



# NEWSLETTER

By the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)  
the umbrella organisation representing the main European industry, trade and research associations  
[www.erec-renewables.org](http://www.erec-renewables.org)

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## NEWS from EREC

### Sustainable Communities

The project *Sustainable Communities* under the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Commission aims to bring all the different aspects of sustainable communities together to create a platform of information exchange in order to define the concept of sustainable communities in more detail and to foster the implementation of this concept in Europe and in Central and Eastern European Countries. EREC and its partners under the Sustainable Communities project are in the process of developing an **online forum of exchange** of information and expertise. It aims at facilitating the life of Energy Sustainable Communities (ESC) and those that want to become ESC and their means of communication. You want to find out how the concept Energy Sustainable Communities is defined? And more importantly you want to know how to become an ESC? [Read more](#)

### Green-X

The Green-X toolbox allows for a comparative, quantitative analysis of interactions between electricity from renewable sources (RES-e), conventional electricity and CHP generation, demand-side activities and GHG-reduction in the electricity sector in all EU-27 countries. The model calculates the impact of various renewable energy promotion strategies, taking into account boundary conditions on the markets. Technologies are specified by means of dynamic cost–resource curves. The econometric analysis uses correlations between observed policy implementations and corresponding RES penetration. The econometric analysis is used to set a benchmark for the results of the Green-X model. For more information on the model please visit the [project website](#). You can order the model by emailing the [project coordinators](#) (Prof. Dr. Reinhard Haas).

### Energy Briefing: the Myth of an effective EU power market

The EREC briefing analyses, among others, the competitive situation in the European electricity and gas markets, and establishes the fact that effective competition in the conventional markets is a precondition for competition in renewable electricity. However, considerable market distortions still exist in the electricity market (and gas market), a fact which EREC thinks has not been addressed adequately. This briefing tries to redirect the current debate. EREC presented the briefing during a conference organised by [Eurelectric](#), during which the establishment of a Pan-European Renewables Market was called for. While the players in the conventional European Power sector ask for competition amongst renewable energy producers, it should be recalled that effective competition in more than 90% of the market that is based on conventional electricity is a far cry from reality as pointed out in the three benchmarking reports of the European Commission.

It seems premature to call for competition in the renewables power segment at a time of non-competition in conventional power. Renewable Energy Technologies could already be competitive if they had received the same attention in terms of R&D funding, subsidies, and the built-up of monopolistic structures while taking external costs into account. Applying the ‘polluter pays’ principle alone would go a long way to level the currently non-level playing field – [read more](#).

### Stakeholder Conference Post-2012 climate policy for the EU

EREC is a **stakeholder** in the EU climate policy debate and has attended the recent stakeholder conference *post-2012 climate policy for the EU*. The conference took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 at the European Commission’s Charlemagne Building in Brussels. It was very well attended and resulted in fruitful discussion. New ideas and approaches discussed during the conference will feed into next year’s EU climate policy review the participants were told. The four working groups of the morning programme focused on the climate change challenge (WG1), the participation challenge (WG2), the innovation challenge (WG3), and the future architecture of climate change policy

(WG4). The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was extensively discussed and endorsed by the stakeholders, among others. In addition European Funds - e.g. Structural Funds – were mentioned in relation to future climate change policy. The conference reconfirmed that necessary elements for living up to the requirements of the Kyoto protocol are Renewable Energy Technologies and Energy Efficiency Measures. A final message agreed on by the participants was that renewables must be an integral part of the short-term solution for combating climate change. More information on the post-2012 climate policy for the EU can be found on the [European Commission's website](#).

## The Energy Charter: Working Group on energy efficiency and related environmental aspects

EREC recently participated in a panel discussion organised by the [Energy Charter Secretariat](#) on *Integrating energy efficiency and renewable policies*. The fundamental aim of the **Energy Charter Treaty** is to strengthen the Rule of Law on energy issues, by creating a level playing field of rules to be observed by all participating governments, thus minimizing the risks associated with energy-related investments and trade. It consists of more than 50 governments and thus had a broad spectrum of attendees from all over the world. The discussion went along the question, if energy efficiency policy and renewable energy policy can and should go hand in hand. Most participants argued that these two areas should be integrated in policy making. EREC agreed in principle that only the combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy policy will pave the way for a sustainable energy future, but that in concrete terms of legislation a differentiation is necessary. One side is aiming at the supply side and the other mainly on the demand side and therefore special attention should be given individually. The discussion was very fruitful and future collaboration between EREC and the Energy Charter was agreed upon.

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## NEWS from EREC's MEMBERS and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

### EPIA becomes IEA-PVPS Member

On 19th October 2004, a meeting was held in Paris inaugurating the collaboration between EPIA and IEA-PVPS. EPIA is now a sponsoring member of the IEA-PVPS as well as a member of its Executive Committee. The *Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme* is a collaborative R&D agreement, established within the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#), and conducting projects on the application of solar photovoltaic electricity. IEA-PVPS operates worldwide via a network of national teams in member countries. For more information please visit the [IEA-PVPS website](#).

