



# Renewable energy policy database and support – RES-LEGAL EUROPE

## National profile: Latvia

Client: DG Energy

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## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



In Latvia, renewable electricity generation is stimulated through a complex support system based on a feed-in tariff, which also includes elements of a quota system and tenders. The existing feed-tariff is on hold until 01.01.2020 due to concerns about corruption and a lack of transparency in the way it was carried out since 2007. The existing state support mechanisms for energy production from renewable energy resources are being assessed and revised. Stringent supervision of subsidized electricity producers, stricter controls and a limited timeframe for the implementation of RES projects has been introduced. At the same time, a new tax for subsidized electricity producers was introduced in January 2014. The tax should be paid by companies receiving financial support for power generation from renewable energy sources or from combined heat and power plants. Since 1 January 2014 RES-E is promoted also through net-metering. Heating and cooling from renewable energy sources is promoted through different tax benefits. Also the only incentive currently available for renewable energy sources in the transport sector is a tax regulation mechanism.

Access of renewable energy plants to the grid is subject to the general legislation on energy. Electricity from renewable sources is not given priority. Also devices for heat production from renewable energy sources are not given priority connection, and there is no special legislation promoting the connection of RES heating devices to the heat transmission network at the national level. There are regulations at the regional level that establish rules for and promote high energy performance and competition in the heat supply market.

There are two policies promoting the installation and use of RES installations.





## RES-E support schemes

Summary of RES-E support schemes

<b>Overview</b>	In the Republic of Latvia, renewable electricity generation is stimulated through a complex support system based on a feed-in tariff, which is on hold until 01.01.2020. On 1 January 2014 net-metering was introduced.
<b>Summary of support system</b>	<p>The Latvian government promotes the generation of electricity from renewable sources through a feed-in tariff, which also includes elements of a quota system and tenders. The Latvian government has decided that a certain percentage of the total energy consumption of all final consumers in Latvia shall be from renewable sources. This percentage varies according to the source of energy. The producers of electricity from certain energy sources are obliged to participate in tenders to obtain the right to sell electricity at a guaranteed price until a government-set cap is reached. The support scheme is being revised since 2011 and is closed for new submissions until 01.01.2020.</p> <p>Since 1 January 2014 net-metering of electricity produced and fed-in to the grid through a small scale connection (<math>\leq 3 \times 16A</math>) is introduced.</p>
<b>Technologies</b>	In general, the feed-in tariff applies to all renewable electricity generation technologies except for geothermal generation. Net-metering applies to all technologies connected to the electricity grid through a small scale connection.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law (Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums, 82 115/0825/201105)</li> <li>Energy Law (Enerģētikas likums, 273/275 04/04/2014)</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regulation No. 262 (Noteikumi par elektroenerģijas ražošanu, izmantojot atjaunojamos energoresursus, un cenu noteikšanas kārtību - Regulations Regarding the Production of Electricity Using Renewable Sources and the Procedures for the Determination of the Price)</li></ul>
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### Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums	Ministru kabineta noteikumi Nr.262	Enerģētikas likums
<b>Full name</b>		Noteikumi par elektroenerģijas ražošanu, izmantojot atjaunojamās energoresursus, un cenu noteikšanas kārtību	
<b>Name (English)</b>	Electricity Market Law	Regulations Regarding the Production of Electricity Using Renewable Sources and the Procedures for the Determination of the Price	Energy Law
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Electricity Market Law	Regulation No. 262	Energy Law
<b>Entry into force</b>	08.06.2005	16.03.2010	06.10.1998
<b>Last amended on</b>	18.12.2015	23.12.2015	26.03.2014
<b>Future amendments</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	Establishing a market for electricity.	Refining the provisions of the Electricity Market Law regarding the generation of electricity from renewable sources.	Regulation of the energy industry.
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Provisions on the promotion of renewable energy plants and their connection to the grid.	This regulation sets out the requirements for support for electricity from renewable sources.	Provisions on the promotion of renewable energy.



