

Europe renewable energy bloemfontein

Today, the European Commission published the 2024 edition of EU Energy in Figures, an annual statistical pocketbook providing information on the energy sector in the EU. This edition covers data for 2022, and highlights facts such as that the EU continues to make progress in increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix, which rose to 25% in 2022 compared to 19% in 2021.

In order to ensure that the EU stays on track to reach its climate goals and increase energy security, it is vital to have up-to-date data driving decision making. The pocketbook covers official energy data for the EU as a whole and per individual EU country. It provides statistical data on energy topics such as import dependencies, renewables deployment, energy intensity, and more.

Increased renewable energy sources will help the EU transition towards a prosperous, sustainable, climate-compatible and independent economy. In recent years, Europe has been generating more renewable energy and a growing share of its energy consumption is met through renewable sources.

Solar panels on rooftops, electric cars and wind turbines on the horizon are becoming quite common and ordinary sights across Europe. Yet, fossil fuels remain the largest source of energy.

While not without impact, replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources like solar, wind and biomass, helps reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, as well as contributes to increasing Europe's energy independence.

Renewable and clean energy will play a vital role in determining Europe's ability to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, while ensuring a steady supply of energy at affordable prices. Although already underway, the transition towards a clean and renewable energy system needs to speed up and transform key sectors, including transport, and put in place the infrastructure and governance needed. The European Green Deal and its policy initiatives, including RePowerEU, aim to facilitate this.

The European Green Deal is an ambitious EU roadmap and policy framework for actions that put Europe on a path towards sustainability by 2050. For the energy sector, the European Climate Law aims to make the EU climate neutral by 2050.

The revised Renewable Energy Directive also introduces a 32% binding minimum target for the share of renewables in the EU's gross final energy consumption by 2030. Member States have set national renewable energy targets for 2030 and must ensure that national fuel suppliers provide at least a 14% share of renewable energy in the total energy consumed in road and rail transport.

At the current rate, the prospects of meeting the existing 32% EU target for 2030 remain uncertain.

Furthermore, in response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission presented the REPowerEU Plan. Among other measures, this plan proposes a more ambitious target of 45% by 2030, to pave the way for climate neutrality by 2050, but also to reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels.

Total net greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union dropped by 8% last year, marking significant progress towards climate neutrality for the EU. The huge drop was led by a significant decline in coal use and growth of renewable energy sources and supported by reduced energy consumption across Europe, according to estimated figures included in the latest European Environment Agency (EEA) "Trends and Projections" report.

Flexibility is the power system's ability to adjust to the fluctuating generation and consumption of energy. Flexibility can be provided in different timeframes, such as days, weeks or seasons and by different technologies.

EU Member States need to massively ramp up their renewable power capacity in the coming years. This increase in renewables from variable sources, such as wind and solar, will also increase the need for "flexibility" in the EU electricity system.

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