RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

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

Wind power, the leading source of electricity generation in Castilla-La Mancha in 2021

- 58% of the region's electricity generation last year was obtained using renewable sources.
- 77.5% of the region's installed power capacity is renewable, second only to Castilla y Leon, with 95.4%, and Extremadura, with 77.8%.

Toledo, 18 March 2022

Castilla-La Mancha is making steady progress in the green transition, and this is reflected in the data for 2021: last year, 57.9% of the energy generated in the region came from renewable sources, with wind power being the leading technology in installed capacity with 7,682 GWh and generating 33.2% of the electricity. 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)".

In the region of Castilla-La Mancha, wind was followed by nuclear, which accounted for 31.9% of production, and solar photovoltaic, which increased its generation by 21.2% compared to the previous year, reaching a share of 16.2% of the total. As a result, 89.9% of the electricity in the region was generated using zero-carbon energy technologies, the second highest share in the country with a total of 20,777 GWh, 5.2% more than in 2020.

Also, according to the Report, at year-end 2021, the installed power capacity in Castilla-La Mancha reached 10,355 MW, representing 9.2% of the national total. Last year, 77.5% of the power generation fleet in the region used natural resources such as wind, sun and water to generate electricity. Thus, in 2021 Castilla-La Mancha has consolidated its position as the region with the third largest share of renewable installed power capacity (8,021 MW), only surpassed by Castilla y Leon and Andalusia. Similarly, the region stands out for its leadership in wind and solar photovoltaic energy: in both, it is also positioned as the third region with the most MW in service of each of these technologies.

Specifically, wind energy is the technology with the largest production capacity in Castilla-La Mancha, almost 4,000 MW, representing a share of 38.1% of the total. For its part, solar photovoltaic, which added 1,021 MW of new installed capacity in 2021, is the technology that has most increased its presence in the region's power generation fleet, 52.6% more than the previous year. Castilla-La Mancha is the region with the second highest share of solar photovoltaic capacity in Spain, accounting for 19.7% of total PV installed power capacity in the country.

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Also, in 2021 and according to the preliminary report, Castilla-La Mancha registered an electricity demand of 11,909 GWh. This figure is 1.3% higher than that recorded in 2020.

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.