

05 May 2009

China to significantly raise its renewable energy targets

The Chinese government aims to raise the country's wind power capacity target to 100,000-150,000 megawatts by 2020. The original target was 30 000 megawatts. In addition, solar power target may be raised from 1,800 megawatts to 10,000 megawatts or more by 2020, according to news agencies.

Shi Dinghuan, member of energy research commission with Chinese Academy of Sciences, told Xinhua that the support plan would come out "in near future" - without giving a specific date.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planner, is in charge of designing the renewable energy support plan, for which a draft has already been formed, according to Shi.

The plan would be based on a mid-to-long term planning on China's renewable energy development issued in 2007 with major adjustment in key indices, said **Shi Pengfei**, vice director with Chinese Wind Energy Association.

Under the NDRC's renewable energy plan set out in 2007, China planned to achieve a wind capacity of 30,000 MW by 2020. "The target could be hit in 2011," Shi said.

The new target for wind power capacity will be 100,000-150,000 MW by 2020. It is expected to surpass the country's nuclear power target.

Statistics showed total wind capacity amounted to 12,000 MW in 2008 with newly installed capacity at 6,250 MW.

Solar set to be at least 5 times 2020 target

China is set to smash its target for a roll-out of solar power by 2020 more than fivefold and possibly even tenfold, said a researcher with the NDRC, the economic planning ministry, according to Reuters.

Under the NDRC's renewable energy plan set out in 2007, China would have 1,800 megawatts of installed solar capacity by 2020.

But **Wang Zhongying**, assistant director at the NDRC's Energy Research Institute and head of its Renewable Energy Development Centre, said the country was likely to far exceed that.

"The goal that we made originally is probably too low," he said at a solar energy conference in Shanghai. "By 2020, we can reach 10,000 MW or more."

He cited an international aspiration for countries to get 1 percent of electricity from solar by 2020, which would mean a target of 40,000 MW for China, which he said was too high.

"China could reach 10,000 MW or higher, maybe 20,000 MW." He stressed that the forecast was his own opinion and not an official target.

At the end of 2008, solar power capacity attached to the grid was less than 100 MW, or 0.01 percent of China's entire installed capacity.

Sources: Xinhua, Reuters