

Note : Below are extracts from an article published by Radio Teilifis Eireann(RTE) (03rd November 2022) as referenced below.

Wind energy pushes prices down in October



RTE(2022) gives us a summary from Wind Energy Ireland's latest report, which demonstrates how last month wind energy is helping to insulate Irish homes and businesses from the worst effects of the fossil-fuel energy crisis:

Wind energy has supplied 33% of Ireland's electricity demand so far this year. Wind Energy Ireland's latest report shows that wind energy provided 47% of the country's electricity in October, making it Ireland's main source of electricity last month. The latest figures mean that wind energy has supplied 33% of Ireland's electricity demand this year to the end of October. This was the best October on record for the volume of electricity produced by Irish wind farms and the share of demand met by the country's main source of renewable energy.

Wind Energy Ireland said that as the average wholesale electricity price fell to its lowest level since August 2021 the report emphasised again the contribution wind energy is making to insulating Irish families and businesses from the worst effects of the fossil-fuel energy crisis.

RTE(2022)

According to RTE(2022), wholesale electricity prices are being maintained at record low levels compared to this time last year, due to the increasing contribution of wind energy on the grid:

October saw a dramatic fall in the average wholesale electricity price in the month as it dropped to €136.27 compared to the September figure of €283.25. This is the lowest average monthly price in more than a year. On the days with the most wind power on the system the average price fell even further to €67.68, Wind Energy Ireland said. The large fall in wholesale electricity prices was due to the combined effect of large volumes of wind energy on the system reducing the need for gas and a steep drop in European gas prices as unreasonably mild weather across the continent caused a fall in demand, it added.

Total electricity demand in October was 3,222 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of power and wind energy generated 1,522 GWh. Demand the same time last year was 3,258 GWh and wind produced 1,141 GWh that month. Noel Cuniffe, CEO of Wind Energy Ireland, said the country's wind farms proved their worth again last month by continuing to help protect families and businesses from the worst effects of a crisis caused entirely by reliance on the fossil fuels that are driving the climate emergency.

"Our members provided a third of the country's electricity in the first ten months of the year. That is Irish generators producing power without burning imported fossil fuels, which means we can cut our carbon emissions at the same time as we cut our fuel imports," he said.

"Ireland needs a clean, secure, supply of electricity and as we connect new wind farms every year it will increasingly be wind energy which will provide it," he added.

RTE(2022)

References

RTE (2022) *Wind energy pushes prices down in October* . Available at

<https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2022/1103/1333015-wind-energy-ireland-report/>.

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