

# AUSTRIAN ELECTRICITY

## DISCLOSURE REPORT 2018 – SUMMARY



# INTRODUCTION

Austria's electricity disclosure system has been in place since 2001. All electricity suppliers that deliver electricity to consumers in Austria have since had to declare the primary energy sources used (energy mix) and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and radioactive waste caused in generating the electricity they sell. These disclosure statements must be displayed on electricity bills (at least the final bills for each year) and on marketing materials for consumers.

The Austrian system relies completely on guarantees of origin (GOs).<sup>1</sup> Every MWh that is delivered must be accompanied by a GO. Since 2015, electricity of unknown origin (so-called grey electricity) has been prohibited. In the years before, the European ENTSO-E mix was used to calculate this share's energy mix.

In Austria, the body in charge of issuing, transferring and cancelling GOs is the energy regulatory authority, E-Control Austria.<sup>2</sup> The entire lifecycle of a GO is recorded in the Austrian GO database. The regulator must also review the disclosure statements<sup>3</sup> and publish a report on its findings.

The legal provisions that form the national framework for electricity disclosure are distributed across the acts and ordinances listed below. With the exception of the

*Stromkennzeichnungsverordnung* (Power Labelling Ordinance), the acts do not mainly focus on GOs and disclosure.

## > **ÖKOSTROMGESETZ (GREEN ELECTRICITY ACT) 2012**

The Green Electricity Act stipulates that GOs must be issued for all electricity that is generated from renewable energies and is injected into the public grid.<sup>4</sup> It lays down the rules for GOs and the information to be included in each GO.<sup>5</sup> Also, it nominates E-Control Austria as the national issuing body.<sup>6</sup>

## > **ELEKTRIZITÄTSWIRTSCHAFTS- UND -ORGANISATIONSGESETZ (ELECTRICITY ACT) 2010**

The act lays down the framework for the Austrian electricity disclosure system. It introduces full disclosure on the basis of GOs. In addition, it entrusts E-Control Austria with reviewing the disclosure statements and specifies the rules GOs for electricity generated from fossil fuels.<sup>7</sup>

## > **STROMKENNZEICHNUNGSVERORDNUNG (POWER LABELLING ORDINANCE) 2011**

The ordinance contains details on the design and the content of disclosure statements. In addition, it prescribes how to handle GOs for pumped hydro power plants.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> § 79a(1) Elektrizitätswirtschafts- und -organisationsgesetz (Electricity Act) 2010

<sup>2</sup> § 10(1) Ökostromgesetz (Green Electricity Act) 2012

<sup>3</sup> § 78(3) Electricity Act 2010

<sup>4</sup> § 10(2) Green Electricity Act 2012

<sup>5</sup> § 10(6) Green Electricity Act 2012

<sup>6</sup> § 10(1) Green Electricity Act 2012

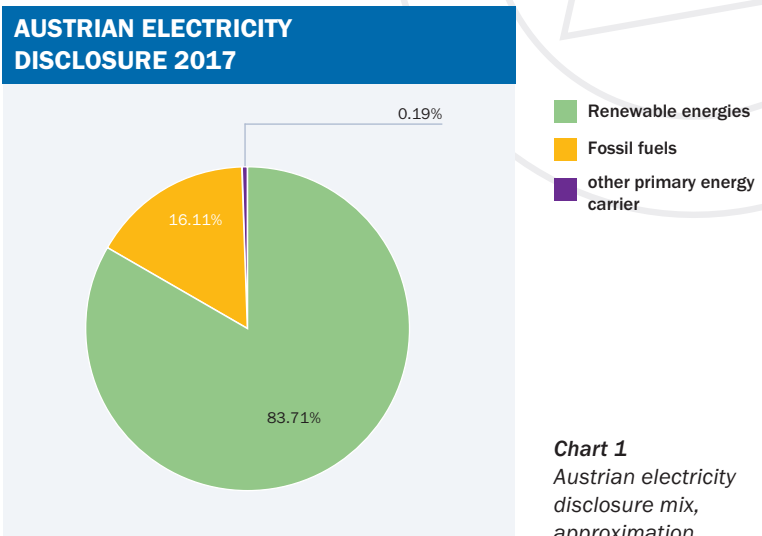
<sup>7</sup> § 72(2) Electricity Act 2010

<sup>8</sup> § 8a(1) Power Labelling Ordinance 2011

# RESULTS OF THE 2018 REVIEW

E-Control undertakes reviews of all suppliers that deliver electricity to consumers in Austria on an annual basis. The focus of these reviews is on the cancellation of GOs and the disclosure statements.<sup>9</sup> The present summary outlines the results of the 2018 review, with reference to the 2017 disclosure period, which was conducted in the Austrian GO database.

