



2011 Survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries

COUNTRY PROFILE:

Latvia



Country information on resource efficiency policies,
instruments, objectives, targets and indicators,
institutional setup and information needs

May 2011

This country profile is based on the information provided by Mara Rone from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. The information is current as of March 2011.

This country profile was prepared as part of the EEA-ETC/SCP 2011 survey of resource efficiency policies, which aims to collect, analyze and disseminate information about national experience in the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and collaborating countries. The work resulted in the following outcomes:

- **Short 'country profiles' (this document)** - self assessments prepared by countries, describing the current status of resource efficiency policies, including key strategies and action plans, policy objectives, instruments, targets and indicators used, institutional setup and information needs.
- **Summary report** - prepared by the EEA and ETC/SCP, the report reflects on trends, similarities and differences in policy responses, showcases selected policy initiatives from member countries and identifies information needs and knowledge gaps.
- A session on resource efficiency policies during the 2011 EIONET workshop to discuss further needs and to facilitate information sharing and experience exchange among EIONET members.

More information about resource efficiency policies, including an analytical report "Resource efficiency in Europe" and thirty one country profiles, can be found at:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>

1. Resource use in Latvia – facts and figures

1.1 General facts and figures about the country



Source:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Population (projected inhabitants for 2010) [1]	2,248,374
➤ Percent of total EEA-32	0.38%
Surface area (km ²) [2]	64,589
➤ Percent of total EEA-32	1.14%
GDP at market prices – Purchasing Power Standard – Current Prices (Million Euro, 2009) [3]	27,475
➤ Percent of total EEA-32 (minus Liechtenstein)	0.21%
GDP per capita in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) [4] EU27=100 (2009)	52
Urban population (rate of pop., 2009) [5]	68.2%
Main economic sectors and their share in total GDP (2009 est.) [2]	
Agriculture	4.2%
Industry	20.6%
Services	75.2%
EU accession date [6]	1.5.2004

Additional relevant background information on Latvia (and on 37 other EEA member and cooperating countries) can be found at the SOER2010 website:

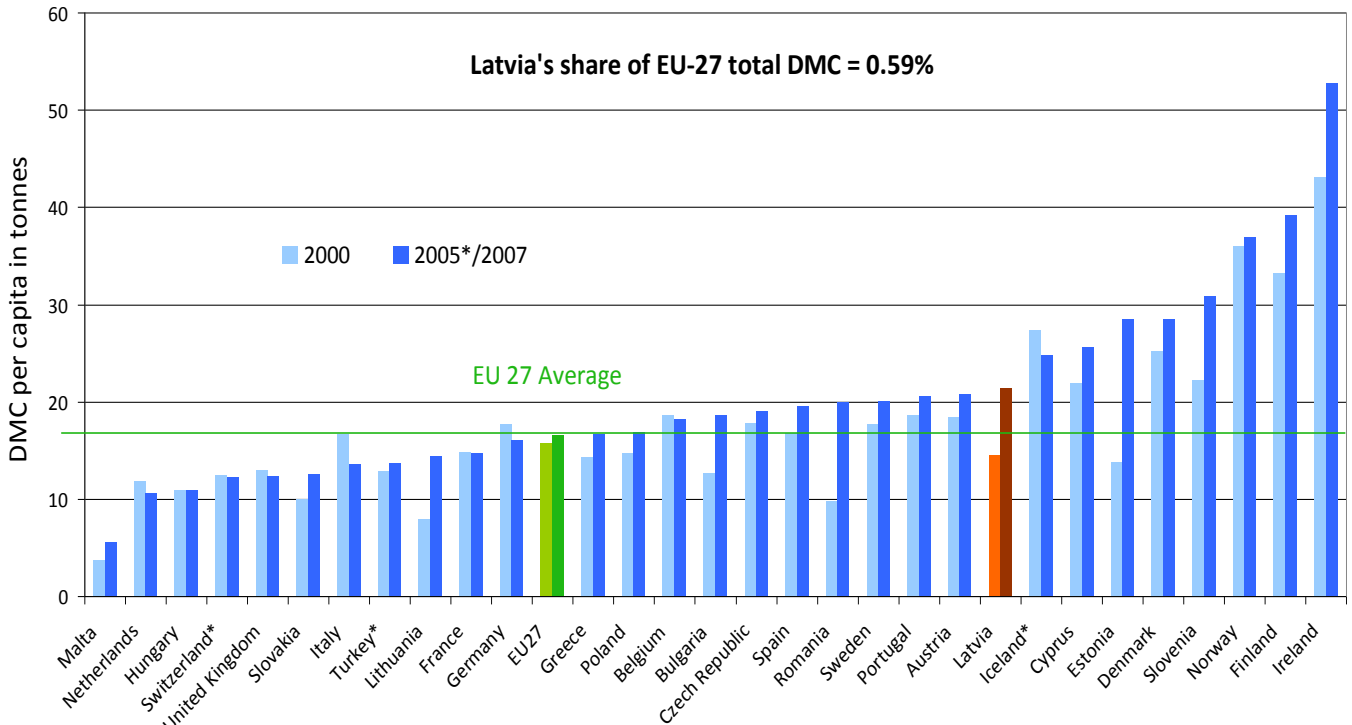
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/lv>

