



City of Gothenburg

Investments in wind power

The Climate Programme of Gothenburg contains strategies and targets set to 2030 (see other action). One of the targets is to produce at least 500 GWh of renewable electricity by 2030. 500 GWh is equivalent to one-tenth of the total electricity consumption in 2012. The target will be achieved with strategies to both develop large-scale and small-scale production of renewable electricity. The main focus is on production of electricity from wind, solar and biomass.

Gothenburg is a coastal city, providing good conditions for wind power. Location for large-scale wind farms are however limited due to vicinity to dwellings and nature values. An offshore wind power location outside Gothenburg, which has been under development for the last seven years, was recently declined license according to environmental legislation and will not be realized.

Wind power sites outside Gothenburg but within the region have been investigated by the municipal utility company Göteborg Energi. In addition, there are private companies in Gothenburg that develop and operate wind farms.

A good example of what has already been done is “Big Glenn”, the largest wind turbine in Sweden which was installed in port of Gothenburg in 2012. In 2014, Göteborg Energi produced 81 GWh of wind power including turbines located outside the municipality.

The wind power expansion in Sweden has slowed significantly due to falling market prices of electricity and green certificates which makes the investments unprofitable. Göteborg Energi’s wind power investments thus have been put on hold although two projects have building licenses in place. A parallel planning track to increase the renewable energy in the city is to build a bio based CHP plant which would provide both renewable heat and electricity.

Investments in wind power not only reduce emissions but also contribute to local employment and knowledge. On the other hand, wind power may have a negative impact on nature and landscape and local resistance is common even though about 80 percent of citizens are in favor of an expansion of wind power.

More information:

About wind power on Göteborg Energi’s webb page (in Swedish):

http://www.goteborgenergi.se/privat/projekt_och_etableringar/fornyelsebar_energi/vindkraft

The Climate Programme (in English):

<http://goteborg.se/wps/wcm/connect/7ba2b573-9216-4bb9-8a1f-0915b40ce4b5/Climate+program+f%C3%B6r+Gothenburg.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>