### AEBIOM/European Bioenergy Business Forum

The recent conference on *EU legislation and bioenergy* in Brussels (8 – 9 November) was the second conference organised by the **European Bioenergy Business Forum (EBBF)** at the European level. It attracted about 90 participants who had the chance to identify key EU trends for bioenergy and to discuss their concerns with European Parliamentarians and European officials. It came at a time when a market for carbon allowances is about to start operating. The EBBF was created under the patronage of AEBIOM and can be contacted via the website of [AEBIOM](#).

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## EVENTS organized by EREC or MEMBERS

### The 2004 European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition (2004 EWEC)

The EWEC is **the world's premier wind energy event**. It took place in London, UK, from 22nd to 25th November 2004. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) reckons that over 4200 participants attended the 4day

conference. In addition a total of 255 companies had stalls at the conference exhibition, and 220 speakers and chairmen presented in 40 different sessions and workshops the topics of 2004 EWEC. Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA, said that the 2004 EWEC “demonstrated that wind energy is no longer a niche concern, but it is a central driver of European technological development and industrial know-how”. The next EWEC will be held from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 in Athens, Greece. [Read more](#).

## European Solar Thermal Energy Conference - estec2005

Estec is Europe’s largest solar trade fair at the moment. Estec2003 marked a major breakthrough for the solar thermal sector and set new standards not only in terms of numbers of participants but also in the quality of presentations. Thus a *2nd European Solar Thermal Energy Conference* will take place next year, in Freiburg, Germany, on 21st and 22nd June 2005. Estec will be organised by **ESTIF**, the European Solar Thermal Industry Foundation, in collaboration with the German Solar Industry Association BSI and Intersolar. [More information](#) on the conference, as well as on the **call for papers** can be found on the [estec2005 website](#).

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2005 WELS, AUSTRIA

The conference *Sustainable Communities* will take place on Friday, 4 March 2005 (morning and afternoon). It is embedded in the [WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS](#), a 4-day event, organized by O.Ö. Energiesparverband, and supported by EREC.

European Pellets Conference - Wednesday, 2-3 March  
Innovative buildings Conference - Thursday, 3 March  
**Sustainable Communities Conference** – Friday, 4 March  
Energy Fair – Saturday, 5 March  
[More...](#)

### FORRES 2020 project – Final Conference

The *Forres 2020 project – Analysis of Renewable Energy Sources evolution up to 2020* provides an independent analysis of the evolution of RES (electricity, heat and biofuels) in the 25 Member States of the EU and Bulgaria and Romania, supporting the EU in formulating RE policies. It also provides input for monitoring the progress on the targets set in the White Paper, the Directive on the promotion of electricity from renewables, and the Directive on biofuels. Additionally the aim of the project is to provide a perspective up to 2020, and to give an insight into future developments of a green energy market in the EU and the Candidate Countries.

A **one-day-conference** is being organized on 10 December 2004 in Budapest. Topics on the agenda will be future targets for RES, the computer model Green-X, and risk perceptions, among others. The consortium running the project consists of KEMA, the Netherlands, Fraunhofer Institute (ISI), Karlsruhe, Germany, the Energy Economics Group, Vienna, Austria, ECOFYS, the Netherlands, and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. It is supported by DG TREN of the European Commission.

[Additional information](#) on the project and the final conference (program etc.) is available on the [project homepage](#).

## European Biomass Conference and Technology Exhibition 2005

The 14<sup>th</sup> European Biomass Conference and Technology Exhibition on *Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection* takes place at the Palais des Congrès in Paris next year. This event will be an excellent forum for the presentation of the latest innovative global strategies, technologies, projects and efficient practice rules for energy and environment. It will also give the opportunity for an information exchange and for discussions among scientists, policy makers, and practitioners of the use of biomass for energy, industry and climate protection. The exhibition integrated into the Conference will provide an opportunity for making business in the emerging biomass sector. The exact date of the conference and exhibition is 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005. ETA-Florence and WIP-Germany are the conference organizers. Further information can be found on the [conference website](#).

## European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition 2005

WIP organizes the 20<sup>th</sup> *European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition*, which will take place at the CCIB – International Convention Centre Barcelona, Spain, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The five-day programme comprises plenary lectures focusing on the state-of-the-art and targets of PV, oral and poster presentations of specific research, development and demonstration projects, PV applications, PV industry issues, and PV markets, an exhibition of PV products and services, workshops on specific PV issues (e.g. PV platform, EU electricity directive), a PV industry day parallel to the programme, and a scientific and industry tour as well as a social programme. Please visit the [conference website](#) for further information.

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