

POLAND

Background/status

The regulations and subsidy schemes in Poland are described below. In spite of the very small financial support, the number of solar installations in Poland grows very quickly. At the end of 2006 the total area of installed solar collectors reached 162 th sq. m. Only in 2006 the yearly area of installed solar collectors was 42 th sq. m.

Regulations

Thermomodernization Act

The Act determined the rules of support of the thermomodernization undertakings, which have the following goals:

- a) decreasing of energy usage (hot water and space heating) delivers to the residential, public buildings and other,
- b) decreasing of heat loses in local heating and the local heat sources
- c) complete or partial exchange conventional heat sources into renewables and solar thermal in that

The thermomodernization premium is the form of state support for investor, which realizes modernization undertaking. It is awarded by the state National Farmstead Bank (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego) up to 25% of loan sum used for undertaking realization. The thermomodernization Premium is the repayment of the loan part taken by the investor. It means that the investor pays back only 75% of the loan.

The thermomodernization premium is given only to investors who take the loans. The investors who realise the undertaking by their own financial means can't acquire the premium.

Subsidies

Ecofund Foundation each year offers the "quick path" method which foresee the financial support to the solar thermal systems. The support is 1000 PLN to the 1 sq. m of collectors but maximal subsidize is 40% of total cost of investments. The minimal area of solar collectors installation is 50m² and subsidize couldn't be less than 50 000 PLN. Solar collectors have to be certified.

The yearly limit of financial means for that subsidy is 10 MPLN. This amount of money ensures the construction av. area 10 000 m² solar collectors each year.

Testing

Laboratory for Solar Collectors Testing (LBKS) at Institute for Fuels and Renewable Energy (IPIEO) in Warsaw has the accreditation scheme for solar collectors testing, according to the EN 12957, p. 6.1 thermal performance outdoor up to now. Now we just finished the enlargement of the equipment for the laboratory with solar irradiance simulator and other testing devices, according to EN 12975 standard requirements using the money won from the structural fund (over 600 th. Eur.).

Certification

Product certification: Certification Body (has also EC notification) at the Institute for Building and Agricultural Mechanization (JCW ZJN IBMER) in Warsaw has accreditation for voluntary certification scheme of solar collectors according to the EN 12975 standard.

Installer certification: not exist

No Polish certification body is empowered for Solar Keymark.

Insurance

There isn't in Poland any special insurance for solar thermal installation.

Others

In Poland exists possibility to obtain the preferential loans for solar collectors installations from National and Voivodships Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management. More national workshops, seminars and other dissemination works.

Action taken during the last period.

Improving and popularizing the European Standards in Poland
Popularization of the solar energy and certification schemes at workshops and seminars.

Action needed

Regulation

To draw up in Poland and implement the Act concerning RES
Implementation of the European Directive on Energy performance of buildings with respect to solar thermal, energy labelling, etc
Implement a "green heat certificates" scheme like "green certificates" for electricity

Subsidies

More subsidy schemes for solar thermal investors.

Testing

Laboratory should be prepared to test according to EN 12976

Certification

Improving SolarKeymark schemes in Poland
The getting of SolarKeymark should be less expensive
Certification conditions should be more flexible (acceptance of different Certification Bodies)

Others

To set up the organization of polish solar manufacturers
Implementation and popularization of the European standards in our country.