

General information	State	Lithuania
	Status EU-Membership	Member state since 1 May 2004 ¹ Participant of the Energy Community since 16 October 2015 ²
	Population	2,794,700 (2020) ³
	Land area (km²)	62,630 (2020) ⁴
	Urban population (%)	68 % (2020) ⁵
	GDP (current US\$ billion)	70.97 (2022) ⁶
	GDP per capita (EURO)	25,065 (2022) ⁷
	Annual net earnings (Single person without children earning 100% of average earning (EURO))	8,445 (2023) ⁸
	Median hourly earnings (EURO)	Males: 4.64 (2018) Females: 4.26 (2018) ⁹ Hier: Median hourly earnings, all employees (excluding apprentices) by sex
	World Bank economic classification (2021)	High-income country ¹⁰
	Unemployment (% of total labor force)	6.5 % (2023) ¹¹
	Current energy sources	<p>The total energy mix in Lithuania for 2022 consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil: 46 % • Natural Gas: 22 % • Biofuels and Waste: 26 % • Coal: 3% • Hydropower Plants: Nearly 1 %
		<p>Regarding electricity, Lithuania is heavily dependent on imports, primarily from Sweden and Poland. The Lithuanian electricity generation share by source in 2023 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind Energy: 45.5 % • Solar Energy: nearly 12 % • Bioenergy: 11 % • Hydro Energy: 8.3 % • Gas: 11.3 % • Other Fossil Fuels: 12.2 %¹²
		<p>Lithuania has historically relied on a limited number of EU energy links, primarily to Latvia. To diversify its energy sources, Lithuania has completed several key projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Klaipeda LNG (Liquefied natural gas) terminal in 2014 • The construction of electricity links with Sweden (NordBalt) and Poland (LitPol Link) in 2015.
	<p>In 2009 after closing the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, Lithuania became an importer of electricity instead of an exporter. In 2022, as a</p>	

reaction to the Ukraine war, Lithuania stopped the import of Russian natural gas and electricity.

Lithuania plans to get 80 % of its electricity from renewable energy sources (RES) specifically from solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass, by 2025.

The main directions to achieve this are upgrading the electricity grids and connecting the Baltic Grid with the Continental power system, decommissioning the Ignalina nuclear power plant, and developing more renewable energy sources. The Balticconnector Gas Pipeline, connecting Poland and Lithuania, was put into operation in 2022.

A more liberalised electricity market has allowed consumers to choose suppliers and buy electricity at market rates, although high prices in 2022 delayed the final phase of transitioning from regulated tariffs to competitive supply.¹³

Lithuania has surpassed its renewable energy targets, particularly in solar PV, with a total installed solar capacity of 1.2 GW, exceeding the goal set for 2025. This is shown by data in February 2024 where more than 61000 prosumers have generated solar electricity with a capacity of 800 MW.¹⁴

Climate protection targets

Lithuania prepared the draft Update of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for 2021–2030 and submitted it to the European Commission in July 2023. The country is committed to ambitious climate protection objectives with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieving carbon neutrality. Key targets and strategies include:

GHG Reduction Targets:

- By 2030: Reduce GHGs to 30 % of 2005 levels.
- By 2050: Achieve carbon neutrality.

Heating and Cooling Sector:

- Transitioning to fourth-generation (4G) district heating systems.
- Integration of:
 - Solar power plants
 - Excess and waste heat for heating buildings.

Energy Efficiency Goals:

- By 2030: Reduce primary and final energy intensity to 1.5 times lower than 2017 levels.
- By 2050: Achieve a 2.4 times reduction.
- Renovation targets:
 - About 5,000 multi-apartment buildings and individual houses.
 - 11-12 TWh energy savings by 2030.

- Ultimate goal: Fully decarbonize all public and private buildings by 2050.

Research and Development (R&D) Objectives:

- Increase R&D investment to:
 - 2.2 % of GDP by 2030
 - 4 % of GDP by 2040
 - Focus areas include: Hydrogen energy, carbon capture and storage and renewable energy technologies
- Develop a national scheme for biomass fuel sustainability.
- Integrate clean energy technologies into the industrial sector.