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<b>Link to full text of legal source (original language)</b>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834</a>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207458&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207458&amp;from=off</a>	<a href="http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=49833">http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=49833</a>
<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>	<a href="http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Electricity_Market_Law.doc">http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Electricity_Market_Law.doc</a>	<a href="http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab._Reg._No_262_-_Production_of_Electricity_Using_Renewable_Energy_and_Determination_of_the_Price.doc">http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab._Reg._No_262_-_Production_of_Electricity_Using_Renewable_Energy_and_Determination_of_the_Price.doc</a>	<a href="http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Energy_Law.doc">http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Energy_Law.doc</a>



**Further information**

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Latvian Renewable Energy Federation	<a href="http://www.atjaunojam.lv/">http://www.atjaunojam.lv/</a>	Jānis Irbe	+371 29337717	<a href="mailto:irbejanis@gmail.com">irbejanis@gmail.com</a>
Sabiedrisko pakalpojumu regulēšanas komisija (SPRK) – Public Utilities Commission (PUC), regulatory authority	<a href="http://www.sprk.gov.lv">http://www.sprk.gov.lv</a>		+371 670 97 200	<a href="mailto:sprk@sprk.gov.lv">sprk@sprk.gov.lv</a>
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## Support schemes

### Feed-in tariff

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law</li> <li>Energy Law</li> <li>Regulation No. 262</li> </ul>	
Summary	<p>The Latvian government has set a certain percentage of final energy consumption that shall be from renewable sources. This percentage differs for every source of energy and was initially applicable until the end of 2010. The government has also set percentages for the following 10 years (§ 29 par. 2, 3 Electricity Market Law; no. 2 Regulation No. 262).</p> <p>The feed-tariff is currently on hold until 01.01.2020.</p>	
Eligible technologies	General information	
	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	
Amount	General information	



	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	
Degression	General information	
	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	
Cap	•	
Eligibility period		



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<b>Addressees</b>		
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	
	<b>Competent authority</b>	
<b>Flexibility mechanism</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Plant operator</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>European Union</b>	
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	



### Net-metering

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law</li> </ul>	
<b>Summary</b>	Net-metering applies to clients who are at the same time producer of electricity, which are connected to the electricity grid through a connection with a throughput value smaller than or equal to 3*16A. Clients have to apply for an offer from the responsible grid operator for injecting electricity to the grid. For small scale clients energy costs only apply to the net electricity consumption, defined as the difference between electricity obtained from and fed-in to the grid. Furthermore, clients are required to pay a grid use charge (§ 30 par. 1,2,3,4 Electricity Market Law)	
<b>Eligible technologies</b>	<b>General information</b>	Net-metering applies to all technologies connected to the electricity grid through a small scale connection ( $\leq 3*16A$ ). Generally, all RES-E technologies are eligible, however in practice net-metering applies mainly to photovoltaic installations.
	<b>Wind energy</b>	Eligible
	<b>Solar energy</b>	Eligible
	<b>Geothermal energy</b>	Eligible
	<b>Biogas</b>	Eligible
	<b>Hydro-power</b>	Eligible
	<b>Biomass</b>	Eligible
<b>Amount</b>	<b>General information</b>	There is no direct financial compensation for the injected electricity, but the financial equivalent of the injected kW is deducted from the overall electricity bill. If an installation feeds more electricity into the



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		grid than it has taken from the grid during a billing period, this amount will be transferred to the next billing period (§ 30 par. 1 Electricity Market Law)
	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	
Degression	General information	
	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	



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<b>Cap</b>		
<b>Eligibility period</b>		
<b>Addressees</b>	Operators of renewable energy installations connected to the electricity grid through a small scale connection ( $\leq 3 \times 16A$ ).	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	
	<b>Competent authority</b>	
<b>Flexibility mechanism</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Plant operator</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>European Union</b>	
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	



