



Advantageous and disadvantageous effects of utilization the renewable resources in Hungary

A. Hunyady

Ministry of Environment and Water, Budapest, Hungary (hunyady@mail.kvvm.hu)

The renewable energy sources are essential to avoid large scale anthropogenic climate impacts and to strive for the sustainable development. Renewable energy sources enhance all three pillars of sustainable development (environmental, social, economic). As far as EU's energy policy is concerned utilization of renewable resources and energy efficiency have great significance. One of the main aim of EU is to increase the utilization of renewable energy from 5.3% to 12% till 2010.

Hungary is formulately expected to increase the 2003-rate of the electricity supply produced by renewable energy i.e. 0,9% to 3,6%, and to increase the rate of bio-fuels to 4% as well. Recently, the biomass utilization represents the biggest rate in renewable energy sources in Hungary, in particular since the consumption of fire-wood. The biomass-potential in Hungary is favourable; it seems to be the most exploitable among the renewable energy sources. It has numerous advantages: for instance biomass burning does not mean additional source for atmospheric CO₂-storage, and may influence agricultural processes in a prosperous way either the landuse efficiency or employment-policy.

Nevertheless biomass-burning may result disadvantages as well. Such as inappropriate afforestation and energy plantations may influence biodiversity adversely. The paper summarize the utilization of biomass in Hungary, analyses the potential advantagees and disadvantages, and looking for the way how to make utilization of renewable resources more efficient.