The Austrian disclosure statistics show that the share of renewable energies decreased from 86.74% in 2016 to 83.71% in 2017. The fossil fuels share increased, from 12.86% to 16.11%. The other primary energy carriers decreased from 0.40% to 0.19%<sup>10</sup>. There



Source: E-Control

**Chart 1**  
Austrian electricity disclosure mix, approximation

| AUSTRIAN ELECTRICITY DISCLOSURE MIX, APPROXIMATION |                |
|--|----------------|
| Energy carrier                                     | Share          |
| Hydro power  | 65.02%         |
| Wind power   | 10,56%         |
| Solid and liquid biomass                           | 4.72%          |
| Solar power  | 1.31%          |
| Biogas   | 2.06%          |
| Landfill gas and gas from purification plants      | 0.03%          |
| Geothermal power                                   | 0.00%*         |
| Natural gas  | 14.75%         |
| Coal   | 1.35%          |
| Mineral oil/mineral oil products                   | 0.01%          |
| Nuclear power                                      | 0.00%          |
| Other  | 0.19%          |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>100.00%</b> |
| Environmental effects                              |                |
| CO <sub>2</sub> emissions                          | 64 g/kWh       |
| Radioactive waste                                  | 0,000 mg/kWh   |

**Table 1**  
Austrian electricity disclosure mix, approximation

\*Rounded to 0 %

Source: E-Control

<sup>9</sup> This is an approximation; 84% of the final consumption of the public grid are covered.

<sup>10</sup> These shares (also CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) only result from GOs and are not linked to the physical flows or physical production in Austria. Therefore they are not suitable for calculations regarding environmental impacts etc..

were no GOs from nuclear power plants in the Austrian disclosure system.

The increase of fossil fuels might be due to increasing prices for GOs, especially for GOs from renewable energies.

Most GOs used in the Austrian database came from Austria; at 73.91%, this share increased compared to last year. It could indicate that the demand for regional electricity is increasing. As previously, the largest foreign supplier of GOs was Norway, with 14.27%

although this share decreased compared to last year (2016: 21.23%). Figure 2 illustrates the shares of imported GOs used for electricity disclosure in Austria.