Factsheet on national waste policies for Latvia is available at:

http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/facts/factsheets_waste/2009_edition/factsheet?country=LV

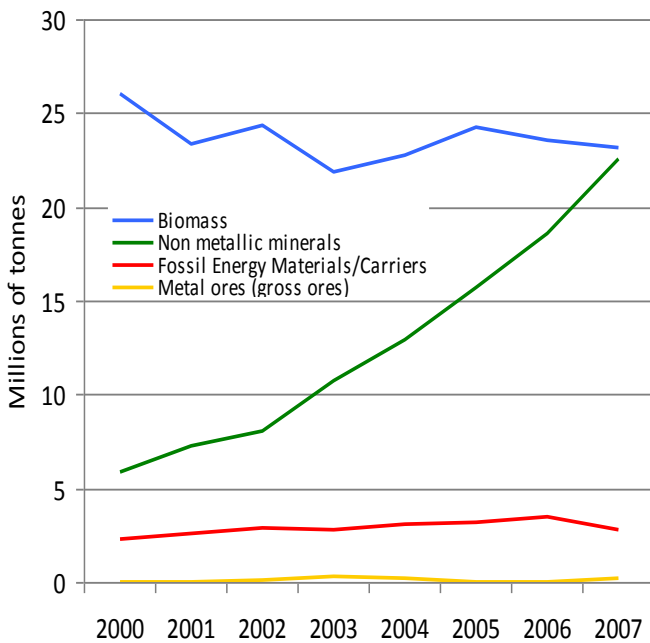
1.2 Facts and figures on resource efficiency for Latvia

Use of resources per capita 2000 and 2007 [tonnes DMC/capita]



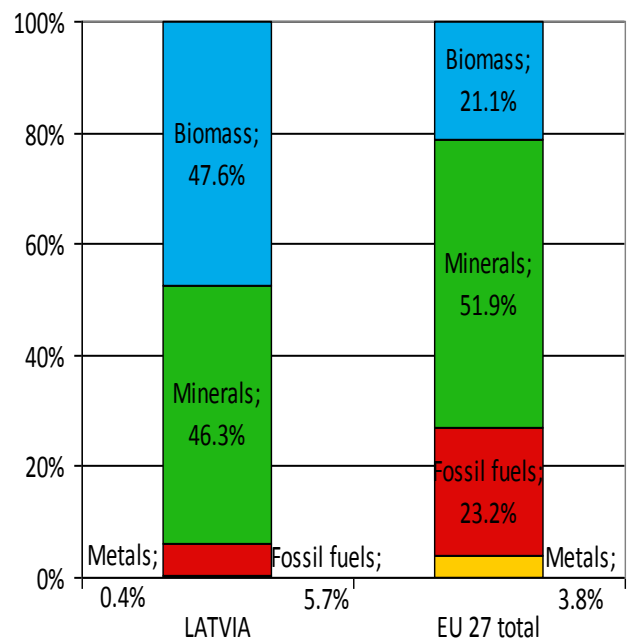
Source: Eurostat, OECD and Total Economy Database [7] * = For these countries data is for 2000 and 2005.

