



SUMMARY

Zemgale Planning Region

Energy Action Plan 2018-2025

Zemgale Planning region, PP7



Executive summary

Energy Action Plan 2018-2025 of Zemgale Planning Region (ZPR) has been developed within the framework of Interreg Baltic Sea Region Cooperation Program project N^o.R017 “Baltic Energy Areas - A Planning Perspective/ BEA-APP”.

The Action Plan was developed by the administration of ZPR, involving the specialists of local government, entrepreneurs, representatives of the non-governmental sector, in consultation with ministries and experts of energy sector.

Zemgale Planning Region Energy Action Plan 2018-2025 has been developed under the regional priorities (P) and actions (A) of ZPR Development Program 2015-2020:

- ❖ P4 “Sustainable management and development of environment and natural resources”:
 - A 4.1. “To promote more efficient management of the environment and natural resources of the region, including ensuring reduction of pollution, development of sustainable waste and water management systems and implementation of energy efficiency measures in local governments”;
 - A 4.3. Coordinate regional activities to adapt to the climate change.
- ❖ P3 “An efficient and qualitative transport system and infrastructure for the external and internal accessibility of the region”:
 - A 3.2. “To develop environmentally friendly transport systems and construction of green transport infrastructure in the region”;
- ❖ P1 “Entrepreneurship-friendly environment - a basis for long-term innovation”:
 - A 1.1. “To promote business development in the prospective economic sectors of the region: agriculture, food industry, forestry, wood processing, mining and quarrying, metalworking and mechanical engineering, chemical industry, tourism, creative industries, etc.”.

The aim of the Action Plan is to summarize and analyze the current situation in the energy sector in Zemgale Planning Region, to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the energy-related spheres, as well as to provide regional-level actions aimed at promoting the use of renewable energy sources (RES), improving energy efficiency, promoting the use of alternative road transport fuels, green public procurement criteria, etc.

The planned actions in the Action Plan are grouped in the sections of:

- 1) planning;
- 2) awareness raising and education;
- 3) research, demonstration and pilots;
- 4) improvement of business environment.

During the planning process, local regional and national needs were met and analysed. Concerning political framework, there was strengthened the political commitment in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy development. During the planning process had been gathered together the local and regional policy makers and experts to make a certain decisions in saturated discussions on the further development of the regional energy strategy. In the implementation part of the Action Plan policy makers are concerned to carry out the actions as planned in the developed document within a sustainable manner.

Furthermore, the information and communication part of the planning process included the informative work with local and regional stakeholders attracting also the representatives of national level to inform on the aims and progress in achieving the listed national targets. During the Energy workshops, the participants had been asked to provide the opinion on energy related issues and how do they see the national situation to meet the EU goals. The Action Plan includes also the indicative financing sources for the actions under which the implementation of the actions is possible which is useful information for the beneficiaries.

Regarding the participation and involvement, the municipalities and other stakeholders were informed on the option to decide on the needs to be further involved in the common energy projects in energy sector. Besides that in the local level several municipalities expressed the interest into making a common proposal in the future RES projects and make common collaboration to develop the energy sector issues in Zemgale region, especially in the areas that are favourable for energy production and supply with available amount of raw materials, industrial territories and good infrastructure (e.g. Bauska county municipality, Iecava county municipality).

Concerning the technical framework, there was strengthened the link between RE and spatial planning process in the means that the municipalities has gained a better understanding of the need to integrate the energy issues in spatial planning to reach the sustainable development of the territory. This has been reached in the context of Regional Living Lab approach during the Energy working groups. Also further discussions regarding spatial planning and RES will be ensured during bi-annual meetings and experience/opinion exchange.

In the context of planning criteria, there have been foreseen several planning cases in the Action Plan to ensure the harmonisation of the specific planning fields to ensure sustainability – mobility, bio-economics, waste management, energy monitoring system etc.

The technical framework part of conflict management within this Action Plan includes the harmonisation between national and local targets and needs within a regional planning document. The regional Action Plan has been considered as a instrument that strengthens the local balancing discourses in the field of energy, taking into consideration the fact that

energy planning in the municipality level in Latvia is not successful enough from the perspective of use of resources, bankability and efficiency.

The strategic aims for ZPR to 2025 in energy sector (showed in table below) involve the increased share of RES in produced heat amount in district heating systems and road transport fuels, increased amount of electrical vehicles and their charging points as well as increased amount of consumed electricity in private sector.

Target	Value in 2016	Value in 2025
RES share in produced heat in district heating systems (%)	72 % (542,90 GWh) (Source: Central Statistical Bureau)	81 %
Electricity consumption in private sector (households, industry, tertiary sector etc.) (GWh)	661 GWh (Source: Latvenergo)	+9% (720,49 GWh)
RES share in total fuel consumption in road transport (%)	0.75 %	12
RES share in total fuel consumption in road transport (ktoe)	0.9 ktoe	14.7
Installed charging points for electrical vehicles (number)	4	27
Electrical vehicles (number)	12	36

The Action Plan includes also the order for its implementation and monitoring. The Local actions to be implemented by the municipalities in the field of energy for years 2018 to 2025 are included in the annex.