## RES-E grid issues

### Overview

<b>Overview of grid issues</b>	In Latvia, access of renewable energy plants to the grid is subject to the general legislation on energy. Electricity from renewable sources is not given priority. Thus, all plant operators are entitled against the grid operator to the connection of their plants to the grid and to the transmission of electricity according to the principle of non-discrimination. In pursuance of the general legislation, the grid operator is obligated to expand the grid. The liberalisation of Latvian electricity market is postponed until January 2015.
<b>Connection to the grid</b>	The grid operator is obliged to the plant operator to connect plants as soon as they comply with the technical requirements. The costs of connecting a plant to the grid are borne by the plant operator.
<b>Use of the grid</b>	The grid operator is statutorily obligated to transmit via his grid the electricity generated and sold by the plant operators on the basis of non-discriminatory criteria. The costs of use of the grid are borne by the consumers.
<b>Grid development</b>	The grid operator is statutorily obliged to expand the grid within his area of responsibility. A plant operator is entitled to such an expansion only if the grid operator has agreed to do so by contract. The plant operator is obliged to bear the costs of the expansion.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity Market Law (Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums)</li> <li>• Regulation No. 1/3 (Tīkla kodekss – Grid Code)</li> <li>• Regulation No. 280 (Sistēmas pieslēguma noteikumi elektroenerģijas ražotājiem – Regulation on the Connection of Electricity Producers)</li> </ul>





### Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums	Tīkla kodekss	Sistēmas pieslēguma noteikumi elektroenerģijas ražotājiem
<b>Full name</b>			
<b>Name (English)</b>	Electricity Market Law	Grid Code	Regulation on the Connection of Electricity Producers to the Grid
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Electricity Market Law	Regulation No. 1/3	Regulation No. 280
<b>Entry into force</b>	08.06.2005	03.07.2013	01.03.2013
<b>Last amended on</b>	18.12.2015		
<b>Future amendments</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	Establishing a market for electricity.	Regulating the management and use of the electricity grid.	Provisions supplementing the Electricity Market Law with regard to the connection of electricity generation plants.
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Provisions on the promotion of renewable energy plants and their connection to the grid.		This regulation sets out the grid connection procedure for renewable energy plants.



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Link to full text of legal source (original language)	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834</a>	<a href="http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=257943">http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=257943</a>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=244670&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=244670&amp;from=off</a>
Link to full text of legal source (English)	<a href="http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834">http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834</a>		



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Latvian Renewable Energy Federation	<a href="http://www.atjaunojam.lv/">http://www.atjaunojam.lv/</a>	Jānis Irbe	+371 29337717	<a href="mailto:irbejanis@gmail.com">irbejanis@gmail.com</a>
Sabiedrisko pakalpojumu regulēšanas komisija (SPRK) – Public Utilities Commission (PUC), regulatory authority	<a href="http://www.sprk.gov.lv">http://www.sprk.gov.lv</a>		+371 670 97 200	<a href="mailto:sprk@sprk.gov.lv">sprk@sprk.gov.lv</a>



## Grid issues

### Connection to the grid

<b>Abbreviated form of legal sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity Market Law</li> <li>• Regulation No. 280</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The grid operator is obliged to connect electricity generation plants to the grid (§ 9 par. 2 Electricity Market Law). According to the grid operator, this obligation arises from the agreement between the grid operator and the plant operators.</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	<p>The connection procedure is set out in the Regulation on the Connection of Electricity Producers to the Grid and includes the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for connection (par. 4 Regulation No. 280); applications for wind power plants shall be accompanied by additional documents (par. 5 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall assess the site and notify the plant operator of the technical requirements within 60 days after receipt of the application for connection (par. 7 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The plant operator shall plan the implementation of the technical requirements (par. 8 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall approve the implementation plan; a connection agreement is concluded (par. 9 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• If grid capacity is insufficient, the grid shall be upgraded (par. 11 Regulation No. 280)</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plant operator shall notify the grid operator of the completion of an electricity generation plant at least 45 days prior to the first operation (par. 15 Regulation No. 280)</li> <li>The grid operator shall carry out technical tests and connect the plant to the grid within 10 working days after receipt of the notification of completion (par. 16 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul>
	<b>Deadlines</b>	<p><b>Grid operator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grid operator shall assess the site and notify the plant operator of the technical requirements within 60 days after receipt of the application for connection (par. 7 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>The grid operator shall carry out technical tests and connect the plant to the grid within 10 working days after receipt of the notification of completion (par. 16 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul> <p><b>Plant operator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plant operator shall notify the grid operator of the completion of the electricity generation plant at least 45 days prior to the first operation (par. 15 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul>
	<b>Obligation to inform</b>	
<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	( ) Priority to renewable energy ( x ) Non-discrimination	Renewable energy is not given priority. According to the grid regulator, the plant operator is entitled to non-discriminatory treatment.
<b>Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)</b>	The grid operator may refuse to connect a plant to the grid in case of insufficient grid capacity. It shall give a reason for its refusal in writing within 30 days (§ 9 par. 4 Electricity Market Law).	