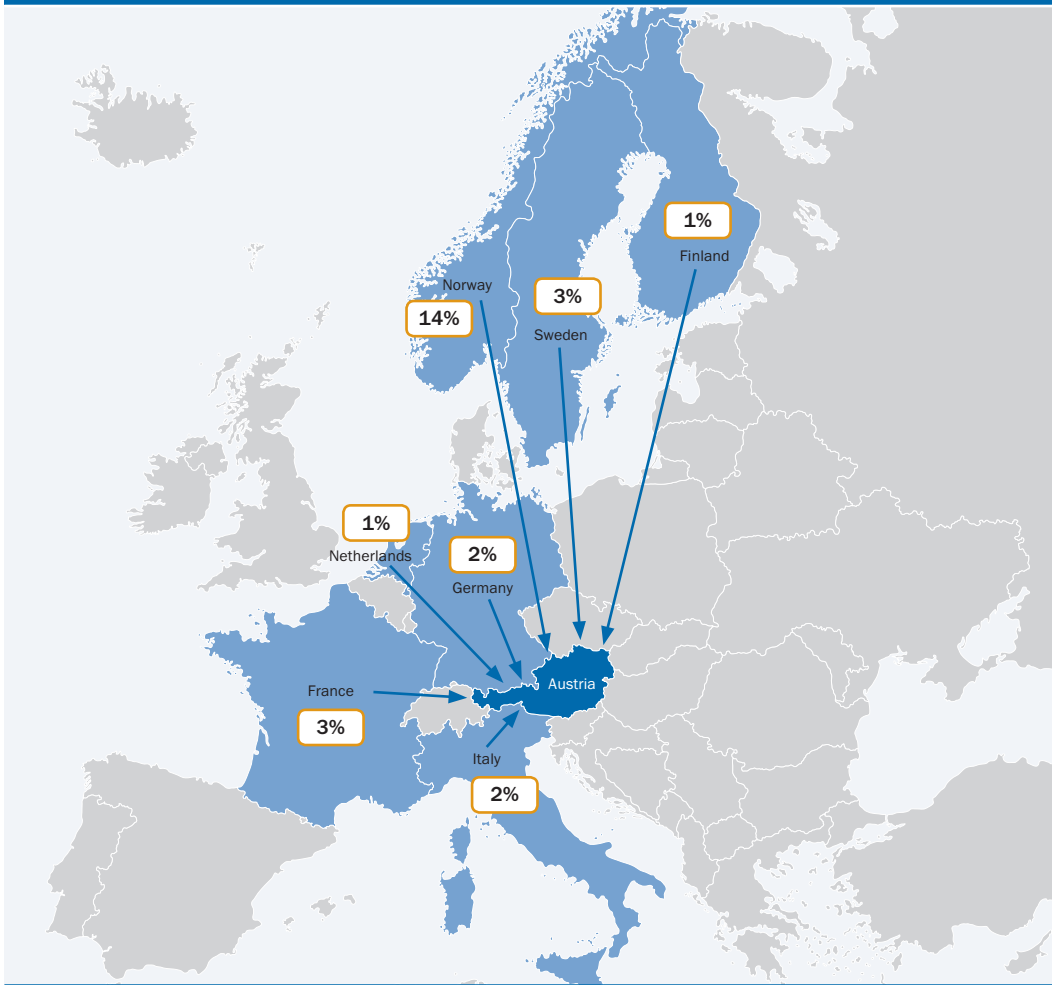
In comparison, about 13.5 TWh worth of GOs were exported from the Austrian database (cf. Figure 3). Most of these (55%) went to Germany (2016: 58%), followed by Norway (33%) (2016: 21%). These exports also include GOs that were imported to Austria and later exported into other countries.

| <b>CANCELLED GOs PER COUNTRY</b> |                                       |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Cancelled GOs per country</b> | <b>% in disclosure statistic 2016</b> | <b>% in disclosure statistic 2017</b> |
| Austria                          | 70.08%                                | 73.91%                                |
| Denmark                          | 0.20%                                 | 0.27%                                 |
| Germany                          | 0.86%                                 | 1.80%                                 |
| Netherlands                      | 1.92%                                 | 0.83%                                 |
| Norway                           | 21.23%                                | 14.27%                                |
| Slovenia                         | 0.47%                                 | 0.32%                                 |
| Sweden                           | 0.69%                                 | 2.74%                                 |
| Switzerland                      | 0.02%                                 | 0.01%                                 |
| Finland                          | 1.92%                                 | 0.66%                                 |
| France                           | 2.49%                                 | 3.18%                                 |
| Italy                            | 0.11%                                 | 2.00%                                 |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>100%</b>                           | <b>100%</b>                           |

