

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

Ceuta is once again the only Spanish territory without renewables in 2021.

- Ceuta's electricity demand in 2021 totalled 196,886 MWh, 1.2% less than that recorded in 2020.
- If the electricity interconnection between the autonomous city of Ceuta and the mainland were in service, nearly half of the energy that Ceuta could have received would have been generated using renewable energy technologies on the mainland.

Ceuta, 18 March 2022

Ceuta is, for yet another year, the only territory in Spain that did not produce renewable energy in 2021. 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)"

The small physical space occupied by Ceuta and the fact that it is electrically isolated from the mainland electricity system are the main reasons Ceuta is the only electricity system nationwide in which 100% of the installed power capacity available for generating electricity is polluting. Thus, the electrical energy generated and consumed in Ceuta during 2021 came entirely from fossil fuel sources, specifically fuel oil and natural gas. Demand in Ceuta reached a total of 196,886 MWh, which represents 0.1% of the total generated in all of Spain.

For this reason, the future electricity interconnection between the autonomous city and the mainland represents an opportunity for Ceuta to advance in the ecological transition and become less dependent on fossil fuels to meet its energy needs. This submarine link will allow Ceuta to increase its security of supply by relying on the support of the mainland's electricity system and what is more, it will benefit from the integration of renewable energy produced on the Spanish peninsula, which in 2021 accounted for 48.4% of the total generation mix on the mainland.

Electricity demand in Ceuta in 2021 was 1.2% lower this year than in the previous year, with 11 January being the day with the highest electricity consumption, reaching 682 MWh, a figure still far from the 723 MWh recorded on 15 December 2008, when it registered its all-time high.

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.