

Access to Justice in Energy-related Matters

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Focal Point to the Aarhus Convention

Republic of Armenia

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Aarhus Convention

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Vision of the RA Government for Energy Sector Development

- ◆ Free, competitive and non-discriminatory,
- ◆ Inclusive and diversified, energy independence at the highest level,
- ◆ Clean and energy efficient: sustainable developing,
- ◆ Of regional significance,
- ◆ Reliable and safe,
- ◆ Digitized and Innovated, science-based, high technological,
- ◆ Foreseeable and transparent,
- ◆ Accessible and fair to everyone, sufficiently available to the vulnerable group, as well as attractive to investors

Main Priorities for the Energy Sector Development

Maximum use of RE

Realization of EE potential

Life extension of the ANPP Unit 2

Electricity market liberalization



Legislative framework

laws
legal acts
strategy
action plan

Energy Efficiency Action Plan

National Program on Energy Saving and RE 2022-2030

Energy Sector Development Strategic Program to 2040

to protect the health and well being of citizens
from environment related risks

Clean
Energy

➤ A biofuel strategy is developing as an Appendix to the Energy sector Strategic Program.
It promotes the production of solid and gaseous biofuel.

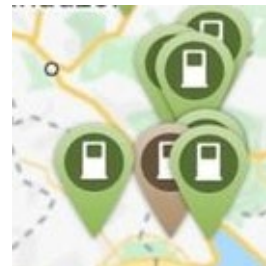
The majority of rural areas depends on traditional biomass fuels
(wood, often wet wood, agricultural waste, animal dung, even rubbish, etc.)



Exemptions

- ✓ Tax advantages to the Electricity producing stations using RE resources;
- ✓ Tax advantages to the Construction of solar PV stations;
- ✓ Customs Privileges to Companies in Solar Energy;
- ✓ Privileges for the license for the import and alienation of vehicles operating with an electric motor;

[Armenia Switches to Electric Cars](#)





Free Energy Market

New model

ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022

The Armenian government launched a program of gradual liberalization of the energy market.

Which means that some power generating plants will no longer sell their electricity at prices set by the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC), but will sell it at a price formed as a result of supply and demand in the market.

An increase in the cost of electricity for residential consumers in Armenia came into effect.

The tariff will remain unchanged only for socially vulnerable families (about 11% of resident subscribers).

The electricity price increase will apply to the average middle-class consumer (the middle 80%).



EIA procedure and decision-making framework on energy-related matters

The new EIA law is being drafted: approximation with the Aarhus and Espoo conventions, EU directives

Key public authorities in this field:



- Public notification and EIA package studying periods have been extended;
- The thresholds for activities subject to an EIA procedure have been reviewed;
- The solar installations are included in the category "B" of the objects to be examined (with the coverage of over 3 hectares, as well as floating PV stations);
- ...



Solar Energy Strategy and new Challenges to Protect Human Rights

- many hectares of land and pastures of agricultural significance have been allocated for the construction of solar PV power plants
- solar panels hazardous waste management Issue Still Open





Following the lessons learned

Legislative Regulations Expected to SHPPs:

Hydropower has been pushed to the secondary as renewable energy, because of damage Caused by SHPPs to Ecosystems

- Climate Change has had an impact to the Hydropower Potential in Armenia
- HPPs have damaged river ecosystems
- The villages remained waterless

Thanks to the offer of the civil society, the Government decided not to build any more small HPPs on a number of rivers in Armenia.

List of the rivers:

<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/energy/13115/>





Cases

Lawsuits against the Ministry of Environment

The companies intending to build a hydroelectric power plant are demanding the cancellation of the Ministry's water use permit denials.

4 cases are in progress.



Restoring Justice

The issue of compensating the damage to the communities caused to ecosystems due to HPPs is being discussed.

"Khazer" NGO's offer;

- Start research on the activities of small HPPs.
- To find out how much super profit the operating company had in exchange for selling electricity at the expense of the eco-flow.
- To return the taxes paid to the state budget from that super profit to the population of the villages located in the river basin.





Accessible and fair to everyone

Many people have little or no access to electricity and other energy services.

Lack of accessibility in rural areas vs urban areas;

Upwards of the most percent of sufferers of energy-poverty live in rural areas;

The other case is the conflict situation;

More than 100,000 Armenian in Artsakh/Karabakh are deprived of gas supply to be forced to leave their historic homeland.



Thank you for your kind attention!



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