

Belarus Vision for Sustainable Energy

International Network for Sustainable Energy -Europe and MD-IAE, November 14, 2008

This paper describes a Belarus Sustainable Energy Vision. It includes a transition of the energy supply and demand with phase-out of fossil energy and energy imports over a 50-year period.

If this vision is turned into reality it will have a number of positive effects for Belarus that is heavily dependant on imports for its fossil fuel supply. With a transition to domestic energy sources, Belarus will no longer be hurt directly by the energy prices increases of fossil fuels that many expect will come as a result of the dwindling resources of fossil fuels. With realisation of the vision, Belarus would also be in the front in the reduction of fossil fuel use and mitigation of climate change among former Soviet countries, a position that can be very valuable in the future. Further, the emphasis on local resources will also benefit the economy with increased employment and a more positive trade balance.

The vision includes a reduction of electricity imports, increased use of renewable energy, strong emphasis on energy efficiency, and reduction of natural gas use after 2010.

Comments are welcome, see end.

Factor 4 for Energy Efficiency

In line with INFORSE's¹ global vision for sustainable energy, the Belarus Vision is based on increase of energy efficiency to reach an average level in 2050 similar to best available technologies today. A number of studies have shown that with best available technology, on the market or close to market introduction, it is possible to increase energy efficiency with a factor four or more for most energy uses. Most energy consuming equipments will be changed several times until 2050, and if new generations of equipment are made with optimal energy performance, and markets are made to promote the most efficient technology, it will not be a problem to reach today's best available technology, even though the efficiency gains achieved are very large, - in the order of 4 times, similar to an annual increase of efficiency of over 2% per year from 2010. This will not happen by itself, given that the "natural" technological development is about 1% per year (proven for EU countries). It will require concerted actions from stakeholders involved and stop of import of the the most inefficient products, but the changes will be cost-effective. The extra equipment costs will be off-set by energy savings. To realise this, it is, however, necessary to go beyond the conservatism of many market players in this field, and set cost-effective requirements for energy efficiency throughout the society. The factor four increase of efficiency is possible in Belarus electricity demand (except for construction that has very little electric intensity today), for road transport and for industrial heat and fuel demands.

The Challenge of Reducing Heat Consumption

For buildings the situation is different from equipment and vehicles because buildings often have lifetimes of 100 years or more. Many of the houses to be heated in 2050 are probably already built. Statistics indicates that efficiency of heating did not improve 2000 – 2005. On the other hand, the need for large replacement or major renovation of block houses build during the Soviet Union gives an opportunity for large increases in efficiency, if appropriate standards and support is in place. For Belarus is proposed a reduction of specific heat demand to 31% of the 2000 level for dwellings and 65% for service sector buildings.

Efficient Transport

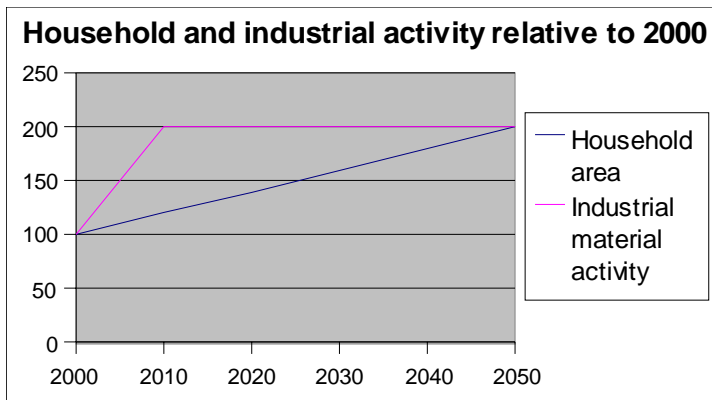
For transport is assumed that the conversion-efficiency from fuel to transport-work is increased 3 times (from current 15- 20% in combustion engine systems to 50-80% with respectively fuel cell systems with break-energy recorage and direct electrically driven vehicles, and that the vehicles will be equipped with recorage of break-energy, so the "end-use" of energy in transport is limited to the unavoidable friction losses in transport (except for aviation). This increase is expected to happen until 2050, leading to a factor 4 increase of energy efficiency. Most of the changes are only expected after 2020, and the efficiency increase 2000 – 2020 is only expected to be 22%.

