

# The Faroe Islands

## The Energy Sector

Household heating and the fishing fleet consume the major share of gas and diesel oil, while most of the fuel oil is used to produce electricity.

The dominant form of space heating is traditional oil stoves. Electric heating is scarcely used at all, due to the relatively high power prices. Surplus heat from the thermal plants is not utilised, with the exception of heating at the power stations themselves.

District heating is available in Thorshavn to only a limited area. The area is supplied with surplus heat from the local waste incineration system, and supplies approximately 250 houses.

There have been discussions on expanding the district heating system to a far larger part of Thorshavn during recent years. But as this is not financially viable under the current circumstances, it would not be possible for the district heating company to carry out this project alone at present. Electricity consumption fell from 1989 to 1995, but has since risen slowly. The fluctuation in consumption is mainly due to the economic decline and the fall in

**The Faeroe Islands are located in the Atlantic Ocean, almost midway between Norway, Iceland and Scotland. The Faeroe Islands are part of the kingdom of Denmark. There are 18 main islands separated by narrow sounds and fiords and a few small, uninhabited islands.**

population until 1995, followed by growth in both the economy and the population. Slightly less than 90% of the inhabitants are supplied by an integrated electricity net, while Suderoe Island, with just under 5,000 residents, and five small islands with populations totalling approximately 150, all have their own island power stations. A very large percentage of electricity is produced at hydroelectric plants as can be seen in the table below.

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## Electricity Capacity

Installed Capacity by Source, in 2000<sup>1</sup>:

Source	Installed Capacity	Percentage of Total Installed Capacity
Thermal Plants	53.4MW	62.9%
Hydropower	31.4MW	37%
Wind	0.15MW	0.1%

Source: The Government of the Faeroe Islands, 2000  
<sup>1</sup>This includes the islands that are part of the integrated electricity net and Suderoe Island (on Suderoe Island there is installed 7.4MW thermal and 3MW hydropower).

## Hydropower

The power company, SEV, is currently expanding with hydroelectric power. When the present expansion phase at Eysturoy Island is completed in the spring of year 2000, the hydroelectric share of total power production will be approximately 50%. In addition to this, the power company has specific plans to continue expansion of hydroelectric power on Eysturoy Islands with what will correspond to approximately 19 GWh annually.

It is expected that hydroelectricity will be expanded during the coming years.



## Electricity Production

Electricity Production by Source in 1999<sup>2</sup>:

Source	Percentage of Total Production
Thermal Plants	64.9%
Hydropower	34.9%
Wind	0.2%
Renewables Total	35.1%

Source: The Government of the Faeroe Islands, 2000  
<sup>2</sup> This includes the islands that are part of the integrated electricity net and Suderoe Island.

Minimum load on the power net is approximately 14 MW in the main area, and approximately 1.5 MW on Suderoe Island.



## Wind Power

Since 1993, the electricity company, SEV, has had a trial wind turbine in operation. The turbine has been reinforced to enable it to withstand the high wind speeds. Operational experience was so good, that it was decided in 1998 to purchase an additional wind turbine. The extreme wind conditions mean that suitable turbines are more expensive than standard models, but they are also able to produce more electricity per unit in comparison to wind turbines in, e.g., Denmark.

## References

*Renewable Energy on Small Islands*. Second edition, august 2000.

Forum for Energy and Development (FED)



