

**POLICIES FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION FROM BIOMASS IN BRAZIL:  
CURRENT SITUATION AND  
PROPOSAL OF MORE EFFICIENT POLICIES**

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**ABSTRACT:** About 87% of current Brazilian electricity generating capacity (slightly higher than 65 GW) corresponds to hydropower plants, being the majority of these units large plants built during decades by State owned utilities. Considering electricity generation itself, hydropower plants contribute with about 92%. Renewables' contribution to power production in Brazil is completed by small thermal power plants (less than 2.0% of total electricity generated) - in general cogeneration units burning sugarcane bagasse (in sugarcane mills) and black-liquor wood residues (in pulp industries). This paper presents the current situation of biomass in Brazil and also the existing policies [1].

It also reports an analysis of existing barriers to a more extensive use of renewable energy sources (except large hydro) in electricity generation, in Brazil. Special attention is given to the use of biomass for such purpose. Current constraints can be classified in three groups: technological barriers, political and institutional barriers and economic and financial ones.

**Keywords:** biomass, policies, barriers