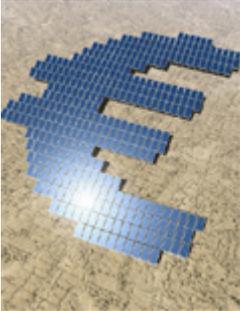


EUROPEAN ENERGY REVIEW



Playing Energy Minister

In the Netherlands, an “Energy Transition Model” has been put on the internet with which everyone can calculate the impact of their own strategic energy decisions. The model, available in English and Dutch, is confined to the energy situation in the Netherlands, although initiator Quintel Strategy Consulting in Amsterdam is developing a European model.

The “Energy Transition Model” allows users to act as Dutch Energy Minister. Say you want to cut CO₂ emissions by 30% in 2040, to have a 25% share of renewable energy, and to have half the cars run on electricity. In addition, you want to limit costs and import dependency. What measures do you have to take? And what are the financial consequences of those measures?

Up to now you had to rely on reports that address these issues based on static assumptions of oil price development, technological development and other uncontrollable factors. Once reality moves outside the bandwidth of these assumptions, the studies no longer give much guidance.

The strength of the “Energy Transition Model”, developed by Quintel in cooperation with the Dutch energy companies Delta, Eneco, Enexis, Essent, GasTerra, Shell, IT-services company Logica, the Energy Transition Board and the Municipality of Amsterdam, is that it is sensitive to changing input variables. For example, if you change the amount of space available for offshore wind parks, you immediately see how this affects your renewable energy and emission reduction targets. ‘We want to make people aware of what is and what isn’t possible in the energy transition’, explains Karin Hohmann, spokeswoman of Quintel.

One limitation of the model is that users need rather specialised knowledge of economic variables and technology levels to be able to set the parameters. Hohmann says Quintel wants to bring out a version aimed at a wider audience later this year. The company is also developing a model suitable for the entire European Union. ‘We are talking with international partners now, to map the specific conditions in the different countries.’