

A strategic boost for the Canary Islands

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.
- In the Canary Islands, the Planning includes actions that will significantly bolster the security of supply, the meshing of the transmission grid, interconnections between the islands and, furthermore, will drive the integration of renewable energy. This will be a strategic boost for the economic and social development of the Islands.

Canarias, 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 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.

In the Canary Islands, the 2021-2026 Planning will be an essential instrument to continue promoting the green transition in the archipelago, as well as to strengthen the security and quality of the electricity supply on all the islands, especially in Gran Canaria and Tenerife. In fact, the Canary Islands is one of the regions earmarked to receive a higher level of investment in the Network Development Plan, specifically more than 800 million euros. It includes actions that will significantly enhance transmission grid meshing and improve the interconnections between the islands and will also promote the integration of renewable energy in the electricity systems of the Canary Islands.

Strengthening interconnections between islands

One of the fundamental pillars for the Canary Islands to advance in their energy transition is the interconnections between islands, strategic actions to advance in the European and national targets regarding the decarbonisation of the economy with a 2030 horizon.

The actions included in the electricity planning showcase the commitment to the development of these links as they represent a means that enables energy resources to be shared, forming larger systems that are, therefore, more robust, more secure and with greater capacity for the integration of renewables. Furthermore, these links between islands facilitate more efficient and economic use of energy and favour a generation mix with lower emissions thanks to the shared management of energy generation capacity available on the Islands as a whole.

The Planning for the Canary Islands includes the submarine interconnection between the islands of Tenerife and La Gomera, which is currently in the permitting process, which in turn will make it possible to have a new electricity subsystem in the Canary Islands in the future, the Tenerife-La Gomera subsystem. This interconnection has other associated other improvement works, including the enlargement of the new 66 kV electricity substations at Chío (Tenerife) and El Palmar (La Gomera).

The Plan document also contemplates the commissioning of the new 132 kV submarine interconnection between Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, which is currently under construction and will represent an investment of 36 million euros.

Bolstering supply for the development of the Canary Islands

On the other hand, the 2021-2026 Planning also includes important improvements in the transmission grid that will strengthen the security and quality of supply, allow for greater integration of renewable energy and contribute to covering new consumption on the Islands.

In this regard, this new Planning includes new infrastructure and actions that will provide support to cover new demand, derived from industrial consumption and the expansion of tourist areas, which will undoubtedly make a significant contribution to the economic, industrial and social development of the Canary Islands. In this respect, the construction of the new 66 kV substation at Mogán in Gran Canaria and the new 66 kV Las Palmas Oeste substation are planned. In addition, the 66kV substations at Abona, Salinas, El Palmar, Los Olivos, Candelaria, Los Vallitos and Arinaga will be enlarged through the incorporation of new substation bays.

The Plan also envisages important actions to improve and bolster the transmission grid for the integration of renewable energy, particularly those actions that will make it possible to connect offshore wind power generation both in the southeast of Gran Canaria and in the east of Tenerife. The new 220 kV substations at Barranco de Tirajana III in Gran Canaria and Las Rosas in Tenerife will contribute to this goal, as will the bolstering of the



transmission grid in these areas. These developments will also be key to strengthening the security and quality of supply in a scenario with a high concentration of generation, reducing the risk of partial or complete power outages.

Also, in the section of the Plan regarding renewables, the document encompasses the construction of the new 66 kV San Isidro substation and the enlargements of the 220 kV Granadilla and Abona substations in Tenerife, in addition to those of the 66 kV substations of Cinsa, Guía, Santa Águeda and Telde, in Gran Canaria. Moreover, in Fuerteventura, the plan foresees the connection of renewable generation capacity to the existing 132 kV La Oliva and Matas Blancas substations and the 66 kV Puerto del Rosario substation, as well as to the future 132 kV substations at Cañada de La Barca and Gran Tarajal.

In addition, the Plan document envisages the bolstering of the transmission grid on the island of La Palma, which currently consists of a single circuit. The plan includes the creation of a 66 kV ring, which will enhance the quality and security of the island's electricity supply and improve the proper functioning of its transmission grid, the resilience; a resilience that was tested during the recent volcanic eruption on La Palma. Specifically, the improvement works, which will contribute to the recovery of the island, includes the construction of the new 66 kV Las Breñas substation and the new 66 kV lines of Las Breñas-Los Guinchos 2 and Las Breñas-Valle de Aridane 2, as well as the completion of new substation bays that will enable the connection of renewable generation capacity to the 66 kV Las Breñas substation. This action will be essential in order to connect the new 66 kV Fuencaliente substation to the grid, scheduled to be available as of 2026, which will allow greater integration of renewable generation in the south of the island.

Lastly, the approved Plan document also includes the infrastructure under construction, or in the permitting process, that is currently in different stages of development, such as the new 220 kV Buenos Aires substation, the 220 kV axis between Caletillas - El Rosario, the bolstering of the 66 kV ring in the western part of the island of Tenerife, currently in the permitting process, and the improvement in the security of supply in the south and southeast of Gran Canaria through the construction of the 66 kV Tablero - Lomos de Maspalomas, Santa Águeda - Arguineguín line and the 66 kV Arinaga - Escobar line, among other improvements.

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.planificacioneolica.es/>