RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

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

Galicia is the second region in Spain that generated the most renewable energy in 2021.

- One out of every four GWh of hydroelectric power generation in Spain is produced in Galicia.
- 70.5% of the technologies installed in the region are renewable.

Santiago de Compostela, 18 March 2022

In 2021, Galicia generated a total of 24,205 GWh, of which 74.3% was produced from renewable sources. Thus, at the end of the year, the region was the second largest generator of electricity from renewables, surpassed only by Castilla y Leon. As a whole, renewables in Galicia produced a total of 17,974 GWh. 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)"

Wind power is the leading source of generation in Galicia, representing 39.5%. This figure makes this region the third region in Spain that generated the most electricity thanks to the power of the wind. It is followed by hydro which, with 7,690 GWh, was the second technology used in the region's generation mix, accounting for 31.8% of the total. Production with this technology is very significant compared to the rest of Spain. In fact, one out of every four GWh of hydroelectric power produced in Spain originates in Galicia.

Once again, last year wind and hydro together accounted for more than 70% of the region's electricity production. Combined cycle, with 15.3%, was next on the list, followed by cogeneration (7.8%), other renewables (2.2%) and other technologies such as coal, solar photovoltaic, renewable and non-renewable waste (waste-to-energy plants), which account for less than 2% each. The decrease experienced by coal-fired generation is significant, which saw a reduction of 65.8% in its production compared to 2020.

In 2021, electricity demand in the region of Galicia reached 17,421 GWh, only 8 GWh more than in 2020, therefore electricity consumption in the region showed no significant variations. Galicia is the region that produces more than it demands and in 2021 the surplus generated reached 6,784 GWh.

Installed power capacity in the region at the end of 2021 remains unchanged, making it the fourth region in Spain with the highest level of green MW in service: renewables now account for 7,717 MW, representing 70.5% of the entire power generation fleet in Galicia. Additionally, it is also the fourth region with the most installed wind power capacity (3,879 MW), which is the main technology within Galicia's power generation fleet. After wind, hydro is the second most important technology in the region (34.1%).

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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.