

Modern Trends in the Production of Renewable Energy: the Cost Benefit Approach^{*,**}

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In the article modern trends in the production of renewable energy were analyzed. It was determined that renewable energy sources have many undeniable advantages. First of all, they are much more environmentally friendly than traditional methods of generating energy based on the combustion of fossil fuels. Another advantage of renewable energy sources is their distribution. Unlike traditional energy fuel sources that units possess, renewable energy sources are available to most of the world's inhabitants. It was considered that today in the country there are a number of motivational tools that stimulate the development of green energy. It was proved that the ways of sustainization of the energy sector are associated with three main areas of energy use: electricity generation; heating and cooling of premises; driving vehicles. A system of subsidies for primary investments (purchase and installation of equipment), as well as the commercialization of "green" electricity (costs of entering the market, partial insurance of risks), is applied. It was determined that a separate page in the formation of alternative energy is the rivalry of two directions of its development, based on the creation of concentrated and deconcentrated (distributed) power plants. The first focuses on the concentration of production energy units (solar panels or wind turbines) in one area. The second direction is associated with the deconcentrating of energy sources, that is, the dispersal of individual capacities both across the territory and by forms of ownership. The transition to renewable energy sources is critical for most countries. This is one of the most important steps towards ensuring their energy independence and further restructuring of economic systems towards the formation of a "green" economy. It is gratifying that, along with other countries, Ukraine is making its efforts in this.

Keywords: renewable energy production, green energy, sustainable development, renewable energy enterprise.

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Introduction. Renewable energy sources have many undeniable advantages. First of all, they are much more environmentally friendly than traditional methods of generating energy based on the combustion of fossil fuels. However, besides, they have some undoubted qualities that distinguish them favorably from representatives of traditional energy. It is important to understand possible costs and benefits from the production of renewable energy.

Problem statement. Different scientists focus on the role of renewable energy in achieving sustainable development goals (I. Dintser, D. Elliot, I. Colombo, G. Lund, K. Kaigush, L. Melnyk, I. Sotnyk, etc.). However, the macroeconomic aspects of the operation of renewable energy enterprises are poorly studied in both national and foreign sources. Thus, there is a significant gap between the growing demand for research of organizational and economic aspects of the enterprise for the production of alternative energy and the available scientific publications. Thus, the relevance of these problems, their insufficient study, the great theoretical and practical significance led to the choice of research topics.

The purpose of the article is to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of renewable energy production.

Renewable energy sources have many undeniable advantages. First of all, they are much more environmentally friendly than traditional methods of generating energy based on the combustion of fossil fuels [7]. However, besides, they have some undoubted qualities that distinguish them favorably from representatives of traditional energy.

First, renewable energy sources are characterized by stability and relative inexhaustibility, which allows them to provide a stable mode of operation of energy systems, and with them, the entire economy. The work of the sun and wind is characterized by stable regularity. There are already technical solutions that ensure the operation of wind farms at minimum wind speed and even complete calm. An even more stable source is geothermal heat. In combination with efficient means of accumulating and storing energy, these sources provide a stable mode of operation of the power system both in terms of energy supply and in terms of the price for the generated energy. This makes it possible to establish a stable regulation procedure (diversification of selling prices depending on the time of day and seasonality of consumption).

It is no coincidence that the period of adoption of the five mentioned principles for the implementation of Third industrial revolution coincided with the 2007 energy crisis when the price of oil on world markets jumped from an average of several dozen to \$ 120 per barrel. The economies of the leading countries of the world reacted to this with a sharp jump in prices for manufactured goods and a slowdown in their activity [9]. When, in July 2008, the price for a barrel of oil jumped to \$ 147 and the prices of manufactured goods soared up along the entire chain, doubling and tripling for some groups of goods. Due to a sharp decline in the purchasing power of the population, the world's leading economies have practically stopped completely. Two months later, a severe financial crisis erupted.

The natural reaction of economic systems to the energy crisis was a significant decrease in their activity. As a result, in 2009 oil prices dropped to \$ 30 per barrel. Cheaper oil prices spurred economic activity, which in turn, over time, motivated an increase in oil prices. And by 2012, it again reached the \$ 120 mark. The prices of other goods also followed them up. Two years later, the pendulum swung in the opposite direction, bringing oil prices to \$ 30. And the economy again went into a "vicious" vicious circle.

