



Clean energy for EU islands

STATE-OF-PLAY INVENTORY OF LEGISLATION AND REGULATION
FOR CLEAN ENERGY ON EUROPEAN ISLANDS

Factsheet: Cyprus



Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sardinia and Sicily. It has a land area of 9,251 km². The total population of Cyprus is 888,000 people.

Cyprus is a unitary presidential republic, the island is thus governed at a national level.

Clean energy national targets

As determined in its Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, Cyprus key objective in the RES target towards 2030 is to achieve at least 22.9% RES in final energy consumption. Even though, in 2019 the RES share in the electricity sector was only 9.8%, Cyprus expects to increase the share of renewables in the electricity sector to 30.3% by 2030. For the heating and cooling sector, Cyprus foresees a target of 39.4%. In the transport sector, Cyprus plans to achieve 14% share of renewable energy by 2030.

Supported RES technologies

Cyprus supports PV and biogas/biomass for electricity production, while it also leans on onshore wind to achieve RES targets. Most RES electricity is connected through net-metering where it assumes energy is used for own consumption and surplus injected to the grid. Cyprus is currently not interconnected. The EuroAsia Interconnector, which will connect Cyprus with Greece, successfully went through regulatory approval in October 2017 and is foreseen to be installed in the coming years.

For the heating and cooling sector, Cyprus supports solar thermal and use of heat. Finally the transport targets are planned to be met through electrification of transport and use of biofuels.

Support schemes:

- Subsidies for the purchase and installation of rooftop PV in the domestic sector or rooftop and ground installed PV for domestic and private sector (up to 10 kW) that will operate under a net-metering scheme for 15 years.
- Net metering for 12 years for public schools with PV rooftop installations of up to 20 kW.
- Larger PV, biomass and biogas plants of up to 10 MW are supported through net-billing scheme for natural and legal persons.
- Subsidy for the purchase and installation of solar water heaters, aerothermal, hydrothermal and geothermal heat pumps in the domestic sector,
- Grants for the purchase and installation of PV that will operate under a net-metering scheme, installation of an electricity meter (measuring the electricity needed to charge the e-vehicle) and the installation of the charging point,
- fCyprus has defined the minimum energy requirements for all new and renovated buildings and nearly zero-energy buildings (NZEB).

Electricity grid

In the electricity network, grid connection follows a clear procedure, especially for RES plants under a net-metering/ net-billing scheme. There is one distribution system operator. The country has a smart meter penetration rate of 0%. The electricity supplier switching is not possible in Cyprus.

RES projects authorization process

Authorization/approval process is simplified for RES projects with capacity less than 5 MW and autonomous producers that produce electricity for own consumption with capacity less than 1 MW. Moreover, rooftop PV systems and ground-mounted PV installed in industrial zones or with a maximum installed capacity of 150 kW are exempt from planning permission. Moreover, the grid connection process is simplified for RES installations that use net-metering/net-billing schemes.

Supported energy efficiency measures

Energy efficiency measures are supported by a reduced VAT (for all energy efficiency interventions), grants (for thermal insulation) and subsidies for energy audits (for SMEs).

Supporting policies

In Cyprus, there are training programmes for RES and energy efficiency installations. In both cases, the training programmes are a prerequisite for the certification of professionals as small RES installers or energy managers. An additional certification exists from energy auditors.

Self-consumption and community energy

The concept of a prosumer is generally defined as “autonomous producers that generate electricity for own consumption”. Cyprus supports the RES own consumption, which facilitates the installation of ground-mounted PV and/or biomass/biogas installations that will not be connected to the grid, but also through new-metering procedure for those connected to the grid. Energy community legislation is currently under preparation.

Sources

- Island population: Eurostat 2019 ([Link](#))
- National Population: Eurostat 2019 ([Link](#))