In a nutshell, Lithuania's approach to climate protection includes ambitious targets for GHG reduction, significant improvements in energy efficiency, robust support for research and innovation, and enhanced energy security, all supported by a strong legislative framework.¹⁵

Renewable energy targets

Lithuania has set clear and ambitious renewable energy targets to enhance the utilization of renewable energy sources (RES) across various sectors:

- By 2030:
 - 45 % (increased to 55 % as per the draft Update of the Lithuanian NECP) of gross final energy consumption from RES.
 - Solar PV (Photovoltaic) Capacity: 2 GW target.
 - Electricity Sector:
 - 100 % renewable electricity consumption.
 - Wind Energy: At least 60 %.
 - Solar Energy: 19 %.
 - Biofuels: 6 %.
 - Hydropower: 7 %.
 - Biogas: 3 %.
- By 2050:
 - Achieve 100 % RES for total electricity consumption.
 - Increase solar PV capacity by 500 % to 5.1 GW.¹⁶

In the transport sector, Lithuania is working towards increasing the use of bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas, and renewable electricity. Specific targets include growing the use of:

- Bioethanol from 15.7 ktoe (kilotonnes of oil equivalent) in 2020 to 24.4 ktoe by 2030
- Biodiesel from 87.2 ktoe to 195 ktoe in the same period.
- The biogas contribution is expected to rise from zero to 81 ktoe, while electricity from RES should increase from 1.2 ktoe to 105 ktoe. By 2030, RES in transport is projected to reach 411 ktoe.

In the heating and cooling sector, the share of RES is targeted:

- to reach 90 % by 2030, with a significant contribution from local biofuels (biomass).

The biofuels market is undergoing changes to meet sustainability requirements and diversify RES sources. The introduction of the Biofuel Unit at the Vilnius CHP (Combined Heat and Power Plant) plant will increase demand for biofuels, and various measures are being implemented to ensure a stable supply of raw materials for biofuel production.¹⁷

Renewable energy potential

Lithuania has the potential to meet its entire electricity demand with renewable energy sources (RES) by 2030. The country has significant capacities for solar and wind power:

- Total Renewable Energy Capacity: 7.4 GW to 11.5 GW
 - Projected Solar Capacities: 2.5 GW to 5.1 GW
 - Land-Based Wind Capacities: 3.5 GW to 5 GW
 - Offshore Wind Contribution: 1.4 GW across all scenarios

Lithuania's Offshore Wind Goals:

- Around 1.5 GW offshore wind capacity targeted for installation in the Baltic Sea.
- Two offshore wind farm tenders:
 - Each with a maximum permitted generation capacity of 700 MW.¹⁸

The Technical Potential:

- Onshore Wind Power: Estimated at 37 GW.
- Ground-Mounted Solar PV: Technical potential around 560 GW.

These capacities indicate that renewable energy can fully meet Lithuania's annual electricity demand.

Another player is supposed to be hydrogen production on electricity demand, predicted to be a significant factor by 2030.

Moreover, planned energy storage solutions, including an additional 110-MW pumped hydro unit and substantial battery storage, will support this transition.¹⁹

Renewable energy support regime

Lithuania is undergoing significant changes in the deployment of renewable energy sources (RES). Here are some of the developments:

- The energy crisis led to the launch of the "Breakthrough package" in July 2022, easing regulations for wind and solar projects by recognizing renewables as a high public interest and simplifying procedures.
- For solar energy, planning requirements, and most environmental assessments were removed (no requirement to

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- change the purpose of land), enabling rapid construction of solar parks and allowing consumers to install private solar plants – a multi-megawatt solar park can go into operation in the short period of 12 months.
- Onshore wind energy development has also been accelerated by eliminating sanitary protection zones (such as a water source, industrial facility, or residential area) and allowing construction on agricultural land.
 - Offshore wind targets 1.5 GW by 2030, with auctions and infrastructure in progress.
 - Hybrid power plants combining different energy sources are improving grid efficiency.
 - Additionally, Lithuania is installing modern power storage facilities and liberalizing the electricity market, encouraging private investment. These changes have attracted significant interest from investors in the renewable energy sector.²⁰
 - In 2023, the Lithuanian government, regulators, and energy companies developed a robust legal framework aimed at expanding renewable energy sources. This new framework, part of the National Energy Independence Strategy, included various legal acts to enhance conditions for renewable energy development.
 - The government also implemented a methodology for a revenue cap on electricity generated using inframarginal technologies (energy generation methods that operate at a lower cost than the marginal cost of producing electricity that can supply base-load power reliably e.g., hydro), following European Commission recommendations, providing financial stability and predictability for renewable energy projects.²¹
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Relevant laws, policies, and plans

