

Regional Biomass Action Plan

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1 Purpose of the work

In Upper Austria, renewable energy sources (RES) provide over 30% of the primary energy consumption (of which 14% is biomass) and the share of renewable heating is 41%. The regional government has already adopted the target to reach 100% RES heat by 2030. To achieve this ambitious goal a regional biomass action plan is carried out. The O.Ö. Energiesparverband, the energy agency of Upper Austria, is mainly responsible for the implementation of the measures included in the action plan.

2 Approach

As part of the strategy process "Energy Future 2030" 4 scenarios were developed which outline development of consumption, trends and potentials. Depending on the development of the heat consumption by 2030: high – 0.5% increase, medium - +/-0%; stable – minus 0.5 %; turning point scenario – minus 2% and on harnessing the RES potentials, the share of RES heat (incl. district heating) by 2030 can vary between 32% (present RES heat, high consumption growth rate) and 100% (utilisation of maximum potential and decreasing consumption).

3 Scientific innovation and relevance

The strategy process "Energy Future 2030" is based on scenarios which only include growth rates of RES that are economically feasible and taking into account future economic growth. Additionally for the first time in the region a broad dialogue platform was established. The regional biomass action plan includes among other activities the following measures:

- Pellets information & awareness raising campaign (including a "Pellets Day", an international "Pellets Forum", training seminars for "large-scale pellets heating")
- International conference "Renewable heating and cooling"
- Advice for private households (10,000 sessions/a), companies (300 sessions/a), municipalities
- Financial support for biomass heating
- Information brochures, direct mailing, press releases and articles

4 Results

- A regional dialogue platform established: e.g. 2 information events including stakeholder workshops and online questionnaires with 200 and 150 participants
- 4 scenarios for the "Energy Future 2030" developed
- Political decision to aim at the "turning point" scenario taken
- Regional biomass action plan developed and implementation started.

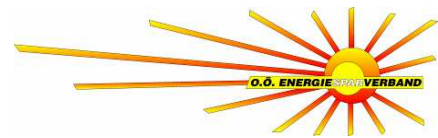
5 Conclusions

The "Energy Future 2030 – scenarios" show that 100 % RES heat in Upper Austria is technically and economically possible. Presently the regional biomass action plan is developed and first measures are implemented.

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The energy agency was founded by the Regional Government with the aim of promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources as well as innovative energy technologies. It is the central institution for energy information and one of Europe's largest energy advice and information providers. The main services are:

- Providing information on energy related topics and increasing public awareness of green energy issues: various information tools, seminars, conferences (e.g. World Sustainable Energy Days)
- Offering energy advice to private households, businesses and institutions: 15,000 cases/year
- Programmes to promote and support low energy buildings and retrofitting (7,500 energy certificates/year)
- Training and education: training programmes for energy advisors, plumbers, related fields
- Management of support programmes: ETP - Energy Technology Programme (R&D), Third Party Financing Programme
- European projects (Vice-President of FEDARENE, board member of EUFORES)
- Management of the "Ökoenergie-Cluster", the network of green energy businesses

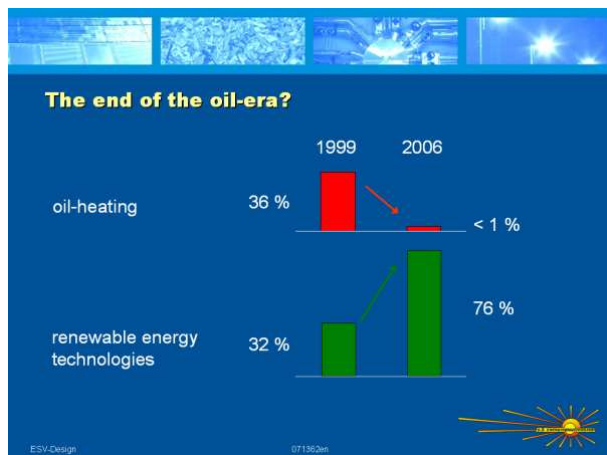
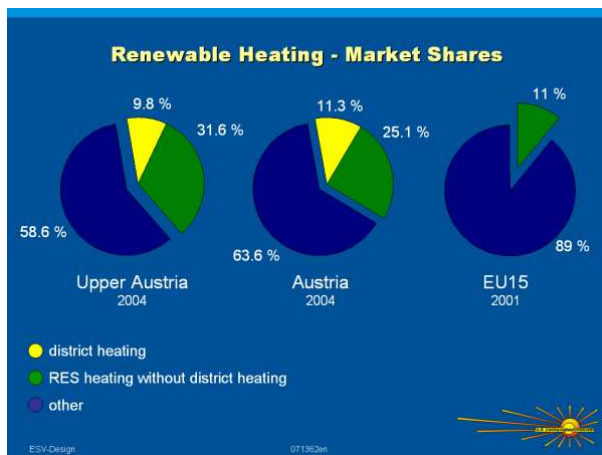
The regional energy strategy and action plan

