Renewable Energy: New Benefits for Self-Generation of Electricity in Romania

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On July 23, 2026, Law No. 160/2026 ("**Law 160**"), amending the Energy Law No. 123/2012 ("**Energy Law**"), was published; it took effect on July 26.

Law 160 clarifies and updates the legal and tax framework for the self-generation of electricity from renewable sources in the context of the 2030 climate targets. It substantially amends the Energy Law by expanding the definition of "prosumer," clarifying compensation mechanisms (net metering), and introducing new options for utilizing small installations up to 27 kW.

For companies with existing or planned on-site photovoltaic generation — particularly industrial companies, real estate developers, and operators of business and logistics parks — this has practical implications for current and future investments.

Expanded Definition of "Prosumer"

Previously, a prosumer was only permitted to store or sell the electricity generated. Under Law 160, a prosumer is now entitled to offset surplus electricity generated at one site against consumption at its other sites (either quantitatively or financially), provided that all sites have the same electricity supplier and grid operator and that electricity generation is not the prosumer's primary business activity. For companies with multiple sites, such as logistics or commercial parks, this opens up new opportunities for optimization when planning their own PV installations.

Redefined Compensation Mechanism

Law 160 redefines the compensation mechanism (net metering, Rom.: *compensare cantitativa*) for installations up to 200 kW: the electricity provider now bills three items monthly:

- the amount of electricity drawn from the grid, multiplied by the contractually agreed-upon price for active energy, plus all legally mandated tariffs and charges;
- the amount of electricity generated and fed into the grid, up to the amount drawn from the grid, multiplied by the same energy price, but excluding tariffs and charges;
- the additional surplus amount fed into the grid, also at the base energy price excluding tariffs and charges.

The revised Energy Law also specifies that, for billing purposes, the electricity supplier may not include balancing costs, the supply margin, value-added tax, transmission and distribution charges, system services, the cogeneration contribution, or green certificates in the compensation price; these items must instead be shown separately on the invoice. This increases transparency while requiring electricity suppliers to adapt their billing systems.

This model applies through December 31, 2030; thereafter, the electricity generated by all installations of up to 400 kW will be purchased at the weighted average price on the PZU (day-ahead market).

Small-Scale Installations up to 27 kW

A key change concerns individuals with installations up to 27 kW per consumption point. They now have the option to use the monetary amount resulting from quantitative compensation to pay electricity bills for any consumption point in the same electricity supplier's portfolio or natural gas bills issued by the same electricity supplier. This option must be selected when concluding the purchase agreement for the electricity fed into the grid and is irrevocable for at least twelve months.

For the 200–400 kW capacity range typical of commercial and industrial rooftops, financial settlement will continue to be based on the PZU price.

Application to Existing Contracts and Unresolved Issues

The new definition of compensation also applies, without renegotiation, to contracts for the feed-in of prosumer electricity that were already in effect on July 26, 2026, without the need for renegotiation. However, the technical implementation of multi-site compensation remains unresolved: the regulatory authority ANRE must amend the methodology for marketing prosumer electricity accordingly by September 24, 2026, and specify the billing procedures.

Conclusion

For industrial companies, real estate developers, and operators of commercial and logistics parks, the reform of the Energy Law means greater flexibility in portfolio management, increased billing transparency, and planning certainty for installations up to 200 kW.

Investors should systematically review existing prosumer contracts to determine how the current legal framework automatically applies to them, analyze their site and electricity supplier structure in light of the new multi-site options, and align their payback calculations with the rules applicable through 2030 and the transition to the PZU price in 2031.

Companies with existing or planned PV generation should use the transition period before the ANRE methodology is amended to align their contracts and site structure with the new regime early on and factor the regulatory and tax implications into their investment decisions.

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