

The JREC Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Database

INTERIM RESULTS OF A DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

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The JREC Policies and Measures Database

The JREC Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Database will provide upto-date information on policies, measures and targets related to renewable energies in JREC member countries. Worldwide the first web-based database on renewables, the P&M Database aims foster the uptake of renewable energy technologies. It will be a platform both for JREC members, other governments interested in renewables, and the general public to learn about different policies and best practices. In this way, the Database will enhance knowledge and awareness of renewable energy policies & measures globally and across countries and regions and contribute to sustainable development.

The Database is a direct outcome of the co-operative effort to increase the share of renewable energy stated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002. It is developed jointly by the JREC Secretariat, which is hosted by the European Commission, and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The website will be launched at the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, in June 2004.

Further developing this database to eventually include all JREC countries will bring a number of significant advantages to the countries featured in the database:

Increasing use of renewable energy

The database supports the process of setting targets and developing policies & measures to encourage the uptake of renewable energy. It will make businesses, individuals and researchers more aware of the policies, grants and advantages that are available to them. It will also be a useful tool for private investors looking to enter a market.

Capacity building

Access to the database and to the network of experts who provided the information will allow sharing best practice in policy-making. The experiences of the IEA countries will be made available and will encourage a North-South dialogue.

Encouraging policy reform

The database will provide an effective tool for policy analysis and comparison between countries. It will be a valuable instrument to identify effective policies and highlight policy gaps. This, along with the contact information, should in turn encourage governments to adopt and implement more effective goals and programmes for developing renewable energy in their countries.

Dissemination of information

The database will be available on an independent website ensuring a wide audience. It is anticipated that the website will also provide a platform for the presentation of other information that could be useful to the JREC community such as statistical data about renewable energy market levels in JREC countries. The JREC Renewable Energy Policies & Measures Database can be accessed at: http://jrec.iea.org

Context

The Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, called on countries "... to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources ...". More than 80 countries have expressed a keen willingness to go beyond the Plan of Implementation through a co-operative effort to increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix on the basis of national and/or regional targets and timetables. These countries have formed the so-called Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC).

In June 2003, the G8 Heads of State expressed at the the Summit in Evian, their commitment to strengthening international co-operation in a number of areas including renewable energy: "We recognise the need ... to support the development of cleaner, sustainable and more efficient technologies. ... In undertaking these activities, we are committed to working co-operatively with other developed countries. We are conscious that, to meet the objectives of the WSSD, developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to build and strengthen their capacity to assimilate and generate knowledge for sustainable development. We reaffirm our commitment made at the WSSD to assist them through international co-operation in enhancing their research capacities."

For more information please contact:

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