As we can see, the very nature of energy based on the combustion of fossil fuels determines an unstable behavior of economic systems. Renewable energy can overcome these problems. With its sufficiently developed infrastructure (accumulation systems, "smart" power

distribution networks, etc.), it can quite easily not only ensure a stable regime of electricity supply but also cope with the problems of significant fluctuations in energy consumption during daily and weekly periods. As you know, this creates quite serious difficulties for traditional energy.

Another distinguishing feature of renewable energy sources is their relative efficiency. It is because the cost indicators of the production of alternative energy have one remarkable feature. In its cost, there are practically no (or close to zero) variable costs. This is true for most types of renewable energy, with the exception, perhaps, of biogas.

Economists know that variable costs are those types of costs that respond to changes in the volume of production. For example, for traditional power engineering (be it a thermal or nuclear power plant), the operating costs of production grow with the growth of the volume of electricity produced. Indeed, with each kWh of electricity produced, you have to pay more for the purchase of fuel and human labor that ensures the production process.

Solar, wind, or geothermal generators do not need fuel. The sources of their work are the forces of nature free of charge. Yes, and human labor during their work has nothing to do with the amount of energy produced. It is mainly aimed at troubleshooting possible problems. Except for the initial costs (investments) for the installation of the generator, the generation of electricity or heat itself is free.

As you can see, "green" energy (solar, wind, geothermal heat, tidal energy) allows you to do without fuel and the chemical processes of its combustion. This means that entire industry links are excluded from production cycles, which provide: the extraction of mineral resources; reclamation of disturbed landscapes; transportation of raw materials (wagons/bulk carriers – in the case of coal or tanks/pipelines/tankers – in the case of oil and gas); fuel combustion in power plants; manufacturing of cleaning equipment and waste disposal [1]. The processes of creating machine-building and construction enterprises are also excluded, where capacities are formed for the implementation of all the mentioned processes. Although, of course, one should not forget that the creation of the installations themselves for generating renewable energy cannot do without significant costs. It should also be remembered about the costs that will be needed for the disposal of alternative energy generators when they will run out of terms of their work. However, with significant amounts of used generators, this work can be put on stream. This will be greatly facilitated if the processes of disassembly and disposal of generators are provided for constructively during the design of the generators themselves.

In any case, the irrefutable fact remains that solar and wind energy provide energy production with minimal labor costs at the stage of their operation. American economist J. Rifkin called this phenomenon "zero variable cost" energy. Besides, compared with carbon and nuclear energy, the operation of renewable energy sources practically eliminates the costs materialized in the extraction and processing of initial energy carriers.

At the turn of 2016-2017, the average cost of producing alternative energy in some countries equaled similar indicators for traditional energy. By 2020, a similar parity had already been achieved at the level of the world average.

The United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) has fulfilled the forecast of unit costs for the production of 1 MWh of electricity for the period until 2022 for various energy sources, provided that it will be obtained from newly built facilities [2]. The forecast took into account the dynamics (over 30 years) of the given indicators of the total cost (LCOE) over the entire production cycle (Table 1).

Table 1

Indicators of the reduced unit average global costs of energy production from various sources

Production capacity type	Total present value, USD/MWh (USD / MWh)
Offshore wind farm	138.0
Coal e/s with 30 % residual CO ₂ content	130.1
Coal fired e/s with 90 % residual CO ₂ content	119.1
Biomass power plants	95.3
Modern nuclear power plants	92.6
Gas e/s (with CO ₂ capture)	74.9
Photovoltaic (PV) SES	63.2
HPP	61.7
Ground wind power plants	59.1
Gas e/s (without CO ₂ capture)	50.1
Geothermal power	44.6

It should be borne in mind that, due to technological progress, unit costs per unit of installed capacity in alternative energy will rapidly decline. For example, it is expected that from 2016 to 2018 alone, the cost of producing a unit of solar energy should be reduced by almost 50 %, and wind energy – by almost 35 %. And this is with non-decreasing renewable energy sources.