Domestic Material Consumption by category over time, Latvia



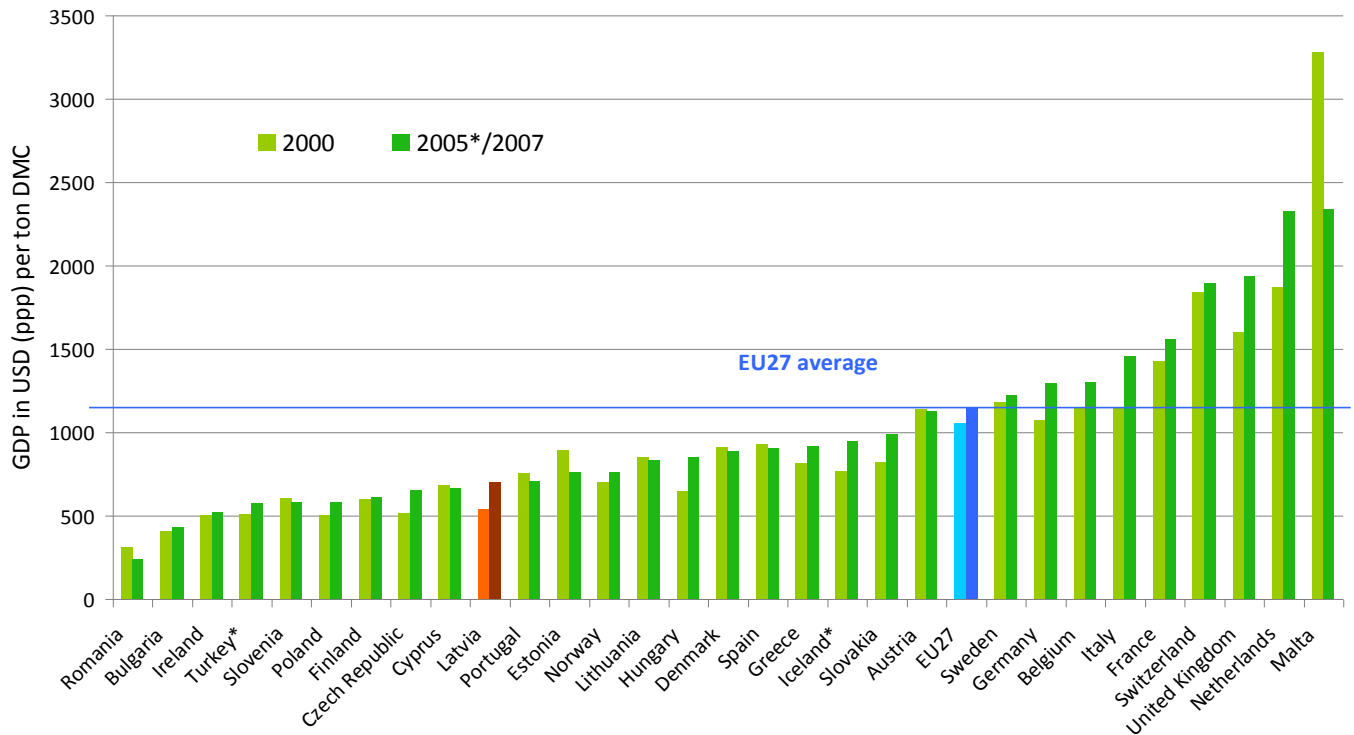
Source: Eurostat [8]

Breakdown of DMC by type of materials (2007)



