

Regional Climate Law

Subject:	Legal Framework
Description:	Development of a Draft Law by the Thuringian State Government „Thuringian Climate Law“
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Document download:	www.solar-district-heating.eu/

Summary description of the instrument

Region: **Thuringia, Germany (A-Region)**

Short description of the measure: The Thuringian Ministry for Environment, Energy and Nature Conservation (TMUEN) has elaborated a Draft Law “Thüringer Gesetz zum Klimaschutz und zur Anpassung an die Folgen des Klimawandels - ThürKlimaG” (“Thuringian Climate Law”), which was accepted by the State Government and handed over to the State Parliament.

Initial situation

The Free State of Thuringia wants to cover its own energy consumption on a yearly balance with a mix of renewable energies until 2040. Therefore a certain amount of effort not only within the power sector but within the heating sector as well is necessary. One important cornerstone is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by heat supply from district heating networks and their further extension.

The “Thuringian Climate Law” could build a framework for the climate and energy politics of Thuringia. Therefore, a Draft Law has been elaborated by the Thuringian Ministry for Environment, Energy and Nature Conservation (TMUEN), which was accepted by the State Government in December 2017. In January 2018 the Draft Law has been handed over to the State Parliament, which has legislative power to pass the Draft Law.

The Draft Law for the “Thuringian Climate Law” aims at a proclamation of targets corridors for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and therewith concrete indications for the transformation of the energy supply system in Thuringia as well. In this manner, Thuringia would contribute to the global climate protection targets due to activities at local level, focusing for example the greenhouse gas emission reduction potentials within the heat supply system.



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The draft of the “Thuringian Climate Law” was under first interdepartmental coordination in March 2017. Within the second interdepartmental coordination in December 2017 the State Government accepted the Draft Law, which was handed over to the State Parliament in January 2018, which will vote over the Draft Law.

Objectives

The “Thuringian Climate Law” could build a regulatory framework for the climate and energy politics of Thuringia. Beside target corridors for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as for the transformation of the energy supply system up to a mix of 100% renewable energies on a yearly balance until 2040, the Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” contains further aspects which aim at the transition of the heat supply system or rather district heating networks:

Following the Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law”, municipalities could develop heat analysis and heat consumption concepts. Administrative districts and municipalities are asked to develop or update existing climate protection concepts, which would contain aspects of heat analysis and heat consumption concepts as well. These climate protection concepts should describe, how greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced and the usage of renewable energies be extended. Furthermore, heat analysis for municipalities should contain an analysis of heat consumption and available heat sources. Heat concepts should contain measures for reducing heat demand and the expanding of renewable energies. In this manner, options for actions or concrete projects at local level might occur.

Furthermore, operators of district heating networks have to develop concepts for their local heat supply system, to meet the targets of the transformation of the Thuringian energy supply system up to a mix of 100% renewable energies on a yearly balance until 2040. Implementation steps have to be part of these concepts, which need to be updated at the latest every ten years. District heating network operators have to publish product information for consumers (share of renewable energies) as well as information about the environmental impact (carbon dioxide emissions and primary energy factor) of their heat supply system.

Building owners, with regard to their economic conditions, have to ensure that the particular heat demand of a building will be covered from renewable energy sources by 25% in 2030 to reach the persuaded climate

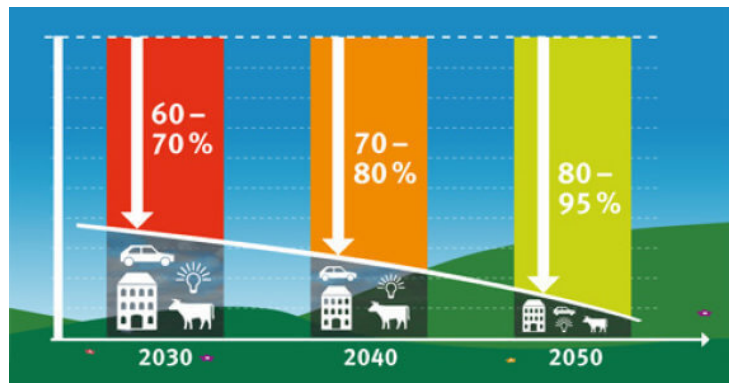


Figure 1: Greenhouse gas emission reduction target corridors within the draft of the “Thuringian Climate Law” (base year 1990)



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neutrality of the consumption sector of existing buildings by 2050. This target might be reached through a connection to a district heating network providing more than 25% heat from renewable energy sources. As an alternative, building owners might develop energy conservation plans for their building stock.

These actions should lead not only to energy savings and increasing energy efficiency within the heat supply system but to an increasing share of renewable energy sources within the heat supply system.

Measures and actions

The Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” contains a notice concerning the development of an “Integrated Energy and Climate Strategy”. This strategy should regulate concrete measures and actions to reach the climate protection targets set within the “Thuringian Climate Law”. The Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” itself does not contain many concrete measures to not exclude any possible strategy for reaching the targets set. In this manner, there is some room for different, flexible solutions.

From March until November 2017 interested stakeholders and experts, such as social groups and associations, municipal associations, representatives of the economy and nature conservation representatives, as well as citizen were receiving the opportunity to take part in a relating broad public discussion and therefore the development of the “Integrated Energy and Climate Strategy”.

The Thuringian government wants to take responsibility and to commit itself to support activities in relation with the “Thuringian Climate Law”. Further political decisions will be decisive whether and if so to what extend financial support will be available for various stakeholders.

Barriers and opportunities

Due to setting of target corridors for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law”, a regulatory framework for the transformation of the energy supply system of Thuringia could be established. Moreover, due to the special focus on the heating sector amongst others the relevance of district heating networks with renewable energy sources for the energy transition could be highlighted.

Municipalities, district heating network operators and building owners should be involved directly as actors of the energy transition, what possibly would lead to an increasing share of renewable energies within the heat supply system via district heating networks. Heat concepts and climate concepts should support the initialization of concrete projects.



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The Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” has been handed over to the State Parliament, which has to discuss and vote over the Draft Law. Within this process, adjustments might occur also the State Parliament could refuse the Draft Law.

Results

The Thuringian Ministry for Environment, Energy and Nature Conservation (TMUEN) has elaborated a Draft Law for a “Thuringian Climate Law”, which was accepted by the State Government and handed over to the State Parliament. Within this factsheet aspects of the Draft Law concerning solar district heating are documented. Beside these aspects, the Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” is containing other energy and climate policy relevant aspects, such as mobility and climate adaption.

Lessons learned

The Draft Law of the “Thuringian Climate Law” was handed over to the State Parliament for further discussion and voting over it but could build a strong framework for the development of the climate protection and energy supply system of Thuringia, when getting accepted. Furthermore it is a measure with long-term impact. Still, elaborating a Climate Law is a time- and labor-intensive measure, which’s result depends on political decisions of the State Parliament.

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