

## Heat pumps in Europe report 12% growth in 2018

Sonja van Renssen, 17 May 2019

The European heat pump market has grown by double-digit figures for the fourth consecutive year, according to the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA).

More than 1.25 million heat pumps were sold in Europe in 2018, or 12% more than in 2017. That brings the total number of installed heat pumps to 11.8 million, or on average of one for every ten buildings.

France remains the market leader, accounting for over a fifth of all sales in 2018, although Italy and Spain are not far off. Together, these three countries accounted for nearly half of all sales last year. However, the Nordic markets continue to dominate in terms of installations relative to the number of households.

EHPA calculates that Europe's heat pumps produced 128 TWh of renewable energy in 2018 – equivalent to the output of around 40,000 wind turbines – and saved 33 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – equivalent to the climate impact of about nine million cows.

Heat pumps can also help balance out variable renewables such as wind and solar, with the current European stock offering up to about 3 TWh of demand side flexibility and over 400 GW of energy storage. The latter equates to more than 8200 of today's largest grid-scale batteries, EHPA calculates.

Heat pumps deliver energy savings as well as renewable energy. The European stock delivered 164 TWh of final energy savings in 2018, according to EHPA.

Favourable building regulations and subsidies have helped the heat pump market in recent years. The two big challenges going forward are energy prices and the quality of installations and maintenance, said Krystyna Dawson from BSRIA, a UK-based testing, research and consulting specialist for buildings at the EHPA's annual conference on Wednesday.

Electricity - the fuel for heat pumps - is much more expensive than gas in countries like Germany, Belgium and the UK. This makes it hard for heat pumps to compete with new boilers during a renovation.

Part of the problem is unequal carbon pricing for electricity and gas – the implicit carbon price on electricity in Germany is €185/tonne versus €20/tonne for gas, said Martin Sabel, managing director of the German Heat Pump Association.

In France, heat pumps will benefit from a new subsidy scheme in 2019 that will cover half their cost in renovations. France expects at least 5% annual growth for the next ten years. EHPA estimates that 7-8% is necessary for Europe to meet its Paris climate goals.

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## **Follow-up:**

[European Heat Pump Forum](#) and [press release](#).

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