



Clean energy for EU islands

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

Factsheet: The Netherlands



There are five inhabited and three uninhabited Dutch Wadden islands, with a surface ranging from 40 and 169 km². The three of five inhabited Dutch islands are in the Caribbean Netherlands: Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius, with a surface ranging from 13 km² (Saba) and 294 km² (Bonaire). Of the total population of the Netherlands, 2% live on the islands. This corresponds to 364 559 people.

Clean energy national targets

The Dutch government aims for 16% of all energy used in the Netherlands to be sustainable by 2023. The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the Netherlands for the period 2021-2030 sets the target for renewable energy in the electricity sector at 74.4% for 2030. Targets for renewable energy in heating and cooling have not been mentioned.

Supported RES technologies

The Netherlands supports electricity generation from wind onshore and offshore, PV, hydro-power, geothermal, biogas and biomass technology. For renewable energy use in heating and cooling, the country provides support measures for aerothermal, hydrothermal, geothermal, solar thermal, biogas and biomass technology.

Increase of renewable energy use in the transport sector is assured with the support schemes for use of biofuels, electric vehicles and its charging infrastructure and hydrogen vehicles.

Support schemes:

- Subsidy (SDE++) – subsidy intended for companies and organizations who produce renewable energy or apply CO₂-reducing techniques.
- Tenders/auctions - yearly auctions under the SDE++ scheme which aim to address the ‘unprofitable component’ for these technologies.
- Net-metering – those who are connected to the grid and produce energy can make use of the net-metering scheme.
- Tax mechanism – tax exemption for the customer if the electricity consumed is from renewable energy sources and generation of this electricity is carried out by the consumer themselves.
- Tax regulation mechanism – Energy investment tax deduction – supporting measures for use of renewable energy for electricity and heating and cooling.
- Subsidy targeting private persons and small businesses, encouraging the purchase of solar thermal collectors, heat pumps and investment in insulation efforts.
- Subsidy Scheme for electric passenger cars – Netherlands Enterprise Agency subsidies purchase and lease of new or used electric vehicles.
- Subsidy Scheme for Zero-Emission Commercial Vehicles.
- Tax mechanism – grants tax benefits to those who invest in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.
- Tax regulation mechanism – offers tax deductions to private companies for investments that are included in the Environment List.
- Biofuel quota – a set biofuel quota for companies who produce and import petrol, diesel and gas fuels.

Electricity grid

Plant operators are entitled to a connection to the grid by the operator of the grid. The grid operator is legally obliged to enter into such a contract. There is no distinction made here between renewable energy plants and non-renewable energy plants and no priority is given to renewable plants as a result. There is no priority given to electricity from renewable energy. There are 6 distribution system operators. The country has a smart meter penetration rate of 82.2%. The electricity supplier switching rates for household customers in 2018 was 18.7%.

RES projects authorization process

Depending on the used technology, some projects may have to apply for All-In-One permits. Rooftop PV is often exempt, where ground-mounted PV always requires a permit. Electricity production licenses do not exist in the Netherlands. Instead, energy suppliers must acquire an energy supplier permit.

Supported energy efficiency measures

The country relies on different support schemes and voluntary schemes when it comes to improving energy efficiency, namely an energy investment tax deduction and an Energy Saving Obligation.

Supporting policies

The Dutch clean energy policies support innovation through contracts and funding between private actors in order to encourage research and development. Further, the Dutch Government encourages the education of RES installers and facilitates voluntary trainings.

Self-consumption and community energy

The Dutch regulation on energy associations and cooperatives specifies that cooperatives and associations can only operate in the electricity sector and must be renewable energy based. The Electricity Act 1998 offers additional possibilities for community energy projects. It opens up the possibility for developments in transport, production, grid ownership through derogation as well as decentralized generated sustainable electricity. Energy cooperatives and associations of owners generating electricity from solar energy, wind energy or hydropower can benefit from a premium tariff. In the case when renewable electricity is consumed and generated by the same consumer a tax exemption is available. In addition, a net-metering scheme is applicable for prosumers.

Island specific policy

Clean energy development on islands can be supported in the framework of cross-sectoral programmes. For example, under the Wadden Fund there are funds available for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The Wadden Fund is a joint arrangement of the

Wadden Sea provinces of North Holland, Friesland and Groningen which invests in initiatives and projects that strengthen the ecology and sustainable economic development of the Wadden area. Projects by entrepreneurs, associations, foundations and governmental organisations can qualify for a grant from the Wadden Fund of up to € 1 million per project. There are seven project categories, including energy. Specifically for energy, there are specific funds for the development/application of renewable energy sources, mobile energy supply and the stimulation of energy saving measures in social sectors and especially in the recreational/tourist sector, which fit the landscape character and scale of the surrounding area. There are also funds for the optimal matching of supply and demand (including possibilities for energy storage and the production of green alternative fuels) of energy by villages/village cooperatives in combination with activities that contribute to the preservation and/or strengthening of the core qualities. Finally, there are funds for projects aimed at the application of blue energy, tidal energy, wave energy and proteins from (saline) aquatic biomass and the integration of sustainable energy techniques with adjustments to dikes.

Sources

- Number of islands: Official [source missing](#) (Link)
- Island population: Official [source missing](#) (Link)
- National Population: Official [source missing](#) (Link)