Power and heat cogeneration (CHP)

Kaire Kuldpere
Audit Manager
National Audit Office of Estonia

Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency

- **Cogeneration** - the simultaneous generation in one process of thermal energy and electric mechanical energy;
- **High-efficiency cogeneration** has significant potential for saving primary energy;
- Cogeneration enables to **recover waste heat** stemming from the production of electricity;
- High-efficiency cogeneration should be defined by the **energy savings obtained** by combined production instead of separate production of heat and electricity.
- To maximize energy savings and avoid energy saving opportunities being missed, the greatest attention should be paid to the **operating conditions** of cogeneration units.
Energy savings

Conventional power plant:
- Energy in 100%
- Wasted energy 60-70%
- Useful electricity 30-40%

CHP plant:
- Energy in 100%
- Wasted energy 10%
- Useful electricity and heat 90%
Rules for high efficiency cogeneration

Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency sets:

• General principles for the calculation of electricity from cogeneration;
• Methodology for determining the efficiency of the cogeneration process.

• The rules are necessary because if cogeneration unit is used for electricity production only, without using the generated heat, it is not high efficiency cogeneration.

• Countries have different mechanisms for supporting high efficiency cogeneration.
Cogeneration units are installed to the big district heating networks:

- In total 15 CHP units that use wood, peat, municipal waste, gas, oil-shale and shale gas as fuels.
- Electricity production capacities from 0.2 MW up to 380 MW.
- Heat production capacities from 0.46 MW up to 190 MW.

The cogeneration is regulated mainly by the Electricity Market Act:
- Support is paid according to the amount of electricity that has been produced with CHP in the high efficiency regime.
Tallinn CHP (Väo)

Picture source: Postimees/scanpix
Thank you for the attention!