- **The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Renewable Energy.** Amendments to the Law were adopted in May 2022.
- **Law on Electricity.** The latest amendments to the law entered into force in May 2022.²²
- **RES2-E (existing): Renewable Energy Development in the Baltic Sea.** In November 2018, evaluations began to explore the development and operation of renewable energy power plants in the Baltic Sea and to determine their installed capacity.
- **RES17-E: Promote the use of RES in district heating (using solar technologies, heat pumps and/or heat storage).**
- **RES23-E: Installation of heat pumps to optimize the performance of heat production systems by increasing the operational efficiency of heat production.**
- **RES38-P (planned): Modernization or replacement of depreciated biofuel boilers with other RES-using technologies.**
- **Lithuania's Climate and Energy Strategy** focuses on enhancing energy efficiency, promoting RES, and ensuring energy independence. The Lithuanian parliament approved amendments to the law on renewable energy sources in March 2022 to prioritize the deployment of more RES.
- **The Long-Term Renovation Strategy (2021-2050)** targets decarbonizing all buildings by 2050, with annual renovation goals to improve energy efficiency.
- **The Energy Efficiency Directive (Article 8)** establishes a binding end-use energy savings target of 39.3 TWh by 2030, emphasizing improvements in buildings, transport, and industry.
- **The Lithuanian Heat Suppliers Association** supports sustainable district heating. The State Energy Regulatory Council regulates energy markets and ensures compliance with sustainability standards. The Klaipėda Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal diversifies gas supplies, enhancing energy security. The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) integrates these efforts, aligning national actions with EU climate targets.²³
- **The "New Generation Lithuania" Plan** includes substantial investments aimed at advancing RES. In 2023, the Lithuanian government revised the plan, significantly increasing its scope to a total of €3.85 billion. A significant portion of this funding, amounting to €550 million, is dedicated specifically to the production of electricity RES. Furthermore, the plan incorporates the European Commission's "REPowerEU" initiative, which has allocated €198.4 million to Lithuania, emphasizing the country's commitment to expanding its renewable energy capabilities and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. These investments are expected to support Lithuania's goal of enhancing energy security and becoming a more self-sufficient energy producer.²⁴
- **Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan** - On January 19, 2023, a non-binding agreement was signed under the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP Sea) involving Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Poland, and Germany. This agreement sets targets for offshore renewable energy production by 2050, with interim milestones for 2040 and 2030.
- **The National Energy Independence Strategy** was adopted in 2018.

Regulatory framework for citizen energy

- Lithuania has started encouraging more energy prosumerism with a regulatory framework focused on market integration, affordability, transparency, and active consumer participation. According to governmental targets expressed in its updated NCEP document, key legislative initiatives and instruments include:

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- **RES1-E** (existing): Financial support for prosumers, with a target of 30% of consumers becoming prosumers by 2030, supported by over EUR 160 million in EU and national grants.
 - **RES3-E**: Utilization of Renewable Energy in Public and Residential Buildings. Climate Change Programs Section A: The grant program encourages the adoption of renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, geothermal energy, and biofuels) in both public and residential buildings, targeting individuals from various social groups. (2021-2030).
 - **RES4-E**: Encourages legal entities and communities to invest in onshore solar and wind power plants, focusing on self-consumption from 2020 to 2026.
 - **RES5-E**: Promotes household electricity storage with EUR 3.291 million in grants for 20 MWh of storage from 2023 to 2029.
 - **RES29-P** (planned): Creates renewable energy communities in municipalities to aid energy-poor residents, with EUR 78.5 million in grants and EUR 95.9 million in loans planned from 2024 to 2029.
 - **RES30-P**: Educates consumers about green energy choices to increase RES consumption from 2024 to 2026.
 - **RES31-P**: Develops renewable and citizen energy communities by identifying and overcoming regulatory barriers from 2024 to 2025.
 - **RES32-P**: Promotes RES education for pupils and students through initiatives like energy ambassador programs starting in 2025.²⁵
 - Besides setting a target for energy prosumers, Lithuania has also introduced a net metering scheme to support residential and commercial electricity production by solar PV.²⁶
 - In Lithuania, according to the law on renewable energy, members of energy communities include:
 - residents, municipal institutions, and small and medium-sized businesses.
 - At least five members or shareholders have to be natural persons with voting right.
 - Natural persons also have to hold at least 51% of all votes and have to live in the municipality of the production plant or a neighboring municipality.
 - A member or shareholder cannot have more than 20% of the votes in another energy-producing company.
 - If a Renewable energy community (REC) is founded by already existing legal persons, the above-mentioned preconditions have to be met by at least 51% of the members of these legal bodies.
 - REC will be able to design and manage power plants and to produce, consume, store, and sell the generated energy. The new law fosters the establishment of renewable energy communities by introducing a beneficial framework simplifying the purchase and sale agreements.
 - In addition, prosumers with an independent electricity supplier will be reimbursed for excess energy. RES producers within RECs will further be exempt from the obligation to have a license as an independent electricity supplier and will be compensated if there is an interruption in electricity transmission for more than 336 hours in two years.
 - Moreover, the spatial planning process is simplified for renewable energy plants below 500 kW²⁷
 - the role of CE is recognized in the government's energy independence strategy (Government of Lithuania, 2018).²⁸
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Evaluation of the legal framework (rather enabling, neutral, rather hindering)