A completely different perspective is seen for traditional energy. Its technical basis is already at the limit of improvement and improvement of specific economic indicators, while the natural conditions for the extraction of fossil fuels are constantly deteriorating due to the depletion of reserves of natural raw materials. The "shale revolution" can only slow down the process of the objective rise in the cost of traditional energy. It is impossible to stop it.

Another advantage of renewable energy sources is their distribution. Unlike traditional energy fuel sources that units possess, renewable energy sources are available to most of the world's inhabitants. Moreover, this applies not only to the ubiquitous physical presence of the energy sources themselves (sun, wind, geothermal heat) but also to the economic possibilities of energy generation itself. Already today, many homeowners can afford to have their power plants to meet their electricity needs. Tomorrow it will be available to millions, and the day after tomorrow – to billions of the inhabitants of the Earth.

One of the ideologists of the implementation of the Third industrial revolution in Europe J. Rifkin in his works has repeatedly emphasized the need for the systematic implementation of all five directions (principles) mentioned at the beginning of this subsection [4]. The implementation of any of them in isolation from the others significantly reduces the effectiveness of the measures being taken.

The fact that alternative energy has long since passed from plans existing on paper into reality is convincingly evidenced by numerous figures and facts.

The ways of sustainization of the energy sector are associated with three main areas of energy use: 1) electricity generation; 2) heating and cooling of premises; 3) driving vehicles. The increase in the share of renewable energy in each of these areas is associated with the solution of complex technical problems that are of a systemic nature. In particular, the first direction is associated with the development of technical means for generating electricity and systems for long-term storage (accumulation) of energy. The second direction requires the solution of a complex of engineering, architectural, and urban planning problems. The third direction determines the development of engineering solutions for electrification and hydrogenization of transport.

As an example, we can mention the indicators of the share of renewable energy in these three areas in Sweden, which is the leader in sisterhood policy among European countries. In 2017, the total share of renewable energy in the total energy balance of the country was 55 %, including 69 % – in the processes of heating and cooling premises, 66 % – in electricity generation; 27 % – in transport.

According to the International Energy Agency, about 70 % of all new generation in the next 5 years will come from renewable sources [8]. Their total share in world electricity production will grow from 25.0 % to 29.4 % (including hydro generation), and in heat production for heating – from 10.8 % to 11.0 %.

The authors of the report note a rapid leap forward in India, which increased the share of solar and wind generation from 3 % in 2015 to 10 % in 2020 [13, 14]. In the US and the EU, the share of coal-fired generation fell by 31 % and 32 % over five years, respectively. On our behalf, we add that even more significant success has been achieved by the alternative energy industry of Ukraine, which has increased its share in electricity generation over five years from 1.5 % in 2015 to 8.6 % in 2020.

The EU has achieved significant success, setting itself the ambitious goal of increasing the share of generation. In fact, only wind and solar-generated 21 % of electricity generation in 2020 [14]. In total, in the EU, taking into account hydropower, the share of renewable energy sources increased to 40 % in 2020, exceeding the share of electricity generation based on fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil), which in 2020 was only 34 % [15]. In some countries (Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden) the results are even more impressive.

Germany. Over the year, Germany was able to increase the share of renewable sources in electricity production from 44.4 % in 2019 to almost 52 % (51.9 %) in 2020. The structure of "green" electricity is: onshore wind farms – 28.9 %; biomass energy – 7.7 %; offshore wind farms – 6.2 %; solar energy – 5.0 %; hydropower – 3.1 %; waste – 1.0 %, an insignificant fraction of a percent is geothermal heat. As you can see, the country's "green" energy was able to step over the half of the energy balance. At the same time, alternative energy has increased its share over the year by almost 14 %. Nuclear power plants and coal-fired power engineering reduced their contribution by 18 and 44 %, respectively.

Great Britain. In 2020, renewable energy in Britain has set a number of records. The share of electricity generation from renewable energy sources has reached 47 %, close to half of the energy balance. The structure of this contribution of renewable energy is as follows: land-based wind farms – 14.0 %; SES – 13.0 %; offshore wind farms – 10.0 %; bioenergy – 8.0 %; HPP – 2.0 %. If we add to this the share of nuclear power plants, then the total contribution of low-carbon energy rises to 62 %. At the same time, the share of fossil fuel energy for the first time in history fell below 40 % and amounted to only 35.4 %.

