

9 out of 10 think the country should invest more in renewables

This is one of the main conclusions of the Marktest analysis for APREN in anticipation of the association's annual conference, the Portugal Renewable Energy Summit, which will take place on the next 9th and 10th of November.

Nine out of ten Portuguese consider that the country should invest more in renewable energies. This is one of the main conclusions of a study on “Notoriety and Image of Renewable Energies” carried out by Marktest for the Portuguese Association of Renewable Energies (APREN), throughout the month of September, which involved more than a thousand interviews, carried out by the entire country in urban and rural areas.

Around 60% of respondents are of the opinion that Portugal is doing little to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and only 30% believe that the country is mobilizing sufficient efforts towards decarbonization in 2050.

The Portuguese people interviewed also revealed that they had an in-depth knowledge of what is included in their electricity bill, with more than 80% guaranteeing that they knew partially or completely the items that make up the electricity bill.

As for the price of electricity, the answers are clear: 91% of respondents consider that the bill is expensive. More than 80% even believe that the price of electricity in Portugal is higher than the European average.

Accordingly, 88% consider that a bet should be made on renewable energy sources to the detriment of fossil fuels, and more than 52% refer that the use of renewable energies reduces the sale price of electricity.

“The main results of this study demonstrate that the Portuguese population believes in renewables and advocates greater investment in green energies to boost decarbonisation. APREN will continue to work in the sense of factually explaining and showing the advantages of electricity produced from renewable sources, namely its very positive impact on the control of electricity prices”, underlines the President of the Board of APREN, Pedro Amaral Jorge.

SOLAR IS THE MOST POPULAR:

The Portuguese population also reveals to have a good knowledge about the various sources of renewable energy. Solar and wind are the most popular, reaching awareness of over 95%. Water and energy from waves and tides come in the background. Less known is geothermal energy, biomass, and biogas. Only five out of 10 Portuguese have heard of these sources.

Despite this, regarding the preponderance of each of the technologies, wind energy is mistakenly perceived as being the most used by 40% of respondents, with only 27% choosing the correct answer, hydro energy. Solar energy is also the first choice of 28%.

More than 85% of respondents agree that renewables contribute positively to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to minimize climate change and its impact.

The overwhelming majority considers that combating climate change should be a priority area of action for the Portuguese government and supports the idea that the European and national target for the decarbonization of the economy by 2050 was a decision of great relevance.

Not everyone agrees with increasing taxes on the most polluting fuels to discourage their use, even so, with 59% of the population being in favour of this strategy.

There is consensus on the idea that investment in renewables is mainly private. This opinion is shared by 61% of respondents. Between 2020 and 2030, according to a study by Deloitte, the sector is expected to attract around 20 billion euros of private investment in electricity generating centres from renewable energy sources.

About self-consumption, the answers are also revealing. In the case of self-consumption, 87% do not have self-consumption, and only 20% intend to have it in the future, although 95% of the population agree that there should be public incentives/support for the acquisition and installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic panels in Portuguese homes.

As far as energy efficiency is concerned, 84% say that they have already adopted measures of this kind in their home, with 90% mentioning that they have changed their light bulbs to LED, 87% mentioning that they have purchased more efficient appliances and 71% saying that they do not leave devices on standby mode.

"Renewables", as an "engine of economic recovery", will be the focus of APREN's annual conference, the Portugal Renewable Energy Summit, which will take place on the 9th and 10th of November, with the participation of some of the main specialists in the field of energy renewable energy sources, nationally and internationally, which form part of the various debate panels on the sector's main topics.

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About APREN:

The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association (APREN) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field. APREN works closely with the government and other official entities, both on a national and international levels. It participates actively in the definition of energy and environmental policies, valuing natural resources for electricity production, namely hydric, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and urban solid waste.