Distribution of costs		
	State	
	Consumers	
	System operator	
	Plant operator	The costs of connecting a plant to the grid are borne by the plant operator (par. 12 Regulation No. 280).
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	



### Use of the grid

<b>Abbreviated form of legal sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law</li> <li>Regulation No. 1/3</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The transmission grid operator is obliged to transmit electricity from renewable sources (§ 13 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). It shall not discriminate between or against producers of electricity from renewable sources. The amount of electricity to be transmitted may be limited only in case of insufficient grid capacity or emergency.</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	The claim for transmission arises on the date of connection of the plant to the grid.
	<b>Deadlines</b>	
	<b>Obligation to inform</b>	<p>Grid operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grid operator shall notify the plant operator in writing of any change to the grid system that might have an impact on the operation of the electricity generation plant at least 30 days beforehand (3.5. Regulation No. 1/3)</li> <li>Plant operator: The plant operator shall provide information on the load factor of his plant and on changes to the installed capacity to the grid operator on request (4.1. Regulation No. 1/3)</li> </ul>
<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	<p>( ) Priority to renewable energy</p> <p>( x ) Non-discrimination</p>	Renewable energy is not given priority. The transmission grid operator shall comply with the principles of fairness, openness and equality (§ 13 par. 1 Electricity Market Law).
<b>Curtailment</b>	<p>The transmission grid operator may refuse to transmit electricity to prevent system overload (§ 13 par. 5 Electricity Market Law). In case of emergency (environmental emergency, voltage loss) or risk of injury, damage to electric devices or impairment of the</p>	



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	operation of the grid, the grid operator may request plant operators to reduce the output of their plants or even take measures to reduce the output of certain plants (no. 69-73 Regulation No. 1/3).	
Distribution of costs		
	State	
	Consumers	The costs of use of the grid are borne by the consumers.
	System operator	
	Plant operator	
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	According to the regulatory authority, the costs of grid use are borne by the grid operator. The grid operator passes on the costs to the consumers through the electricity price.





### Grid expansion

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law</li> <li>Regulation no. 280</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The grid operator is obliged to upgrade and expand the grid according to the general legislation on energy (§ 9 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). According to the transmission grid operator, a plant operator may be entitled to a grid upgrade only if the grid operator has agreed on the upgrade by contract and if the plant operator bears the costs.</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	<p>The grid operator is obligated to operate and maintain the grid within its area of responsibility (§ 9 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). The exact procedure is specified in the provisions of the grid regulator. According to the grid regulator, the grid operator is obligated to the grid regulator to expand the grid.</p>
	<b>Enforcement of claims</b>	
	<b>Deadlines</b>	
	<b>Obligation to inform</b>	
<b>Regulatory incentives for grid expansion and innovation</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	



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	<b>System operator</b>	
	<b>Plant operator</b>	The costs of grid development are borne by the plant operator if the development is necessary to connect and operate his plant (par. 12 Regulation No. 280).
	<b>European Union</b>	
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	According to the regulatory authority, the grid operator may pass on the costs of developing the grid to the consumers by imposing grid use charges.
<b>Grid studies</b>		



RES-H&C support schemes

### Summary of support schemes

<b>Overview</b>	In Latvia, heating and cooling from renewable energy sources is promoted through different tax benefits.
<b>Summary of support schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value Added Tax reduction. Companies who are supplying biomass and biogas shall pay a reduced VAT rate.</li><li>• Excise Tax reduction. Biogas which is supplied to end-users shall be taxable; the tax rate is reduced if the biogas is used for heating.</li></ul>
<b>Technologies</b>	Biomass and biogas are eligible.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law on Excise Duties (Par akcīzes nodokli)</li><li>• Law on the Value Added Tax (Par pievienotās vērtības nodokli)</li></ul>



### Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source</b> (original language)	Pievienotās vērtības nodokļa likums	Par akcīzes nodokli
<b>Full name</b>	Pievienotās vērtības nodokļa likums	Par akcīzes nodokli
<b>Name (English)</b>	Law on the Value Added Tax	Law on Excise Duties
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Law on the Value Added Tax	Law on Excise Duties
<b>Entry into force</b>	21.02.2013	01.05.2004
<b>Last amended on</b>	23.12.2015	18.12.2015
<b>Future amendments</b>		
<b>Purpose</b>	The law sets the tax on goods and services.	The law sets the tax on excisable goods.
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Tax allowance on the supply of biomass and biogas.	Tax allowance on biogas.
<b>Link to full text of legal source</b> (original language)	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253451&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253451&amp;from=off</a>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066</a>



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<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>	<a href="http://vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Value_Added_Tax_Law.doc">http://vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Value_Added_Tax_Law.doc</a>	
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## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Latvijas Republikas Ekonomikas Ministrija (EM) – Ministry of Economy	<a href="http://www.em.gov.lv">www.em.gov.lv</a>		+371 67013100	<a href="mailto:pasts@em.gov.lv">pasts@em.gov.lv</a>
Latvijas Investīciju un attīstības aģentūra (LIAA) – Investment and Development Agency of Latvia	<a href="http://www.liaa.lv">www.liaa.lv</a>		+371 670 39 400	<a href="mailto:liaa@liaa.gov.lv">liaa@liaa.gov.lv</a>
Finanšu ministrija (FM) – Ministry of Finance	<a href="http://www.fm.gov.lv">www.fm.gov.lv</a>		+371 670 95 405	<a href="mailto:info@fm.gov.lv">info@fm.gov.lv</a>
Valsts ieņēmumu dienests (VID) – State Revenue Service	<a href="http://www.vid.gov.lv">www.vid.gov.lv</a>		+371 67120000	<a href="mailto:vid@vid.gov.lv">vid@vid.gov.lv</a>



## Support schemes

Tax regulation mechanism (Law on the Value Added Tax)

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law on the Value Added Tax</li> </ul>	
<b>Summary</b>	The value added tax shall be imposed on the following economic activities: supply of goods and services, including home consumption on the national level (§ 5 par. 1 Law on the Value Added Tax). For the supply of biomass and biogas for household needs, the tax rate is reduced (§ 42 par. 11, 12 Law on the Value Added Tax).	
<b>Eligible technologies</b>	<b>General information</b>	Only biomass and biogas are eligible for the tax allowance.
	<b>Aerothermal</b>	
	<b>Hydrothermal</b>	
	<b>Biogas</b>	Eligible
	<b>Biomass</b>	Eligible
	<b>Geothermal energy</b>	
	<b>Solar Thermal</b>	
<b>Amount</b>	The tax rate for the supply of biomass and biogas is reduced from 21% to 12% (§ 41. par. 1, Law on the Value Added Tax).	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



<b>Addressees</b>	The Law on the Value Added Tax obliges all companies and persons that perform economic activities and are registered for VAT with the State Revenue Service (§ 3 par. 1 Law on Value Added Tax). Persons supplying biomass and biogas for household needs have to pay only a reduced amount of VAT.	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	Taxable companies that have performed taxable transactions exceeding the value of 35,000 Lats (aprx. € 50 000) during the previous tax year must inform the authorities on their taxable transactions on a monthly basis. For companies with sales of less than 35,000 Lats, taxes are raised quarterly (§ 119, par. 2 Law on the Value Added Tax)
	<b>Competent authority</b>	State Revenue Service (§ 118 Law on the Value Added Tax)
<b>Flexibility Mechanism</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	The costs of tax relief are borne by the state.
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Plant operator</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	





## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	



### Tax regulation mechanism (Law on Excise Duties)

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law on Excise Duties</li> </ul>	
<b>Summary</b>	Natural gas which complies with the Combined Nomenclature Codes 2711 11 00 and 2711 21 00 and is supplied to end-users is subject to excise tax (§ 6 Law on Excise Duties). The tax rate is reduced if the natural gas is used for heating (§ 15.1 Law on Excise Duties).	
<b>Eligible technologies</b>	<b>General information</b>	Only biogas is subject to the tax allowance.
	<b>Aerothermal</b>	
	<b>Hydrothermal</b>	
	<b>Biogas</b>	Eligible
	<b>Biomass</b>	
	<b>Geothermal energy</b>	
	<b>Solar Thermal</b>	
<b>Amount</b>	The amount of tax to be paid is reduced if the biogas is used for heating. The tax rate for the year 2016 is € 17.07/1000 m <sup>3</sup> (§ 15.1 par. 1 Law on Excise Duties).	
<b>Addressees</b>	All persons or companies supplying natural gas which complies with the Combined Nomenclature Codes 2711 11 00 and 2711 21 00 to end-users are obliged to pay the tax (§ 6 Law on Excise Duties)	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	The obliged companies must inform the authorities on the amount of taxable energy products on a monthly basis (§ 23 Law on Excise Duties).
	<b>Competent authority</b>	State Revenue Service (§ 23, § 24 Law on Excise Duties)
<b>Flexibility Mechanism</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	The costs of tax relief are borne by the state.
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Plant operator</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>European Union</b>	
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	



