



## Boosting renewable energy in Castilla y León

### 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 2021-2026 Plan for Castilla y León represents an essential instrument to continue driving the energy transition process in the region through the integration of new renewable generation, and will also bolster security of supply.

Valladolid, 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 2021-2026 for Castilla y León will be an essential instrument to continue promoting the energy transition process in the region. The developments included will facilitate the integration of future renewable generation in the region. Similarly, actions are planned that will significantly strengthen the electricity supply and improve railway communication in the region.

#### **Boosting the ecological transition in Castilla y León**

Among the main projects included in the Plan for Castilla y León, noteworthy is the construction of four new 400 kilovolt (kV) substations in the provinces of Burgos, Valladolid and Zamora, which are expected to be commissioned by 2025 and which will enable the integration of new renewable generation. The substations referred to are the Briviesca and Villalbilla substations in Burgos, the Urueña substation in Valladolid and the Piedrahita substation in Zamora.

Similarly, this transmission development plan also encompasses actions in the province of Soria that will help maximise the wind power potential in the province. These include a new double-circuit line between Almazán and Magaña and the new 220 kV Almazán substation.

All these actions will enable the integration of an additional renewable power capacity of more than 4,700 GWh per year, a volume that would represent 22% of the 2021 solar photovoltaic power generation on the Spanish mainland. These projects will contribute to reducing nearly 492,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq emissions per year.

#### **Bolstering the electricity supply in Castilla y León**

The transmission grid infrastructure necessary to provide greater support to the regional electricity distribution network will be strengthened through the implementation of this new Plan in Castilla y León.

These developments will improve the reliability and security of the electricity supply in the areas of Aranda, Alcocero de Mola and Villatoro in Burgos, and Vilecha and Villarino in León. They will also facilitate the evacuation of renewable generation connected to the electricity distribution network. To this end, two new facilities will be built, the 400 kV Aranda and the 220 kV Villatoro substations, and the existing 220 kV Villarino, Alcocero de Mola, Zaratán and Saucelle substations will be enlarged by adding new substation feeder bays.

Lastly, new facilities will be built in the province of Segovia, specifically the new 400 kV-220 kV Abades substation and the 200 kV Abades - Otero and Tordesillas - Las Arroyadas lines. Together, this infrastructure will be decisive for increasing the security and quality of the electricity supply in the area and will complete the 400 kV axis that connects the north-west and the centre of the peninsula. The infrastructure will also facilitate the integration of current and future renewable generation capacity and will contribute to powering the rail network through the existing 200 kV Otero substation.

#### **Powering the rail networks**

Also, thanks to this Plan, power will be supplied to the high-speed railway lines linking Palencia with Santander on the one hand and Burgos with Vitoria on the other. In the first case, the 400 kV Herrera substation will be enlarged. In the second, electricity will be supplied via the 400 kV substation Briviesca. Both are strategic projects because they will significantly improve rail transport in Castilla y León and will promote the electrification of transport, thus contributing to the decarbonisation path set out in Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan.

#### **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



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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/>