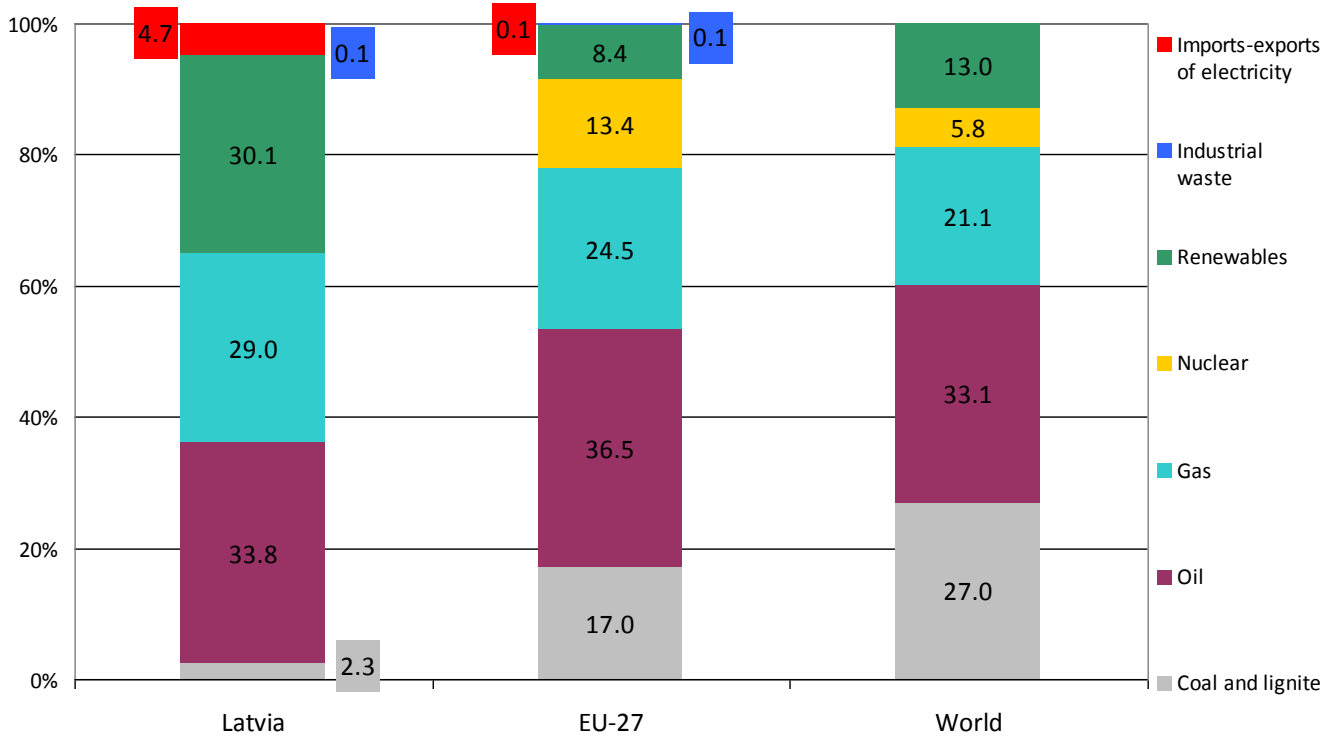
Source: Eurostat [8]

Material productivity 2000 and 2007 [USD ppp/ton DMC]



Source: The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, Eurostat [9]
 * = For these countries data is for 2000 and 2005.

Primary energy consumption



Source: Eurostat [10]

2. Evolution and main drivers for the development of resource efficiency policies

The main drivers for resource efficiency policy making in Latvia are the EU2020 Strategy and the “Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030”.

3. Overall Policy Approach for Resource Efficiency

There is no one specific resource efficiency strategy in Latvia, but resource efficiency is integrated in other framework strategies.

The “**Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030**” (2010) (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development) includes national guidelines for sustainable development and spatial perspective (http://www.latvija2030.lv/upload/latvija2030_saeima.pdf). It addresses management of nature capital, development of market-based instruments, capitalisation of nature actives and promoting sustainable life style.

