



The Austrian Planning Process

Austria's parliament passed a revision of the Green Electricity Act (GEA) in May 2006, including a renewed minor photovoltaic incentive. Renewable Energy Sources (RES) are supported mainly via long-term guaranteed feed-in tariffs. From the federal budget an annual maximum of 1.5 MEUR can be expected to cover feed in tariffs for PV, in addition the provinces are requested to double this federal subsidy.

Apart from the GEA there is no specific national policy that encourages the use of renewables or energy saving measurements in the urban planning process. In addition to the GEA the Austrian provinces support the use of RES, especially the use of PV systems through different programmes like feed-in-tariffs and/or investment subsidy.

The provinces have different building regulations as well. The target is to adjust these regulations to Renewable Energy Sources but currently there are no nationwide directives for the use of RES in the urban planning process or any rules or targets which define for new buildings a certain percentage of electricity generation from RES.

The EU-building-guideline (article 5) intends that member states shall assess the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of alternative systems for new buildings with a total useful area over 1 000 m². This covers not only renewable energy sources but also CHP (combined heat and power), district or block heating or cooling and heat pumps.

Municipal bylaws:

In each province there is a special bylaw in order to increase energy efficiency in the buildings. This bylaw supports new or retrofit applications of thermal insulation as well as other energy efficiency measurements for the different buildings.



The schematic below summarizes the process of urban planning as well as the influence of Energy Savings and/or Renewable Energy Sources (ES and/or RES) policies set up by federal and local authorities, which may be relevant for BIPV in Austria.