Portugal. The production of electricity from renewable sources in the country at the beginning of 2020 reached 51 %, including 27 % of energy production was provided by wind generators. The rest was distributed between solar energy (13 %) and hydropower (11 %). In December 2019, due to the traditional reduction in energy consumption for the Christmas holidays, the share of renewable energy sources in general increased to 76 %, while the share of traditional fuel energy accounted for 24 % (surplus energy was exported to Spain [10]).

Switzerland. The country is implementing a policy of constant greening of the energy sector, including through a reduction in the share of nuclear energy. In particular, in 2018 the share of energy consumption from renewable sources reached 68 % (a year earlier – 62 %). At the same time, the share of nuclear energy in power generation decreased from 17 % to 15 %. The largest contribution to electricity generation is provided by hydroelectric power plants – 60.5 %; the share of sun, wind, and biomass accounts for 7.2 % (a year earlier – 5.9 %), another 1 % comes from waste incineration and biofuel.

Austria. The country is successfully solving the task set by the EU: to reach the level of 34 % of the share of renewable sources in total energy consumption by 2020. At the same time, 10 % of energy carriers in transport are from renewable sources. The share of renewable sources in the production of electricity exceeds 80 %, including 60 % from hydroelectric power plants. By 2030, the share of hydropower is planned to increase to 85 %.

Norway. The country is one of the most advanced in the field of greening the energy sector. The use of renewable resources is characterized by the following figures. The share of renewable energy sources is: in the total energy consumption – 69.4 %, in heating and cooling – 43.0 %, in power generation – 114 %; in transport – 10 %. In all likelihood, one should comment on the indicator of the share of RES in electricity production. A figure exceeding 100 % means a significant export of generated energy, which is entirely from renewable sources. If we consider the overall balance of produced energy, then its structure by individual sources is as follows: hydropower – 88.0 %; bioenergy – 10.5 %; wind energy – 1.5 %.

The USA. In the first half of 2020, the share of renewables in US electricity generation reached 22.2 %, overtaking coal for the first time (16.9 %). In the first half of 2019, this ratio was in favor of coal: 19.9 % (alternative sources) versus 23.6 % (coal). They surpassed renewable sources and nuclear energy (20.5 %), with which in 2019 they were still on par.

By types of sources, the structure of renewable energy in 2020 was: wind – 9.1 % of total electricity production in the United States (in 2019 – 7.7 %, 2018 – 7.1 %); sun – 3.4 % (2019 – 2.7 %; 2018 – 2.3 %); hydropower – 7.8 %, other renewable sources (geothermal energy, timber, biomass waste, biofuel) – 1.9 %.

Australia. The continent country has made significant progress for 2020. The share of renewable sources in total electricity generation has reached 25 %, steadily increasing in recent years (21 % in 2019; 19 % in 2018). At the same time, the contribution of fossil fuels to electricity generation is annually decreasing (in particular, coal-fired generation decreased by a third in 2020 compared to 2019 – 33 %, and in 2019 (compared to 2018) the annual decrease was 20 %; for gas, these figures decreased, respectively: 4.2 % and 20 %). In 2020, coal accounted for about 67 % of generation and gas for 8 %.

Australia is still the only country where the lines "energy from accumulation systems" and "energy into accumulation systems" have appeared in the energy balance. Even though this value is only 0.03 % of the energy balance, it is already beginning to play a tangible role in "softening" the fluctuations in energy production and consumption.

Alternative energy in Australia has achieved another significant result: the cost of "green" electricity (56.64 AUS / MWh) has become significantly cheaper than electricity produced from fossil fuels (coal – 61.69, gas – 86.45).

The country's government is setting ambitious plans to bring the share of renewable energy to 50 % by 2030 and to 94 % – by 2040.

China. After a pause in the development of renewable energy (2018–2019), China again began to increase its capacity. According to the State Committee for Development and Reforms of China, the share of renewable energy sources, including hydropower, reached 28.2 % in 2020, which is 0.3 % higher than in the previous year. The share of renewable energy sources excluding hydroelectric power plants (mainly solar and wind energy) increased by 0.7 % compared to 2019 and amounted to 10.8 %. At the same time, in ten provinces and regions, the production of electricity from renewable sources (excluding hydroelectric power plants) amounted to at least 30 %, and nine provinces and regions reached the level of 15 %.