**Table 2**  
Cancelled GOs  
per country

Source: E-Control, Stromnachweisdatenbank

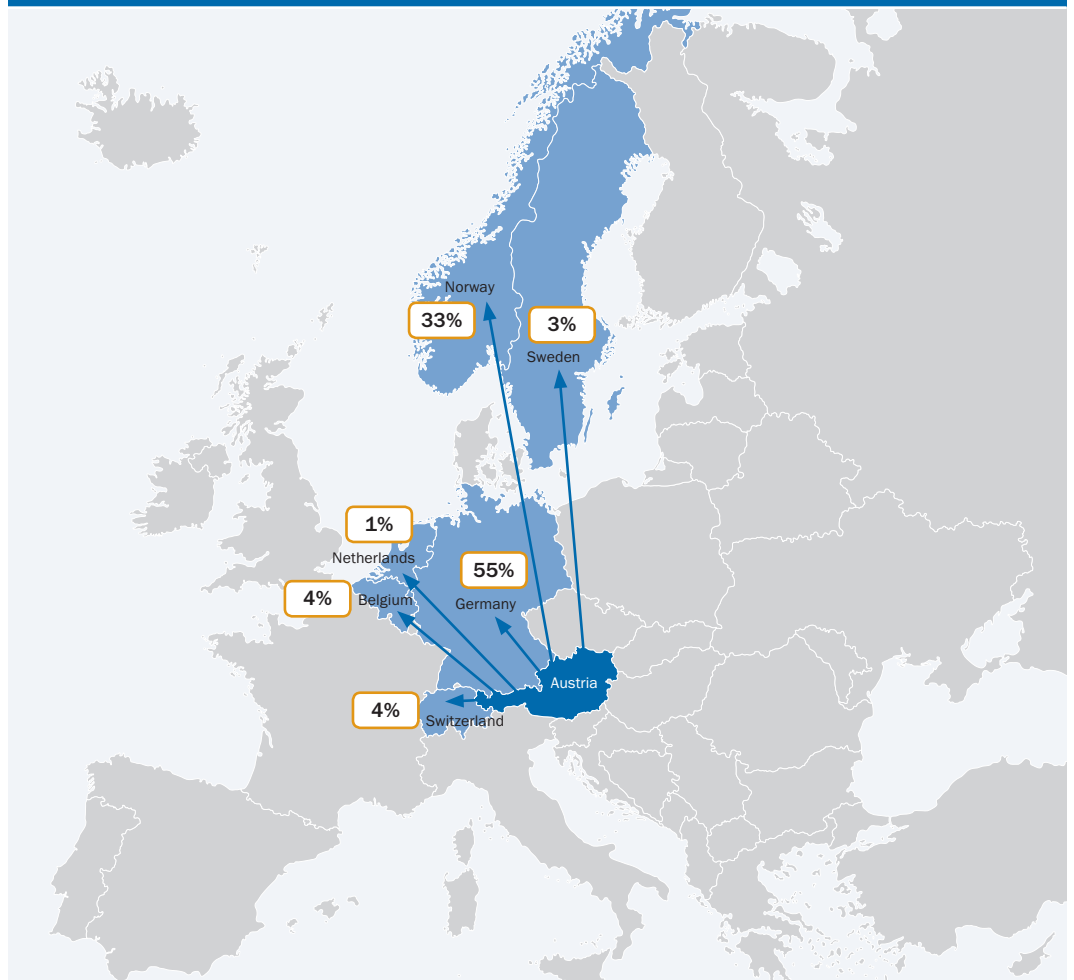
## IMPORTED AND CANCELLED GOs PER COUNTRY



**Chart 2**  
Imported and cancelled  
GOs per country of origin

Source: E-Control

**SHARES OF GOs EXPORTED OUT OF THE AUSTRIAN DATABASE**



**Chart 3**  
Shares of GOs exported  
from the Austrian database

Source: E-Control

| <b>DISCLOSURE STATISTICS COMPARED TO PHYSICAL PRODUCTION IN AUSTRIA</b> |                               |  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
|   | <b>Production in Austria*</b> | <b>Austrian disclosure (approximation)</b> |
| <b>2017</b>   |                               |  |
| Renewable energies  | 74%                           | 83.7%                                      |
| Fossil fuels (including other primary energy carriers)                  | 26%                           | 16.3%                                      |
| <b>Sum</b>  | <b>100.0%</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                              |
| <b>2016</b>   |                               |  |
| Renewable energies  | 71%                           | 86.7%                                      |
| Fossil fuels (including other primary energy carriers)                  | 29%                           | 13.3%                                      |
| <b>Sum</b>  | <b>100.0%</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                              |

**Table 3**  
Disclosure statistics compared to physical production in Austria

\* E-Control Green Electricity Report 2017

Source: E-Control

Table 3 compares the disclosure mix with the physical production in Austria. The share of renewable energies in the disclosure mix is almost 10 percentage points higher than the share of renewables in Austria's physical production. This is due to the imported GOs (mainly hydropower from Scandinavia).

The full report is available in German at: <https://www.e-control.at/de/publikationen/oeko-energie-und-energie-effizienz/berichte/stromkennzeichnungsbericht>

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**Graphic design:** Reger & Zinn OG

**Text:** E-Control

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Editorial deadline: 2018



