RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

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

More than 37% of electricity generation in the Community of Madrid in 2021 was renewable.

- The Community of Madrid increased the share of renewable energy in its generation mix by 6.1%, mainly driven by hydro, whose contribution increased by 31.2% compared to 2020.
- Electricity demand in the region in 2021 was 1.4% higher than in 2020, a variation of one percentage point below that of the country as a whole, which increased by 2.5%.

Madrid, 18 March 2022

Renewable energy technologies in the region of Madrid generated 6.1% more electricity in 2021 than in the previous year, reaching a share of 37.1% in the total generation mix. This figure is largely driven by hydro, which produced 31.2% more than in 2020 and which has ranked it as the third largest source of electricity generation in the region. 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 this Report, in 2021, cogeneration was the leading energy technology in the region's generation mix with 57.1% of the total. It is followed by 'other renewables' (13%), hydro (12.3%), solar photovoltaic (6.1%) and renewable and non-renewable waste (waste-to-energy plants), each contributing 5.8%to the overall mix. On the other hand, the Community of Madrid recorded an electricity demand of 27,285 GWh in 2021, accounting for 10.6% of Spain's overall total. This figure represents an increase in consumption in 2021 of 1.4% compared to the previous year, slightly lower than the national figure, where demand increased by 2.5%.

In terms of installed power capacity, the power generation fleet in the Community of Madrid is 457 MW, 50.8% of which is renewable. Cogeneration, with 46%, is the main technology in the region, followed by hydro (23.7%), solar photovoltaic (13.9%), other renewables (9.9%), renewable waste and non-renewable waste (waste-to-energy plants), each contributing a share of 3.3%.

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.

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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.