

New draft of „The Polish Energy Policy until 2030“

The security of energy supplies and energy effectiveness based on own resources of raw materials, increased use of renewable sources of energy, development of competitive markets for fuels and energy and limiting of the impact of energy industry on the environment – these are the priorities of „The Polish Energy Policy until 2030“ drafted by the Ministry of Economy.

The newest draft of „The Polish Energy Policy until 2030“ approaches the utilisation of domestic resources of energy raw materials in a completely different manner. It has been emphasised in the document that they will be a stabilising agent in the security of energy supplies of the country.

Priority activities indicated in the draft document include:

1. Improvement of energy effectiveness,
2. Increased security of energy supplies,
3. Increased use of renewable sources of energy, including biofuels,
4. Development of competitive fuels and energy markets,
5. Limiting the impact of energy industry on the environment.

For each of the above priorities general objectives are formulated. Detailed objectives and activities for their implementation and expected results will be formulated.

1. Improvement of energy effectiveness

The question of energy effectiveness is a priority on the energy policy agenda and the progress in this area will be a key factor in the implementation of all the objectives of the document.

The Ministry of Economy intends to promote activities enhancing effectiveness in the areas of generation, transmission, distribution and utilisation of energy. One of the proposed instruments of support is the system of „white certificates“, which provides financial benefits for entities achieving greatest energy savings.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Economy expects dynamic growth of electrical and thermal energy generation in high-efficiency cogeneration technology, in particular in small plants below 1 MW. Another activity consist in introduction of minimum standards for equipment and products consuming energy and identification of their energy intensity. The Ministry of Economy shall also run information campaigns promoting rational consumption of energy.

2. Increased security of energy supplies

Security of energy supply shall be based on own resources of raw materials, coal in particular. This will make generation of electricity – and to a substantial degree thermal energy–from external supply sources. In the area of oil, liquid fuels and gas the document assumes diversification, understood also as diversification of technologies and not only – as until recently – the sources of supplies. The development of technologies facilitating manufacturing of liquid and gas fuels from domestic raw materials shall be supported.

The forecasts elaborated so far and related to the possibilities of satisfying future electrical energy needs of the country indicate the necessity to extend existing generation capacity. Obligations related to reduction of greenhouse gases emission force Poland to seek low-emission solutions in power generation. All available technologies of power generation from coal shall be used, provided that they will lead to reduction of air pollution (and also substantial reduction of CO₂ emission). Introduction of nuclear power generation in Poland shall also be considered.

3. Enhanced use of renewable energy sources RES

The development of renewable power generation is of substantial importance to implementation of primary objectives of the energy policy. Generation of energy from renewable source ensures favourable environmental results and facilitates development of less developed regions.

Primary activities in this area include support of generating electricity, heat and cold from RES and production of biofuels. A programme providing for construction of at least one agricultural biogas plant in each commune is an interesting initiative planned by the Ministry of Economy.

4. Development of competitive markets for fuels and energy,

Competitive energy markets facilitate reduction of manufacturing costs, thus reducing the increase of fuel and energy prices. In this area the Ministry of Economy intends to: solve the problem of dependence on supply of gas and oil from one source, remove barriers for changing a supplier of electrical energy and gas, change the operating principles of platforms for trade in electricity and introduce market mechanisms in establishing prices of heat.

5. Limiting the impact of energy industry on the environment.

The primary activities will focus on reduction of CO₂, SO₂ and NO_x emissions pursuant to obligations taken by Poland.

The Ministry of Economy shall support development of technologies of power generation with reduced impact on the environment, including technologies for coal gasification and carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS).

It is planned that Poland will actively participate in the initiative of the European Commission related to construction of large scale demo facilities related to carbon capture and storage. It is expected that at least two CCS demo facilities shall be located in Poland.

The newest draft of the „Policy“ takes into account comments submitted by social partners during August debate on documents entitled „Polish Energy Policy – Strategy until 2030“ and „Theses for Debate on Polish Energy Policy until 2030“ The document shall be subject to further extensive consultations and will be submitted for environmental impact assessment procedure. The final version of „The Polish Energy Policy until 2030“ will be ready by the end of the year.