



The Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Belgium

EUFORES National Workshop

1 July 2022

100% HERNIEUWBAAR

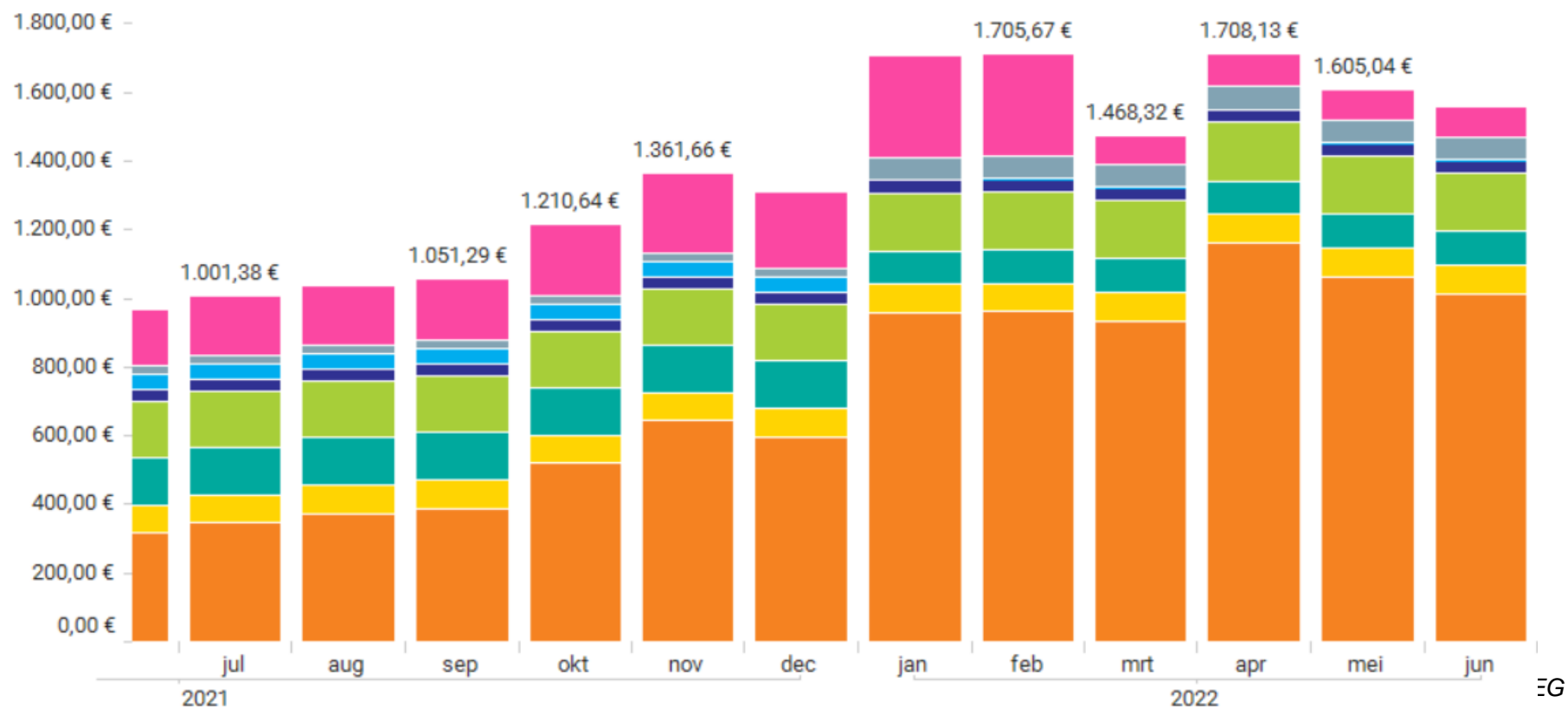
Mission driven sector federation since 1996, not for profit

