

PACT: The world's first online resource to help draft climate-friendly laws www.onlinepact.org

The PACT website is an innovative free online resource for fighting climate change, designed to speed up the exchange and utilisation of best policy knowledge around the world. These policies are chosen for their success and replicability, and come from different levels, from the municipal to the national.

The first law: Feed-in Tariffs

The first law we have chosen is the Feed-in Tariff (FIT), used to cheaply and rapidly accelerate the deployment of renewable energy installations. This law is now in place in 47 countries, states and provinces around the world, with the greatest success coming in Germany and Spain, who have become world leaders in installed capacity as well as manufacturing and exports. Germany accounted for almost two-thirds of the global market in 2006, and with 1,050 MW, became the first country to install more than 1 GW in a single year. The Spanish solar PV market grew the fastest of any country during 2006/2007, with existing capacity more than doubling during each of those two years.

A major benefit of the spread of FITs is that they bring many more players into the energy production market, including homeowners, community groups, farmers and businesses. Two key effects of FITs on manufacturing in Germany and Spain have been the reduction in cost of solar technology, as well as many technological improvements and breakthroughs. This is vital for energy at the point of use. Wind power generating costs have been reduced towards those of conventional energy.

These trends force other countries to keep up with price reduction and technological advance, and help to spread cheaper clean energy production around the world. This is perhaps the best reason for a massive uptake of FITs globally. Climate-friendly laws are vital, but examples which are also good for the economy are going to be the most popular, as FITs have proven.

What the site offers on Feed-in Tariffs

Working in partnership with a team of international lawyers and some of the leading experts in the field of renewable energy policy, the **World Future Council** has created an online resource which details:

- The political and technical prerequisites for introducing a FIT in a particular country; and
- The objectives and key features of a good FIT, and the various aspects of each of these.

The site offers a means of assisting parliamentarians, legislators and advocates with the initial development of, or improvements to, a FIT law for their country or region. These draft laws can be developed by lawyers and used for local debate, and the site offers the user legal text for each of the core elements of a good law. In terms of technical prerequisites, for example, it offers links to analyses of potential renewable resources in different countries.

The PACT site also has country specific pages. Over time these pages will become resources in their own right, with country specific analysis and a list of individuals and organisations who are working in this area, and who can be contacted by people wanting to collaborate on changing to a cleaner energy system in their country.

Contact: Dan Bristow: dan@worldfuturecouncil.org or Miguel Mendonça: miguel@worldfuturecouncil.org