

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020'

Renewables in the Basque Country account for 16.2% of the total electricity generation in 2020

- Green energies register a share in the generation mix 2.7 percentage points higher than in 2019.
- Electricity demand in the Basque Country fell by 7.8%, somewhat more sharply than in Spain as a whole (-5.6%).
- Installed renewable power capacity accounts for 16.5% of the power generation fleet in the region.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 12 March 2021

The Basque Country closed 2020 with a 16.2% share of renewable energies in its generation mix. This figure represents an increase of 2.7 percentage points compared to that recorded in 2019. Hydro and wind are the green technologies most present in the region's generation mix and accounted for 11% of all its production last year. This data is published in the 'Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020', a publication prepared by Red Eléctrica de España (REE) that collates the main annual figures of the Spanish electricity system for 2020 and which REE presented today at an event held at the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

For the Chairwoman of Red Eléctrica, Beatriz Corredor, "the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan sets ambitious, but also realistic and achievable goals to mitigate climate change by moving towards a new system in which renewable energies are the cornerstone. And along this road towards the energy transition, the electricity sector plays a key role due to its decarbonisation potential."

The report also highlights that total generation in the Basque region fell by 25.2% to 6,153 GWh. This reduction was mainly due to a 36.8% reduction in production from the main source of generation in the region: combined cycle. However, despite this figure, combined cycle power stations were responsible for almost half of the electricity generation in the Basque Country in 2020. Cogeneration was the second electricity generation technology in the region's generation mix, with a share of 31.4% last year.

According to Red Eléctrica's Preliminary Report, demand fell by 7.8%, somewhat more marked than in Spain as a whole (-5.6%). In total, consumption in the Basque Country reached 15,013 GWh, which accounted for 6% of all electricity demand at national level.

On the other hand, the of installed power capacity of the power generation fleet in the Basque Country currently stands at 2,922 MW, of which 16.5% is renewable. The electricity generation technologies most present in the region's mix are combined cycle and cogeneration. Together they account for 81% of the total installed power capacity. They are followed by hydro (5.9%), wind (5.3%), non-renewable waste (2.5%), other renewables (1.9%), solar photovoltaic (1.7%) and renewable waste (1.6%).

2020, Spain's greenest year on record

Renewables produced 44% of the total energy generated in Spain last year, making 2020 the *greenest* year since national records began in 2007. In total, 110,450 GWh were generated from natural and inexhaustible resources such as wind, sun and water, which represents an increase of 12.8% compared to the data for 2019.



The report, which includes the key performance indicators regarding the electricity sector in Spain over the past year, highlights the record production of wind power, responsible for more than a fifth of the total annual generation, and solar photovoltaic, which recorded an increase of 65% compared to the values for 2019. These two renewable technologies were responsible for 21.9% and 6.1%, respectively, of the total annual electricity generation in Spain in 2020.

Achieving this increase in renewable production in Spain would not have been possible without the installation of new MWs of renewable power. At the end of 2020, Spain's complete power generation fleet had increased its renewable power capacity by 4,015 MW, with solar photovoltaic being the technology that has risen the most, with a growth of 29.5% compared to 2019, followed by wind power, which has grown by 5.3%, making it the leading technology nationwide.

In addition, during the past year, 3,950 MW of coal-fired power capacity were decommissioned in Spain, which contributed to the fact that as at 31 December 2020, the total installed renewable power capacity accounted for 53.8% of Spain's overall production capacity.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had direct consequences on electricity consumption, which in Spain fell to 249,819 GWh, a drop of 5.6% compared to 2019. After having factored in the influence of seasonal temperatures (+0.1%) and working patterns (-0.1%), electricity demand maintained the same variation as in gross terms, falling 5.6 % compared to the previous year.