Albania electricity consumption

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Consumption per capita is much lower than the EU average, at approximately 0.8 toe (73% below the EU average), including nearly 2400 kWh of electricity (57% below the EU average) (2022).

Total energy consumption has been declining overall by an average of 1.7%/year since 2017, with a 5.8% rebound in 2021 and a 3.5% decline in 2022 to 2.2Mtoe. It had increased at a rapid pace between 1995 and 2005 (+5%/year) and at a slower pace (+1.2%/year) until 2017.

The target of 38% of renewables in final energy consumption in 2020 from the National Renewable Energy Action Plan was exceeded by 7 points, as this share reached 45%. In 2022, renewables covered 44% of final energy consumption (103% for electricity, 22% for heating and cooling, and 0.4% in transport).

In its updated NDC (2021), the country committed to reduce GHG emissions by 20.9% compared to a BAU scenario in 2030; this corresponds to a level of emissions of around 12 MtCO2eq in 2030. The previous target was a reduction of 11.5%. The NECP (2021) stated that, with additional measures, emissions could be reduced by 18.7% to 10.2 MtCO2eq in 2030.

Albania is also pursuing the implementation of the EU-ETS by 2030. The measures on monitoring, reporting, and verification of GHG emissions, implemented by the climate law (2021), are important steps toward this objective.

Electricity can be generated in two main ways: by harnessing the heat from burning fuels or nuclear reactions in the form of steam (thermal power) or by capturing the energy of natural forces such as the sun, wind or moving water.

Unlike other energy commodities such as coal, oil and natural gas, electricity trade between countries is relatively limited as it is more technically complex and requires a direct cross-border interconnection. Such connections can help to balance out supply and demand across regions, which will be increasingly important as variable renewables like solar and wind make up a larger share of electricity generation.

Power generation, which includes electricity and heat, is one of the largest sources of CO2 emissions globally, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels like coal and natural gas in thermal power plants.

Growth in electricity demand has slowed down or even reversed in many advanced economies due to energy efficiency efforts and the shift towards less energy-intensive forms of economic activity, such as services. But it is still growing rapidly in many emerging market and developing countries, especially those where a significant fraction of the population still lacks access to electricity.

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Electricity is primarily used for heating, cooling, lighting, cooking and to power devices, appliances and industrial equipment. Further electrification of end-uses, especially transportation, in conjunction with the decarbonisation of electricity generation, is an important pillar of clean energy transitions.

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