The regional government of Upper Austria committed itself to sustainable energy production and use by developing a comprehensive and concrete energy policy framework. The "Energy 21" programme (2000-2010) sets ambitious targets in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (e.g. doubling biomass and solar energy use). The O.Ö. Energiesparverband is responsible for the implementation of most measures included in the regional energy strategy and action plan. A comprehensive energy action plan (including many programmes and activities, such as legal and financial measures, information and awareness raising, institution building etc.) was developed and implemented which led to a significant market development of renewable energy sources. The share of RES was increased from 25 to 30 %, including among others the following installations (2005):

- 28,000 modern biomass heating installations
- 250 biomass district heating networks
- 10,000 wood pellets installations
- 5,000 m² of thermal solar collectors, > 600 m² per 1,000 inhabitant
- 1,170 PV installations
- 23 wind power installations
- 80 biogas and sewage gas plants
- 570 small-scale hydro power plants

Explanatory page 2: BIOMASS IN UPPER AUSTRIA

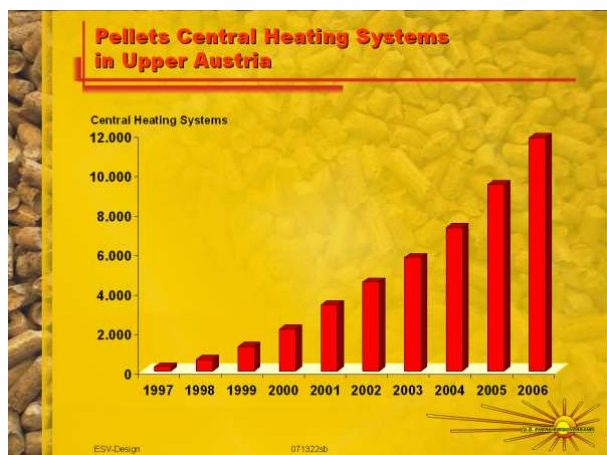
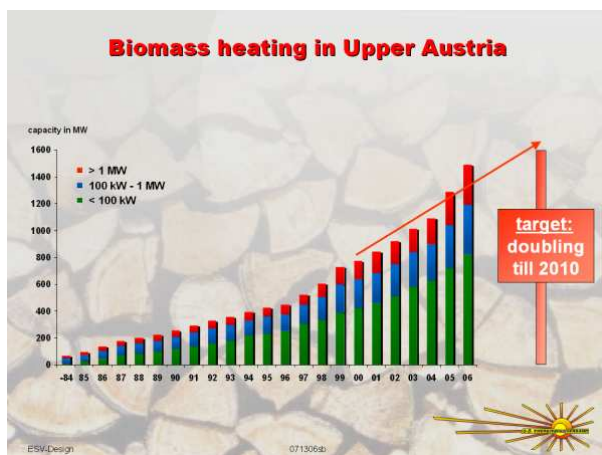
In Upper Austria, renewable energy sources (RES) provide over 30 % of the primary energy consumption (of which 14 % is biomass). RES-based heating systems account for 41 % of the heating installations (excluding district heating). Presently, there are 28,000 modern automatic biomass heating installations and 250 biomass district heating networks in operation in Upper Austria. Establishing a new market in a short term period is possible, and the Upper Austrian example of biomass market development gives a clear signal that a positive change can be brought about.



Example Wood Pellets:

The wood pellets market penetration undertook a fascinating development in the last few years:

- around 12,000 wood pellets central heating systems in Upper Austria
- pellet production in Austria increased from 2,500 t (1995) to ~ 550,000 t (2006)
- 15 large producers of wood pellets in Austria and a wide network of distributors established
- 15 producers of wood pellets boilers & stoves in Upper Austria, with a turnover of 100 million € and 800 employees.



Outlook:

Ambitious goals have been defined for future market development, e.g. doubling the share of modern biomass heating systems by 2010.