



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
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# Renewable energy in the world

Students of 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior High School of Amaliada

study renewable energies globally and present their results:

Georgia Vassilopoulou



## The first RES in America were wind farms

Wind power became the largest renewable source of electricity in the US last year, according to a report by the American Association of AWEA.

The link notes that in 2016 wind energy rose at the second fastest pace in its history in the last three months. It surpassed hydroelectricity as the largest source of renewable energy in the US, and is the fourth largest source of energy overall.

At the end of 2015, according to official government data, wind power accounted for 4.7% of electricity production in the United States, behind coal with 33%, gas also with 33%, nuclear power with 20%. % and hydropower by 6%.

"American wind energy is today the first renewable energy source, thanks to more than 100,000 workers in 50 states," said AWEA CEO Tom Kearnan.

"The development of this clean energy source helps rural communities finance new roads, bridges and schools, and create new jobs," he added.

According to AWEA, wind power is expected to represent 10% of US electricity generation by 2020.

A wind farm tax credit, which is a key incentive and growth factor for industry, will expire in 2019, though the US Congress has renewed it many times in the past.



## **The wealth hidden by Latin American renewables**

Latin America has always been at the forefront of the energy industry. In the 20th century it was the British oil companies that opened the hydrocarbon faucet in Venezuela and Mexico, creating new prospects for the region.

Now in the 21st century are the riches that renewable energy (RES) promises to international investors who renew interest in the continent. In September, Canning House hosted a conference on Renewable Energy, where Gonzalo de Castro, director of the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), talked about the prospects for clean energy.

Gonzalo de Castro has noted that the positive is that the economic situation in the world and in Latin America is looking to improve. Global economic growth has stabilized at 3.9%, while Latin America is at 2.8% for 2019, while in 2016 it was just 0.6%.

The economic background plays an important role as the Latin American revolution for clean energy comes through a mix of local governments, corporations and international investors. Financing always comes in landscapes where there is no uncertainty and the profit margin is assured.

At the same time, Latin America's economic growth is also increasing its energy requirements, with CAF calculating demand will jump 79% between 2017 and 2030.

Likewise, Venezuela's curbing of inflation within the country's borders has not made Latin America's upward trajectory at risk, and more investors are willing to invest money.

Another encouraging element for Latin America's promise of renewable energy is that success has already been made in this area. Hydroelectric power accounts for 54% of the region's electricity supply. Percentage far exceeding the 16% that is worldwide, while RES performance in Latin America exceeds the global limits. Typically, the share of wind, solar and geothermal energy accounts for 8% in Latin America while in the rest of the world it stands at 6%.

Latin America uses much less carbon than other parts of the planet, as it is not abundant material in the region, as only 1.2% of world stocks are there. This in turn is a particularly positive element for the region and the growth it may have in relation to other emerging markets, as it is not dependent on coal being considered the cheapest and most reliable source of electricity, but it is also one of the most aggravating for our planet.

At the same time, the big rival is in oil, with 20% of world stocks being in Latin America and using it more extensively than the Middle East. This is also a great opportunity for lucrative renewable energy sources that can replace oil-fired power plants.

In the 1920s and 1930s, British oil companies in Mexico and Venezuela played their own role in launching the explosion of oil that led to the discovery of rich fields.

Now, the same opportunity is presented in the region with the oil's "enemy enemy", renewable energy sources with profit margins large for those who intend to invest in them. Latin America's solar power potential reaches 54.050 TW per year, which is 36 times the energy required for the entire region.



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