Environmental Policy Strategy 2009-2015 (MEPRD)

(<http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/dokumenti/ppd/>) concerns all environmental sectors. Resource efficiency is particularly addressed in such sectors:

- air (application of best available technologies, clean production, rational use of resources, and modernisation of heating systems),
- water (modernisation of water systems to reduce water leakages; reduce hazardous materials’ flow into the Baltic Sea),
- energy (change of consumption patterns, renovation of buildings, and development of technologies to foster energy efficiency and foster effective use of renewable energy) and
- nature (preserve biodiversity and ensure balance between nature conservation and economic interests).
- Land (to ensure rational, environmentally sound and sustainable use of land resources, subterranean depths and soil, including improvement of waste management, waste recycling and introduction of packaging deposit system) .

Strategic development plan for Latvia 2010 -2013. (Ministry of Finance)

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3338>

4. Strategies or action plans to improve resource efficiency for individual economic sectors, products or product groups

- **Transport Development Strategy 2007 – 2013** (Ministry of Transport) sets the main policy trends for infrastructure quality, public transport development and safe sea transport. (http://www.sam.gov.lv/images/modules/items/DOC/item_2715_Transporta_pamatnostadnes.doc).
- Aim: Qualitative and competitive transport system integrated into Eurasia transport system, safe transport and widely accessible public transport and logistic services .
- Secondary aims: comfortable and safe road transport and railway system; effective public transport system; safe sea transport system in accordance with international standards; growing transport and logistic service export, competitive port service and connected transport chain;
- Measures: % of road network in good satisfying condition, increase in road traffic safety, accessibility of public transport for disabled people (including stations), increasing number of passengers in rail transport , improvement of ports infrastructure, etc.

Draft Action Plan for Government Declaration Implementation includes initiatives towards resource efficiency in transport sector: electrification of railway, increasing low fuel consumption and low emissions vehicles, use of local natural resources, developing ports' infrastructure.

Strategy for Energy Development 2007-2016 (Ministry of Economy) targets energy efficiency and increase of share for renewable energy in energy sector.

http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/item_file_15063_3.doc

http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/item_file_15059_1.doc

- Aim: – to elaborate strategy for safe, resource efficient energy supply system, to ensure efficient use of energy, quality of life, economical growth and environmental quality – promote accessibility of resources for growth of economic, ensure safety of energy supply increasing self supply and diversification of suppliers; to ensure energy accessibility and sufficiency of energy for domestic users; rise use of renewable resources and production of electricity in cogeneration; to ensure prevention of environmental quality fulfilling aims of SEG emission reduction;
- Measures: -Sufficiency of electricity, total electricity consumption, total productivity (consumed electricity per one unit of produced GDP, share of imported electricity in total consumption, renewable energy share in total energy consumption, SEG emissions per produced unit of GDP etc.

Strategy for Renewable Energy Consumption 2006-2013 aims to increase renewable energy share in the total Latvian energy balance and foster safety of Latvian energy provision.

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/files/text/VIDMPamn_201006_AERPamn.pdf

- Aim:- to increase share of renewable energy in the total energy balance, to promote safety of electricity supply, to ensure in long term renewable energy involment in SEG emission reduction.
- Measures: share of renewable energy in total energy consumption, percentage of biofuel in total fuel consumption, reduction of share of imported electricity.

Energy efficiency is also addressed in **Latvian First Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2008-2010**. It deals with reducing fuel consumption in transport sector and motivating consumers to apply energy efficiency measures in different energy consuming sectors.

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/LoadAtt/file59432.doc>

National Waste Management Plan 2006-2012 (MEPRD) focuses on waste reduction and recycling initiatives as well as on promotion of sustainable consumption.

