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**ASEAN yet to unleash solar and wind**

***Malaysia’s solar and wind only stand 0.9% of total generation in 2021, compared to 4% ASEAN-wide and 10% globally. Its power sector development plan would only raise its share to 3.4% by 2030.***

*Jakarta, Indonesia, 7 July 2022* - Faster growth in clean electricity is urgently needed in ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), says [a new report](https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/unleashing-solar-and-wind-in-asean/) published today by global energy think tank Ember. To keep up with increasing demand and prevent power sector CO2 emissions rising further, ASEAN members will need to ramp up solar and wind.

The [report](https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/unleashing-solar-and-wind-in-asean/) shows that among the 10 ASEAN member states, five countries— Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam—or the ‘ASEAN 5’, make up 89% of the region's total electricity generation, making their contribution crucial to achieving clean energy transition in the region, although contributions from the rest of the ASEAN members are equally important for the region to achieve their climate goals.

However, by 2030, the **latest energy plans released by the ASEAN 5 would only see the share of solar and wind rising to 11%** of the region’s total electricity supply. By 2030 Viet Nam is expected to generate 18% solar and wind in total, the Philippines 16.5%, and Thailand 9.6%. Malaysia and Indonesia would reach 3.4% and 2% respectively. And **this does not** align with the [IEA net-zero pathway](https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050).[Recent trends](https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/unleashing-solar-and-wind-in-asean/#asean-electricity-demand-is-rising-fast) show thatif clean energy cannot keep up with the rising demand, fossil fuels will take over.

Malaysia plans to deploy 1.1 GW of solar by 2025, according to the [Report on Peninsular Malaysia Generation Development Plan (2021-2039)](https://www.st.gov.my/en/contents/files/download/169/Report_on_Peninsular_Malaysia_Generation_Development_Plan_2020_(2021-2039)-FINAL.pdf). There is no wind development under this plan. This means solar and wind would account for only 3.4% of total generation in 2030 - a two percentage-point jump from 2021 - putting Malaysia in the bottom two among the ASEAN 5, in terms of solar and wind share in 2021 and 2030.

Solar and wind need to grow rapidly in ASEAN nations, especially considering that they are currently the most economical and fastest way to replace coal.

**The report also finds:**

* Growth in clean power isn’t keeping pace with electricity demand, leading to more fossil fuel use. **Clean power only met 39% of electricity demand rise in the five largest electricity generators in ASEAN** from 2015 to 2021, and 48% was met with **fossil fuels.** Hence power sector CO2 emissions in these countries **increased by 21% in total**.
* **Solar and wind generated only 4% of the ASEAN's electricity** last year, lagging behind its peers like China (11%) and India (8%). **Only Viet Nam (11%) exceeds the world average in solar and wind**, which generated 10% of global electricity for the first time in 2021.

**Ember’s Asia electricity analyst Achmed Edianto** said, “Governments should unleash the power of solar and wind, as is happening already in China, India, and across much of the world. As fossil fuels prices soar through the roof, solar and wind prices remain low, providing affordable, homegrown energy.”

“Solar and wind are progressing across Southeast Asia, but more aggressive targets and timely execution are needed to utilise the vast potential. Governments need to redress 2030 energy plans,” he added.

Solar and wind will be the backbone of the world’s future electricity system, but current electricity plans in ASEAN countries do not reflect this. The [IEA’s Net Zero report](https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050) shows 40% of global electricity supply should come from solar and wind by 2030. More ambitious solar and wind deployment plans in ASEAN are needed to align with 1.5 degrees.

**Ember’s Asia electricity data analyst Uni Lee said,** “Under current policies, solar and wind are projected to supply only one tenth of total electricity generation in 2030. This is not nearly enough to meet the rapidly growing demand. Rapid scaling-up of solar and wind and grid modernisation is going to be a crucial piece of the puzzle to solve the climate crisis in this region.”

-ENDS-

**Notes to editor**

[**Media Pack**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IKhkxISrYeiqgEkxCCnl9iVVXeSQRwLb?usp=sharing) - press release, report, graphics, data table

The report will be published online on 7 July 2022 at:

<https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/unleashing-solar-and-wind-in-asean/>

**Interview contact**

Achmed Shahram Edianto

Asia Electricity Analyst, Ember

[achmed@ember-climate.org](mailto:achmed@ember-climate.org)

+62 813 1916 3013

**Media enquiries**

Rini Sucahyo

Asia Communications Manager, Ember

[rini@ember-climate.org](mailto:rini@ember-climate.org)

+62 8111 800 741

**About Ember**

Ember is an independent, not-for-profit climate and energy think tank that produces cutting-edge research and high impact, politically viable policies that aim to accelerate the global transition from coal to clean electricity.

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**About this report**

**“Unleashing solar and wind in ASEAN”** report by Ember aims to draw the attention of ASEAN policymakers to the importance of solar and wind and the urgency of making them the backbone of electricity systems in the region within this decade.

This report analyses the latest electricity data in the five major ASEAN countries that dominate the region's total electricity generation with 89%. These countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, linking their progress of clean energy development and their renewable energy targets to the IEA Net Zero pathway.

**Charts**

