Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems

Wood energy

UNCEC/FAO Forestry and Timber Section

UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy
Tenth session 11-12 September 2023
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Work Areas:
1. Data, monitoring and assessment;
2. Policy dialogue and advice
3. Communication and outreach
4. Capacity building
Sources and User of wood for energy

S1

U3 Residential & U4 Other

S2

U2 Industrial

S3

U1 Power & Heat

Recycling
Analyzing wood energy trends

Past

- Press release
- Fact sheet
- Country profiles
- Flatfile

Current

Annual production and trade:
- FPAMR – annual market assessment
- Forecast data - wood fuel production y & y+1 (available in November)
- Country market statements

Future

Outlook Studies:
- Forest Sector Outlook 2010-2030 & 2020-2040
- High wood energy scenario
- Possible interaction with other policy targets (biodiversity, climate change, wood construction, etc.)
Forest Products
Annual Market Review 2021-2022

Wood energy on the rise in Europe
04 November 2022

For many people in economically well-developed countries of the UNECE region, wood stove or fireplaces used to be a cozy way to heat a room in the cold season. This winter, however, the role of wood energy may dramatically change for many people out of sheer necessity.

A large part of the UNECE region is increasingly exposed to highly volatile prices of heating oil, natural gas and coal, forcing vulnerable groups of the population to switch back from gas and electricity for heating and cooking to heavily polluting wood stoves.

This vulnerability expresses the urgent need for a faster transition to sustainable energy sources, concluded participants of the 20th session of the Committee on Forest Industry (COFI), which is taking place from 2 to 4 November 2022.

Chopped, stacked, stoves, and given enough time to dry and burn, wood can be a climate-friendly alternative to fossil emissions. The UNECE region dominates global trade in wood energy

COFI highlighted that wood is the consumption of key woods-based raw wood-based panels and sawmill logs represents about 10% of the wood energy markets and traditional fuels are not.

Countries in the European Union (EU) burned about 2.1 t of wood in 2021. It is expected that their consumption in 2022 will reach record levels in the future due to soaring fossil fuel prices.

The UNECE region dominates the global trade in wood energy and wood-based panels and sawmill logs, which indicates the major role of the region in the global wood energy market.
Analyzing wood energy trends

Natural gas supply security and availability in Europe
- Record demand for fuelwood in second half of 2022 and early 2023
- Export ban of fuelwood from various countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, etc.)
- Pulp and paper recycling in central Europe depends on natural gas – shifting to biomass will take time
- Boosting log prices for beech sawlogs (few months in 2022)

Trade restrictions for any commodity under HS 44 (including pellets) by the EU on imports from the Russian Federation and Belarus:
- alternative sources for the +2 million tonnes of wood pellets
Thank you!

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