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/likumdosana/normativie_akti/files/text/Likumd/atkrit_apsaimn_pl/Vi_dM_271205_Valsts_plans.doc

- Aim – to diminish amount of generated waste, using better technical possibilities to prevent waste generation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable behavior. Reduction of biodegradable waste deposited in landfills comparing to 1995 75% (2010), 50% (2013), 35% (2020); regeneration rate of packaging 60% by 2015.

Climate Change Mitigation Program 2005-2010 (MEPRD) covers initiatives for reducing greenhouse gas by increasing renewable energy, promoting cleaner production and ensuring biogas collection from waste landfill sites.

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=1747>

Rural Development Strategy Plan 2007-2013 (Ministry of Agriculture) focuses on prosperous people in sustainably inhabited rural area. It includes sustainable and effective forestry, preserving and renewing biodiversity in agriculture and forest areas, healthy food grown in environmentally sound manner.

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3076>

Development plan for Forests and forest based industries development (Ministry of Agriculture), approved in 2006 sets long term policy aims for forest sector development.

<http://www.zm.gov.lv/?sadala=77>

http://www.zm.gov.lv/doc_upl/informativa_dala.pdf

Ministry of Economics is responsible for competitiveness and promotion of entrepreneurship. The “**programme of promotion of commercial environment of entrepreneurship 2007 – 2013**”

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2282> has a special action plan for each year activities, and the

“**Programme for promotion of implementation of Innovative technologies**” are implemented by

Investment and Development Agency of Latvia <http://www.liaa.gov.lv/eng/home/news/>.

5. Individual types of resources identified as priority for national or sector-specific resource efficiency policies

Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 puts special focus on energy sector, having objective “*to ensure energy independence of the state by increasing the provision of energy resources and integrating in the EU energy networks*”. It includes long term strands of actions concerning energy efficiency measures and increase of renewable energy.

6. Strategic objectives, targets and indicators on resource efficiency

Within the field of renewables and safe energy, Latvia has the strategic objective:

- To ensure energy independence of the state by increasing the provision of energy resources and integrating into the EU energy networks. (energy safety and independence, use and innovation of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency measures, energy efficiency and environmental friendly transport policy)

Latvian Sustainable Management of Natural Values and Services objective:

- To become the EU leader in the preservation, increase and sustainable use of natural capital, (including management of natural capital, creation of market instruments, capitalisation of natural assets, promotion of sustainable lifestyle).

Main indicators in **transport** sector:

- Built-in and reconstructed railway roads (km)
- New electric and diesel-engine trains (number)
- Improved infrastructure in ports (number of ports)

Objectives in the **housing** area are to:

- reduce heat and power consumption and promote more efficient use of energy resources in the private and public sectors;
- Renovate apartment buildings to reduce heat consumption and losses.

Actions to achieve strategic goals in the housing sector:

- Continue to raise the awareness and understanding of the population about energy-efficient housing management;
- Support the development and use of modern energy accounting systems (centralized heating, air conditioning, hot water supply according to actual consumption);
- Build high-quality housing, using a modern and environmentally friendly heating and construction material.

In order to assess the improvements in resource efficiency, the effect of the heat insulation of buildings on the energy resource savings and the direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions is being evaluated.

According to the **Strategy for Energy Development 2007-2016**, the renewable energy share had to be 49.3% of total consumed energy in 2010. Toward 2016 the average specific thermal energy consumption in buildings should be reduced from 220-250 kWh/m²/yr to 195 kWh/m²/y, and by 2020 reach 150 kWh/m²/y.

Objectives defined in **National Waste Management Plan 2006-2012**:

- prevent waste generation, by using best available techniques and methods and more sustainable consumption patterns;
- ensure that waste is not hazardous or they create minor risk to health and environment;
- turn back most part of waste into economic cycle especially through recycling or compost;
- minimise the amount of disposed waste and to dispose them in a manner safe to human health and environment;
- process waste close to the place of origin.

Strategic Objectives:

- to reduce waste disposal;
- to increase waste (packaging, electric and electronic appliances, vehicles) recycling .

