

Renewables energy as “green infrastructure” – Slogan, interest, or integrated policy?**Viktor Varjú****MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete/Institute for Regional Studies (HAS)
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The “EU2030” goal includes the increase of a renewable energy share to at least of 27% of the EU’s energy consumption. Renewables, especially photovoltaic energy investments, have become increasingly popular in the last few years. Renewable energy is appearing more and more frequently as a priority area, not only in the capital city but in other cities as well. In order to achieve renewable goals, governments have begun to support green electricity, causing a boom in installed capacity in some central European countries. However, this increase can have negative effects: the overuse of subsidies and the cut states cannot maintain this high level of support. The research question of this paper is: how can changes in renewable energy regulation city planning strategies? What are the main factors determining cities’ level of investment in renewables? Drawing on policy documents, development strategies, interviews and questionnaires, the author concludes by arguing that the key motivations of investing renewables differs from state to state, city to city. These motivations are influenced by central governments but mainly depend upon local stakeholders (most often motivated by economic interests and the use of sustainability as a slogan, not a reason).