

COUNTRY REPORT: POLAND

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Version 1

Date: 28.09.2010

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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 2009 the total area of installed solar collectors reached 510 000 m². Only in 2006 the yearly area of installed solar collectors was 144 000 m².

The description of country report is valid for 09/2010.

Regulatory Framework

Building Regulation (general)

There isn't any special regulations concerning solar thermal installations in Polish Building Act.

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.

Public Incentives (subsidies, ordinances or other)

There are two major sources of solar thermal subsidies in Poland. For 2010-2011 the considerable sources of subsidies are 16 regional operational programmes. Through these programmes app. PLZ 190 millions (Euro 47 millions) will be distributed in the form of subsidies (30-85% of the investment cost). Another important source of subsidies is new, launched in August 2010, programme of National Found for Environmental Protection (NFOSiGW), which is offering subsidy scheme for residential home owners

and housing collectivises. The new residential subsidy scheme consists of a combination of subsidies (rebates) and loans. Residential home owners can apply for a rebate of 45 % and a loan of 55 % of the investment costs of the solar thermal system up to a maximum of 2500) PLN (**Polish** Zloty per m collector area (app. 628 EUR/m2). This loans supported by subsidies will be distributed by the following six commercial banks.

Testing

There is only one in Poland Laboratory for Solar Collectors Testing (LBKS) at Institute for Fuels and Renewable Energy (IPIEO), according to the EN 12957, p. 6.1 thermal performance outdoor up to now. In 2008 the outdoor laboratory was enlarged by solar irradiance simulator and other testing devices, according to EN 12975 standard requirements.

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 but the fund institution demands the installer holds the authorization certificate from solar collector manufacturer.

No Polish certification body is empowered for SolarKeymark.

Insurance

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

Other relevant information

In Poland exists possibility to obtain the preferential loans for solar collectors installations from 13 Regional and Voivodships Funds for Environmental Protection. National Fund for Environmental Protection is supporting educational projects and campaigns, including financing in the form of subsidies, such actions like national workshops, seminars and other dissemination activities (brochures, dedicated websites, etc) .

Trade Barriers

There is no any special trade barriers in Poland

Actions needed

Finalising NREAP and implementation of the 2009/28/WE directive though specific Act concerning RES with specific provisions for green (solar heat), including longer term subsidies programme and tax exemptions.

Implementation of “green heat certificates” scheme like “green certificates” for electricity shall be also considered.

Implementation of the European Directive on Energy performance of buildings with respect to solar thermal, energy labelling, etc

Subsidies

More subsidy schemes, with longer term perspective for solar thermal investors is expected.

Testing

Laboratory should be prepared to test according to Solarkeymark.

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 (association) of solar manufacturers in Poland.

Implementation and popularization of the European quality standards in our country, with the specific focus for quality assurance of overall solar thermal systems.