

# Bird & Bird & Smart grids market summary - The Netherlands



## Today

- The Netherlands has been working intensively for many years on the development and implementation of Smarter Grids. The report 'Energy Trends 2014' identified 31 ongoing smart grid projects in the Netherlands.
- In 2012 the Dutch government published an economic assessment demonstrating the long-term benefits of introducing smart grids in the Netherlands.
- Following positive results from a pilot scheme, the Dutch government mandated in 2014 that all owners of traditional energy meters with a voltage of 3\*80A or less must be offered a smart meter by 2020. Those owners have, however, the right to refuse a smart meter.
- The roll out of smart meters in the Netherlands was initially delayed by privacy concerns. To help overcome such concerns the grid operators and suppliers each developed a Code of Conduct, laying down specific obligations with regard to the use, recording and exchange of data obtained through the smart meter. Remote disconnection is no longer a mandated feature.

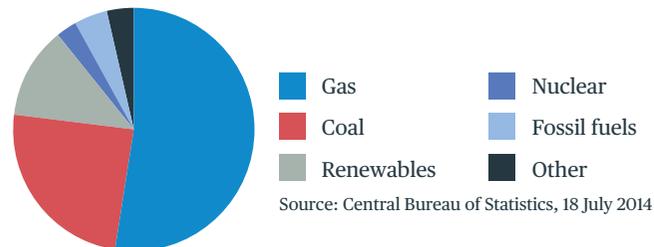
## What to watch

- The Dutch energy industry is working towards the goal of having no CO2-emissions from electricity supply by 2050.
- As a result of the Agreement for Sustainable Growth (concluded in 2013) network operators and energy suppliers will:
  - » Experiment with dynamic tariffs (the so-called Pantheon project);
  - » Take measures to develop storage capacity, for example by encouraging electric transport and an infrastructure of charging stations. Another possibility under review is to convert electricity into gas, which can then be stored.
- Although the initial plan was to start the deployment of smart meters as of 1 January 2015, several operators announced that they will await new versions of the smart meter (for example, a meter made of recyclable materials) before starting the roll-out of the meters.

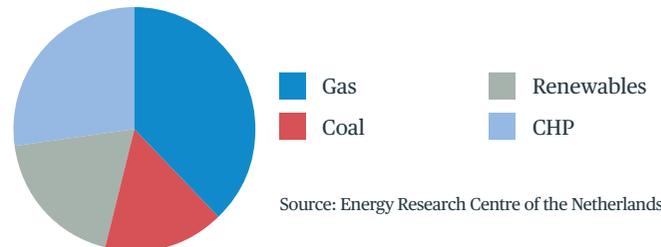
## Looking ahead

- A moderate growth in electricity demand is expected in the coming years, while gas demand is expected to decline.
- Approximately 8.5 million smart meters will be offered further to the government mandate. It is expected that around 2 per cent of the owners offered smart meters will refuse one, meaning that the Netherlands will probably meet its target to roll-out smart meters to at least 80 per cent of domestic electricity consumers as required by the EU Directive 2009/72/EG.
- The 2013 Action Plan Sustainable Energy from Netbeheer Nederland (organization of grid operators) reflects an ambition for the energy grids to form one integrated smart grid by 2030.
- It is expected that in 2050 the Netherlands will form the center of a hub between Scandinavia, the UK and the wind grid on the North Sea on one side and continental Europe on the other side.
- Meanwhile, there is an on-going need for Dutch regulation to be adapted to enable the most to be gained from the opportunities presented by smart grids.

Electricity generation in 2013  
(161.043 Gwh in total)



Projected electricity generation in 2020  
(approximately 37 GW in total)



## Get in touch

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