

Electricity Efficiency Policy in Upper Austria

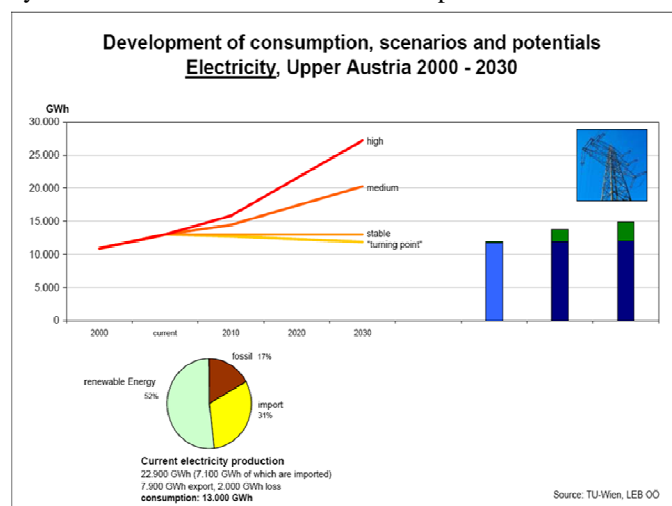
Christiane Egger, Deputy manager, O.Ö. Energiesparverband, 4020 Linz, Landstraße 45, www.esv.or.at
T: +43-732-7720-14382, F: +43-732-7720-14383, christiane.egger@esv.or.at
Christine Öhlinger, O.Ö. Energiesparverband, 4020 Linz, Landstraße 45, www.esv.or.at
T: +43-732-7720-14861, F: +43-732-7720-14383, christine.oehlinger@esv.or.at

Overview

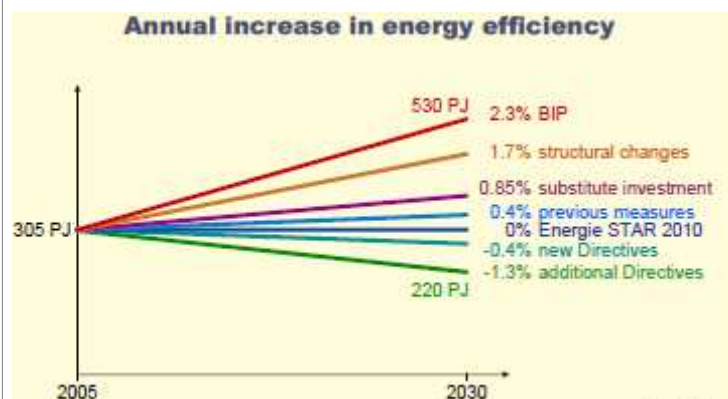
The region of Upper Austria has made a strong commitment to sustainable energy. By 2030, all electricity and space heating will come from renewable energy sources. In order to achieve this, a step change in energy efficiency, especially efficiency of electricity use, is necessary. The O.Ö. Energiesparverband, the energy agency of Upper Austria, is on behalf of the regional government, responsible for the implementation of most of the measures of the Upper Austrian energy strategy.

As one of the first European regions, Upper Austria already passed an Energy Efficiency Strategy in 2004 with the aim to increase energy efficiency by 1%, 1.5% per year in the public sector respectively until 2010.

For future development, as part of the strategy process "Energy Future 2030", 4 scenarios were developed which outline development of consumption, trends and potentials and which show for example that the share of electricity from renewable energy sources (RES-e) can vary from 44% up to 126%. This depends both on the development of the electricity consumption by 2030 and on the utilisation of RES-e potentials.



Energy Futur 2030 scenario



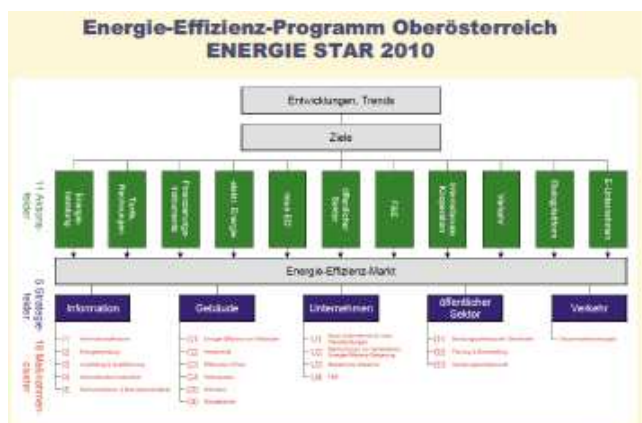
Energy Efficiency scenario

When implementing an energy efficiency strategy, Upper Austria can build on existing policies and measures, for example about 50% of the targets can be achieved by implementing already adopted Directives. For the "Energy Future 2030" strategy, energy efficiency potentials were analysed carefully. For the annual increase in energy efficiency, the scenarios were based on the European "Action Plan for Energy Efficiency", leading - in the best case - to minus 28% energy consumption by 2030 (220 PJ instead of 305 PJ).

Methods

The Upper Austrian Energy Efficiency Programme "Energie Star 2010" comprises a set of measures for different target groups and sectors – in total 11 clusters of measures – which are now being implemented. Presently the new energy efficiency measures are developed, based on the Upper Austrian "3 pillars strategy", including:

- Legal measures (the "stick"): recently for example regulations for the building sector were tightened, including cooling
- Financial measures (the "carrot"): financial support programmes providing stable support conditions over many years
- Information measures (the "tambourine"): continuous information, training and awareness raising activities are required, for different target groups and including a set of instruments and tools to be able to reach the maximum of citizens.



The "Energie Star 2010" programme



"3 Pillars Strategy" for energy efficiency

Examples of measures:

Energy advice for households, companies and public bodies:

An energy advice service is carried out with 15,000 energy advice sessions per year for different target groups. Households for example can get free advice (1.5 hours) when building a new home or renovating.

Campaign "Minus 10%":

The campaign "Minus 10%" aims at reducing electricity consumption in households by 10%. Households are called upon to check their electricity consumption within one week and after implementing electricity efficiency measures, to monitor what was achieved. Main efficiency measures which can be implemented with no/low investment costs are for example: reduction of stand-by consumption, energy saving light bulbs, efficient use of PC & Co and household appliances, efficient circulation pumps. Due to the success of the campaign, the second round was launched recently which puts a focus on the public sector.

Energy efficiency in buildings:

Implementation of a sustainable buildings programme for new and retrofitted one family homes. The amount of support depends on the energy performance indicator. The programme, in which 95% of all new one family homes in the region participate, includes an obligatory energy advice session.

Results

For the first time in 2007, the total primary energy consumption in Upper Austria did not increase although the growth rate of economy was above 3% which means an increase in efficiency by 3.45%. This successful development is based on the implementation of a number of measures for different target groups achieving for example the following single results:

- within the campaign "Really bright", more than 100,000 inefficient lamps were exchanged
- > 1,000 households actively participated in the campaign "Minus 10%"
- the energy performance indicator for heating in new one family homes decreased from 56 to 41 kWh/m²a (2008, sustainable buildings programme).

Conclusions

The results achieved so far show that it is possible to decouple energy consumption and economic growth. However, increased efforts will be possible to achieve a persistent turn-around leading to a sustainable energy future.

References

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