All-out focus on energy efficiency

With a 16% fall in GHG emissions in 2016 compared to 2005, Lombardy is nearing the targets it announced in its Regional Programme for Energy and the Environment (PEAR), in line with the 2020 and 2030 European targets. However, several external parameters must be taken into account to explain this fall: the economic crisis of 2008 which led to a lasting fall in regional GDP, regional deindustrialisation and the fall in energy demand due to rising average regional temperatures. Under the Under2MoU, the region has also committed to a 10% reduction in total energy consumption and to covering 15.5% of regional demand from renewable energies in 2020.

• PLANNING FOCUSED ON THE GOAL OF REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION • EUR 96 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has been allocated to the energy efficiency of public buildings, of which 52% belong to class G (the most energy consuming). They must reduce energy consumption by between 1.7 and 2.7 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) based on consumption of about 24 Mtoe, a fall of between 7 and 11%. Of this sum, EUR 63 million (M €) were allocated in 2017. A third was dedicated to municipalities with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, to finance up to 90% of their renovation projects. The rest was spent on projects of more than EUR 1 million in buildings with almost zero energy (NZEB), of which 30% of expenses are covered and 40% are financed by a low-interest 10-year loan in its first monitoring report at the end of 2017, the regional council declared that it had funded 101 projects in small districts, with 19 beneficiaries for 32 NZEB projects. The whole mechanism is estimated to have covered 123,000m².

• SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC MOBILITY BY FINANCING CHARGING STATIONS • Two separate initiatives to support electric mobility are provided by the PEAR and the Regional Transportation Planning Document. The first, with funding of EUR 1 million, enabled the construction of 179 charging points for individuals by the end of 2017. The second aims to develop coverage of the area with public charging points through a EUR 20 million call for tenders for municipalities with more than 30,000 inhabitants. According to the 2017 follow-up report, 688 terminals have been made available to the public through these programmes.

• SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGIES AS THE NORM • With renewable energy production of 16,330 GWh in 2016, the Lombardy region has already exceeded its previous target of covering 11.3% of its final renewable energy demand by 2020. In the Italian regulatory framework, support measures for renewable energy production are the responsibility of the state. The role of the region is limited to facilitating administrative authorisation procedures. Under the PEAR, the main measure is the pre-identification of areas suitable for the installation of renewable energy sources. This division of the area represents a time saving and a reduction of the risk incurred for the developers of renewable projects.

The plan also prioritises the issue of public lighting, which accounts for 60% of the electricity consumption of the regional administration and 2 to 10% of that of private companies. €45 million was therefore dedicated to projects enabling the pooling of services using the electricity grid, for example in the field of remote monitoring or telecommunication. By the end of 2017, funding applications were still in the investigation phase.

Lombardia - GHG Emissions (MtCO₂eq/an)

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