

**Embargoed until: 09:30 CET Paris Time – 15 June 2021**

## **Trends in France**

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

The entire GSR dataset can be downloaded, sorted and explored at <https://www.ren21.net/gsr>

---

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

- France's COVID-19 stimulus package included EUR 7 billion (USD 8.6 billion) to support building renovations – including those encouraging renewable heat – as part of a wider target to renovate the country's entire building stock by 2050. It was one of three countries to include "green" conditions in its stimulus to the aviation sector (along with Austria and Sweden, requiring 50% emission reduction and a minimum of 2% renewable fuel by 2030).
- France was one of just two countries to enact new policies and targets to advance the use of renewables in the rail sector (along with India). France's national railway company committed to meeting a portion of its electricity needs using renewable electricity and signed a renewable electricity power purchase agreement to provide around 2% of the electricity consumption of all national passenger trains.
- France was the leading market in Europe for heat pumps, with 394,000 sales in 2020, followed by Italy and Germany.
- France was one of the world's top installers of wind power during 2020. The country added 1.3 GW, to rank fourth in the EU behind the Netherlands (added 2 GW), Spain (1.7 GW), Germany (nearly 1.7 GW) and 8<sup>th</sup> in the world, just ahead of Turkey and India.

### **Where does France stand among G20 countries?**

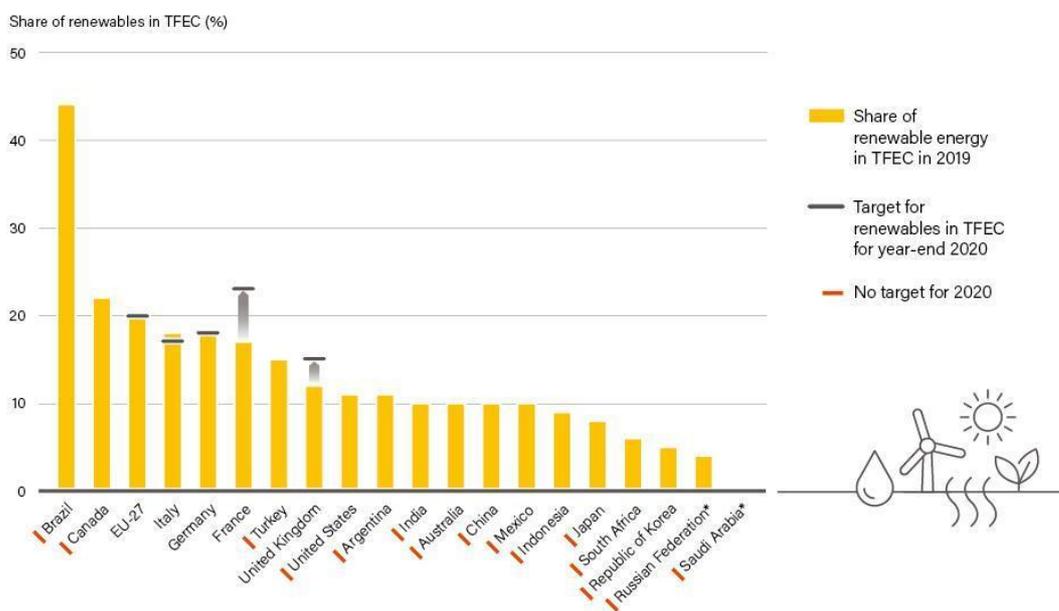
While France had a specific target for the share of renewables in total final energy consumption (TFEC) in 2020, it fell short of achieving it. The target was 23% and as illustrated in the figure below, renewables made up only 17% of France's TFEC in 2019.

As seen in the figure below, only five of the world's largest member economies in the G20 – Canada, the EU-27, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Turkey and the United Kingdom – had set 2020 targets to

achieve a certain share of renewables in final energy use. Of them, several were clearly not on track to achieve these targets by year's end.

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.





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

## Global rankings

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

Total renewable power capacity,  
end-2020 (Gigawatts)

1. China (908)
2. United States (313)
3. Brazil (150)
4. India (142)
5. Germany (132)
- ...11. **France** (51)

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)
- ...22. **France**

Modern bio-heat demand in  
buildings, 2020

1. United States
2. Germany
3. **France**
4. Italy
5. Sweden

---

All report materials, figures, case studies and the full data pack can be downloaded here:  
<https://www.ren21.net/gsr>

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