Japan. There are a number of prerequisites in the country that, on the one hand, determine the adoption of measures to accelerate the development of renewable energy, on the other, they form a desire not to rush into this. The first group of prerequisites includes, first of all, the objective need to ensure the country's energy security in the face of an extreme shortage of energy resources and the desire to limit the production of atomic energy as much as possible after the Fukushima accident. This factor is reinforced by the desire to reduce the dependence of the country's economy on painful fluctuations in energy prices. Another prerequisite is conditioned by the need to combat global

warming, especially since the basic document associated with this is called the "Kyoto Protocol". Finally, the development of renewable energy sources is a great niche, where Japan's powerful R&D sector could make good money. Back in 2009, Japanese Prime Minister T. Aso proclaimed the goal of increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the country's energy balance from 8.4 % in 2005 to 20 % by 2020 (which correlates with the plans of the European Union countries).

Today in the country there are a number of motivational tools that stimulate the development of green energy. A system of subsidies for primary investments (purchase and installation of equipment), as well as the commercialization of "green" electricity (costs of entering the market, partial insurance of risks), is applied. Since 2010, a 50 % surcharge has been added to the current tax on fuel imports, the funds collected from which are spent for environmental purposes, including to stimulate the development of alternative energy. Besides, a targeted tax has been introduced (2 % of the electricity tariff), the funds from which are directly spent on stimulating the development of new energy sources, and a "green tariff" has also been introduced for renewable energy sources.

At the same time, it should be noted that Japan, later than other advanced countries, introduced the "green tariff" widely used in the world. One of the reasons is the resistance of the largest fossil-fueled electricity companies. In addition, the development of green energy was to some extent hindered by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. It also oversees the energy sector and is not interested in increasing purchases of more expensive "green" energy.

Nevertheless, significant capital investments in clean energy development are beginning to bear fruit. Between 2010 and 2019, Japan was the third-largest global investor (after China and the United States in renewable energy production, spending over USD 200 billion for this purpose) [6].

Japan has practically achieved the task set. As of mid-2020, the share of renewable energy was 19 %, of which 8 % is produced by solar power plants (45 GW out of a total of 107 GW of "green" energy). With outwardly quite moderate relative indicators of renewable energy production, the absolute values of the volumes of "green" energy are impressive. According to this indicator, Japan is in third place in the world (after China and the United States).

A distinctive feature of Japan's green economy is the significant contribution of private home solar power plants located on the roofs of houses. It accounts for about a third of green energy production and 12 % of the total energy balance in the country. In terms of this indicator, Japan is second only to Australia (24 %), Brazil (20 %), and Germany (15 %).

Brazil. Renewable energy sources accounted for 46.1 % in the total balance of energy resources used in the country in 2019, an increase from 45.5 % compared to 2018.

In electricity production, the share of renewable resources has generally reached 84 %. The structure is as follows: 64 % – hydropower, wind – 9 %, biomass – 9 %, sun – 2 %. At the same time, the production of the absolute amount of energy increases annually. So, from 2018 to 2019, electricity generation by the sun increased by 92 %, and by the wind – by 155 % [16].

The task is to increase the share of renewable resources in other areas of the energy complex: transport and utilities (heating and cooling of premises). In particular, in transport in 2020, programs are being implemented to increase the share of biofuels (bioethanol, biodiesel, and other biofuels).

According to the energy plan of the Brazilian Ministry of Energy, the share of wind farms is to increase to 28 % by 2027 (excluding the share of hydropower), compared to 18 % in 2020. At the same time, the share of hydropower by 2027 should decrease to 50 %, which will contribute to the diversification of energy sources and reduce the problems that arise in hydropower in dry and dry years.

In 2020, the capacity of solar power plants in the world increased by 14 % to 142 GW of newly installed capacity. If in 2010 there were only seven countries in the world with an installed capacity of more than 1 GW, then by the end of 2020 there are already 43.

China is still the leader in solar energy, but its gap from other countries and regions has begun to shrink. If at the peak of 2017, 50 GW of solar power plants were installed in the country, then in 2020 this increase is much less. This is due to a sharp decline in government financial support for the development of solar energy. It has already become quite competitive for natural survival in the competitive struggle.

