

SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY REGULATION IN UZBEKISTAN



Energy efficiency, a core ground of Green Economy Strategy adopted last year in Uzbekistan, in fact starts at each and every home. Electricity can be used much more efficiently than before, for example by using LED light, variable speed motor drives and efficient home appliances. All this opens up tremendous opportunities for energy independence, which is the focus of the economy of every country. However, the slow growth of acceptance is a major barrier to small-scale renewable energy development. As large-scale initiatives, many smaller renewable opportunities such as solar roof panels and heat pumps are not that popular in Uzbekistan.

LEGAL BASIS

As of today, there is no yet precise definition of small-scale renewable energy in Uzbekistan. Therefore, implementation of small-scale renewable energy projects in Uzbekistan is subject to general regulation and state policy, regardless to the size of the project except for certain concessions and preferences designed specifically for small-scale renewable energy producers.

Nevertheless, Uzbek legislation stipulates specific measures supporting renewable energy use in residential premises. For instance, the Renewable Energy Law provides that individuals using renewable energy in residential premises with complete disconnection from the existing energy networks shall be exempt from property and land tax for 3 years.

The law establishes that the production of electric and heating energy from renewable energy for own use shall be free of any permits.

The Green Energy Strategy itself contains a package of measures aimed at supporting small-scale renewables in Uzbekistan. These measures are listed below.

STATE SUPPORT

Starting from January 1, 2020 the State Budget will finance the following activities:

1. Compensation of 30% of individuals expenses for purchasing solar devices, with certain limits;
2. Compensations of expenses of individuals and legal entities for repayment of loan interest received for the purchase of renewable energy facilities, with certain limits as well;
3. Energy efficiency of buildings within the analysis of project documentation;
4. State authorities must install energy-efficient devices in their buildings and facilities; and
5. Certain state authorities and companies are requested to take measures to develop energy- saving products until the end of 2020.

The energy efficiency targets are:

- at least 2.4 billion kWh of electricity;
- 2.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas; and
- 20 thousand tons of oil products in 2020-2022

CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES

As written above, there is no separate regulation of small-scale renewable energy projects in Uzbekistan as of today. Therefore, the initiatives are regulated by general rules and acts in energy sphere.

As a principal rule, the government mainly guarantees connection of power producers to the single electricity system. The government also gives territorial electricity networks the right to enter into contracts with power producers with the approval of the responsible bodies.

In order to be registered in the general system of energy, it is required to submit an application to the Unified portal of interactive public services. Compliance with the technical conditions is not required in the following cases:

- using of all produced electric energy for own consumption;
- consumption of electric energy from own installations.

Energy producers with an energy power up to **20 kW** are required to coordinate on the power project with authorized bodies. Though it is not required for them to obtain permission for commissioning of electrical installation into operation.

For all other producers with available output from **20 kW to 500 kW** it is sufficient to conduct an impact assessment when connecting to the general network, instead of conducting network connection studies.

If the results of evaluation for those providers whose available output power is from **20 kW to 500 kW** shows that the parameters of the connected power installations do not exceed the thresholds of the electric network, the owner of such network must issue the technical conditions to the provider for connecting the power installations.