¹ International Network for Sustainable Energy, see www.inforse.org

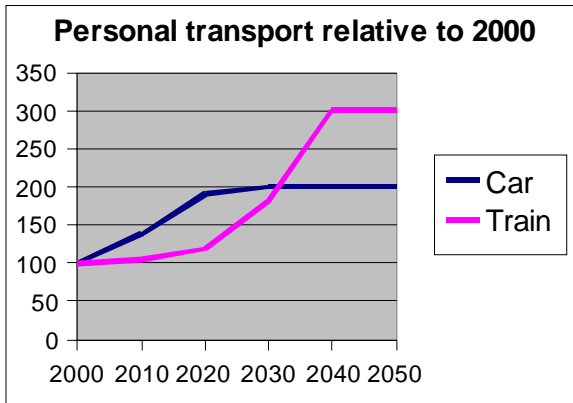
Growth Factors

The growth of energy services, i.e. heated floor space, transported goods and people, energy consuming production, is expected to follow current trends, and then level off for most sectors towards the end of the 50-year period of the vision, except public transport where a large growth is estimated 2020-2040. The development is in general not “business as usual”; but will require policies to redirect economic development to less resource-demanding sectors and solutions, such as train transport instead of road transport for personal transport and stop of electric heating. Assumed growth in activities for Belarus are:

- Floor space, households: annual increase of 3.6 mill. m2 equal to 2% of the 2000 level until 2050, leading to a doubling of dwelling area.
- Floor space service sectors: 15% increase 2010-2020, then slower growth until 2030 and then stable
- Electric appliances in households and service: 20% higher growth than growth in heated floorspace until 2020 and then growth following growth in heated floorspace. This will lead to an electric energy service level in 2050 of 2.2 times the 2000 level.
- Electric appliances in service sector: 20% higher growth than growth in heated floorspace until 2020 and then growth following growth in heated floorspace.
- Industry: stable during the period; assuming that increased value in industry will come from improved quality instead of increased quantity, following trends in Western Europe. The
- Personal transport: the vision includes a doubling of private car use 2000 – 2030, following current growth. Then we expect a stabilisation on the 2030-level. Bus use is expected to grow 19% until 2020 and then grow stronger to 2040 and then stabilise in 2040 on a level of 2.5 times the 2000-level. Train use is expected also to grow 19% until 2020 and then grow stronger and stabilise in 2040 on a level 3 times the 2000 level.
- Freight transport: the vision includes an increase in freight train use of 10% until 2000-2010 and then gradually slower growth. The modal shift between rail and road is expected to stay unchanged, leading 2050 levels of 1.5 times the 2000 level. Pipeline transport is expected to reduce 30% until 2050 with the decrease in fossil fuel use expected in Europe.



