red eléctrica
Una empresa de Redeia

Press release

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System Report 2022'

37% of the electricity generated in Cantabria in 2022 did not emit greenhouse gases

Almost a quarter of the energy produced in the region, 24.1% of the total, came from renewable sources.

19.4% of the region's power generation fleet is made up of green technologies.

Santander, 23 March 2023

The electricity generation in the region of Cantabria closed 2022 with a total of 1,484 GWh, of which almost a quarter (24.1%) came from renewable sources, and 36.5% did not emit CO_2 equivalent (greenhouse gases).

These facts are part of the data included in the 'Spanish Electricity System Report 2022' and in the 'Renewable Energy Report 2022', documents drafted by Red Eléctrica that set out the key indicators regarding the Company's performance as Spain's sole HV transmission agent and electricity system operator, and which have been presented at an event held today.

For Beatriz Corredor, Chairwoman of Redeia, Red Eléctrica's parent company, "the 2022 data showcases that Spain is one of the drivers of renewable energy in the European Union. Furthermore, everything points to the fact that thanks to the efforts made last year, 2023 will prove to be a great year for the green transition in which Spain is currently immersed".

Wind power was the technology that contributed most to the renewable production in Cantabria, with a total of 79 GWh in 2022, up 15.4% year-on-year, and accounted for 5.3% of the region's generation mix. Hydro, meanwhile, produced 11.6% of the total in this region, 24.2% less than in 2021, mainly due to the lack of rainfall.

In 2022, cogeneration was the leading technology in the region's generation mix with 584 GWh, which accounted for 39.3% of the total. It is followed by pumped storage generation (33.9%), hydro (11.6%), wind (5.3%), other renewables (4.4%), renewable and non-renewable waste (2.6% each), and solar photovoltaic, with just 0.3%.

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As at 31 December 2022, Cantabria had 802 MW of installed power capacity, with pure pumped storage being the leading technology in the regional power generation fleet, accounting for 44.9% of the total, followed by cogeneration (35%), hydro (12.3%), wind (4.4%), renewable and non-renewable waste (with 0.6% each) and solar photovoltaic (0.5%). All in all, 19.4% of Cantabria's installed power capacity is made up of renewable technologies.

In 2022, the demand for electricity in Cantabria stood at 3,629 GWh, down 9.7% year-on-year, and represented 1.4% of the total consumption in Spain.

Spain, a driver of renewable energy in Europe

At a national level, the data included in both reports show that, in 2022, Spain continued to demonstrate its leadership in renewable energy in the European Union. It is second only to Germany in terms of installed renewable power capacity and also in terms of installed wind power capacity. In the case of solar power, Spain is the third country with the most capacity in service after Germany and the Netherlands.

In terms of electricity generation obtained from these technologies, Spain is the second European country that produces the most energy from wind and the sun after Germany.

This has been possible thanks to the increase in Spain’s renewable power generation fleet. During the past year, renewable energy technologies added 5.9 new GW of capacity to the Spanish power generation fleet. Of these, 4.5 GW were solar photovoltaic and 1.4 GW were wind.

This new momentum has enabled wind to account for 22% of the generation mix and solar photovoltaic for 10%, with both technologies registering all-time annual highs regarding production. In total, renewables, as a whole, accounted for 42% of the total generation mix nationwide in 2022. The drop of nearly 40% in hydroelectric generation has prevented the overall share of renewables in the generation mix from surpassing previously existing all-time highs.

Thanks to this renewable energy potential, Spain was able to support its neighbouring EU countries. It should be noted that, for the first time since 2015, the year closed with an exporter exchange capacity balance that stood at nearly 20 TWh, which is the highest value ever recorded.

For its part, during 2022, the demand for electricity in Spain showed a decrease of 2.4% compared to the previous year, recording a total demand that stood at 250.4 TWh. After having factored in the effects of seasonal and working patterns, annual demand nationwide for 2022 registered a fall of 3.3% year-on-year.

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