

## Fact Sheet Ústí Region

Ústí Region is according to the brown coal mining and energy production the region with the most endangered environment in the Czech Republic. The areas devastated by mining activities and following reclamation and revitalisation of the landscape suffer with destabilisation of the ecological balance and the reconstruction goes very slowly. 30% of the total electric power production of the CR is generated in the region, mostly by burning of the brown coal, the production covers 35% of the total consumption of the Czech Republic.



The share of renewable energy sources in the energy production is only about 3%, but new RES installations are put into the operation every year - wind power plants, water power plants,

photovoltaic plants, biogas stations, solar panels, and the construction of geothermal drills is currently under development.

60% of the total wind energy production of the Czech Republic is produced in the Ústí Region, on the plains of the Ore mountains, where the average wind speed is about 8,5 m/s. The wind power parks are constructed there with the annual power about 175 GWh. Next 200 wind power plants are under development, but their future construction is the topic of conflicts – the Ore mountains falls under NATURA protection areas, also protected landscapes are there and national environmental parks.



About 50 water power plants are to be found in the Ústí Region with the total power 50 000 KW, most of them are installed on smaller water flows, the biggest on the River Elbe (15 000 kW). The construction of water power plants is limited by the need to preserve the minimal water flow in smaller creeks.



The governmental financial support aimed on construction of photovoltaic power plants resulted into their huge development, which has been nearly 1 500% in the years 2007-2009. The biomass is currently used especially for household heating. The treatment of the biomass for burning is provided in the factory producing the cellulose and paper, and burns 141 889 tons of biomass

every year. Currently the construction of 20 biogas stations is under discussion, with their planned utilisation in agriculture.

Geothermal energy is utilised or directly from the drills or with support of pumps. The project of geothermal heating plant using water from geothermal drills is under development of the planned power 47,25 MW and electric power 5MW. The big capacities for bioethanol production and for the production of methyl-ester from rape oil are placed in the area of the region.