

Clean electricity portugal

Renewable energy in Portugal was the source for 25.7% of total energy consumption in 2013.¹ In 2014, 27% of Portugal's energy needs were supplied by renewable sources.² In 2016, 28% of final energy consumption in Portugal came from renewable sources.³

In 2018, Portugal committed to close all of the country's coal producing facilities by 2030, making it almost completely reliant on renewable energy in the coming years.⁵ As of 2019, coal still provided 40% of Portugal's electricity needs.⁴ The last Portuguese coal power plant closed on 19 November 2021.⁶

While from 2002 to 2007 the main priorities were focused on the introduction of natural gas (aiming at progressively replacing oil and coal in the energy balance) and liberalization of the energy market (by opening this former state-owned sector to competition and private investment), the emphasis shifted for the next 5 years was on energy efficiency (supply and demand sides) and use of endogenous (renewable) energy.⁷

During February 2016, an equivalent to 95% of electricity consumed in Portugal was produced by renewable sources such as biomass, hydropower, wind power and solar power. A total of 4139 GWh was produced by these sources.⁸ In May 2016, all of Portugal's electricity was produced renewably for a period of over four days, a landmark achievement for a modern European country.⁹

It is estimated that around 20,000 jobs will be created until 2030 in the solar-photovoltaic industry alone, with EDP having announced an investment of 24 billion Euros in the renewable industry until 2026, most of which directed at wind, solar and green hydrogen production.¹⁸¹⁹²⁰

The largest hydroelectric power station is at the Alto Lindoso dam, with a capacity of 630 MW. Portugal has about 100 small hydro systems, with a capacity of 256 MW, which produce 815 GWh/year.²²

At the end of 2018, wind power capacity in Continental Portugal was 5,368 MW.²³ In 2020, wind powered energy was responsible for 24% of electricity production.²¹

Portugal combines wind and hydropower by using nighttime winds to pump water uphill and sending the water back through generators to produce power the next day; the so-called Pumped-storage hydroelectricity.²⁴

At the end of 2018, solar power had a total installed capacity of 828 MW.²⁵ It represented 2.2% of total power generation in 2019.²⁶



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Portugal's main investment for the use of this type of energy is in the Azores. Small scale use of this energy source began in the 1980s in Chaves and S. Pedro do Sul, Continental Portugal providing 3 MWt.

In the Azores the use of Geothermal energy is widespread, with production in 8 of the 9 Islands, collectively producing some 235.5 MWt. In 2003, 25% of the electricity consumed in S?o Miguel was produced by geothermal energy.[1]

The country experienced 149 consecutive hours during which energy from renewable sources (largely wind and solar) exceeded the industrial and household consumption needs. Between 4 am on October 31st and 9 am on November 6th, for six days, 1,102 GW of power were generated, exceeding the national consumption for the same period by 262 GW.

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