293 members

- Companies
- Knowledge institutions
- Organisations
- Local authorities

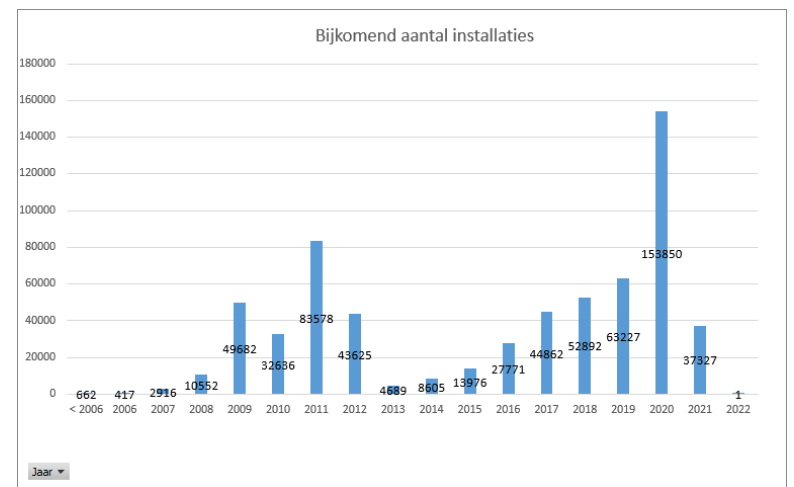
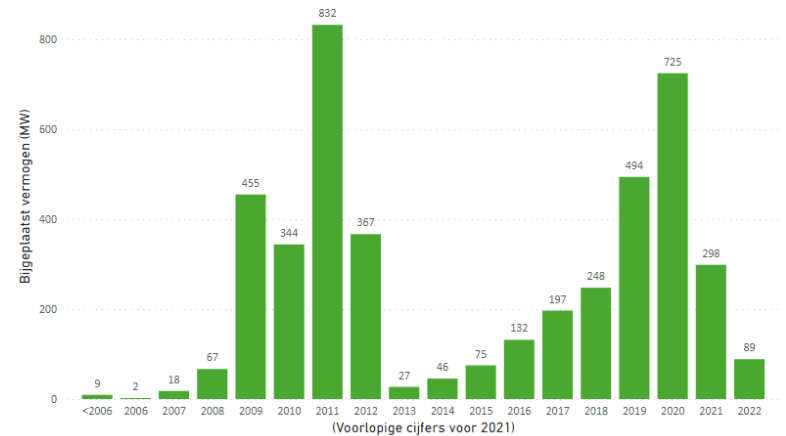


Market facts and policy trends



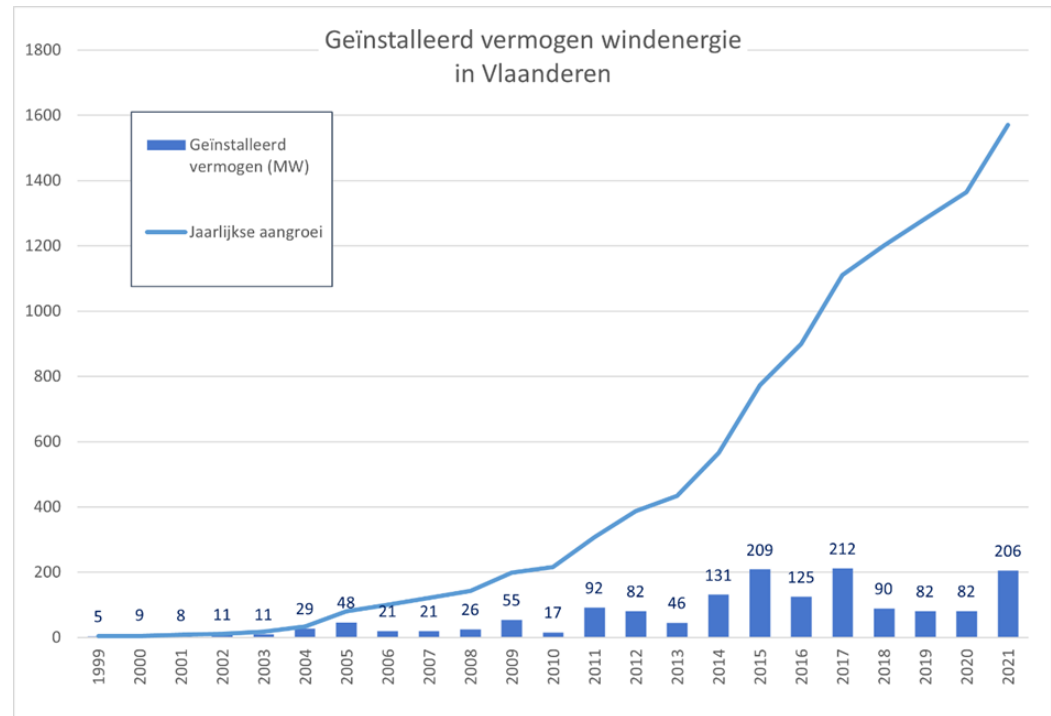
- Record growth of installations in 2020
- Peak in small installations due to promise of 15 years of net metering ending 1/1/2021
- 14 January 2021 Constitutional Court outruled net metering promise
- Severe backlash due to (new) breach of confidence in policy (makers)
- Change to new support mechanism for industrial scale installations in 2021
- Call system (tendering mechanism) replacing green certificates works well
- 'Support free PV' is gaining
- Intention to cut GC for 'old and big' solar parks is very detrimental for investor confidence
- Need for a stable, predictable, confidence inspiring investment climate
- Support is not priority for 'classic' PV anymore
- Need to support innovative, dual use applications
 - Agrivoltaics
 - Building Integrated PV/Solar Car Ports/ Floating

