

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

CO₂-free electricity generation in the Region of Catalonia reached 68.4% in 2019

- Nuclear power, with 52.1% of the total, is the leading technology in this Region.
- Catalonia's set of generating facilities increased its installed solar photovoltaic power capacity and decreased its cogeneration capacity.
- Demand for electricity in the Region of Catalonia represents 17.7% of the national total.

Barcelona, 12 March 2020

During 2019, Catalonia generated a total of 45,198 GWh, of which 64.4% were produced with technologies that do not emit CO₂ emissions, according to the data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

Nuclear generation, with 52.1%, was the leading technology in the Region during 2019, followed by combined cycle (19.4% of the total), cogeneration (11.9%), hydro (7.7 %) and wind (6.8%). For its part, solar photovoltaic, thermal solar, pumped storage, waste as well as other renewable technologies complete the generation mix in the Region of Catalonia with a share of less than 1% each.

As at 31 December 2019, the installed capacity of the generating facilities in Catalonia stood at 11,856 MW, 0.2% lower than in 2018, a variation that is the result of the commissioning of 5 new MWs of solar photovoltaic power and the decommissioning of 20 MW of cogeneration. In this regard, 30.2% of the generation capacity of Catalonia is already of renewable origin.

Combined cycle is the technology with the greatest presence in the Region's generating facilities with 32% of the total, followed by nuclear (25.6%), hydro (16.1%), wind (10.7%) and cogeneration (8.3%). The installed power capacity in the Region is completed by pure pumped storage, solar photovoltaic and thermal as well as renewable and non-renewable and other renewable waste, with a share of less than 4% each.

Demand falls 1.1% and represents 17.7% of the total in Spain

The demand for electricity in Catalonia was 1.1% lower than that registered in 2018 and reached 48,873 GWh, representing 17.7% of the total demand in Spain in 2019, which stood at 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.