



According to data from the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report'

Wind power generation in the Canary Islands increases 83% in 2019 and registers an all-time high

- Renewables covered 16.4% of the demand in the archipelago, the highest share since records began.
- New all-time highs for wind generation and renewable generation were registered on different islands of the archipelago in 2019.
- According to data from Red Eléctrica, 20.3% of the installed power capacity on the Islands comes from renewable sources.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 12 March 2020

In 2019, a total of 1,138 GWh of wind power was generated on the Canary Islands, 83% more than in the previous year, and this represented 12.8% of the archipelago's total generation, according to the data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España. Wind generation in 2019 is the highest on record to date.

Renewables, driven mainly by wind, increased its participation in the Canary Islands generation mix by 5.9 percentage points, and covered 16.4% of the archipelago's demand. This value is the highest ever recorded and is significant for an isolated electricity system, and has led to setting an annual all-time high for CO₂ free renewable generation.

The island of El Hierro registered the highest integration of renewable generation of all the electricity subsystems in the Canary Islands, with 55%, followed by Tenerife, with 19.7%, Gran Canaria (16.1%), La Palma (11.4%), Lanzarote-Fuerteventura, (10.4%) and La Gomera (0.2%).

A year of all-time records with wind as the protagonist

The 2019 maximum renewable generation records took place on various islands. On El Hierro, an island where 96.7% of the electricity consumed during the month of July came from renewable sources, 24 consecutive days of 100% renewable generation were registered between the months of July and August, figures that were achieved thanks to the capacity of the existing pumped hydro energy storage facility on the Island.

For its part, Tenerife reached its all-time high of instantaneous generation of renewable energy on 18 August at 3:55 p.m. at which time 63% of electricity came from renewable sources. This all-time high of renewable integration also occurred on 11 November in Gran Canaria, where green generation reached 47.7% at 3.30 a.m. and on 8 May in the Lanzarote-Fuerteventura unified system, which covered its instantaneous demand with 34.5% of renewable energy at 10.00 a.m.

In addition, wind power in the Canary Islands is not far behind in the setting new records: on 11 November at 3:30 a.m. 47.7% of the demand on the island of Gran Canaria was covered by this technology, while on 17 July at 2:30 a.m. it reached the highest share of instantaneous generation on the island of Tenerife, 55.1% of the total at that



time. For its part, in the Lanzarote-Fuerteventura electricity system, on 23 May at 3:55 a.m. 29.7% of the total was produced with wind power.

2019 was also the year of the debut of offshore wind power with the commissioning of the first offshore wind turbine in Spain, off the coast of the island of Gran Canaria, with a generation capacity of 5 MW that is included in figures regarding wind power capacity.

As at 31 December 2019, installed power capacity on the Canary Islands stood at 3,012 MW, of which 20.3% is renewable. For its part, 51% of the installed power capacity in the archipelago corresponds to various thermal technologies (diesel generators, gas turbines and steam turbines), 28.7% is combined cycle and 14.2%, wind power.

Demand for electricity on the Canary Islands was 0.4% higher than that registered in 2018 and reached 8,875 GWh, which represents 3.4% of all the demand registered in Spain in 2019, which totalled 264,550 GWh.

The national electricity system, increasingly 'greener'

At national level, unequivocal progress is also being made on the road towards the energy transition. In 2019, the increase in installed renewable power capacity meant that for the first time ever these technologies already account for 50% of the country's total generation capacity (110 GW in total). As a whole, the complete set of generating facilities in Spain has grown by 5.9%. Combined cycle continues to be the leader in installed power capacity (23.8% of the total) but it is closely followed by two renewable sources: wind (23.3%) and hydro (15.5%).

Specifically, this past year 6,539 'green' MWs were commissioned, which has meant an increase of 13.4% in renewable generation capacity compared to 2018. The set of renewable generating facilities closed 2019 with an overall installed power capacity of 55,195 MW, of which 47% correspond to wind, 16% photovoltaic and 37% belong to other 'green' technologies.

This firm backing for clean energy sources has meant that, of the 260,713 GWh of electricity generated nationwide in Spain in 2019, 37.5% was produced using these technologies. Wind power generation was 9.3% higher than in 2018, occupying third place in the mix with a share of 20.8% after nuclear power (21.4%) and combined cycle (21.2%). Also noteworthy is the decline in the share of coal whose production fell by 66% in 2019 - the lowest level since records began.

Consequently, the CO₂ emissions associated with electricity generation have experienced a notable reduction compared to 2018 (23% less), totalling 49.6 million tonnes, the lowest figure in the history of the Spanish electricity system.

For its part, electricity demand nationwide closed 2019 at 264,550 GWh, slightly lower than in 2018 (1.6% less). After factoring in the influence of seasonal patterns and working days, the decrease stands at 2.5% compared to the previous year.