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Renewable Energy Directive
(RED)

February 2024



Recast of the Renewable Energy Directive

Key measures for the geothermal sector

The Renewable Energy Directive

The first Renewable Energy Directive was developed in 2008 setting targets for renewables, energy efficiency and GHG reduction by 2020 for the EU. It was revised in 2018 setting new indicative targets of 32% renewable, 32,5% for efficiency and 40% GHG savings. The amending Directive EU/2023/2413 entered into force on 20 November 2023.. The amendments to the directive with the following relevant new measures for the geothermal sector are:

New binding renewable targets

Overall renewable energy targets (Article 3)

In the revised RED, the overall renewable target for 2030 was increased from 32% to a **binding 42.5%** and an indicative 45%.

Targets for Innovation (Article 3)

For **innovative renewable energy technology**, an additional indicative target of 5 % of newly installed renewable energy capacity is set.



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Heating and cooling from renewable sources – binding target (Article 23)

In the **heating and cooling sector**, indicative targets are replaced with a new mandatory goal. Member States shall increase this share annually by at least 0,8% for the period 2021 to 2025 and by at least 1,1% as an annual average calculated for the period 2026 to 2030. Furthermore, Member States shall now assess their potential for renewable sources. To achieve the average annual increase referred above, Member States shall implement at least two of the twelve measures proposed: risk mitigation schemes, heat purchase agreement, renewable DH (with article 24), capacity building, heat planning...

Article 15a Mainstreaming renewable energy in buildings

An indicative target has been set for at least a 49 % share of renewable sources in **the building sector by 2030**.

Mainstreaming renewable energy in the industry (Article 22a)

This new article sets an indicative (non-binding) target for Member States of a yearly 1.6% increase in the share of renewable sources used in the industry sector; this increase will be calculated as an annual average for the periods 2021-2025 and 2026-2030.

Simplified permitting

Renewable go-to areas (Article 15b and following)

Each EU Country has to map the areas necessary for national contributions towards the 2030 renewable energy target within 18 months after the entry into force of the directive and adopt plans for these renewable go-to areas within 27 months.

Renewable go-to areas:

- Permit-granting processes should not take longer than one year for renewables projects, and two years for offshore renewables projects (with exceptions).
- Shorter deadline of 6 months for areas already designated as suitable for an accelerated renewables deployment.

Outside go-to areas:

- For **areas outside go-to areas** the permit-granting processes should not exceed two years, and three years for offshore renewables projects (with exceptions).
- The time during which the plants, their grid connections and the related necessary grid infrastructure are being built or repowered should not be counted within these deadlines.

Renewable acceleration areas (Article 15c)

For the first time, Member States are required to adopt plans establishing "renewables acceleration areas" for one or more types of renewable energy



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sources by February 2026 to further simplify and accelerate permitting processes. These are parts of the aforementioned go-to areas. In their plans Member States shall:

- a) designate sufficiently homogeneous land, inland water, and sea areas where the deployment of a specific type or types of renewable energy is not expected to have significant environmental effects, in view of the particularities of the selected territory.
- b) establish appropriate rules for the designated renewable acceleration areas, including on effective mitigation measures to be adopted for the installation of renewable energy plants, co-located energy storage facilities, as well as assets necessary for their connection to the grid, in order to avoid or significantly reduce the negative environmental impacts that may arise.

Administrative procedures, regulations and codes (Article 15)

Member States shall promote the testing of innovative renewable energy technology for producing, sharing and storing of renewable energy through pilot projects in a real-world environment.

Permit-granting procedure for the installation of heat pumps (Article 16e)

The permit-granting process for the installation of heat pumps below 50MW shall not exceed one month, **in case of ground-source heat pumps three months**. The procedure for grid connection of smaller heat pumps shall also be simplified. Member States agreed to give the **possibility to apply the faster permitting rules for ongoing permit requests**.

Renewable power purchase agreements (Article 3)

To enable the deployment of renewable electricity, Member States shall establish a framework, which including support schemes and measures facilitating the uptake of renewables power purchase agreements, in particular, removing remaining barriers.