

**Embargoed until: 00:05 CEST Paris Time – 15 June 2021**

## **Trends in Japan**

### **Facts from the *Renewables 2021 Global Status Report***

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#### **Japan's Top Highlights in 2020**

- Japan added 8.2 GW of solar PV capacity in 2019, a 16% increase over the previous year following four years of contraction. It also added a record amount of wind power capacity with almost 0.6 GW in 2020, doubling its 2019 installations. Japan launched its first offshore wind auctions, including one for a floating wind farm.
- It released a vision document – the “Vision for Offshore Wind Power Industry” – that calls for 10 GW of offshore capacity by 2030 and 30-45 GW by 2040.
- The largest renewable hydrogen production record was set by Japan's 10 MW solar-powered hydrogen production facility in 2020, in Fukushima, not far from the site of the 2011 nuclear accident.
- Japan announced plans to increase subsidies for electric vehicles under the condition that the vehicles are charged with renewable electricity, becoming one of only three countries (along with Austria and Germany) to have such a policy.
- Japan is one of the world's leading markets for heat pumps. Air-source heat pumps dominated heat pump sales in 2020 in the country although the total number sold fell slightly. Japan also is a significant market for heat pumps for water heating, sales of which increased 30% since 2015, to more than 500,000 water heaters sold in 2020.
- The “*RE-Users*” platform in Japan allows corporate energy users to share information and best practices to accelerate renewable procurement in the country, and also organises annual summits.

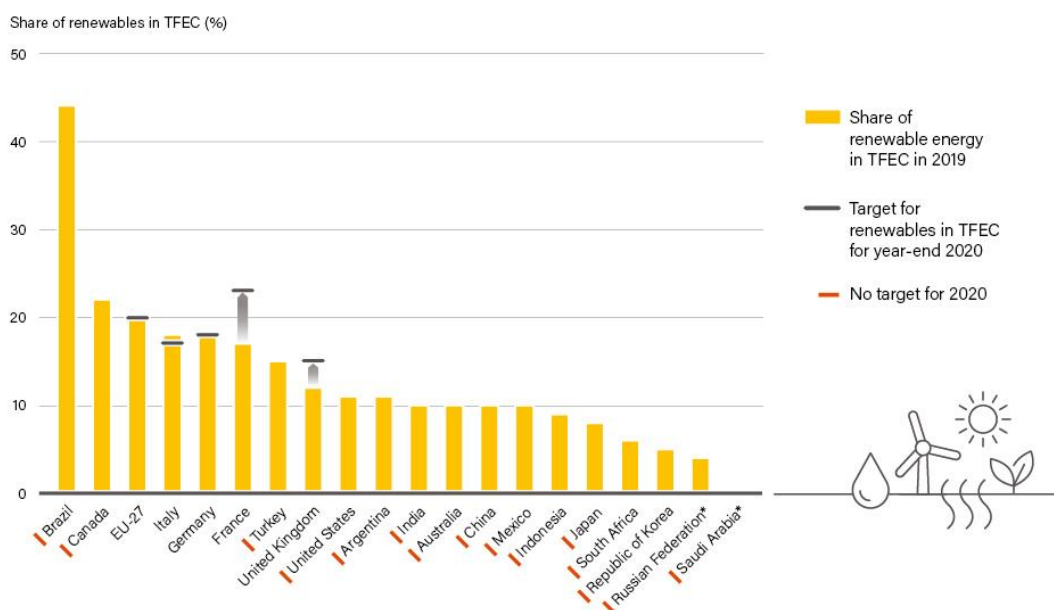
## Renewables shares and targets: Where does Japan stand among G20 countries?

Japan announced a target for 50% renewable electricity generation by 2050 as a means of achieving its carbon neutrality goal. For the year 2019, the share of renewable energy made up around 8% of total final energy consumption (TFEC) in Japan.

While long-term goals were set, Japan did not set a target for the share of renewable energy within the TFEC for 2020 specifically, unlike several of the world's largest economies. In fact, only five had set targets to achieve a certain share of renewables in final energy use -the EU-27, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Do net zero targets<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

 **REN21** RENEWABLES 2021 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT

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

## 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)
6. **Japan (104)**

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

1. Iceland (2)
2. Denmark (1.7)
3. Sweden (1.6)
4. Germany (1.5)
5. Australia (1.1)
- ...14. **Japan (0.6)**

Solar PV capacity additions, 2020 (Gigawatts)

1. China (48)
2. United States (19)
3. Vietnam (11)
4. **Japan (8.2)**
5. Germany (4.9)
6. India (4.4)

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

**Questions?** Please contact [press@ren21.net](mailto:press@ren21.net) or +33 1 44 37 50 99.