

Long-Term Agreements
on energy efficiency
'Working with companies to save energy'



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Status

The agreements are being implemented. Results are reported in the LTA results brochure.

Facts and figures

- Energy use VGI-participants (2005): about 44.000 TJ.
- The total energy efficiency in the VGI improved in 2005 with 5,63%, compared to the year of reference 1998. This is more or less the same as in 2004 (5,59%). The limited change of energy efficiency in 2005 compared to 2004 corresponds to 0,7 PJ energy reduction.

Period

2001-2012

Parties involved

Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economic Affairs, SenterNovem, participating trade and industry associations and companies.

More information

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agriculture, nature
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Dutch industry uses a great deal of energy. The food industry (VGI) accounts for more than 25% of this energy consumption. The object of the Long-Term Agreements on energy efficiency (LTA) is to get companies to increase their energy efficiency by implementing realistic and legally prescribed energy-saving measures.

Context

The Long-Term Agreements on energy efficiency are an important cornerstone of the government's energy policy. At the beginning of the last decade the government made agreements regarding the improvement of energy efficiency with various sectors of industry. These agreements expired in 2000. In light of the success of these agreements, the government went on to sign new agreements with industry for the period 2001 to 2012. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is party to the agreement with the agro sector and the VGI. Currently more than 200 companies in the VGI – companies that produce and process dairy, meat, margarine, oils and fats, coffee, fruit and vegetables, cocoa, potatoes and flour – subscribe to the LTA. SenterNovem helps participating companies and trade and industry associations to draw up and realise energy conservation plans. Specific LTA instruments include lists of measures, extensive energy studies and 'quick scans' regarding product innovation, technology and sustainable energy. These instruments enable companies to take steps to improve their energy efficiency. Sector meetings are organised together with trade and industry associations.

Effects

The total energy efficiency in the VGI improved in 2005 with 5,63%, compared to the year of reference 1998. External influences (amongst others: changes of resource and final product specifications, tightened regulations) put the VGI under pressure. Therefore it is more difficult for companies to realize a higher energy efficiency.

Particular aspects

Companies draw up an Energy Conservation Plan, setting out their goals in terms of efficiency improvement and how they intend to achieve these goals. Trade and industry associations then specify the improvements to be made by the sector as a whole within the long-term agreements. This combination of collective involvement and individual responsibility ensures that the elaboration and implementation of these agreements are both as realistic as possible and maximally feasible.

Challenges

It is essential that companies are continually aware of the need to save energy.

Compatibility with Ministry policy

Saving energy is consistent with the creation of a sustainable green society. Sustainable enterprise is an important policy theme within Trade and Industry. Possibilities for saving energy outside of companies themselves, in other parts of the chain, are also being examined and utilised. This ties in perfectly with the Ministry's vision of agro chains and agrolistics.

Benefits

By saving energy companies cut costs and contribute to a healthy future in which the use of fossil fuels is liable to limitation.