## RES-H&C grid issues

### Overview

Overview of grid issues	Devices for heat production from renewable energy sources are not given priority connection, and there is no special legislation promoting the connection of RES heating devices to the heat transmission network at the national level. However, heat suppliers and producers shall comply with economic and social law and the legislation on environmental protection and the preservation of cultural heritage. There are regulations at the regional level that establish rules for and promote high energy performance and competition in the heat supply market. According to the Ministry of Economics, in October 2015 the Cabinet of the Ministers approved draft regulations on "Requirements for injection of biogas and gas from biomass, as well as liquefied natural gas into the natural gas transmission system" („Prasības biogāzes un no biomasas ražotās gāzes, kā arī gāzveida stāvoklī pārvērstas sašķidrinātās dabasgāzes ievadīšanai un transportēšanai dabasgāzes pārvades sistēmā”). These regulations provide the renewable energy industry with the opportunity to engage in gas supply and sale, using the existing Latvian natural gas pipeline infrastructure.
Connection to the grid	The heating network operator is obliged to purchase thermal energy from all heat producers, including independent producers. Agreements between a producer and the heating network operator shall be in line with the requirements set by law, especially with the requirements for the price of the thermal energy offered, the terms and conditions of payment, the costs of thermal energy transmission and compliance with the thermal energy generation regime. Moreover, the thermal energy offered shall comply with the technical requirements specified by the heating network operator.
Use of the grid	
Grid development	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Statutory provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy Law (Enerģētikas likums)</li></ul>
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### Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	Enerģētikas likums		
Full name	Enerģētikas likums		
Name (English)	Energy Law		
Abbreviated form	Energy Law		
Entry into force	06.10.1998		
Last amended on	26.03.2014		
Future amendments			
Purpose	Establishing a market for energy.		
Relevance for renewable energy	Among other aims, this law supports the use of local resources and combined heat and power solutions in heat production.		
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=49833&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=49833&amp;from=off</a>		



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Link to full text of legal source (English)			
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## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
<b>Latvijas Republikas Ekonomikas Ministrija (EM) – Ministry of Economy</b>	<a href="http://www.em.gov.lv">http://www.em.gov.lv</a>		+371 67013100	<a href="mailto:pasts@em.gov.lv">pasts@em.gov.lv</a>
<b>Sabiedrisko pakalpojumu regulēšanas komisija (SPRK) – Public Utilities Commission (PUC), regulatory authority</b>	<a href="http://www.sprk.gov.lv">http://www.sprk.gov.lv</a>		+371 670 97 200	<a href="mailto:sprk@sprk.gov.lv">sprk@sprk.gov.lv</a>





Grid issues

Connection to the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy Law</li></ul>
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## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Overview	<p>In Latvia, there is no special legislation supporting the connection of RES heating devices to the heat transmission network at the national level. According to the Energy Law, heat suppliers and producers shall comply with economic and social law and the legislation on environmental protection and the preservation of cultural heritage (§ 46 par. 1 Energy Law). Heat suppliers shall purchase thermal energy from all heat producers, including independent producers (§ 48 Energy Law). Agreements on the purchase of thermal energy shall be in line with the requirements set by law, especially with the requirements for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the price of the thermal energy offered and the terms and conditions of payment,</li> <li>• the costs of thermal energy transmission,</li> <li>• compliance with the thermal energy generation regime and</li> <li>• compliance of the thermal energy offered with the technical characteristics specified by the network operator (§ 49 par. 2 Energy Law).</li> </ul> <p>Municipalities are responsible for heat supply in their administrative territory and are obliged to promote high energy performance and competition in the heat supply market. They may elaborate development plans for the heat supply network and issue binding regulations at the regional level. The legislation on environmental protection and the protection of cultural heritage, the possibilities to use local energy resources and combined heat and power solutions, the security of heat supply and long-term marginal costs should always be taken into account (§ 51 Energy Law).</p>	
Procedure	Process flow	
	Deadlines	
	Obligation to inform	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)	( ) Priority to renewable energy ( ) Non-discrimination	
Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)		
Distribution of costs		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	Plant operator	
	European Union	
	Others	
	Distribution mechanism	



