woody pellets fired boilers in 42 schools in the Region of North Slovakia" supported by Danish Government, within period 2000-02.
Within this Project were completed two boiler houses in 2000: in Klokocov (725 kWth) and in Luky (130 kWth);

Political and regulatory questions.

- 2.1 The National Strategy Development of Renewable Energy Sources, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Economy and the Slovak Energy Agency is working with:
- 2.2 New Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic
 - a. Sustainable Development of Slovak Energy Sector
 - Fulfilment of the international agreement in the area of ecology, nuclear safety, investments and energy trade (Kyoto Protocol, Nuclear Safety Treaty, Supplementary Agreement to Energy Charter Treaty, Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Ecology Aspects of the ECT, etc.)
 - Establish the Energy Savings Fund, which shall encompass the up to now supportive programs in the area of energy savings (Program of Economic Activities leading to savings in energy and imported raw materials and the Program of Reduction of Energy Intensity and Utilisation of Alternative Energy Sources).
 - b. Renewable Energy Sources
 - Increase the share of renewable and secondary energy sources in the coverage of consumption of PER.
 - To achieve the share of renewable energy sources in total consumption of PER at the level of 4% in the year 2005.

A long-term goal in the area of use of renewable energy sources is to attain a level, which is comparable with the one attained in the majority of EU countries. For gradual achievement of this goal it is above all necessary to adjust upwards the fuel and energy prices, to create suitable legislative, economic and financial background and to introduce systematic measures for support of entrepreneurial activities in renewable energy sources. As implied by the performed survey there are potential possibilities for expanded use of the renewable energy sources until the year 2010:

a/ under the assumption, that the development rate of renewable energy sources will not substantially change in the future, the anticipated electricity generation from renewables in 2010 could increase by 63 %, and the heat energy generation could double as compared with the year 1997. The estimated costs of investment projects needed for achievement of the technically usable potential are 46,6 billion SK (of which 36,1 billion SK shall be invested into the hydropower construction projects).

b/ under the assumption that systematic measures for support of development of renewable energy sources shall be applied, the 2010 overall electricity generated from the renewable energy sources could increase by 133 % and the 2010 heat energy generated from renewables could triple as compared with 1997. In this case, the estimated investment costs are 98,3 bn SK (of which hydropower plants shall cost 53,3 bn SK).

The higher utilisation of the renewable energy source for energy generation would project itself in reduced environmental impact of the power generation industry, in creation of almost 5000 new jobs in construction industry and as operating staff the new renewable based power plants and moreover, approximately same number of jobs would be created in engineering design and consulting firms, in commerce, in manufacturing industry and in the form of subdeliveries of components for the new power plants based on renewables. The implementation of this program would allow the SR to approximate the planned twofold higher utilisation of renewables in frame of the EU by the year 2010. However, the fulfilment of this demanding program requires a co-ordinated approach of several sectors by creation and putting into practice of necessary systematic measures in the area of energy prices and energy taxes, legislation, ecology, power generation industry, etc.

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