

EU4Energy: Embracing renewables in Belarus

PROJECT DURATION: 2015-2019

BUDGET: €600,597

Brief Description

Belarus's renewable energy market is underdeveloped but has gradually gained in importance. An EU-funded project is helping boost this market by introducing renewable initiatives in Navahrudak before expanding nationwide. The ultimate aim of the project is to plant the seeds for a stronger economy and greener environment.



Objectives

Why was this needed?

Belarus lacks adequate mineral and fuel resources, such as natural gas, oil and coal. At the same time, the country has an energy-intensive economy. The development of renewable energy resources would improve energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions in brief

How is it helping?

The project is developing a Renewable Energy Strategy and roadmap until 2020 for Navahrudak, a city in the Grodno Region of Belarus. Various feasibility studies on a number of renewable projects, such as a wind park and biogas facility are also in the pipeline. Meanwhile, a solar water heating,

heat pump and photovoltaic pilot is being constructed at the local hospital.

In addition, a Training & Consulting Centre will provide guidance and consultation on renewables. Those who will receive training sessions include the public, local authorities, teachers and students as well as those working in the financial sector. And students also stand to benefit as a new course on *Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources* is underway at the local agricultural college. Various website, event and promotional material are also foreseen.

What results are expected?

The above initiatives should result in more renewable energy investment to the area through public-private partnerships (PPPs). This will in turn create jobs, reduce emissions and improve the life quality of local residents.

The roadmap and strategy will go a long way to helping local authorities implement future renewable projects. And the six feasibility studies carried out should help attract significant foreign investment to the region.

Source: </en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4energy-embracing-renewables-belarus>