

RED II – Second edition of EU’s Renewable Energy Directive

RENEWABLE ENERGY – RECAST TO 2030 (RED II)

In November 2016, the European Commission published its ‘Clean Energy for all Europeans’ initiative. As part of this package, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal for a recast of the Renewable Energy Directive. In the context of the co-decision procedure, a final compromise text among the EU institutions was agreed in June 2018. In December 2018, the revised renewable energy directive 2018/2001/EU entered into force.

OVERALL TARGET

- In RED II, the overall EU target for Renewable Energy Sources consumption by 2030 has been raised to 32%. The Commission’s original proposal did not include a transport sub-target, which has been introduced by co-legislators in the final agreement: Member States must require fuel suppliers to supply a minimum of 14% of the energy consumed in road and rail transport by 2030 as renewable energy.
- The Directive 2009/28/EC specifies national renewable energy targets for 2020 for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. These targets range from a low of 10% in Malta to a high of 49% in Sweden.
- EU countries set out how they plan to meet these 2020 targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.
- Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.

Greenhouse gas savings thresholds in RED II

Plant operation start date	Transport biofuels
Before October 2015	50%
After October 2015	60%
After January 2021	65%
After January 2026	65%

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

- The RED II defines a series of sustainability and GHG emission criteria that bioliquids used in transport must comply with to be counted towards the overall 14% target and to be eligible for financial support by public authorities. Some of these criteria are the same as in the original RED, while others are new or reformulated. In particular, the RED II introduces sustainability for forestry feedstocks as well as GHG criteria for solid and gaseous biomass fuels.
- Default GHG emission values and calculation rules are provided in Annex V (for liquid biofuels) of the RED II. The Commission can revise and update the default values of GHG emissions when technological developments make it necessary. Economic operators have the option to either use default GHG intensity values provided in RED II or to calculate actual values for their pathway.
- Source: <https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/>