RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

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

Renewable and carbon-free generation increases by 5.7% in the Madrid region in 2020

- 35.8% of the electricity generation in the Madrid region comes from renewable and carbon-free technologies.
- In 2020, electricity demand in the Madrid region was 5.6% lower than in 2019, a value that is in line with the variation in demand of the country as a whole.

Madrid, 12 March 2021

In the Madrid region, renewable energy technologies and those that do not emit greenhouse gases generated 5.7% more electricity in 2020 than in 2019, reaching 35.8% of the region's total generation. 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 new MWs of decarbonisation potential."

The report also highlights that the increase in the share of renewable energy generation in the Madrid region is thanks to the growth experienced by hydro and other renewables (mainly biogas), the two technologies that have grown the most compared to the previous year: 21.7% and 9.1%, respectively.

Cogeneration is, with 57.8% of the total generation mix, the leading source of electricity generation in the Madrid region, followed by other renewables (13.8% of the total), hydro (9.2%), renewable waste and non-renewable waste, each with a contribution of 6.4% to the total, and solar photovoltaic, responsible for 6.3% of the GWh's produced in the Madrid region.

On the other hand, the electricity demand in the Madrid region reached 26,852 GWh in 2020, 10.7% of Spain's total for the year. Thus, the variation in electricity demand in the region in 2020 compared to the previous year is in line with the decrease in the country as a whole, whose consumption also decreased by 5.6%, mainly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of installed power capacity, the power generation fleet in the Madrid region, with only 457 MW, is 50.8% renewable, although cogeneration, with 46%, is the main technology in the region, followed by hydro (23.8%), solar photovoltaic (13.9%), other renewables (9.9%), renewable waste and non-renewable waste, which contribute 3.3% each.

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.

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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 2019 values. 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.