



## Boosting renewables in Castilla-La Mancha

### The Network Development Plan with a 2026 horizon has been approved to drive a greener future for Spain

- The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 is a key instrument for developing the electricity infrastructure needed to continue guaranteeing the security of supply in addition to promoting the energy transition process nationwide to ensure that renewable energy will account for 67% of the national electricity generation mix by 2026.
- The drafting of the Plan has followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- The projects included in the Plan will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the crisis.
- The Plan for Castilla-La Mancha includes significant projects aimed at improving transmission grid meshing in the region that seek to strengthen the backbone infrastructure of the region's electricity system and that will drive the social and economic development in the region. The actions foreseen in the Plan will allow a greater integration of new renewable generation capacity and will help supply power to the new high-speed rail lines.

Toledo, 22 March 2022

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026, which is binding for Red Eléctrica, has been given the green light after having been approved today by the Spanish Government following its presentation in the Spanish Congress of Deputies. With an investment of 6,964 million euros, this new Plan is a strategic instrument through which the necessary infrastructure will be developed so that Spain may continue to enjoy an electricity supply with high levels of quality and will allow further progress to be made in the decarbonisation of its energy model and in its fight against climate change.

In this regard, the actions included within the Plan will size and prepare the transmission grid in the coming years to be able to connect and integrate a higher share of renewable energy generation in line with the pace set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and make it available to consumers. Thanks to the development of this infrastructure, it is estimated that in 2026 renewable energy will reach a share of 67% in the national electricity generation mix and will enable CO<sub>2</sub> eq emissions to be reduced by 66% compared to those recorded in 2019 (the year before the pandemic), provided that the NECP forecasts and the full implementation of this Plan are met. Similarly, the projects included in the Plan, will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The planning process followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly. It should be noted that the Plan took into account the environmental and territorial conditioning factors and has prioritised these aspects in the final design. Furthermore, the Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes making greater use of the existing transmission grid, thus avoiding those



areas that are most environmentally sensitive and reducing those actions that may have an impact on the territory. In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.

The Network Development Plan for Castilla-La Mancha includes important actions to improve the meshing of the transmission grid in the region, thus contributing to establishing an electricity transmission backbone within the territory that will help boost its social and economic development. These projects will facilitate the integration of new renewable generation capacity and contribute decisively to the transformation of the energy model which is currently being undertaken in the region; an energy transformation that is a benchmark nationwide. The Plan also includes actions that will complete the electricity supply for the high-speed train lines that will run through the region: the Madrid - Badajoz and Puertollano - Mérida high-speed lines.

### **Boosting the integration of renewable energy sources**

Among the projects included in this Plan for Castilla-La Mancha are those related to the actions that will make it possible to connect and integrate new renewable generation in those areas of the region that have significant wind and solar photovoltaic resources.

On the one hand, the Plan will enable the first phase of the 'Transmanchego axis' to move ahead, which will be built in the provinces of Ciudad Real, Albacete and Cuenca. This project will consist of the construction of a new double-circuit 400 kilovolt (kV) line that will integrate new renewable generation and connect Manzanares with Belinchón, including the new substations of Tomelloso, Manchega and Villar de Cañas. In addition, this first phase will be completed after 2026 with the axis between Manchega and Romica, which will complete the transmission backbone of the region. Until then, the approved Plan allows the first steps to be taken in the permit processing stage of this project.

In line with the goal of boosting the integration of renewable generation in the region, the Plan foresees the construction and commissioning of the new 400/220 kV La Sagra substation in the province of Toledo as well as actions to increase the power capacity of different lines, specifically two 220 kV lines between Picón-Aceca-Villaverde and Manzanares-Alarcos and two 400 kV lines linking Belinchón with Morata and Minglanilla with Olmedilla.

As a whole, these actions will significantly boost the green transition process in the region. It is estimated that in the future these projects will enable the integration of an additional renewable power generation of more than 1,000 GWh per year, a volume that would represent 4.8% of the 2021 installed solar photovoltaic power production on the Spanish mainland. These projects will contribute to reducing nearly 365,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq emissions per year.

### **Powering high-speed rail networks**

The Plan for the region also foresees new infrastructure that will complete the power supply required for the planned Puertollano - Mérida and Madrid - Badajoz high-speed rail lines.

In the first case, noteworthy is the construction of the new 400 kV Almadén substation in Ciudad Real. In the case of the second rail line, it will be powered thanks to the commissioning, among other projects, of the new 220 kV Calera y Chozas substation in the province of Toledo. This will also enable the connection of industrial consumers that demand large volumes of energy, thus boosting the economic, industrial and social development of the area.

Lastly, the Network Development Plan also includes initiatives to enlarge various substations in order to strengthen security of supply in areas such as Torrijos, Puertollano, Minglanilla and Villarobledo, while at the same time facilitating the evacuation of new renewable generation capacity. Of particular note is the enlargement of the 400 kV Manchega, 400 kV Minglanilla, 220 kV Torrijos and 220 kV Puertollano substations.

### **Beyond 2026**



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In addition to the projects defined, the Network Development Plan also includes some initiatives for a horizon beyond 2026. Such projects will not be started in this Plan period but may advance in certain administrative permitting procedures or those related to technical and environmental studies. In Castilla-La Mancha, noteworthy are the actions aimed at increasing grid meshing which, as previously mentioned, will continue to drive the electrification of the territory and promote the integration of renewable energy, these include the second and third phase of the 'Transmanchego axis' with the commissioning of the 400 kV axes between Belinchón and Morata, between Manchega and Romica, and the double-circuit 400 kV Guadame - Manzanares, among others.

#### **A Plan conceived by all for society as a whole**

This Network Development Plan is the result of the responsible and collective efforts of all stakeholders. The public administrations and the different agents of civil society have participated in its preparation, working together with a common goal: to build, together, a useful and valuable transmission grid for everyone. For the first time, the consultation process has been open to all citizens, companies and public administrations, whose high level of participation has demonstrated the enormous interest of society as a whole in the energy transition process.

- **More information at** <https://www.planificacionelectrica.es/>