While recent policy efforts are encouraging, Citizen Initiative (CE) initiatives in Lithuania still encounter several challenges. It's often hard to find information about technical solutions and legal forms. Low-income levels and banks' reluctance to give good loans make financial challenges common. The country's Soviet heritage creates a further cultural barrier. The oftentimes negative experience of forced collectivization of farms during communist times has created a level of distrust towards cooperatives in general, including CE initiatives.²⁹

The current legal framework in Lithuania, although showing some progress in defining Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs), falls short in creating an enabling environment for their market participation. The Law on Renewable Energy specifies rights for RECs in the electricity and heat sectors but does not comprehensively address potential and barriers to REC development. Essential elements of an enabling framework remain unspecified.

There is a positive note with the allocation of 2 GW production potential for prosumers and RECs, indicating governmental support. However, significant gaps persist. While RECs are exempt from balancing responsibilities and mandatory production contributions, they must comply with all rules to become suppliers. Cooperation with Distribution System Operators (DSOs) is mandated to be non-discriminatory, but provisions for energy sharing are lacking.

Specific grid capacity is reserved for RECs and CECs under certain conditions, simplifying registration and licensing processes. However, the framework does not address incentives connected to network tariffs, non-discriminatory market treatment, or comprehensive support for low-income and vulnerable households.

The Lithuanian National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the REPowerEU initiative provide significant funding to support RECs, focusing on reducing energy poverty. Recommendations and information on land availability are provided by the Lithuanian Energy Agency and municipalities. Nonetheless, aspects such as regulatory capacity building and NECP reporting on enabling frameworks are not addressed. However, during the Lithuanian NECP revision process, citizens and civil society organizations had opportunities to provide feedback, especially on community energy. Stakeholder's input significantly influenced targets for energy communities³⁰.

The Lithuanian National Recovery and Resilience Plan, supported by €2.22 billion in grants, allocates 37.8 % to climate objectives and 31.5 % to digital transition, explicitly financing energy communities to boost renewable energy under pillar 2. Open calls for community solar and wind project funding have been published by the Lithuanian Energy Agency which is a very positive development.

Lithuania's 2021-2027 Operational Programme prioritizes funding for individual prosumers over energy communities, which will be financed through the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

Energy communities are not mentioned in Lithuania's Modernisation Fund. However, the REPowerEU chapter emphasizes EC as a solution to energy poverty, targeting 0.473% of total energy production by 2030 and allocating EUR 78.5 million for their support. Additionally, EUR 95.9 million is planned for subsidized loans and EUR 36.6 million for VAT subsidies, aimed at municipalities to develop energy poverty reduction projects. The drafting process of this chapter was transparent, involving civil society, and excludes investments in fossil fuels.³¹

On the one hand, civil society organizations have praised the inclusion of stakeholders in drafting energy plans, highlighting transparency and collaboration in the decision-making process. Legislative reforms through the "breakthrough package" aim to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles, creating a supportive environment for rapid prosumer growth.

Additionally, Lithuania's revised NECP draft introduces an innovative scheme to support renewable energy communities and combat energy poverty at the city level, including funding for multi-apartment buildings to install communal rooftop solar plants.

On the other hand, despite regulations for solar PV installation, resistance from the Ministry of Environment to solar mandates in building codes could impede adoption. Decreasing subsidies might slow solar energy uptake, and administrative hurdles for grid approval could deter commercial investments. Limited legal frameworks restrict energy sharing scalability, and obtaining energy community status remains burdensome despite favourable legislation.³²

In conclusion, despite recent policy efforts, CE initiatives in Lithuania face significant barriers, including limited access to information, financial challenges, and cultural distrust rooted in Soviet history. The legal framework, while defining Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs), falls short in enabling their market participation. Key support elements are missing, and despite some governmental support, comprehensive incentives and assistance for low-income households remain inadequate. Significant funding through national plans aims to help, but more robust regulatory measures are needed to create an enabling environment.