Targets:

- Separate collection systems for glass, paper, plastic and metal;
- 50% of household waste will be recycled;
- 75% of demolition and construction waste will be recycled.

Main objective in the climate change sector, outline in the **Climate Change Mitigation Program 2005-2010**, is to ensure that between 2008 -2010 total greenhouse gas emissions do not exceed 92% of level in 1990.

Objectives:

- Increase renewable energy share of total consumed energy
- Increase efficient and rational use of energy resources
- Promote establishment of best available techniques and clean production
- Establish up-to-date municipal waste management system ensuring biogas collection from landfill sites.

Result: average collected methane from landfill sites and farms - 13,4 mil. m³ in 2010.

For measuring sustainable forest and forest related industries management in Latvia, sets of indicators created by Ministerial conference on the protection of forests in Europe (MCPFE) are used.

<http://www.foresteurope.org/>

Targets:

- Amounts of forest land not less than in 01.01.2006,
- illegal forest cutting not more that 1%,
- Limitation of hunting.

7. The institutional setup for the development and implementation of resource efficiency policies

Policy development for resource efficiency is the responsibility of several ministries –

- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (waste, sustainable development),
- Ministry of the Economics (competitiveness, energy, innovations),
- Ministry of Transport (transport),
- Ministry of Agriculture (agriculture, rural development and forests).

Formally “Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030” under the MEPRD is main strategy for all kind of resources. Each ministry has their sectoral strategies.

When strategies and action plans are drafted and elaborated, usually inter-ministerial working groups have been established and experts are invited to participate in working groups.

Ministry of Economics is responsible for competitiveness and promotion of entrepreneurship – “programme of promotion of commercial environment of entrepreneurship 2007 – 2013” <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2282> and special action plan for each year activities. And Programme for promotion of implementation of Inovative technologies implemented by Investment and Development Agency of Latvia <http://www.liaa.gov.lv/eng/home/news/>.

Also, energy policy is under the Ministry of Economics, which includes Energy policy, biofuels, renewable energy, energy efficiency. <http://www.em.gov.lv/em/2nd/?lng=en&cat=30166>.

8. Selected policy instruments or initiatives on resource efficiency presented in more detail

Since January 1991 natural resources tax is imposed on several types of resources in Latvia thus promoting well-considered use of resources in order for producers to reduce their expenses. It is regulated by Natural Resources Tax Law (http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=124707#saist_11). The purpose of the antural resources tax is to promote economically efficient use of natural resources, restrict pollution of the environment, reduce manufacturing and sale of environment polluting substances, promote implementation of new, environment-friendly technology, support sustainable development in the economy, as well as to ensure environment protection measures financially.

Taxable objects under natural resources tax regulation are:

- 1) natural resources;
- 2) use of the useful characteristics of subterranean depths by pumping natural gas or greenhouse gases into geological structures;
- 3) waste disposal and emission of polluting substances;
- 4) the volume of greenhouse gases emitted by technological equipment, which is not included in the amount of transferred allowances;
- 5) goods harmful to the environment;

- 6) packaging of goods and articles and disposable tableware and accessories;
- 7) radioactive substances;
- 8) vehicles to which Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of life vehicles is applicable;
- 9) coal, coke and lignite (brown coal).

In addition in 2008 there were introduced special tax rates for plastic bags attached by a merchant to an aggregate of goods or products (purchase) in packaging or without it because of customer's convenience or advertising design, regardless of whether a separate payment is collected for these bags. These rates are higher than those for other plastic packaging. The tax rate differs from 2.60 lats per one kilogram (to plastic bags the weight of one bag of which does not exceed 0.003 kilograms (the weight of 1000 bags does not exceed 3 kilograms)) to 0.80 lats per one kilogram (to plastic bags the weight of one bag of which exceeds 0.003 kilograms (the weight of 1000 bags exceeds 3 kilograms)). This distinction was made in a way to eliminate the use of small shopping bags that are seldom used more than one time. Meanwhile a tax rates for plastic bags manufactured from bioplastics or oxy-degradable plastics are the same as for any other packaging manufactured from bioplastics or oxy-degradable plastics. These changes have led to a significant reduction in plastic bag consumption.

