



EKOenergy's draft criteria for renewable heat and cooling (*without biomass*)

Version for public consultation (10 December 2019 – 31 January 2020)

- Send your comments (or questions) before 1 February to info@ekoenergy.org. Comments can be made in English, Dutch, Chinese, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish.
 - Mention 'public consultation heat' as the subject of your email
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1. Introduction

EKOenergy is an international ecolabel for renewable energy. The ecolabel helps consumers find the best available renewable energy options. It is also a tool for consumers and sellers to speed up the energy transition and to communicate in a concrete and positive way about their commitment to a 100% renewable and sustainable world.

Only sellers who have signed the licence agreement for the use of the EKOenergy label can market (i.e. advertise and sell) EKOenergy-labelled heat and cooling.

In the text hereafter, we mention only heat. The same rules apply, wherever applicable, to cooling.

2. Sustainability

2.1 General requirement: fulfil all legal requirements

The production units where the heat originates from, have to fulfil all legal requirements as well as all the requirements imposed by their permits.

2.2 Allowed types of renewable heat and specific requirements

A. Heat produced with heat pumps and by means of heat recovery.

Heat produced by a heat pump qualifies for EKOenergy if, and to the extent that the heat pump uses electricity that fulfils EKOenergy's sustainability criteria (with regard to hydroelectricity, this also includes the payment of a contribution to EKOenergy's Environmental Fund). The origin of the electricity needs to be proven in a reliable way and without leaving any risk of double counting.

If only a part of the needed electricity qualifies for EKOenergy, no more than a proportional part of the produced heat can be sold/used as EKOenergy-ecolabelled.

B. Heat produced with bioenergy

This is not a part of this consultation and approval process. The rules for bioenergy-based energy will be approved in a separate process, taking place in 2020. See www.ekoenergy.org for more information or let us know (via info@ekoenergy.org) that you want to stay informed.

C. Solar thermal energy

Solar thermal energy qualifies for EKOenergy if the installation is rooftop, or if the heat is generated in installations that are not located in:

- a) Nature reserves designated by the authorities
- b) Natura 2000 areas (<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>)
- c) Important Bird Areas (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site/search> > view maps)
- d) UNESCO World Heritage Sites (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/254/>)

The EKOenergy Board can accept installations within such protected areas, taking into account the legislation in force at the place of production as well as the conservation objectives of these areas. The decision will be taken after consultation of local stakeholders.

D. Geothermal heat¹

Geothermal heat qualifies for EKOenergy if the installations are not located in:

- a) Nature reserves designated by the authorities

¹ These criteria are the same as those that exist for EKOenergy ecolabelled electricity from geothermal energy.

- b) Natura 2000 areas (<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>)
- c) Important Bird Areas (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site/search> > view maps)
- d) UNESCO World Heritage Sites (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/254/>)

The EKOenergy Board can accept installations within such protected areas, taking into account the legislation in force at the place of production as well as the conservation objectives of these areas. The decision will be taken after consultation of local stakeholders.

E. Heat produced with other types of renewable gas (in particular renewable gas resulting from power-to-gas processes)

Heat produced with renewable gas other than biogas covered under paragraph 2.2 B, qualifies for EKOenergy if, and to the extent that the used gas fulfils EKOenergy's sustainability criteria for gas. This includes in particular gas that has been produced through a power-to-gas process using EKOenergy eligible electricity (with regard to hydroelectricity, this also includes the payment of a contribution to EKOenergy's Environmental Fund).

3. Climate and additionality

For each MWh of sold EKOenergy-labelled heat, there is a contribution of at least 0.10 € (ten eurocent) to EKOenergy's Climate Fund. These contributions are used to finance projects that stimulate further investments in renewable energy, in particular renewable heat and cooling, and that contribute to the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Licensed sellers and users of EKOenergy-labelled heat will get communication materials such as texts and pictures about these projects.

EKOenergy will not set up own projects, but select projects proposed by experienced organisations, through an open, transparent and fair selection process.

4. Proving the origin and avoidance of double counting

To ensure that the renewable heat has really been produced and to avoid double counting, the heat needs to be efficiently tracked and double counting needs to be avoided. In the EEA the origin needs to be proven with Guarantees of Origin.²

If there is no official Energy Attribute Certificate system for heat available, other systems can be used after the approval of the EKOenergy Board. The system will be approved if it is reliable, neutral, open to all interested market players and if double counting is excluded.

² As soon as the revised Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 enters into force.

If there is no Energy Attribute Certificate system at all in a given country, or if it is not available for whatever reason, the EKOenergy Board will evaluate the (contractual) tracking solution suggested by the seller and/or the consumer. The approval of such a system is temporary and can only be accepted if it is reliable, based on third-party verified information and if double counting is excluded.

A list of accepted registers and systems will be available on www.ekoenergy.org.

EKOenergy also allows the unbundled sale of tracking certificates, but tracking certificates can only be used within the 'district heat network' where the heat has been produced.

The maximum time span between production and consumption is one year.

5. Auditing and verification

5.1 Sellers

Once a year, the Licensor organises an audit of the sales of EKOenergy-labeled energy. The audit is based on data that have previously been checked or certified by public authorities and/or reliable third-party certifying organisations, in particular information available on the accepted Energy Attribute Certificates.

If certified data is not readily available or if the Licensee is not able to share the required data and proofs, the information provided by the Licensee needs to be confirmed by an auditor complying with all the requirements of International Standards on Auditing and accepted beforehand by the Licensor.

As part of the audit, the Licensed seller also informs the Licensor about larger consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy (consumption of at least 1 GWh/year).

5.2 Audit of the production

The fulfilment of the criteria will be checked at least once a year. The audit will be based on information that is made available by public authorities and other information provided and warranted by reliable third party sources, e.g. information available via accepted Energy Attribute Certificate systems or information which is used to receive subsidies.

If such information is not available, the information needs to be verified by an auditor complying with all the requirements of the International Standards on Auditing and accepted beforehand by the Licensor.

6. Fees and contributions

The final seller (the seller to the end consumer) pays:

- Licence Fee: eight cents (0.08 €) per MWh of sold EKOenergy-labeled heat, to finance the network's activities and to support its actions to increase the demand for renewable energy. If during a calendar year, more than 250 GWh of EKOenergy-labeled heat is sold to the same end-consumer, this fee doesn't have to be paid for the part exceeding 250 GWh.
- At least ten cents (0.10 €) per MWh of sold EKOenergy-labeled heat to finance renewable energy projects as described in paragraph 3 of these criteria.
- At least ten cents (0.10 €) per MWh of hydropower used to produce the EKOenergy-labeled heat, to finance river restoration projects.

Payments happen at least once a year, by 30 April of the year after the calendar year in which the heat has been used.