Danish Energy Agency

Danes used more energy and renewables in 2016

Lower electricity imports and less windy conditions for wind turbines resulted in increased energy consumption and increased observed CO_2 emissions in 2016. As power plants in particular also used more biomass, consumption of renewable energy increased, raising the share of renewable energy to 31.3%. These are some of the results in the Energy Statistics 2016, which were published by the Danish Energy Agency 30 November 2017.

Observed Danish energy consumption increased by 3.0% in 2016 compared

with the previous year, ending at 743 PJ. The increase can be explained e.g. by the fact that Danish net imports of electricity were 14.5% lower than in 2015. At the same time, the production of wind power fell by 9.6%, because 2016 was less windy. This development meant that the consumption of coal and natural gas for electricity generation increased by 21.3% and 12.6%, respectively, in 2016.

The adjusted energy consumption, which has been adjusted for fluctuations in climate and fuel consumption linked to foreign trade in electricity, increased by 1.6% in 2016. This development is characterised by an increase in the consumption of oil, coal and renewable energy etc. of 0.2%, 5.2% and 3.4%, respectively, while natural gas consumption fell by 1.3%.

Consumption of renewable energy continues to increase

Even though wind power generation fell by 5 PJ in 2016, the total observed consumption of renewable energy increased by 4.4% from 2015 to 2016, ending at 217 PJ. This is due, in particular, to an increase of 9 PJ in the consumption of biomass - stemming primarily from an increase in the consumption of wood pellets of 7 PJ. Power plants contributed 5.7 PJ to this increase.

Production of electricity from renewables accounted for 53.9% of Danish domestic electricity supply in 2016. This is a fall of 2.1 percentage points in relation to 2015. The largest contribution came from wind power (37.5%) and biomass (12.7%).

The share of renewable energy relative to total gross energy consumption was 29.1% in 2016 as compared with 28.6% in 2015.

According to the EU method of calculation, renewable energy accounted for around 31.3% of energy consumption in 2016, against 30.8% in 2015.

Drop in energy production

Danish production of crude oil, natural gas and renewable energy etc. fell by 5.6% in 2016 to 638 PJ. Production of crude oil fell by 10.0%, while production of natural gas fell by 2.2% and production of renewable energy fell by 1.1%.

Increase in emissions of greenhouse gases

The increase in the consumption of coal and other fossil fuels in 2016 meant that observed CO_2 emissions from energy consumption increased by 4.4% in 2016 to 36.7 million tonnes. Adjusted for fluctuations in climate and fuel consumption linked to foreign trade in electricity, CO_2 emissions increased by 1.8%. Adjusted CO_2 emissions have fallen by 34.6% since 1990.

A preliminary statement of total Danish observed emissions of greenhouse gases shows an increase of 3.2% in 2016. Observed emissions of greenhouse gases have been reduced by 29.1% since 1990.

Read Energy Statistics 2016 (in Danish only).

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