Other regions of the world continue to increase their solar capacity. In 2021, the US is expected to grow by 20 %. Europe almost doubled its capacity in 2019 and increased by another 5 % in 2020 over the previous year. In Figure 1 shows the global production of solar (PV) energy.

So we see 2020 as another double-digit year for solar energy. According to Eduino Zoko, director of clean technologies and renewable energy sources at IHS Markit, if the 2010s in solar energy were marked by the introduction of innovations, a significant reduction in unit costs, large government subsidies, then the 2020s are likely to be characterized by strong development of renewable energy, energy already without state support, diversification of forms of energy production, and the number of producers, as well as the expansion of demand for solar power plants.

The relevance of using biogas power plants lies in their multifunctionality. In addition to the possibility of obtaining thermal or electrical energy, they allow you to solve a number of related problems. In particular, it prevents the pollution of the atmosphere by greenhouse gases generated by rotting organic matter; degassed and decontaminated organic matter can be returned to enrich the soil; degassing of landfills and sewers prevents possible cases of their spontaneous combustion [9].

The raw materials for biogas plants can be plant residues (for example, corn, processed seeds, etc.); animal manure, wood waste, food and food industry waste, household waste, wastewater. Only those species that do not compete with food for agricultural land are counted here.

Biogas and biomethane production in 2018 amounted to about 35 million tons of oil equivalent (MTE). This is only a small part of its potential. The full use of biogas feedstock, according to experts, could cover about 20 % of today's global gas demand.

Today, the maximum number of biogas plants – about 15 million – operates in China. India has about 10 million installations. The biogas industry is actively developing in Europe. In European practice, 75 % of biogas is produced from agricultural waste, 17 % from organic waste from private households and enterprises, and another 8 % from sewage treatment plants.

Today the first place in Europe in terms of the number of operating biogas plants belongs to Germany – in 2016 there were about 10,800 of them. Only 7 % of the biogas produced by these enterprises go into gas pipelines, the rest is used for the needs of the manufacturer. In the future, 10-20 % of the natural gas used in the country can be replaced by biogas. In terms of the scale of use of biogas, Denmark is in the lead: this type of fuel provides almost 20 % of the country's energy consumption.

According to the European Biogas Association, the leaders in the number of biogas plants, apart from Germany, are Italy – 1491, Great Britain – 813, France – 736, Switzerland – 633, Czech Republic – 554, Austria – 436 plants [12].

The biogas market in the USA is developing much more slowly than in Europe. For example, despite the presence of a large number of farms, only about 200 biogas plants are operating on agricultural waste on the territory of the country.

A separate page in the formation of alternative energy is the rivalry of two directions of its development, based on the creation of concentrated and deconcentrated (distributed) power plants.

The first focuses on the concentration of production energy units (solar panels or wind turbines) in one area. In this case, not only territorial but also subjective concentration occurs. In other words, production capacities are concentrated in the hands of one, even if collective, the owner (legal entity). In this direction are countries with a sufficient area of free territories.

For solar energy, these are usually desert territories (China, India, Australia, African countries, the United States), for wind power – a coastal sea zone (Japan, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany). Tables 3 and 4 show the world's largest solar power plants and wind farms.

Table 2

The world's largest solar power plants [17]

SPP name	Power, MW
Tengger Desert Solar Park, China	1 547
Sweihan Photovoltaic Independent Power Project, UAE	1 177
Yanchi Ningxia Solar Park, China	1 000
Datong Solar Power Top Runner Base, China	1 070
Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park, India	1 000
Longyangxia Dam Solar Park, China	850
Enel Villanueva PV Plant, Mexico	828
Kamuthi Solar Power Station, India	648
Solar Star Projects, USA	579
Topaz Solar Farm / Desert Sunlight Solar Farm, USA	550

Table 3

The world's largest wind farms [18]

Wind farm name	Power, MW
Jiuquan Wind Power Base, China	2 000
Jaisalmer Wind Park, India	1 600
Alta Wind Energy Center, USA	1 548
Muppandal Wind Farm, India	1 500
Shepherds Flat Wind Farm, USA	845
Roscoe Wind Farm, USA	782
Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center, Texas, USA	736
Capricorn Ridge Wind Farm, Texas, USA	662
Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm, Great Britain	650
London Array Offshore Wind Farm, Great Britain	630

The largest Ukrainian wind farm is Botievo Wind Farm (200 MW).

