

# Case study: Green electricity for Austrian Ministries

## Background information

Both the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water (Austrian Ministry of Life) and the Federal Environmental Agency (“Umweltbundesamt”) are EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certified. To progressively improve the environmental performance in accordance with EMAS, the procurement of green electricity is seen as a crucial contribution to reducing the environmental impact.

In the first half of 2005 the Federal Procurement Ltd. issued a call for tenders for the green electricity supply for ministries, agencies and affiliated companies. The call for tenders was divided in 11 partial lots in order to allow also small power suppliers to participate in the bidding process. Minimum standards were set to comply with environmental criteria. Up to 100% RES-E supply was requested for each partial lot.

## Objectives

As forerunners in the public sector it was for both, the Ministry of Life and the Federal Environmental Agency a special concern to organize their energy purchasing according to high ecological standards.

## The State of activities

The contract has a duration of 2 years from 1.1.2006 to 31.12.2007. The annual supply volume accounts for approximately 1,7 GWh per year, i.e. 3,4 GWh in total.

## Implementation

One partial lot for green electricity had been designed according to the Austrian RES-E label “Umweltzeichen UZ 46” which labels products and services that offer a sustainable energy supply by reducing the environmental impact of the electricity supply and promoting renewable energy sources.

The potential electricity supplier had to provide the following electricity mix in compliance with the Green Electricity Act<sup>1</sup> and according to the labelling regulations of the database for guarantees of origin of E-Control:

- Photovoltaics – at least 1%
- Biomass, geothermal power, wind energy – at least 20%
- Small-scale hydro power – up to 79%

<sup>1</sup> Ökostromgesetz §8 - (BGBl I Nr. 149/2002) - <http://www.bmwa.gv.at/NR/rdonlyres/AFF70C2F-52D0-4ECE-81C4-CC6A0FC5F2B8/7346/gtliberalisationandecoidf2003010123e.pdf>

## Results and Impacts

Oekostrom AG has been selected for having submitted the best offer.<sup>2</sup> Over the following two years it will provide green electricity for all the buildings of the Ministry of Life and the Federal Environmental Agency.

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<sup>2</sup> For more detailed information see BBG Bundesbeschaffung GmbH - <https://bbg.portal.at/>