

PROSUMER HIGHLIGHTS FROM GERMANY

Short facts as of 2019

- 49.8 GW of total PV installed (i.e. 600 W per capita)
- 607.0 TWh of annual electricity production (gross, without storage), 40% from renewables (incl. 7.7 % from PV)
- 30.4 Eurocents per kWh of total electricity price for a typical household
- 677 PV shared power plants (Mieterstromprojekte) with a total of around 13.9 MW (registered by BNetzA, mid-July 2019; numbers far short of expectations)

Best practices which have been identified

- The Renewable Energy Law (EEG) includes the right to self-consumption and sets a remuneration for feeding in surplus electricity.
- Self-consumption is exempt from taxes and charges, except for the EEG levy. The levy on self-consumption, which causes significant costs for metering and operation, is a barrier though.

Important barriers which need to be addressed

- The EEG includes a 52 GW support cap, which will hamper PV projects on buildings.
- The EEG levy on self-consumption has to be eliminated and self-consumption must be encouraged.
- Existing specifications and reporting obligations concerning the distinction between self-consumption and delivery to third-party lead to disproportionately high bureaucratic and metrological efforts in complex buildings and to legal uncertainty. Legislation must be changed in order to facilitate both individual solutions as well as energy communities.
- The flexibility resulting from prosumers' assets (e.g. electric vehicles, heat pumps) must be considered as a solution for congestion problems in low-voltage grids.
- Grid access policies are as heterogeneous as DSOs' cultures in planning and operating grids. Additionally, the requirements for metering equipment and related processes are not standardized, which causes particular effort for complex prosumer systems.
- Installing a rooftop PV unit or a wallbox for electric vehicles requires a 100% agreement of all owners of a shared property, which is very hard to achieve for a larger multi-party house.

Foreseeable path for overcoming barriers and developing the framework for prosuming

- The German government plans to expand the installed PV capacity to 98 GW by 2030.
- It has been announced that the 52 GW support cap will be abolished.
- There are announcements to improve the framework for community electricity projects.
- The Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) Directive has to be implemented.
- A framework for the continued operation of PV plants after the end of EEG support (20 years) needs to be defined.

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