

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020'

## Galicia is the second region that generated the most renewable energy in 2020

- It is also the region with the second highest wind power production, only surpassed by Castilla y León.
- In 2020, renewables accounted for 75.6% of the generation mix in Galicia and produced 14.5% more than the previous year.
- Wind and hydro are the two main sources of generation and together account for more than 70% of the region's total production.

Santiago de Compostela, 12 March 2021

In 2020, Galicia generated a total of 24,553 GWh, of which 75.6% was produced from renewable energy sources, the highest share since records began. In this way, the region ranked as the second largest producer of renewable energy last year, surpassed only by Castilla y León. This data is published in the 'Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020', a publication prepared by Red Eléctrica de España (REE) that collates the main annual figures of the Spanish electricity system for 2020 and which REE presented today at an event held at the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

For the Chairwoman of Red Eléctrica, Beatriz Corredor, "the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan sets ambitious, but also realistic and achievable goals to mitigate climate change by moving towards a new system in which renewable energies are the cornerstone. And along this road towards the energy transition, the electricity sector plays a key role due to its decarbonisation potential."

The report also highlights that the use of green technologies last year in Galicia experienced an increase of 14.5% in the production of electricity. This increase was mainly due thanks to wind power generation, which reached a value that was 14.8% higher than in 2019. The region of Galicia thus achieves a maximum share of wind in the generation mix at the end of 2020 (40.7% of the total). This makes it the second region that generated the most electricity from wind power. Hydro also grew in Galicia in 2020, with 12.2% more than in 2019. Thus, wind and hydro are once again the leading technologies in Galicia's generation mix, together accounting for more than 70% of the region's electricity production.

These sources are followed by cogeneration (9.2% of the total) and combined cycle (9%), which reduced their share in the region's generation mix by 10.4% and 36%, respectively. For its part, coal experienced a significant decrease in the region's mix, producing 45.5% less electricity than in 2019 and covered only 5.5% of the total generation mix.

As other relevant data, the report showcases that Galicia closed 2020 with an electricity export balance to other regions and that 75.7% of the region's production was generated using carbon-free technologies.

In terms of installed power in the region, at the end of 2020, Galicia was the third region in Spain with the highest amount of *green* MWs in service: renewables accounted for 70.8% of the installed power capacity of the region's power generation fleet. As at 31 December, wind and hydro were the technologies with the largest installed power capacity in Galicia. On the other hand, Galicia's electricity generation capacity was reduced last year by 4.7% due to the decommissioning of 557 MW of coal-fired thermal power capacity in 2020.



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On the other hand, electricity demand in Galicia reached 17,383 GWh, representing 7% of all electricity consumption in Spain in 2020, and was 5.8% lower than that recorded in 2019, a decrease similar to that experienced at national level (-5.6%).

### **2020, Spain's greenest year on record**

Renewables produced 44% of the total energy generated in Spain last year, making 2020 the *greenest* year since national records began in 2007. In total, 110,450 GWh were generated from natural and inexhaustible resources such as wind, sun and water, which represents an increase of 12.8% compared to the data for 2019.

The report, which includes the key performance indicators regarding the electricity sector in Spain over the past year, highlights the record production of wind power, responsible for more than a fifth of the total annual generation, and solar photovoltaic, which recorded an increase of 65% compared to the values for 2019. These two renewable technologies were responsible for 21.9% and 6.1%, respectively, of the total annual electricity generation in Spain in 2020.

Achieving this increase in renewable production in Spain would not have been possible without the installation of new MWs of renewable power. At the end of 2020, Spain's complete power generation fleet had increased its renewable power capacity by 4,015 MW, with solar photovoltaic being the technology that has risen the most, with a growth of 29.5% compared to 2019, followed by wind power, which has grown by 5.3%, making it the leading technology nationwide.

In addition, during the past year, 3,950 MW of coal-fired power capacity were decommissioned in Spain, which contributed to the fact that as at 31 December 2020, the total installed renewable power capacity accounted for 53.8% of Spain's overall production capacity.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had direct consequences on electricity consumption, which in Spain fell to 249,819 GWh, a drop of 5.6% compared to 2019. After having factored in the influence of seasonal temperatures (+0.1%) and working patterns (-0.1%), electricity demand maintained the same variation as in gross terms, falling 5.6 % compared to the previous year.