The second direction is associated with the deconcentration of energy sources, that is, the dispersal of individual capacities both across the territory and by forms of ownership. For example, individual panels or wind turbines may be owned by different homeowners. The concentration of the produced energy occurs already at the final stage due to the creation of a unified energy system (EnerNet), which will solve all the economic and technical problems of energy production and consumption [11]. Most European countries and Japan follow this path.

The transition to renewable energy sources is critical for most countries. This is one of the most important steps towards ensuring their energy independence and further restructuring of economic systems towards the formation of a "green" economy. It is gratifying that, along with other countries, Ukraine is making its efforts in this.

Conclusions and prospects of the further research. Modern trends in the production of renewable energy were analyzed. It was determined that renewable energy sources have many undeniable advantages. First of all, they are much more environmentally friendly than traditional

methods of generating energy based on the combustion of fossil fuels. Another advantage of renewable energy sources is their distribution. Unlike traditional energy fuel sources that units possess, renewable energy sources are available to most of the world's inhabitants. It was considered that today in the country there are a number of motivational tools that stimulate the development of green energy. It was proved that the ways of sustainization of the energy sector are associated with three main areas of energy use: electricity generation; heating and cooling of premises; driving vehicles. A system of subsidies for primary investments (purchase and installation of equipment), as well as the commercialization of "green" electricity (costs of entering the market, partial insurance of risks), is applied. It was determined that a separate page in the formation of alternative energy is the rivalry of two directions of its development, based on the creation of concentrated and deconcentrated (distributed) power plants. The first focuses on the concentration of production energy units (solar panels or wind turbines) in one area. The second direction is associated with the deconcentrating of energy sources, that is, the dispersal of individual capacities both across the territory and by forms of ownership. The transition to renewable energy sources is critical for most countries. This is one of the most important steps towards ensuring their energy independence and further restructuring of economic systems towards the formation of a "green" economy. It is gratifying that, along with other countries, Ukraine is making its efforts in this.

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Сучасні тренди у виробництві відновлювальної енергії: аналіз витрат і ефективності

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У статті проаналізовані сучасні тенденції у виробництві відновлювальної енергії. Було встановлено, що відновлювальні джерела енергії мають багато незаперечних переваг. Перш за все, вони набагато більш екологічні, ніж традиційні методи отримання енергії, засновані на спалюванні викопного палива. Ще одна перевага поновлюваних джерел енергії – їх поширення. На відміну від традиційних джерел енергетичного палива, якими володіють одиниці, відновлювальні джерела енергії доступні більшості жителів планети. Вважається, що сьогодні в країні існує ряд мотиваційних інструментів, які стимулюють розвиток зеленої енергетики. Було доведено, що способи стійкості енергетичного сектора пов'язані з трьома основними областями використання енергії: виробництво електроенергії; обігрів і охолодження приміщень; керування транспортними засобами. Застосовується система субсидування первинних інвестицій (закупівля та встановлення обладнання), а також комерціалізація «зеленої» електроенергії (витрати на вихід на ринок, часткове страхування ризиків). Визначено, що окремою сторінкою в формуванні альтернативної енергетики є суперництво двох напрямків її розвитку, заснованих на створенні концентрованих і деконцентрованих (розподілених) електростанцій. Перша спрямована на концентрацію виробничих енергоблоків (сонячних батарей або вітрових турбін) в одній області. Другий напрямок пов'язаний з деконцентрацією джерел енергії, тобто розосередженням окремих потужностей як по території, так і за формами власності. Перехід на поновлювані джерела енергії має вирішальне значення для більшості країн. Це один з найважливіших кроків до забезпечення їх енергетичної незалежності і подальшої реструктуризації економічних систем в бік формування «зеленої» економіки. Примітно, що Україна разом з іншими країнами докладає в цьому свої зусилля.

Ключові слова: виробництво відновлюваної енергії, зелена енергія, сталий розвиток, підприємства відновлюваної енергетики.

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