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Trends in Canada

Facts from the *Renewables 2021 Global Status Report*

Canada's Top Highlights in 2020

- Canada committed substantial new funding to tidal projects in 2020, investing CAD 28.5 million (USD 22.3 million) in Sustainable Marine Energy's floating tidal array (up to 9 MW) and CAD 4 million in Nova Innovation's 1.5 MW array in the Bay of Fundy.
- As in previous years, Canada ranked third globally for installed hydropower capacity. More than 80% of Canada's renewable power capacity is hydropower, however wind power (13.5%) has begun producing a greater share of Canadian electricity as the technology continues its growth and hydropower installations stagnate.
- Canada announced the construction in Varennes, QC (near Montréal) of one of the largest electrolysers using hydropower with capacity nearing 90 MW. In early 2021, it broke the record for the largest renewable hydrogen production site in the world, bringing online 20 MW capacity of hydrogen produced with hydropower in Quebec.
- Canada released a climate plan that includes a commitment to increase the carbon tax from CAD 50 (USD 39) per tonne in 2022 to CAD 170 (USD 133) per tonne by 2030, as well as CAD 15 billion (USD 11.7 billion) in funding for buildings, industry and transport. It also committed to investing CAD 166 million (USD 130 million) to support its agriculture sector to develop clean technologies, including renewables.
- Canada was one of only five countries to apply fuel economy standards to heavy-duty vehicles, along with China, India, Japan and the United States.

Renewables shares and targets: Where does Canada stand among G20 countries?

As illustrated in the figure below, renewables made up around 22% of Canada's TFEC in 2019. Of all G20 members, only Brazil is ahead of Canada in terms of share of renewables final energy.

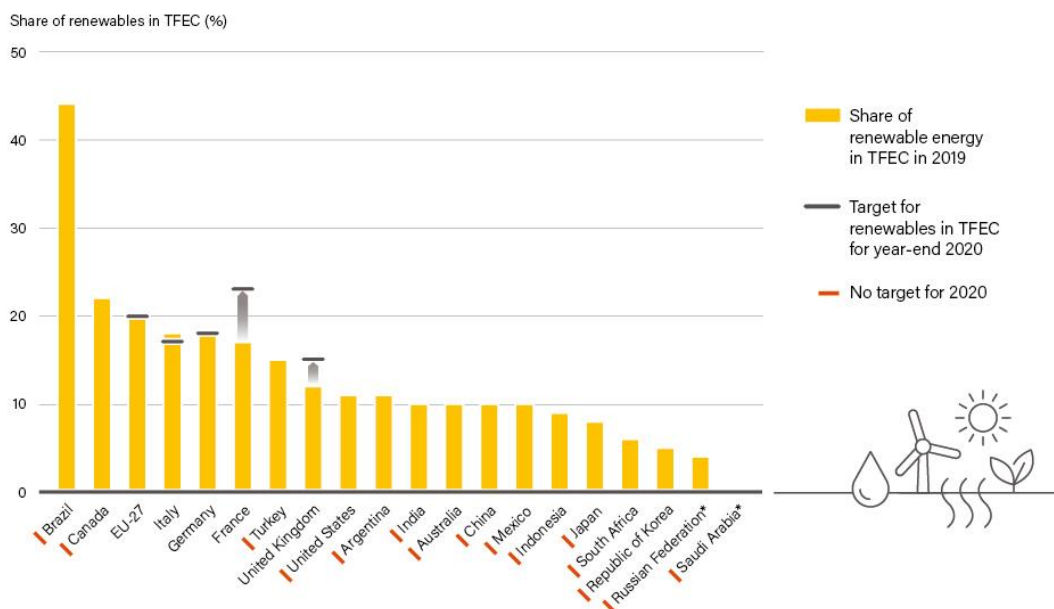
As seen in the figure below, only five of the world's largest member economies in the G20 – the EU-27, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom – had set 2020 targets to achieve a certain share of renewables in final energy use.

Do net zero targets¹ or targets for renewable shares actually support the uptake of renewables? Targets are needed, as they are binding objectives that can be used to hold countries accountable. Setting net zero targets alone does not necessarily lead to greater attention to renewables or to

¹Click here to read REN21's brief overview of net zero targets: <https://www.ren21.net/net-zero-basics/>

success in meeting renewable energy targets. Alongside any kind of target, robust policies and regulations are needed to ensure these targets are met.

Renewable Energy Shares and Targets, G20 Countries, 2019 and 2020



Note: TFEC = total final energy consumption.
Data for Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia are for 2018 and 2017 respectively.

Global rankings

Total renewable power capacity, end-2020 (Gigawatts)

1. China (908)
2. United States (313)
3. Brazil (150)
4. India (142)
5. Germany (132)
- ...7. **Canada** (50)

Renewable power capacity per person, not including hydropower, end-2020 (kilowatts per person)

1. Iceland (2.1)
2. Denmark (1.7)
3. Sweden (1.6)
4. Germany (1.5)
5. Australia (1.1)
- ...20. **Canada** (0.5)

Hydropower global capacity, 2020 (Gigawatts)

1. China (339)
2. Brazil (109)
3. **Canada** (82)
4. United States (80)
5. Russian Federation (49)
6. India (46)

The *Renewables 2021 Global Status Report* material is available here: <https://www.ren21.net/gsr>

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