RES-T support schemes

**Summary of support schemes**

<b>Overview</b>	The only instrument for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the transport sector currently available is a tax regulation mechanism.
<b>Summary of support schemes</b>	<b>Tax regulation mechanism.</b> Companies processing, holding, receiving or dispatching energy products are obliged to pay excise tax. This amount is reduced for fuels blended with biofuels.
<b>Technologies</b>	The tax regulation mechanism applies to biofuels only.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law On Excise Duties (Par akcīzes nodokli)</li> </ul>



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



### Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	Par akcīzes nodokli		
<b>Full name</b>	Par akcīzes nodokli		
<b>Name (English)</b>	Law On Excise Duties		
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Law On Excise Duties		
<b>Entry into force</b>	01.05.2004		
<b>Last amended on</b>	18.12.2015		
<b>Future amendments</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	The law sets the tax on excisable goods.		
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Tax allowance on fuels blended with biofuels.		
<b>Link to full text of legal source (original language)</b>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066</a>		
<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>	<a href="http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066">http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81066</a>		



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Ministry of Finance	<a href="http://www.fm.gov.lv/">http://www.fm.gov.lv/</a>		+371 67095405	<a href="mailto:info@fm.gov.lv">info@fm.gov.lv</a>
State Revenue Service	<a href="http://www.vid.gov.lv/">http://www.vid.gov.lv/</a>		+371 6700 1898	<a href="mailto:VID.konsultanti@vid.gov.lv">VID.konsultanti@vid.gov.lv</a>



Support schemes

**Tax regulation mechanism**

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law On Excise Duties</li> </ul>	
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Law on Excise Duties obliges companies processing, holding, receiving or dispatching mineral oil products to pay excise tax (§ 5 Law on Excise Duties). This amount is reduced if the fuel is blended with biofuels (§ 14 Law on Excise Duties).</p>	
<b>Eligible technologies</b>	<b>General information</b>	Only biofuels are tax-deductible.
	<b>Biofuels</b>	Eligible
	<b>Electricity</b>	
	<b>Hydrogen</b>	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



<b>Amount</b>	<p>The amount of tax to be paid is reduced if the taxed energy product - diesel or petrol - is mixed with biofuels.</p> <p>Tax bands for 2015:</p> <p>Diesel fuel, substitute products and components thereof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pure: € 341 per 1000 litres</li> <li>○ blend of 70 - 85% biofuels: €131 per 1000 litres</li> <li>○ pure biodiesel: €0 per 1000 litres</li> <li>○ blend with biodiesel for use in the agriculture: €50 per 1000 litres</li> </ul> <p>Unleaded petrol, substitute products and components thereof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pure: € 436 per 1000 litres</li> <li>○ blend of 70 - 85% biofuels: €131 per 1000 litres (§ 14 par. 1.1., 1.4., 3.1., 3.2., 4.1., 4.2. Law on Excise Duties).</li> </ul>	
<b>Addressees</b>	The Law on Excise Duties obliges companies processing, holding, receiving or dispatching mineral oil products to pay excise tax (§ 5 Law on Excise Duties).	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Process flow</b>	The obliged companies must declare the amount of taxable energy products on a monthly basis (§ 23 Law on Excise Duties),
	<b>Competent authority</b>	State Revenue Service (§ 23, § 24 Law on Excise Duties)
<b>Flexibility Mechanism</b>		
<b>Distribution of costs</b>	<b>State</b>	The costs of tax relief are borne by the state.
	<b>Consumers</b>	





## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



	Plant operator	
	Grid operator	
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	



