



# Investment contributions for waste and sewage sludge incineration plants

## Factsheet

April 2025

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### 1. Background

The entry into force of the revised Energy Act (EnA) and the Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO) in January 2025 will bring about major changes in the funding of biomass plants. Investment contributions for waste incineration plants (MWIs) and sewage sludge incineration plants (SSIs), however, will remain in place and will continue to be assessed individually by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy. This factsheet provides answers to frequently asked questions about these investment contributions.

[Pronovo AG](#) is responsible for investment contributions for biogas plants and wood-fired power plants, as well as for operating cost contributions.

### 2. FAQs

#### 2.1 Which biomass plants are eligible for an investment contribution under Article 24 of the Energy Act?

An investment contribution may be granted for biogas plants, wood-fired power plants, MWIs, SSIs, sewage gas plants and landfill gas plants.

#### 2.2 Where and how should I submit my application for an investment contribution?

Applications for MWIs and SSIs must be submitted to the Swiss Federal Office of Energy. They must be complete and legally signed. Submission via the SFOE [online submission form](#) is preferred, but postal submissions are also accepted. The application form, an Excel template with a breakdown of eligible investment costs, and additional information can all be found on the [SFOE website](#) (→ Promotion of biomass).

#### 2.3 Does a biomass plant have to meet minimum energy requirements in order to qualify for an investment contribution?

Yes. The requirements are defined in Annex 2.3 REO.

#### 2.4 How much is the investment contribution?

The investment contribution is 20 per cent of the eligible investment costs for MWIs and SSIs, up to a maximum of CHF 6 million (Art. 71 REO).

#### 2.5 When should I submit my application for an investment contribution?

A legally valid building permit must be in place at the time of submission. If no permit is required, proof of readiness for construction must be provided. Applications must be submitted before the start of construction.

#### 2.6 In what order are applications for investment contributions considered?





Reference: BFE-452.220-1/12/1/4

Applications are considered based on the date of submission (once all required documents have been received in full). Contributions are granted as long as funding is available. If funds are insufficient, projects are placed on a waiting list.

**2.7 My plant already receives a feed-in tariff or market premium scheme support. Can it still qualify for an investment contribution?**

No. As long as a plant operator receives support under the market premium scheme or a feed-in tariff, they are not eligible for an investment contribution. If this support is waived, an investment contribution may be approved.

**2.8 Is the environmental benefit of the electricity already offset by the investment contribution?**

No. Unlike the feed-in tariff system, the environmental benefit is not covered by the investment contribution. It may be sold in the form of guarantees of origin to an electricity supplier or on a power exchange.

**2.9 Can I start work on my plant before receiving confirmation of the investment contribution from the Swiss Federal Office of Energy?**

No. Work may only begin once the Swiss Federal Office of Energy has approved the investment contribution; however, an early start may be authorised upon request. This approval does not constitute any entitlement to an investment contribution.

**2.10 Does ordering a CHP unit count as the start of construction?**

No. For the purposes of investment contributions, construction is only considered to have begun once work starts on site.

### **3. Legal basis**

- Energy Act of 30 September 2016 (EnA; SR 730.0):
  - Chapter 5: Investment contributions for photovoltaic, hydropower and biomass plants
  - Chapter 14: Final provisions
- Ordinance on the Promotion of Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources of 1 November 2017 (REO; SR 730.03):
  - Chapter 3: General provisions on one-off remuneration and investment contributions
  - Chapter 6: Investment contributions for biomass plants
  - Chapter 9: Final provisions
  - Annex 2.3: Investment contributions for biomass plants