

Abstract

The thesis deals with the process of development of renewable energy resources in Czechia as an important driving force of landscape changes at the beginning of the 21st century. It focuses on the influence of the political power holders on this development which they exercise through power relations and decision-making. The thesis examines the process of renewable energy development in terms of its political anchoring and in terms of spatial distribution of renewable energy facilities in Czechia, and defines its impact on landscape and societal transformations. Using the analysis of public strategic and legislative documents, it is demonstrated what attitudes towards the development of renewable energy sources were adopted by the political power in Czechia and what supportive or restrictive measures were applied to renewable energy sector. The development of renewable energy policy is divided into several phases and its crucial turning points are defined. The extent to which the spatial distribution of renewable energy sources corresponds with the distribution of favourable natural conditions and to which the spatial distribution of renewable energy sources is affected by other especially political and power factors is also clarified. For this purpose, the spatial database of solar powerplants, wind turbines and biogas stations in Czechia was created. The evolution of the approach of political power to renewable energy sources in time is compared with changes in the number and localization of renewable energy facilities. The analysis confirmed that the development of renewable energy sources in Czechia has been under the direct and inevitable influence of political power that have initiated and controlled the processes of growth, stagnation and decline of the renewable energy sector in Czechia. The spatial distribution of renewable energy facilities in Czechia is not determined only by the distribution of favourable natural conditions. Several discrepancies between the conditions and localization of renewable energy facilities can be explained by other, above all political and economic factors. The energy landscapes created by the construction of renewable energy facilities are typical examples of so-called political landscapes formed under the influence of political establishment.

Keywords: renewable energy sources; energy landscape; energy transition; landscape transformations; political landscape; Czechia