

Green jobs in coal regions.

Case study: Bełchatów.

Executive summary



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Main conclusions

Green investments in the łódzkie voivodeship and in the Bełchatów county, have a chance to generate a large number of jobs and more than replace current employment in lignite mining and combustion. This is crucial in the process of just transition and transformation from coal to clean, which is to be financed from the Just Transition Fund and Just Transition Mechanism.

- The łódzkie voivodeship can obtain as much as PLN 45 billion from structural EU funds in the 2021-2027 period, including PLN 13 billion of public funds from the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) alone. However, this allocation could be halved if the government rejects to pledge to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- The just transition could be financed from multiple other sources, including development programs of Polish institutions (PFR, BGK, ARP, NFOŚiGW), European (LIFE, Horizon Europe) and many others.
- Public funds however are not the only source - the private sector is ready to contribute to the process with the use of hybrid financing or by issuing green bonds or just transition bonds.
- The allocation of JTM funds for green investments in the lignite region of Bełchatów will generate a boost in employment and contribute to added value in the region, but also lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, bringing Poland and the European Union closer to the goal of climate neutrality in 2050 and filling the gap in Poland's energy mix.
- Investments in thermal retrofit of buildings, solar and onshore wind capacity have the greatest job creation potential. Additional employment can be created by scaling Poland's position the value chain of the RES industry - production of components for solar and wind farms, batteries for electric vehicles or energy storage facilities.
- Green investments implemented from JTM public funds alone may generate 61 thousand jobs in the Bełchatów region, i.e. 6 times more than the current number of employees in the Bełchatów Power Plant complex. A failure to pledge to climate neutrality by 2050 will however reduce this number by 25 thousand.
- With less conservative assumptions, the use of additional sources of public financing and the involvement of the private sector, the job creation may be significantly higher, as the technical potential of green investments in the łódzkie voivodeship alone is enormous and amounts to as much as 186 billion PLN.

Czyżak et al. (2020). Green jobs in coal regions. Case study: Bełchatów.

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