

Wind power in Spain reaches historic high

March 31 2011



Wind turbines are pictured in La Veleta wind park, in Monasterio de Rodillo, near Burgos on March 27. Wind power became Spain's main source of electricity for the first time ever this month, the power-generating authority REE said.

Wind power became Spain's main source of electricity for the first time ever this month, in a country renowned for its focus on renewable energy, the power-generating authority REE said Thursday.

"[Wind farms](#) accounted for 21 percent of demand and reached a monthly record," 5.0 percent more than in March 2010, it said in a statement.

Overall, [renewable energy](#) provided 42.2 percent of electricity demand, a figure that was down 48.5 percent in March 2010, REE said.

Hydro energy accounted for 17.3 percent during the month, [solar energy](#)

2.6 percent, nuclear 19 percent and coal-powered electricity 12.9 percent.

"With wind energy production in March, we could cover the monthly electricity consumption of a country the size of Portugal," the country's association of wind farms, AEE, said in a statement.

"This historic milestone reached by wind energy shows that this energy source, as well as being indigenous, clean and increasingly competitive, is also capable of providing three million Spanish households," said AEE president Jose Donoso.

AEE said the growth in wind energy was "the main reason why 2010 was the first year in which [Spain](#) was a (net) exporter of electricity along with France."

Spain was the fourth largest producer of wind energy in 2009 due to the government's policy of supporting the sector in recent years.

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