

Energy efficiency in Slovak Republic

Energy efficiency represents an essential element of vital energy policy. The lowering of energy intensity is defined as one of the basic pillars within the framework of sustainable development of the whole society. The Government of the Slovak Republic has recently adopted two strategic documents related to the energy efficiency area:

- The Concept of energy efficiency of the Slovak Republic, being the framework document for this area (4 July 2007)
- The Energy efficiency action plan for the period of 2008-2010, being the operational document for the Concept, which includes concrete measures and resources for their financing (24 October 2007)

The above mentioned action plan is the first of three 3- year Action plans (2008 – 2010, 2011 – 2013, 2014 – 2016), which are going to be elaborated consequently after the necessary assessment of the impacts of the measures from the Action plans as a part of the long term continuous process.

The Energy efficiency action plan for the period of 2008-2010

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan for 2008 to 2010 is a strategic programming document planning the energy efficiency measures to be adopted in individual sectors of Slovakia's economy in the period from 2008 to 2010. The material specifies selected measures and activities for the next three years, including anticipated supporting financial mechanisms. Slovakia will prepare a new action plan every three years as required under the applicable EU laws (Directive of the European Parliament and the Council No. 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services); performance and achievements under the action plans will be assessed by the European Commission.

Taking into account available values of indicators of energy intensity development in Slovakia in 2001 to 2005 and having considered all possibilities for the monitoring of energy saving values it is necessary that Slovakia carries out all measures aimed at achieving annual savings in final energy consumption in an average amount of 4,135 TJ/year. This value is identical with an indicative target set by Directive 2006/32/EC on energy services for the period from 2008 – 2017, i.e. to save 9% of the final energy consumption over 9 years.

The objective of the action plan is to specify targets, define energy efficiency measures and ensure implementation of the proposed measures and their monitoring. The measures specified in this action plan will create a legal basis and appropriate conditions designed to ensure a substantial improvement in the efficient use of energy and long-term energy savings, in particular the following:

- incentives for individual entities to adopt energy efficient measures and behave in an energy-efficient way;
- clearly defined responsibility for required targets and achieved results;
- necessary economic and legal environment.

The energy savings issue and energy efficiency measures concern all fundamental sectors of energy consumption and use. They are in particular aimed at buildings, appliances, industry and agriculture, transportation, energy generation and transmission, and energy distribution and sale to end users. Some, so-called horizontal measures, concern a larger number, or even all, consumption sectors.

The share of individual sectors in meeting the indicative energy savings target will be as follows:

— horizontal measures	31	%
— buildings	11	%
— appliances	3	%
— public sector (except for buildings)	3	%
— industry and agriculture	30	%
— transport	22	%

Beside existing measures, the following measures will be developed for individual sectors:

Horizontal measures

- Energy Efficiency Act
- an energy efficiency monitoring and information system
- information campaign “Dobrá rada = úspora” (Good Advice = Saving)
- regional energy consultancy centres
- support for energy services development
- “E2” training programme in state administration
- energy efficiency – a part of sustainable development education for children and youth
- application of the energy efficiency principle in public procurement procedures

Buildings

- amendment of construction regulations
- updating and completing of regulations concerning energy performance of buildings
- application of legislative measures
- improvement of thermal-technical properties of buildings utilised as civil infrastructure facilities (social and school infrastructure);
- improvement of thermal-technical properties of buildings where healthcare is provided;
- improvement of thermal-technical properties of buildings within the framework of university infrastructure development;
- improvement of thermal-technical properties of buildings within the framework of renovation of communities in the Bratislava region;
- installation of heat pumps and highly efficient air-conditioning systems in non-production buildings;

- measures to support voluntary energy certificates/audits of non-production buildings;
- construction of buildings with better thermal-technical indicators (new construction systems, low-energy houses, passive houses ...)

Appliances

- definition of the technical requirements for products
- information campaigns for consumers concerning energy-efficiency of appliances,
- improvement of consultancy services for consumers through the training of importers and vendors of appliances,
- replacement of white goods

Public sector – state administration, local self-governing bodies

- setting the minimum requirements for energy efficiency of the public lighting
- upgrading of the public lighting

Industry and agriculture

- energy audits in industrial undertakings – a basis for determining the energy savings potential
- energy demand monitoring and management in industrial undertakings
- optimisation of energy conversion and distribution in industrial undertakings
- innovation and technology transfers in industrial undertakings
- energy efficiency improvement in the processing industry
- high-efficiency cogeneration in the industry

Transport

- an amendment to Act No. 582/2004 Coll. on local taxes and local fees for municipal and minor construction waste
- fleet modernisation
 - o Fleet replacement and modernisation in public passenger railway transport
 - o Improved energy efficiency of means of transport, promotion of low-emission road vehicles and promotion of intermodal transport
- transport operation optimisation
 - o Introduction of fees for the use of transport infrastructure in order to ensure balanced utilisation of individual modes of transport
 - o Traffic control optimisation and intelligent transport systems
 - o Public transport optimisation
- building and modernisation of transport infrastructure
 - o Building of transport infrastructure and elimination of traffic bottlenecks
- building of the basic network of public intermodal transport terminals

Other energy policy developments

Beside The Energy Efficiency Action Plan for 2008 to 2010 other important energy policy documents have been elaborated recently:

- Strategy for higher utilisation of renewable energy sources in SR, adopted by Government on 25 April 2007
- Strategy of energy security for the Slovak Republic until 2030, the document is currently in the process of public discussion