

Half-way through 100% clean energy production

Kaunas, Lithuania **Mayor Andrius Kupčinskas**

With 310, 000 inhabitants Kaunas is Lithuania's second largest city. But when it comes to environmental and sustainable energy action it is certainly one of the country's most dynamic municipalities. In 2005 Kaunas won the European Energy Award for its important contribution to sustainable urban development. Four years later the city joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative committing to the ambitious target of reducing its CO₂ emissions by 30% until 2020. Producing clean energy is of utmost importance to achieve this goal.

Our current priority in Kaunas is to replace the use of fossil fuels by biofuels to produce cleaner energy. The Covenant of Mayors helps us to implement this vision of becoming a green, sustainable and energy-efficient city. Andrius Kupčinskas, Mayor of Kaunas



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In Kaunas' Sustainable Energy Action Plan, transport, buildings and land use planning are among the city's priorities to reach the 30% objective. But the most pressing action is to produce green energy. Until 2020 Kaunas aims at reducing CO₂ emissions by up to 681,577 tonnes by increasing local energy production and using renewable energy sources. This objective should be achieved by building new highly-efficient power plants, renovating the existing ones and increasing the use of biofuel or biogas for energy production.



Renewable energy production and cogeneration (combined heat and power) are widely spread in Kaunas. At the moment half of the city's energy needs are covered by hydropower energy and biogas.

- Kaunas hydropower plant produces 440GWh of green electricity per year covering 40% of the city's needs. The power plant caters for 4.4% of the total electricity output in the whole country.
- Kaunas biogas combined heat and power plant produces approximately 5 GWh of green electricity for the Lithuanian power grid and 4GWh of heat energy for the local district heating network per year. The energy is produced from biogas from wastewater.
- Kaunas combined heat and power plant uses natural gas for heat and electricity production. The power plant produces more than 500GWh per year which provide for the local district heating network.

In 2010 a total of 952,7 GWh of electricity was produced in Kaunas, while the city's total consumption was 1065.8 GWh. This means that an impressive 90 % of the used electricity in Kaunas has been produced in the territory, making it almost self-sufficient. What is even more remarkable is the fact that 47% of the produced electricity in Kaunas is generated from renewable energy sources (hydropower and biogas). The Baltic city is definitely on the right track!

Kaunas – Key facts

- Second-largest city in Lithuania with approx. 310,000 inhabitants
- Joined the Covenant of Mayors on 22 January 2009
- Expected CO₂ reduction of 681,577 tonnes by producing clean energy
- 47% of the energy produced is generated from renewable energy sources
- 90% of the electricity consumed is produced locally

***As a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors,
Kaunas voluntarily commits to reducing its CO₂ by 30% by 2020***

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