

EU's renewable share tops 14%—Perry Sioshansi's Letter from America

Europe is ushering in the new energy order.

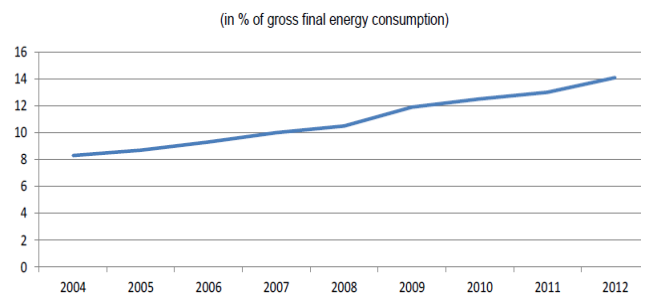
The share of renewable resources as a percentage of total energy consumption among the 28 member states of the EU (EU-28) exceeded 14% at the end of 2012, higher in 2013. The corresponding number for 2004 was 8% (graph below). Assuming a similar growth pattern for the next 8 years suggests EU will reach its 20% renewable target by 2020—one of its main goals. The share of renewables in electricity sector is, of course, far greater, already exceeding 20% in a number of European countries.

Europe, it could be said, is ushering in a new order, gradually moving to a future increasingly supplied by renewable resources. EU's other goals—20-20-20 by 2020—are increasing energy efficiency by 20% and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from the 1990 level by the same date. With its mature economies, stable or declining population, virtually no energy demand growth, relatively high energy prices and taxes, and relatively efficient infrastructure, Europe is in an enviable position to lead the way to what other countries may reach, or aspire to emulate.

As often happens, aggregated data often masks regional and country-specific variations. Among the member states, Sweden, which currently has the highest renewable share at 51%, has already exceeded its 2020 target, with a number of countries at or within range. Needless to say, some countries are more generously endowed with renewable resources, particularly hydro, than others. A number of non-EU European countries, including Norway and Iceland, get nearly all their energy needs from renewables, mostly hydro.

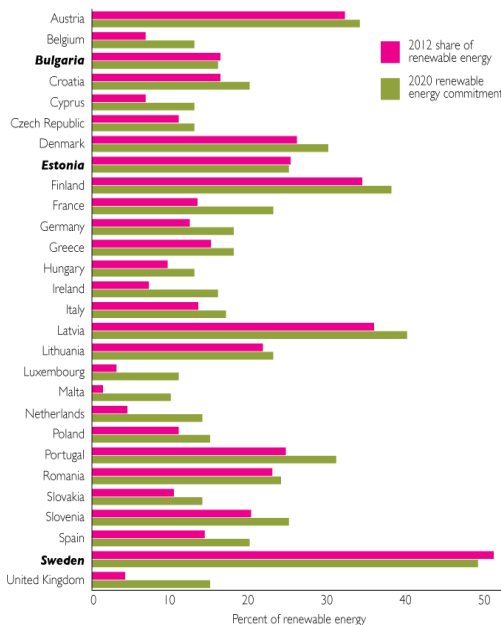
On track for 20% by 2020

Share of energy from renewable sources, EU-28



Source: Eurostat

EU member states renewable energy in 2012 vs. 2020 commitments



Source: Eurostat


Perry Sioshansi is a specialist in electricity sector restructuring, and he has been actively involved in discussions in a number of developed, developing and transition economies. He is founder and president of Menlo Energy Economics and is the editor and publisher of EEnergy Informer, from which we have sourced this article, and which we commend.

Your diary of our upcoming events and training courses

Upcoming events

Title	Dates	Location	Description
Webinar: A Year of Ups and Downs for Business TPIs 	21 May	Online	We will be discussing: the size of the TPI market and how it is segmented; how attitudes to TPIs differ between suppliers; who offers what services; and how consolidation has continued. Register here . <i>This is a free event.</i>
Energy Markets at the Crossroads	3 June	London	Our conference will examine the impacts and effects a Competition and Markets Authority investigation may have on the retail market and investment in the sector. A stellar list of speakers includes Volker Beckers, Ian Peters and Peter Atherton. Find out more and book .
Electricity Market Reform: Grinding out a Stalemate	17 September	London	An update to 2013's successful <i>Moving Towards the End Game</i> , join us to examine the risks and opportunities for investors, developers, suppliers and consumers. Register your early interest .

Training courses

Title	Dates	Location	Description
Introducing the GB Energy Markets	22 May 15 October 27 November	London	The course demystifies the industry and will allow you or your new starters to quickly get to grips with the high-level principles that underpin the gas and electricity markets. Find out more and book .
Understanding the GB Gas Markets	17 July 6 November	London	Keep pace with one of the most liberalised gas markets in the world. This course offers you extensive information on current market arrangements and the sector's main players. It also gives you an understanding of how the market has developed and how it might evolve. Find out more and book .
The Market for Green Power in the UK	5 June 2 October 4 December	London	Get an understanding of how policy change will impact the renewables sector, operators and developers – and how CfD FiTs will impact your projects and revenues. Find out more and book .
GB Energy Networks: Costs, Charges and Changes 	26 June	London	Get a comprehensive look at how electricity and gas networks in Britain are regulated and what this means in terms of the overall cost to customers. Learn how they set their tariffs and these are governed Find out more and book .
Getting Betta	22-23 October 25-26 March	Coventry	Our highly rated course provides a one-stop shop on electricity market structure. The course is designed to introduce the key concepts underpinning the GB electricity market arrangements and walk through key processes. Find out more and book .