

Making Energy Transition Happen – Trends, Challenges and Necessities from the Perspective of Climate Targets 3rd International Sustainable Energy Conference

Veit Bürger | Graz | 10/04/2024



EU target architecture and compliance (Are we on track?)

- GHG emissions fall, energy consumption decreases, share of renewable energies increases
- However, existing measures (WEM-scenario) are not sufficient to achieve 2030 EU target
- → In order to achieve the 2030 and the long-term targets, we need significantly more momentum



Source: EEA Trends and projections in Europe 2023

Why is heating and cooling so important (Why does heat matter?)

- Heating and cooling account for a large part of the final energy demand (für example DE: 57%)
- The GHG contribution of this field of application is correspondingly high



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GHG emission trends and projections in the buildings sector

- Both, the scenario with existing measures (WEM) as well as the scenario with additional measures (WAM) miss the long-term target of a climate neutral building stock
- → So, the same applies to buildings: we need more momentum



Source: EEA Trends and projections in Europe 2023

Key measures and key technologies to transform the building sector

- Efficiency (envelope, efficient heating technologies)
- Fuel switch
 - Electrification (heat pumps)
 - Biomass (by replacing inefficient stoves by efficient conversion technologies)
 - Clean district heating



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Source: EU COM, SWD(2024) 63 final (2024)

Spotlight Renovation: Promising new initiatives

- Modernization activity still too low, especially for deep renovations
- Some promising initiatives/developments about to enter the refurbishment market
 - Energiesprong: Refurbishment with a high degree of prefabrication on an industrial scale
 - Refurbishment sprint: One-stop shop approach with multi-disciplined construction teams / onsite refurbishment coach / standardisation
- To be considered: Every kWh of final energy savings through refurbishment reduces the pressure for expansion of RES systems and infrastructure



Images: Ecoworks (1/2), Energiesprong (3/4)

Spotlight Heat-Pumps: Market Development

- Growing market volumes for heat pumps; heat pump stock in Europe steadily increasing; but slight decline in sales in 2023
- Manufacturers are investing heavily in expanding their production capacities (or have announced plans to do so)
- This will also increase the degree of automation/industrialisation of production
- New concepts of selling and installing are also emerging (e.g. rental models, one-stop-shop approaches)



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Source: EHPA Market Statistics 2024

Spotlight Heat-Pumps: Operation Costs

- In terms of operating costs, the competitiveness of heat pumps depends mainly on the correlation between gas and electricity prices
- In Q2 2022, the electricity/gas price ratio (household demand) is above 2.5 in 10 out of 24 Member States. Above this value, a heat pump is no longer competitive with a gas boiler in a typical existing building
- High-temperature heat pumps can reduce dependence on the heating system's temperature and refurbishment state, improving competitiveness



Source: Öko-Institut based on Eurostat data

Spotlight District Heating

- High shares of DH in Scandinavia, the Baltic states and some Eastern European countries
- Currently, there is a noticeable expansion momentum in countries like the Netherlands and Germany, which is the result of municipal heat planning and an active gas phase-out strategy/policy
- District heating generation dominated by fossil fuels in many Member States. In cases where renewable energy is used, biomass dominates the renewable energy share
- Substitution of coal with natural gas and/or biomass (co-firing) in recent decades



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Spotlight District Heating

- "New" renewable energy technologies still without major market shares
- However, this will change in the course of decarbonization. The DH infrastructure will no longer be fed from a few central sources, as is currently the case. Instead, it will collect heat from various available sources., e.g.
 - Large heat pumps
 - Unavoidable waste heat
 - Geothermal
 - Solar thermal
 - Hydrogen (CHP)
 - Storage capacities (short- and long-term storage)



Images: Philip Pramer/STANDARD (1), Siemens Energy (2), Markus Schlaf/SWM (3), Marstal Fjernvarme (4)

Spotlight Gas Infrastructure

- Demand for natural gas must fall quickly
- Broad scientific consensus: role of hydrogen in building heating very limited, even in the long-term perspective
- Gas distribution grids will be successively decommissioned, electricity distribution grids must be strengthened
- It is essential to quickly make the regulatory framework fit for these developments



Source: Agora Energiewende (2023): Ein neuer Ordnungsrahmen für Erdgasverteilnetze

Is the EU framework sufficiently fit with regard to climate targets in the heating sector?



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Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit! Thank you for your attention!

Haben Sie noch Fragen?Do you have any questions?