9. Topics of interest and information needs for follow up work

- Policy instruments used in these policies,
- Integration of resource efficiency into other policy areas,
- Ways of involving different stakeholders.

10. References

10.1 Facts and figures about the country

[1] Eurostat, 2011 [demo_pjan]

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo_pjan&lang=en

[2] CIA World Factbook (2009 est.)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

[3] Eurostat, 2011 [nama_gdp_c]

<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do>

[4] Eurostat 2011 [tsieb010]

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsieb010&plugin=0>

[5] World Bank, Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:21352016~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

[6] European Commission 2008

http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/key_dates/index_en.htm visited December 15, 2008

[7] Eurostat, OECD and Total Economy Database

DMC data from Eurostat Database, Material Flow Accounts, and OECD, Population data from Eurostat Database, Population, and The Conference Board — Total Economy Database, September 2010. www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/

[8] Eurostat

Material flow accounts, env_ac_mfa, uploaded June 2010

[9] The Conference Board, Total Economy Database, Eurostat

GDP data from The Conference Board — Total Economy Database, September 2010, www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/ ; DMC data from Eurostat Database on Environmental Accounts, and OECD.

[10] Eurostat

Energy statistics, uploaded Oct 2010

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/energy/data/database>

10.2 Resource Efficiency Policy References

Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030

http://www.latvija2030.lv/upload/latvija2030_saeima.pdf

Environmental Policy Strategy 2009-2015

<http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/dokumenti/ppd/>

Strategic development plan for Latvia 2010 -2013

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3338>

Transport Development Strategy 2007 – 2013

http://www.sam.gov.lv/images/modules/items/DOC/item_2715_Transporta_pamatnostadnes.doc

Strategy for Energy Development 2007-2016

http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/item_file_15063_3.doc

http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/item_file_15059_1.doc

Strategy for Renewable Energy Consumption 2006-2013

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/files/text/VIDMPamn_201006_AERPamn.pdf

Latvian First Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2008-2010

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/LoadAtt/file59432.doc>

National Waste Management Plan 2006-2012

http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/likumdosana/normativie_akti/files/text/Likumd/atkrit_apsaimn_pl/Vi_dM_271205_Valsts_plans.doc

Climate Change Mitigation Program 2005-2010

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=1747>

Rural Development Strategy Plan 2007-2013

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3076>

Development plan for Forests and forest based industries development

<http://www.zm.gov.lv/?sadala=77>

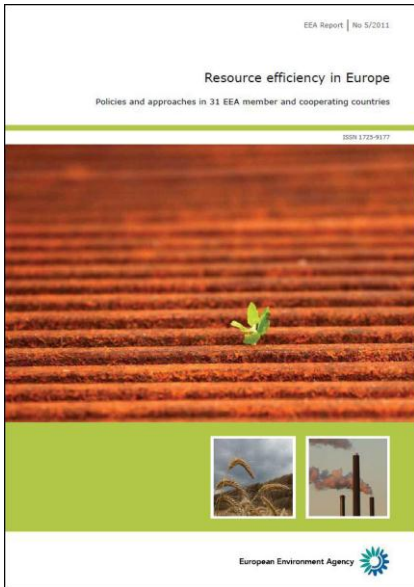
http://www.zm.gov.lv/doc_upl/informativa_dala.pdf

Programme of promotion of commercial environment of entrepreneurship 2007 – 2013

<http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2282>

Programme for promotion of implementation of Innovative technologies

<http://www.liaa.gov.lv/eng/home/news/>



Resource efficiency in Europe

Policies and approaches in 31 EEA member and cooperating countries

Further information about resource efficiency policies, including the analytical report and thirty-one detailed country profiles, are available on the EEA website:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>

Selected examples of resource efficiency policies, instruments or targets presented in the thirty one detailed country profiles