Graphs: Development of selected activities 2000 - 2050 for Belarus

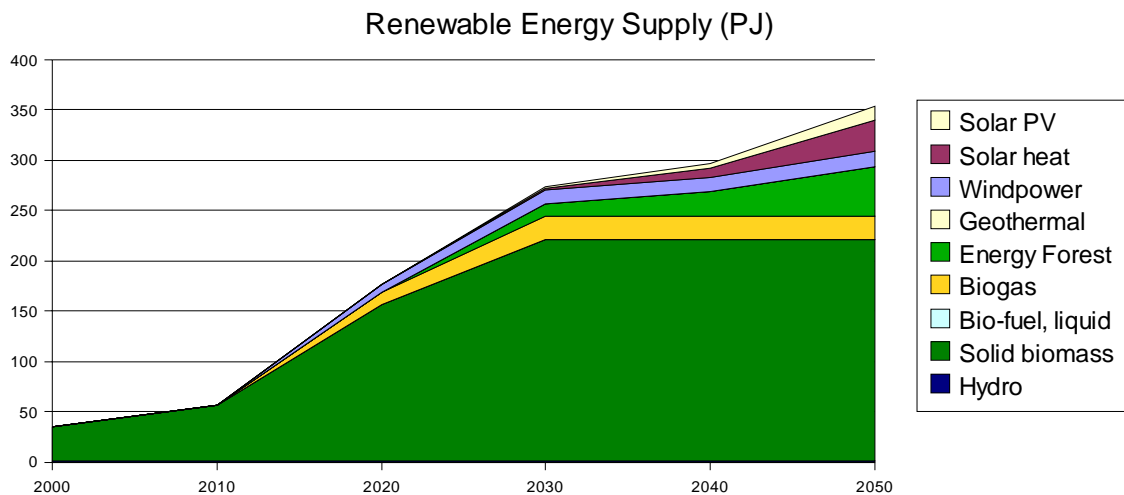


An underlining assumption for this development is a generally stable population in Belarus, with fluctuations below approx. 10%.

Renewable Energy

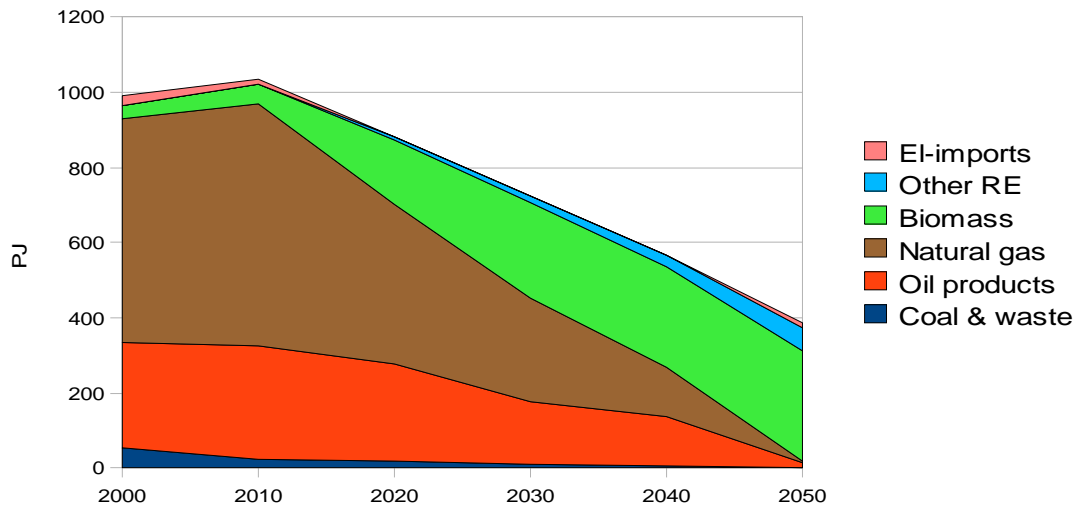
As a fraction of primary energy, renewable energy use is expected to grow from the 2000-level of 3.5% to 5.5% in 2010, to 20% in 2020, 38% in 2030, 53% in 2040 and 95% in 2050. For electricity the renewable share is below the share of primary energy, starting with below 1% in 2000, increasing to 16% in 2020, 54% in 2030 and 91% in 2050, with the remaining mainly from electricity imports.

The most important developments are in windpower (2000 MW installed capacity and biomass including important use of agricultural land for biomass plantations, use of straw for heating and for combined heat and power (CHP) production. The use of agricultural land for energy plantations for solid biomass is expected to be 4000 km², the current area of non-used agricultural land. Also increase use of solar is including in the vision to the reaching 8 m²/person of solar collector for heat (3 m²/person) and for electricity (5 m²/person). There is also a smaller increase in use of hydro-power. Geothermal is not included as the temperatures are low and the potential is uncertain.