## Policies

Summary of policies

<b>Overview</b>	There are two policies promoting the development, installation and use of RES installations: the certification scheme for RES system installers and an obligation to use renewable heating and cooling systems in new and renovated buildings. According to the Ministry of Economics, the draft Energy Efficiency Law (Energoefektivitātes likums) is developed in order to increase cost-effective energy efficiency in energy generation, transmission, distribution and final consumption and it sets obligations for national and local governments, and the enterprises involved in energy retail and distribution with the aim to ensure greater energy efficiency in energy production, distribution and final consumption and it is awaiting the approval by Saeima.
<b>Summary of policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification scheme. Natural persons must have a construction management certificate to carry out construction services. In order to obtain this certificate, at least intermediate vocational education is required, including training in the fields of RES heat supply and air conditioning system construction.</li> <li>• Building obligation. The Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings obliges owners of new or renovated buildings to consider using RES heating and cooling systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Technologies</b>	
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings (Ēku energoefektivitātes likums);</li> <li>• Construction Law (Būvniecības likums)</li> </ul>



**Basic information on legal sources**

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	Ēku energoefektivitātes likums	Būvniecības likums	
<b>Full name</b>	Ēku energoefektivitātes likums	Būvniecības likums	
<b>Name (English)</b>	Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings	Construction Law	
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings	Construction Law	
<b>Entry into force</b>	09.01.2013	01.10.2014	
<b>Last amended on</b>		24.12.2015	
<b>Future amendments</b>			



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



<b>Purpose</b>	The objective of this law is to promote the sustainable use of energy resources and to improve the energy performance of buildings.	This law determines the mutual relations of persons involved in a construction project, as well as their rights and obligations during the construction process.	
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Among other aims, the law supports the installation of RES plants in buildings.	Among other aims, the law imposes rules on the certification of RES installers.	
<b>Link to full text of legal source (original language)</b>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253635&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253635&amp;from=off</a>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=36531">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=36531</a>	
<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>	<a href="http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253635&amp;from=off">http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253635&amp;from=off</a>	<a href="http://likumi.lv/ta/id/258572-buvniecibas-likums">http://likumi.lv/ta/id/258572-buvniecibas-likums</a>	



## RES-LEGAL EUROPE – National Profile Latvia



### Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Latvijas Republikas Ekonomikas Ministrija (EM) – Ministry of Economy	<a href="http://www.em.gov.lv">http://www.em.gov.lv</a>		+371 67013100	<a href="mailto:pasts@em.gov.lv">pasts@em.gov.lv</a>



## Policy categories

### Training programmes for Installers

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction Law</li> </ul>	
Description	<p>The training programmes for RES installers in Latvia are not regulated by law, though natural persons must have a construction management certificate to offer services in the following construction fields: engineering research, design, expert examination of construction sites, construction works management and construction supervision (§ 13 Construction Law). In order to obtain a construction management certificate, at least intermediate vocational education is required, including training in the fields of RES heat supply and air conditioning system construction (§ 13.4 Construction Law)).</p>	
Addressees	RES system installers	
Competent authority	Ministry of Economy	
Further information	Further information on the certification scheme is available at: <a href="http://www.lsgutis.lv/sertifikacija-bs-sc/inf-sert-bs">http://www.lsgutis.lv/sertifikacija-bs-sc/inf-sert-bs</a>	
Distribution of costs	State	
	Private Financing	
	European Union	
	Others	



### RES-H building obligations

<b>Abbreviated form of legal source(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	<p>When constructing a building, it is recommended to evaluate the possibility to use renewable energy installations, for example decentralised energy supply installations, CHP installations, local heating and cooling installations or heat pumps (§ 5 Law on the Energy Performance of Buildings). According to the Ministry of Economy, local authorities' planning documents shall be such as to create conditions promoting the use of renewable energy in buildings. The government is planning a new law introducing a duty on local authorities to include a renewables obligation in their building regulations.</p>
<b>Obligated entities</b>	<p>Owners of buildings.</p>
<b>Competent authority</b>	<p>The Ministry of Economy</p>
<b>Further information</b>	
<b>Obligation on regional level</b>	<p>Yes</p>



Support of RES-H infrastructure

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	
Description	The support of RES-H infrastructure in Latvia occurs on the local level.
Addressees	
Competent authority	
Further information	