RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

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

Renewables in the Canary Islands in 2021 grew by 15.2% registering a record year for wind power production

- The weight of renewables in the energy generation mix of the Canary Islands continues to grow and now accounts for nearly 20% of the total.
- Renewable installed power capacity on the Islands reached 731 MW with the commissioning in 2021 of 79 MW of new capacity, 69 MW of wind power and 10 MW of solar photovoltaic power.
- Electricity demand grew by 1.4% in the Canary Islands in 2021.

Canary Islands, 18 March 2022

The Canary Islands generated 15.2% more renewable energy in 2021 than in 2020, reaching a total of 1,603,393 MWh. This figure was mainly driven by wind power generation, which reached its annual production peak (1,307,645 MWh) and accounted for 16.2% of all electricity produced in the Canary Islands. 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 the Report, these annual highs reached in the Canary Islands have allowed renewables to cover almost 20% of the total generation mix, thus showcasing the significant steps taken in the Canary Islands to push forward with the energy transition in the region. Nonetheless, the generation mix in the Canary Islands continues to be led by combined cycle, responsible for 42.6%, followed by diesel-fired generation (21.3%), wind (16.2%), which in 2021 overtook production from steam turbines (13.8%). Solar photovoltaic (3.2%) completes the generation mix, ahead of gas turbines (2.5%).

Installed power capacity increased by 2.6% in 2021 thanks to the commissioning of 79 MW of new renewable power, 69 MW of wind and 10 MW of solar photovoltaic. As a result, green energy now accounts for 23.4% of the power generation capacity on the Canary Islands, which has a total of 3,125 MW in service. Combined cycle is the technology with the highest installed power capacity.

This growth in renewables in the Canary Islands occurs in a year in which the demand for electricity increased by 1.4% compared to 2020, and in which consumption in the Canary Islands represented 3.1% of the national total.

Record year for renewable energy production

2021 was a year of all-time highs in terms of maximum renewable energy production on the Islands, with wind power being the technology that has broken its own records on various occasions throughout the year.

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Wind energy production on the island of Gran Canaria broke instantaneous power records on ten occasions in 2021, setting its new all-time high at 197.57 MW. For its part, wind energy recorded its all-time high on the island of Tenerife with a maximum of 208.6 MW. Furthermore, in 2021, Tenerife's solar photovoltaic production beat its own record in terms of share in the generation mix, with one-off contributions that covered up to 28.61% of the island's demand.

The Lanzarote-Fuerteventura system, which today is a unified electricity system thanks to the inter-island connection, broke its all-time record for instantaneous production with wind power on 23 July at 4:27 p.m, when this technology registered a peak of 70.35 MW.

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 CO_2 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.