Graph: Increase in renewable energy supply, following this vision

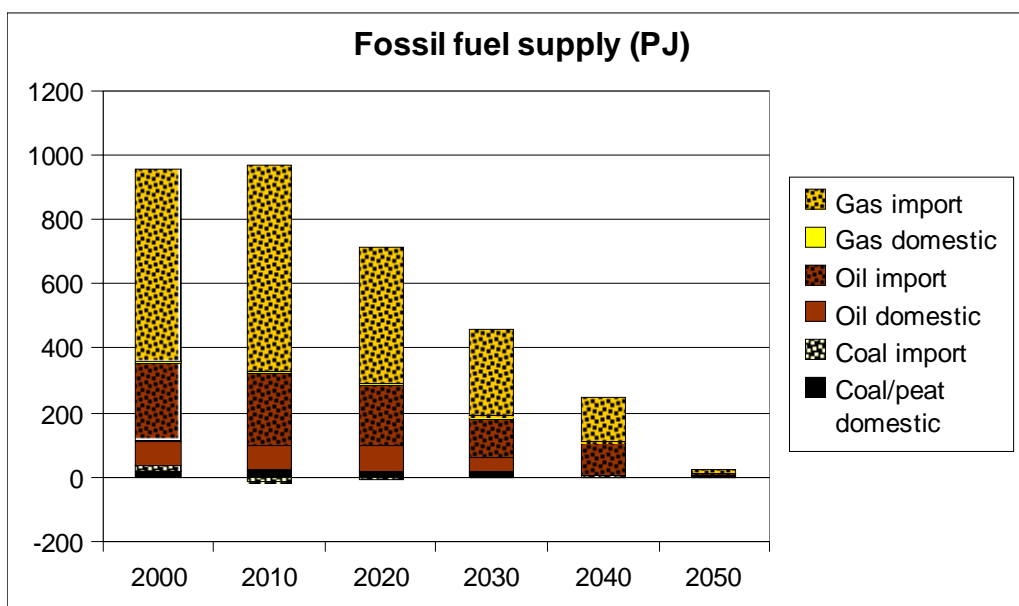
Belarus Primary Energy Supply



Graph: Change in primary energy supply, following this vision. The decrease after 2020 is because assumptions of a less material growth than today and strong emphasis on energy efficiency.

Fossil Energy

Fossil fuel use is expected to grow until 2010 to cover electricity production and increasing heat and transport demands and then gradually be phased out until 2050.



Graph: Fossil fuel supply to Belarus according to the vision

Energy Conversion, Hydrogen

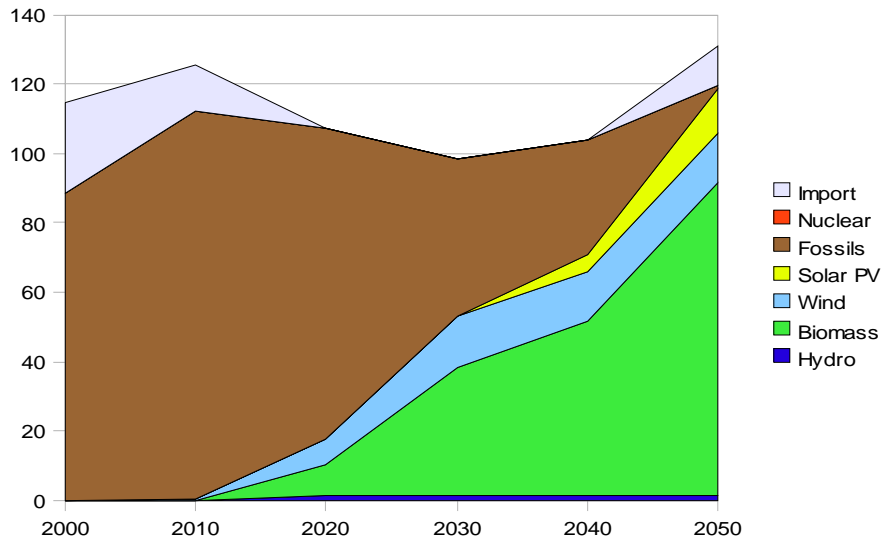
The energy conversion system will also have to be changed. The electric grid is likely to increase in importance, because electricity will also be used for transport, directly or via conversion to hydrogen. The increase in electricity demand and the change to biomass power will require construction of biomass CHP plants to produce 25 TWh (90 PJ) of electricity until 2050 heat with 40% of the construction until 2030. This will require construction of 4000 - 5000 MW of biomass CHP plants of which 1500 - 2000 MW until 2030.

