



Clean energy for EU islands

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

Factsheet: Malta



Malta has 5 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 from 40kW up to less than 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. Priority dispatch is given to renewable energy. There is one local distribution system operator. The distribution system operator is also the sole supplier of electricity. The electricity retail market is not open to competition and therefore supplier switching is not possible in Malta. The country has a smart meter penetration rate of 90.09%.

RES projects permitting and authorization process

In general electricity generators require an authorisation prior to construction and a licence prior to connection to the grid, both issued by the Regulator for Energy and Water Services. Renewable energy generators rated up to 16Amps per phase are exempted from the requirement to obtain an authorisation and licence, instead these must be notified to the Regulator.

Solar Photovoltaic Installations installed on roofs in developed areas compliant with the provisions of the Development Notification Order 2016 do not require a development permission.

Support for RES projects

Support for RES projects with a capacity of 40kW or more is awarded through a competitive bidding procedure. Solar photovoltaic installations rated below 40kW may benefit from an administratively determined feed-in tariff. Solar photovoltaic installations installed by households may benefit from a grant on the initial investment combined with a feed-in tariff.

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](#))