

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

The Basque Country increases its electricity production with renewables by 14% in 2021

- Hydroelectric production increases by 11.1% in the Basque Country.
- The Basque power generation fleet closes the year with 15.9% of installed renewable power capacity.
- The demand for electrical energy experienced an increase of 6.4%, a higher growth than that recorded at national level (2.5%).

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 18 March 2022

The Basque Country closed 2021 with 1,138.7 GWh of renewable energy production, 13.9% more than the figure recorded in 2020. This growth was mainly driven by hydro, which increased its generation by 11.1%. Thus, last year, 16.7% of the region's electricity production was renewable. 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 Report also highlights that total generation in the Basque Country experienced a 10.7% increase in 2021, reaching 6,830 GWh. Of this, 46.7% came from combined cycle, 28.8% from cogeneration and 7.8% from non-renewable waste (waste-to-energy plants). These technologies were followed mainly by hydro (5.7%), renewable waste (4.8%) and wind (4.4%).

According to the Report, electricity demand in the Basque Country increased by 6.4% compared to 2020, reaching a total of 15,892 GWh. This variation in the region's demand is above that recorded in the country as a whole, where consumption was 2.5% higher than in 2020.

On the other hand, the power generation fleet in the Basque Country currently has a power capacity that stands at 2,954 MW, of which 66.6% corresponds to combined cycle, 15.1% to cogeneration and 6% to hydro. Wind power (5.2%) and non-renewable waste, renewable waste and solar photovoltaic complete the region's installed power capacity, each with less than 3% of the total power generation fleet. All in all, 15.9% of installed capacity in the Basque Country is comprised of renewable technologies.

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.