The feed-in of intermittent electricity supply from windpower and later solar PV can be managed with regulation on thermal and power plants; but it will be necessary to construct heat storages in the form of hot water tanks to the CHP plants to decouple heat production and heat demand. With such storages CHP plants can better follow electricity demand. The intermittent electricity production from windpower will only be 23% of demand in 2050, and much less earlier according to the vision, so it will not require electricity storages. The regulation can be done by the thermal power plants, assisted by flexible load of electric vehicles and heat pumps.

In the vision is included after 2030 large heat pumps that will supply to district heating when there is large electricity production from intermittent supply or CHP plants. In 2050n they will cover 35% of district heating supply.

District heating is expected to remain in size, but the delivered heat will gradually decrease with increased efficiency in heating and industry.

Gas networks are expected to have decreasing importance. They might play a role for transportation of hydrogen or biogas, but probably not for long-distance transport.

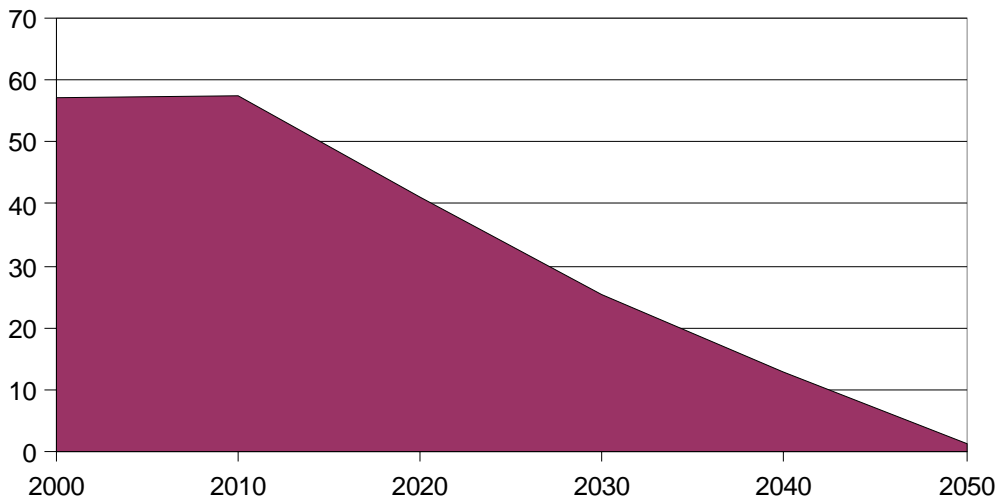


Graph: Development of electricity production and sources, following Vision2050

Energy Trade

Energy trade is expected to be much less than today, only a moderate electricity exchange is expected. Net electricity import is expected in some periods, including import of 11 PJ in 2050 to cover the increasing electricity demand for transport.

Belarus CO₂ emissions from energy consumption, million tons CO₂/år



Graph: Phase out of CO₂ emissions from energy

The above graph shows the CO₂ emissions from energy resulting from realisation of this vision. There will still be greenhouse gas emissions from other activities such as agriculture, probably including CO₂ emissions.

The assumptions used in the vision are described in more details in the documents:

A vision for Belarus based on INFORSE's Vision2050
- Background note, November 2008.

and

Vision for a sustainable energy development for EU – 25, 2000 – 2050

These notes and other information on the vision will be available on
www.inforse.org/europe

Comments should be sent to ove@inforse.org and iaebd@mail.ru

The work on this paper and the sustainable energy vision for Belarus is supported by funding received from the Nordic Council of Ministers; but it express entirely the findings and the views of the authors and of INFORSE-Europe.