

Bioenergy and Biofuels in Austria

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Renewable Energy (RE) plays a significant role in the Austria energy scenario and will be increased from 28 % in 2008 to 34 % in 2020. In 2009, 51 % of the RE came from biomass, 49 % from hydropower and 5 % from the environment (wind, geothermal, solar, ambient energy); transport biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) reached 6.6 %.

The success is based on a favorable framework. RE is widely accepted by the citizens and pushed by the policy since the eighties. Strong R&D efforts financed by the state and private enterprises have resulted in advanced technologies (solar heat, biomass for power, heat and transport fuel).

The contribution includes basic data on RE production, use and legal regulation (including the influence of the European Renewable Energy Directive) with a special focus on energy from biomass. Emphasis will be laid on actual R&D projects on synthetic biofuels like biomethane, mixed alcohols, bio-Fischer-Tropsch fuels and on the production of bio-hydrogen for the integration in a fossil fuel refinery. Additionally the scope of the Austrian Bioenergy 2020+ Competence Centre, the leading Austrian bioenergy research institution, will be presented.

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Born in Austria, graduated as Mechanical Engineer from TU Graz. Since 1975 R&D work on of biomass for energy and industry at FJ-BLT, an Institute of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture&Forestry. His work is concentrated on the production and use of transport biofuels, on small scale biomass heat production and sustainability & policy issues. Chairman of the Renewable Raw Material Working Group of the Ministry, editor of the "Renewable Raw Material Newsletter", Leader of the policy subgroup of IEA Bioenergy Task 39, Key Researcher in the Bioenergy2020+ Competence Centre

Numerous presentation in international Bioenergy Conferences, e.g. Bioenergy Australia 2010 Conference, 32nd Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemical, World Refining Association Biofuels Conference 2009 Budapest, Mitteleuropäische Biomassekonferenz Graz 2008, Palm Oil Price Outlook 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, International Congress on Second Generation Biofuels 2008, Pamplona, ...

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