

Strengthening the transmission grid in Asturias and boosting renewable generation in the region.

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 infrastructure developments included in the Plan for Asturias will be key to further facilitating the integration of new renewable generation and strengthening the security of electricity supply in the region, especially in the central and eastern areas of Asturias.

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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 CO₂ 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.



This Network Development Plan for Asturias includes infrastructure actions that will be key to continue facilitating the integration of new renewable generation, in addition to contributing to reducing the current and future limitations of the grid. Similarly, the security of electricity supply in the region will be strengthened, especially in the central and eastern areas of Asturias. This will contribute significantly to the region's economic, industrial, and social development as a whole.

Bolstering of the 400 kV grid in the central area of Asturias

One of the noteworthy projects included in this new Plan for Asturias is the bolstering of the 400 kV grid in the central area of the region. This development will consist of the construction of the new 400 kV/220 kV Gozón substation, which will be connected to the 220 kV Tabiella-Carrio line. To this end, the existing 220 kV line between Soto and Tabiella will be used, which as a result of the works will be converted into the 400 kV Soto-Grado-Gozón circuit and the 220 kV Gozón-Tabiella circuit.

The commissioning of this new axis, which will take advantage of existing grid elements, will contribute to the reduction of current and future grid limitations and will strengthen the security and quality of the electricity supply in the region, especially in Oviedo and Avilés. It will also promote a better integration of existing and future renewable generation capacity, thus allowing the integration of up to an additional 101 GWh per year.

Other actions to support the electricity distribution network in the region include the construction of the new 220 kV Ortiguero substation, the new Pesoz - Sanzo line and the enlargement of the existing 400 kV Pesoz substation through the addition of new substation bays.

Beyond 2026: a boost for offshore wind energy

In addition to the actions defined in the 2021-2026 Plan, the plan also includes some projects for a horizon beyond 2026. Such projects will not be started in this Network Development Plan period but may advance in certain administrative permitting procedures or those related to technical and environmental studies. Specifically, the integration of offshore wind energy in the region is planned for the future, this will require the construction of a new 400 kV substation in the western part of Asturias. This project is in line with the Marine Spatial Planning and the areas designated as priority areas for the siting of offshore wind energy. Furthermore, it is also planned to complete the 400 kV Asturias ring with the incorporation of several substations and lines.

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/>