Renewable electricity israel

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Most energy in Israel comes from fossil fuels. The country"s total primary energy demand is significantly higher than its total primary energy production, relying heavily on imports to meet its energy needs. Total primary energy consumption was 304 TWh (1.037 quad) in 2016, or 26.2 million tonne of oil equivalent.[1]

In 2020, the government committed that by 2030, renewables should reach 30%.[5] This target was further revised in 2021, when Israel pledged at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to phasing out coal for energy generation by 2025, and reaching net zero for greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Throughout Israel"s history, securing the energy supply had been a major concern of Israeli policymakers.[12] The Israel Electric Corporation, which traces its history to 1923, with the First Jordan Hydro-Electric Power House, is the main electricity generator and distributor in Israel.[13]

In 1951, the Arab states accused American oil interests in Saudi Arabia of selling oil to Central American governments who circumvented the Arab blockade against Israel by selling the oil back to the refinery in Haifa.[16]

Solar power in Israel has been the main renewable energy resource used in Israel since the 1950s, at first mostly for solar water heaters.[17][18] Photovoltaics has only reached commercial scale in Israel in the 21st century but has since grown rapidly.[19][20]

In 2021, Prime Minister Naftali Bennet committed Israel at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to phasing out coal for energy generation by 2025, and reaching net zero for greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.[21][22]

In addition, the Karish gas field started production in 2022 after Israel reached an agreement with Lebanon that ended a maritime border dispute between the two.[31]

As of 2019, Israel"s renewable energy production capacity stood at 1,500 MW, almost all of it from solar energy, at 1,438 MW. Additional sources included wind power (27 MW), biogas (25 MW), hydroelectric power (7 MW) and other bio energy (3 MW). Of the solar energy, photovoltaics accounted for 1,190 MW, while concentrated solar power contributed another 248 MW from the Ashalim Power Station.[36]

In the same year, 4.7% of Israel"s total electricity consumption came from solar photovoltaics.[37] Production capacity of some 0.56 GW was installed in 2019.[38]

In addition to renewable energy, Israel is building multiple pumped-storage hydroelectricity plants, for a total

capacity of 800 MW.[39]

In 2022, 11.8% of Israel"s energy mix came from renewable energy sources, totaling 4,765 MW in renewable energy production capacity.[40] The vast majority of Israel"s renewable sources come from solar power, including from the Tze"elim, Ketura Sun, Ashalim Power Station, the 330 MW Dimona,[41] and 250 MW Ta"anakh solar parks.[42][43]

Officials from the Israeli Government and The Electricity Authority have given the goal to reach 30% of the country"s energy from renewable sources by 2030.[44][45] Despite this goal, a May 2023 OECD report warned Israel was falling behind on its emissions reduction objectives, largely due to natural gas extraction.[46][47]

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