

## CEER Citizens' Q&A

### Status Review of RES Support Schemes in Europe

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#### **1 What are renewable energy sources?**

Renewable energy sources (often referred to as RES) include wind, hydro (water/tidal) and solar power, as well as biomass, biogas and geothermal energy. These sources of energy are low or zero carbon and therefore offer a more sustainable alternative to traditional fossil fuels (i.e. coal, oil and gas). The development of RES is important for a number of reasons, including meeting Member States' and pan-European carbon reduction targets, encouraging growth in low carbon innovation, goods and services, and contributing to energy security of supply across Europe.

#### **2 What is the status report for renewable energy support schemes in Europe?**

The CEER Status Review aims to provide an overview of the current national support schemes which are in place in CEER member countries to encourage the deployment of RES. CEER used a questionnaire, circulated to all the National Regulatory Authorities in its member countries, posing questions on the different ways that their country provides support for renewable energy. This report is published biennially to reflect changes in national RES support schemes in a timely manner. The report includes information on the coverage and cost of the support schemes in Member States and on a weighted average basis across Europe.

#### **3 How do RES Support Schemes work?**

The purpose of support schemes is to encourage the take-up and deployment of renewable electricity generation. Some renewable technologies are not yet cost-competitive with more traditional, established technologies, hence financial support is used to support the 'maturing' of these technologies until they reach a point where they can compete alongside more established generation. Support schemes support an ambitious RES deployment target in the EU (at least 27% of energy by 2030).

#### **4 Why is this important for energy customers? What is the impact on energy customers?**

The costs of achieving increased RES deployment will ultimately be borne by end-users, to the extent that support is either passed on through electricity prices or directly added to electricity bills. At the same time, an increase in domestic RES production may also bring security of supply and other benefits. Understanding the different approaches to RES support can help to inform and improve future support scheme designs, thereby reducing costs for consumers.