



WAYS OF DEVELOPMENT OF “GREEN” COGENERATION IN LATVIA (METHODS USED FOR STIMULATION OF “GREEN” CHP DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA)

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ABSTRACT

The paper observes different steps which can be made to stimulate the development of co-generation using renewable fuels in Latvia.

Latvia, as a European Union Member state, has to decrease the share of renewable energy sources (RES) in the final gross energy consumption, to increase energy efficiency and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The combination of RES and CHP is a key approach to reach the ambitious EU climate protection targets.

In Latvia the following support schemes are used for CHP using RES: feed-in-tariffs, obligate buying of co-generated power, EU earmarked subsidies for the development of RES using CHP plants. The feed-in-tariffs depend on the installed electricity capacity of the CHP units. The main weak point of the policy measures can be identified as discrimination between different cogeneration plants, and particularly of small systems, because at least 75 % of the heat produced has to be supplied to the centralized district heating, hence the policy does not support industrial or auto-use of co-generated heat. It is necessary to simplify technical and administrative procedure for newly created CHP plants, especially for the small ones.

In 2011 a training program “Sustainable heating system with renewable energy resource” was started in Latvia. The sustainable energy community model (SEC) modified for Latvian circumstances is used in the project. While implementing this program it is possible to stimulate the farther development of cogeneration, using local RES. The main local renewable fuel in Latvia is wood. Highly efficient CHP equipment fuelled by RES (like wood gasification) is not yet widely spread and implemented.

Latvia participates in the EU project "CHP goes Green". The target for the selected model cities involved in the project is to promote and install "Green CHP" and the respective technical solutions.

Reaching the 2020 targets set for Latvia will be possible only if sustainable, well-considered long-term energy and environmental policy is implemented, which includes effective support scheme for CHP using renewable sources of energy.

Keywords: cogeneration, local level energy policies, main drivers and main barriers for grows of renewable energy