Bijgeplaatst vermogen zonnepanelen in Vlaanderen, in MW



Recent developments in onshore wind - Flanders

- 2021 was 3rd best year in added MW
- But after 3 slow years
- Goal of 2500 MW newly installed onshore wind by 2030 requires policy changes
- Hurdles
 - Scarcity of available and suitable space
 - Red tape to obtain licences
 - Often, granted licences are appealed
 - Appeal procedures take very long
- Contrast between wide public support for wind and local NIMBY syndrome
- Ambitions for Wind Plan were raised, without policy changes...



- Wallonia has high level ambitions, lacking concrete measures to reach goals
- Flanders has lower ambitions, but has concrete plans to reach the goals
- Lack of clear and stable framework – regulatory risks (Flanders – all RES)
- Bad spatial planning – small and dispersed projects (Flanders - wind)
 - Unnecessary radar restrictions both in civil and military aviation rules (federal level - wind)
- Hard to get licences and many court appeals (Flanders - wind - biomass)

- Avoid repetitive court appeals (Flanders)
 - positive signs:
 - Centralised processing at regional level
 - Additional staff at the regional Court
- Create a clear and stable investment climate (Flanders)

- Get governmental levels aligned: Federal – regional – local
- Local authorities are key: work towards reaching goals, don't support local opposition
- Create positive framework through covenant of mayors/local energy and climate pact
- Huge potential of energy communities and energy sharing for solar is not realised
 - grid costs and administrative complexity kill the business case
- RED II and EMD have been transposed, but not all operational systems are ready yet
- DSO published a timetable, which is not compatible with European legal framework
 - E.g. energy communities only starting in 2023
- We need a clear long-term vision on the energy transition
 - Surveys prove that citizens and companies do not see the way forward
 - How different elements (heat pumps, EVs, smart meters, PV, storage,...) fit with regulation and each other
- Grid regulation and tariffication
 - Political resistance to capacity-based grid tariffs

Skills shortages hinder the development of RES pathways

- Technical staff is generally difficult to find (also in other sectors)
- Stop-and-go policy hinders retaining technically skilled staff
- We already assisted to initiate specific skills for wind energy, heat pumps,... with the regional entities (technical high schools and training institutes)

Low smart meter deployment

- Flanders is ahead of other regions
- Severe backlash due to Court ruling on net metering in January 2021 – breach of confidence in government
- ODE is supportive of smart metering and actively participates in promotional campaigns
- Dynamic contracts are still fairly new
- Urgent need to get flexibility markets going, especially on demand side
- Need to abolish double grid tariffication for storage

Policy recommendations

- Create a stable regulatory framework
 - Avoid long procedures following NIMBY protests
- Use a positive tone regarding renewables
- Ensure companies and families see long term perspective
- Create trust in governmental action with stable financial climate for investments in renewable energy
- Phasing out fossil fuels for heating and transport - avoid lock-in into fossil technology
- Invest in technical education – very strong signal from our sector survey
- Need for an energy tax shift – put a cost on CO₂

CONTACT

Dirk Van Evercooren, Managing Director ODE Vlaanderen
dirk.vanevercooren@ode.be, 0478 55 04 80

