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| Nota di contenuto       | Contents; I. Introduction; I. Renewables in Advanced Economies: General Issues; A. Introduction; B. Support to and Supply of Renewables in Major Advanced Countries; Tables; 1. Renewable Energy, More Detailed Source Classification, Major OECD Countries, 2004; Figures; 1. Distributions of Renewable Energy in Major OECD Countries, 2004; C. Public Renewables Support and Carbon Emissions Reductions; 2. Average Cost, Euros Per Ton of CO2 Displaced, When Fossil Fuels Are Replaced with Renewable Energies; D. Biofuels and Their Support in Advanced Economies<br>2. Cost-Effectiveness in Carbon Abatement, Different Uses of Biomass<br>3. Production Volumes (thousand tons), and Values of Tax Exemptions (Euro/cents per liter), for Biofuel and Biodiesel in Major European Countries and the United States; 4. Calculated Average Public Support to Bioethanol and Biodiesel in the EU, by Support Category, 2006; 5. Calculated Average Public Support to Bioethanol and Biodiesel in the EU Per Unit of Fossil Fuels Displaced, by Supply Category, 2006;<br>II. Further Aspects of Renewables Policies in Germany; A. Introduction<br>B. Renewables for Electricity Generation in Germany<br>6. Overview of Main Renewable Energies, Germany, 2006; 7. Feed in Tariffs by Technology, 2006; 3. Forecast Quantities and Fees of Feed-In Tariffs, by 2012; 8. Supplementary Payments for Electricity Exports to the Grid; C. Policies Affecting Value-Adding Inputs; 4. German Federal Government Support for Basic R&D, 1974-2007; 9. Breakdown of German Federal Government Energy R&D by Research Theme/Ministry 1974-2000; 10. Combined Federal States (Lander) Support for Deployment of Renewable Energy Technologies; D. Biofuels for Transport<br>III. Overall Assessment of Renewables Policies in Advanced Countries<br>References |
| Sommario/riassunto      | This paper discusses structure, impact, costs, and efficiency of renewable energy supply in the eight largest advanced economies (the G-7 plus Spain), with focus on Germany. Renewables production costs are compared to benefits, defined as reductions in net carbon emissions; technological innovation, and increased energy security. The latter part of the paper centers on Germany, the main European producer of non-traditional renewables. We question whether the level of subsidies can be justified, relative to other means to increase energy security and reduce carbon emissions. We also find an excessive emphasis on current productive activity, relative to development of new technologies.   |