

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2021'

28.6% of the electricity generated in Asturias in 2021 came from renewable sources

- Hydro and wind power, whose production increased by 13.8% and 9.6% respectively compared to 2020, drive the contribution of renewable energy in the Asturias' generation mix, accounting for 15.2% and 11.2% of the total, respectively.
- Asturias incorporates 139 MW of new wind power capacity and says goodbye to 850 MW of installed coal-fired capacity.
- Electricity demand rose by 6% in Asturias in 2021 compared to 2020.

Oviedo, 18 March 2022

The Principality of Asturias generated a total of 11,251 GWh of electricity in 2021, 28.6% of which came from renewable sources thanks to the boost from hydro and wind energy, two technologies that increased their production by 13.8% and 9.6%, respectively compared to the previous year. This data is included in the 'Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2021', a document that Red Eléctrica de España publishes annually that includes the main power generation indicators in the Spanish energy sector and which was presented at an event held today.

For the Chairwoman of Red Eléctrica, Beatriz Corredor, "the energy transition is today more necessary than ever. It is the only way to achieve energy sovereignty in Europe and is an indisputable lever for the recovery that lies ahead. We have been working on this path for years and the figures for 2021 are an unmistakable sign that we are taking firm steps forward in this transition and doing so at a good pace. Furthermore, an essential instrument for driving this transition will be the 2021-2026 Electricity Grid Planning, which will be approved shortly and will allow us to comply with the path set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)".

According to this Report, coal was the main source of generation in the region, contributing 38.3% to the generation mix in Asturias, followed by combined cycle, with 2,593 GWh which was responsible for 23%, followed by hydro, with 1,706 GWh (15.2%), wind with 1,264 GWh (11.2%) and non-renewable waste (waste-to-energy plants), which contributed 6.5% and generated 731 GWh.

Electricity demand in Asturias in 2021 stood at 9,245 GWh and represented 3.6% of the national total. With respect to 2020, consumption (demand) in the region increased by 6%, a higher variation than that registered in the country as a whole, which at year-end was 2.5%.

For its part, installed power capacity, which reached 3,800 MW at year-end, fell by 15.8% in 2021, mainly due to the decommissioning of 850 MW of coal-fired generation. The power generation fleet in Asturias continues to be led by coal, which represents a third of the installed MW (32.9%) in the region, followed by combined cycle (22.5% of the total), hydro (21.2%) and wind (17.3%). The latter technology increased its installed power capacity by 139 MW in 2021.



The energy transition, unstoppable in Spain

At a national level, the figures for 2021 once again demonstrate Spain's strong commitment to renewables. In total, green energies produced 121,305 GWh, almost 10% (9.7%) more than in 2020 and reached a record share of almost 47% (46.7%) in the total generation mix nationwide.

In this regard, noteworthy is wind power generation which was the leading technology in 2021 with a share of 23.3% of the total generation mix nationwide. Thus, thanks to the wind, electricity produced using this technology generated 10.2% more than in the previous year. The increase experienced by solar photovoltaic energy has also been very significant. After increasing its installed power capacity by 28.8% through the addition of more than 3,300 MW, it increased its electricity production in 2021 by 36.7%.

After wind energy, the next technology that contributed the most to the generation mix was nuclear, which, although having generated 3.1% less than in 2020, still reached a share of 20.8%. Nuclear was followed by combined cycle (17.1%), hydro (11.4%) and solar photovoltaic (8%). Of note is that coal-fired generation continued its decline and reached a share in the mix of just 1.9%.

This greater presence of renewables in the generation mix in 2021 has contributed to reducing CO₂ eq. emissions associated with electricity production, which registered an all-time low in 2021.

The share of renewable technologies in the national power generation fleet also continues to grow. At year-end 2021, taking into account the addition of 4,000 MW of new green energy capacity, renewable technologies represented 56.6% of the total national production capacity (112,846 MW). Wind energy, which was the technology with the largest installed power capacity in Spain, is followed by combined cycle (23.3% share of the total mix nationwide), hydro (15.1%) and solar photovoltaic (13.3%).

For its part, electrical energy demand has continued to make progress in its recovery after the impact of the pandemic. At year-end 2021, annual demand stood at 256,387 GWh, a figure that is 2.5% higher than in 2020. After having factored in the influence of seasonal and working patterns, the figures regarding consumption remain basically the same.