Existing citizen energy projects and/or research initiatives

Citizen energy projects

Smalininkai Community

Overview:

- In 2009, the Smalininkai's village association opened the first wind power plant ever owned by a local community in Lithuania. When the project started it was considered as an example of good practice and received praise from the Minister of the Interior.
- The power plant consisted of a 250-kW wind turbine that was expected to generate power for the grid. The wind turbine was purchased from a German company that had its manufacturing plant based in India. Over the years, the wind turbine had various problems that could not be fixed and, therefore, only produced half of the expected electricity. Consequently, in 2017 the village association decided to sell the power plant to a private investor.
- The project is reported as an "unsuccessful" CE project and the media coverage on the failure of the project was said to have reduced the confidence in CE in Lithuania. The village association existed already since 2003, and with the wind turbine wanted to generate benefits, inter alia street lighting in the village

The case study has been analyzed in the Interreg project Co2mmunity³³

Saulės bendruomenė community energy project

Overview:

- Lithuania's "Solar Community" project, known as "Saulės bendruomenė," is a government-led initiative allowing citizens to buy or rent remote solar panels via an online platform. This project empowers individuals to become both producers and consumers ("prosumers"), providing sustainable energy at low cost and supporting climate change mitigation at the household level.
- The initiative, supported by government incentives and subsidies, promotes collaboration between governments,

organizations, and private consumers. It offers financial compensation for remote solar panel purchases and facilitates net-metering, enabling energy production in one location and consumption in another.

- The project aims to increase the adoption of solar energy, reduce energy costs, and support Lithuania's goal of producing 30-45% of its energy from renewables by 2030.³⁴

Research and capacity building activities	Interreg project Co2mmunity / RENCOP (Renewable ENergy Cooperative Partnership)
Governmental bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of the Environment - Lithuanian Ministry of Energy - Kaunas Regional Energy Agency (KREA) - The Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI) - National Energy Regulatory Council
Local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lithuanian Scientific Council

Summarizing evaluation

Fields of Action

Measures to advance RES deployment and the establishment of community energy initiatives in Lithuania

Enhance Energy Independence:

- Further diversify energy sources and improve infrastructure to reduce reliance on imports.
- Strengthen connections with other EU countries and develop local renewable energy sources.

Accelerate renewable energy adoption:

- Continue scaling up solar and wind energy capacities.
- Promote citizen energy initiatives and support prosumer participation.

Strengthen climate protection measures:

- Implement robust policies to achieve GHG reduction and carbon neutrality targets.
- Enhance energy efficiency across all sectors, especially in building renovations.

Foster innovation and R&D:

- Increase investments in research and development for renewable technologies. Develop and support local innovation in energy technologies.

Improve regulatory framework:

- Simplify regulations to accelerate renewable energy project approvals.
- Address gaps in the legal framework to fully support renewable energy communities and citizen energy initiatives.

Support energy communities:

- Provide targeted financial and technical support to overcome barriers for energy communities.
 - Foster public trust and participation in renewable energy projects through education and transparency.
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⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.TOTL.K2?view=chart>

⁵ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?view=chart>

⁶ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?view=chart>

⁷ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=nama_10_pc&lang=en

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⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/earn_ses_pub2s/default/table?lang=en

¹⁰ <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

¹¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS>

¹² <https://ember-climate.org/countries-and-regions/regions/europe/>

¹³ <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/lithuania-energy>

¹⁴ <https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2024/04/Lithuania-Residential-Rooftop-Solar-Country-Profile.pdf>

¹⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/cd246df6-377e-4db3-bb48-8475c80aa43c_en?filename=LITHUANIA%20DRAFT%20UPDATED%20NECP%20EN.pdf

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¹⁸ <https://ceelegalmatters.com/magazine-articles/8907-issue-10-2/22990-lithuania-a-breakthrough-period-in-renewable-energy>

¹⁹ <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy24osti/89564.pdf>

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²³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/cd246df6-377e-4db3-bb48-8475c80aa43c_en?filename=LITHUANIA%20DRAFT%20UPDATED%20NECP%20EN.pdf

²⁴ <https://finmin.lrv.lt/lt/es-ir-kitos-investicijos/naujos-kartos-lietuva/>

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³² <https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2024/04/Lithuania-Residential-Rooftop-Solar-Country-Profile.pdf>

³³ <http://co2mmunity.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Factsheet-smalininkai.pdf>

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