




Rooftop Solar PV Country Comparison study

Country Profile Greece



This country profile highlights the good and the bad policies and practices of rooftop solar PV development within Greece. It examines and scores six key areas: governance, incentives & support schemes, permitting procedures, energy sharing schemes, energy communities and additional measures to support solar PV development.

The scoring system is set out below:

-  **Green = 4-5 points**
-  **Orange = 2-3 points**
-  **Red = 0-1 points**

Governance aspects: 2

The latest Greek National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP, 2019) refers to the aim of ensuring the development of all forms of RES for electricity generation. The current target set is 1GW of installed capacity by 2030 from RES systems for self-consumption and net-metering, which will cover the electricity needs for 330,000 households. There is no roadmap or strategy at the time being, beyond the approval of NECP. Stakeholders' views are basically integrated via public consultation of laws.

Incentives: 3

In Greece, the old FiT scheme started in 2009 with a Special Photovoltaic Development Program for low power systems¹, with a very high tariff (0.55 Euros/kWh) for up to 10kWp rooftop PV. As this price was deemed not viable, it was reduced from 2013 and forward and led to reduced investment interest for the Fit scheme since 2013, and zero after 2014, when the net metering scheme was introduced. Currently, excess energy from a PV installed (could be on a rooftop) can be used later to offset consumption when PV generation is not available. The netting period is 3 years. For residential systems, the maximum installed capacity is 20kW. Even though such a net-metering scheme seems attractive, interest from residential consumers remains relatively low in Greece. This scheme can be also applied virtually only for public entities, professional farmers and energy communities. There is also a new program for small solar rooftop PVs (up to 6kWp) which was established in 2022 with a guaranteed price (of 0.087Euros/kWh), for a 20 year contract.

1. Official Gazette B' B'1079/04.06.2009

Permitting and administrative procedures: 1

Currently, probably the main reason that impedes solar development and that makes administrative procedures longer, including rooftop solar in Greece, is grid availability. Currently, in many areas in Greece, applications for solar rooftop PV are being rejected due to lack of electricity grid capacity. For PV, this time can mean two years in case of connection to the grid operated by HEDNO (as of 2019) and 9 months in case of connection to the grid operated by IPTO (Eclaeron, 2022, p.49).

Energy sharing or collective self consumption: 3

Collective self-consumption and energy sharing are implemented in Greece through energy communities by performing the virtual net metering scheme. Virtual net metering can only be used by public entities and professional farmers as single persons/entities. All others can use this scheme only by forming an Energy Community (civil cooperative). A significant drawback is that PV installations on shared ownership rooftops can be implemented only through an energy community. It is really troublesome for the residents of an apartment building to create a civil cooperative for that purpose and this option is not working out.

Energy Communities: 3

Greece was a frontrunner in establishing a new type of civil cooperative, the “energy community” (Law 4513/2018), including most of the criteria foreseen in the EU definitions (effective control, open and voluntary participation, local proximity, etc.), before the adoption of the EU definitions. Currently, there is no difference between REC and CECs, but legislation separates nonprofit and for-profit energy communities. With this regard, the experience of Greece has shown that a broad definition caused a phenomenon of hijacking and many energy communities were created by private investors and not citizens, taking advantage of the incentives provided for them², bypassing steps in environmental permitting, avoiding the competition with their peers while securing generous feed-in tariffs. Since 2018 many legislative changes have been made, in an effort to address the above-mentioned problems, thus creating an unstable environment for the development of energy communities.

On the other hand, Greece has established a concrete approach to incorporate vulnerable households, offering vulnerable consumers or citizens living under the poverty limit who live in the same district a right to be involved in virtual net metering.

² Greece - REC/CEC definitions - REScoop, accessed 12/4/2020

Additional Measures: 3

The tender for a massive smart meters roll-out needs to be published again in 2022; thus, no wide-scale roll-out has taken place yet.³ There has not yet been a massive national awareness raising campaign to disseminate the benefits of solar PV and additional training programmes for administrative staff, policy makers, installers and technicians who are needed to contribute to the uptake of rooftop solar PV in Greece.

3. Vitiello, S.; Andreadou, N.; Ardelean, M.; Fulli, G. Smart Metering Roll-Out in Europe: Where Do We Stand? Cost Benefit Analyses in the Clean Energy Package and Research Trends in the Green Deal. *Energies* 2022, 15, 2340. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en15072340>

Engaging citizens and local communities in the solar revolution

The Rooftop Solar PV Comparison Report produced by CAN Europe and its member organisations aims to detect barriers at national level that impede a higher uptake of residential rooftop solar PV, highlight best and bad practices, and to put forward concrete policy recommendations for setting up the right regulatory framework to ensure an accelerated uptake of rooftop solar PV.

11 countries were chosen to be assessed and scored on their performance regarding the development of rooftop solar PV within their country.

For the full report, follow the link below:
<http://caneurope.org/rooftop-solar-pv-comparison-report>

