



Clean energy for EU islands

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

Factsheet: Malta



Malta has 26 islands, of which 3 (Malta, Gozo and Comino) are inhabited. The island of Malta covers an area of 246 km², followed by Gozo (67 km²) and Comino (3.5 km²). The total population of Malta (country) is 514 600 people.

Malta is a unitary parliamentary republic, which means that it is governed as a single entity by a central government. The Ministry for Gozo serves the function of a regional authority within the Gozo-Comino region. Its function is mostly to execute and enforce national policies on a regional level. As such, its legislative powers are limited.

Clean energy national targets

The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for Malta for the period 2021-2030 aims to increase its share of renewable energy technologies in its gross final energy consumption to 11.5% by 2030. In the electricity sector, the share of renewables is planned to rise to 11% by 2030. The share of renewable heating and cooling is expected to reach 22.06% by 2020 and rising to 25.71% by 2030. The share of renewable energy in the transport sector is planned to reach 15% by 2030.

Supported RES technologies

Malta supports mainly PV for electricity production and solar water heaters for heating and cooling. In the transport sector, Malta supports the use of biofuels and has support schemes on the purchase of electric vehicles and installation of charging infrastructure.

Support schemes:

- Subsidy for new PV installations (with an inverter and battery storage facilities) for private individuals.
- Support through feed-in-tariff for electricity generated from installations for operators of PV installations in both residential and non-residential sector.
- Tenders with sliding feed-in tariff support for PV and wind plants (for new installations with a capacity of 1 MWp or more).
- Tenders for support with sliding feed-in premium for RES (solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass) installations with a capacity between 0.4 and 1 MWp.
- For the heating and cooling, the only technology being supported by the Maltese state through a subsidy for investment are solar water heaters for individuals or non-profit organizations.
- For RES-T, Malta uses a biofuel quota, provided through a substitution obligation on importers and wholesalers of fossil fuels.
- Malta also has grant schemes on the purchase of electric vehicles (passenger, light/heavy duty, buses) up to 12,000 euros (if the vehicle is new and an old combustion engine older than 10 years is replaced) for both citizens, NGOs and businesses. This is also supported by exemption from registration tax and the annual road license fee. In the initial phase, Enemalta (DSO) is providing off-peak price for charging and installation of free chargers for residential charging for the pilot phase.

Electricity grid

Malta is electrically interconnected with Sicily through the Malta–Sicily interconnector. In the electricity network, grid connection must be preceded by obtaining a written approval (special authorization) from Regulator for Energy & Water Services (REWS). Priority is given to renewable energy. The REWS issues authorisation and the electricity generation licences. There is 1 local distribution system operator. The country has a smart meter penetration rate of 97.3%. The electricity supplier switching is not possible in Malta.

RES projects authorization process

National tenders are organised for projects not bigger than to 0.4 MW. Smaller projects are permitted through an application/approval process.

Supported energy efficiency measures

Malta does not have a large number of energy efficiency measures. The Maltese authorities mandate Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for buildings and dwellings being sold or rented, to promote better energy performance of buildings.

Supporting policies

Malta offers training courses for RES technicians and a certification program for RES installations.

Self-consumption and community energy

The Government pledges to continue to promote renewable self-consumption of electricity from PV systems and ensure that no discriminatory charges apply. However, there is no legislation or regulation regarding energy communities.

Sources

- Number of islands: Government of Malta ([Link](#))
- Island population : Eurostat 2019 ([Link](#))
- National Population: Eurostat 2019 ([Link](#))