

Power Lines

Title



Moving to an energy system with a high share of renewables in Europe presents a range of challenges. Wind, solar and marine energy sources are variable, so local resources may not always be able to meet peak electricity demand. Storing electricity is difficult and expensive, with few technological alternatives available. 'Pumped storage' involves pumping water uphill at times of low demand and releasing it when demand peaks: this is a proven technology, but creating the necessary lakes presents ecological risks through habitat loss.

The lowest cost and most ecologically acceptable solution is greater interconnection between power markets; the more interconnected regions and nations become, the more they will be able to import electricity when local renewables supplies dry up.

BirdLife Europe supports the development of electricity transmission and distribution networks in Europe to accommodate the expansion of renewable energy. We work with grid operators to ensure new and existing power lines do not create risks of collision and electrocution for birds. BirdLife has joined the [Renewables Grid Initiative](#) to help ensure swift yet sustainable development of the EU electricity network.

We call on policy-makers in the EU and Member States to ensure grid development plans take account of environmental impacts and that new power lines are sensitively routed to avoid unnecessary impacts.

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