

DECREE LAW 22/2025, OF 28 OCTOBER, TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN CATALONIA

The Government of Catalonia has approved a new Decree Law aimed at strengthening the resilience of the electricity supply and boosting renewable energy deployment across the region.

Following the power outage of 28 April 2025, which revealed the fragility of the current energy system, the Government attempted to reform the regulatory framework for renewables through Decree Law 12/2025, of 3 June. However, that Decree was not ratified by the Parliament of Catalonia.

Now, the Government is renewing its efforts with Decree Law 22/2025, of 28 October, to increase the resilience of the electricity supply in Catalonia. The text was published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia (DOGC) no. 9531 on 30 October 2025, and must be validated by Parliament within 30 days.

This new regulatory framework seeks to make Catalonia's electricity system more competitive, sustainable, and secure, while urgently advancing the energy transition by increasing renewable generation and energy storage capacity.

Main new measures introduced by the Decree:

- **Battery storage systems:** For the first time, installations for energy storage using batteries—both hybrid and independent—are formally regulated.
- **Administrative simplification:** Administrative procedures are simplified for installations between 100 and 500 kW, as well as for wind self-consumption facilities.
- **Urban planning modifications:**
 - o Storage facilities using batteries, whether independent or hybrid, are recognised as public utility or social interest infrastructures.
 - o The installation of battery storage systems, charging points, and self-consumption renewable facilities on industrial or logistics land is made more flexible, without requiring planning amendments.
 - o Self-consumption installations may reach up to one metre in height (or up to four metres on isolated buildings or public facilities, provided that planning distance requirements from property boundaries are respected).
 - o Wind self-consumption facilities must be located at least 500 metres from residential urban land boundaries.
 - o The maximum height of wind turbines will be determined solely by applicable aeronautical restrictions, and not by urban planning regulations concerning building height.
- **Energy communities:** Both renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities are recognised as being of public utility. The Register of Energy Communities of Catalonia is established, allowing public administrations and entities in the public sector to grant surface rights, concessions, or public domain authorisations in favour of energy communities.

- **Measures to improve social acceptance of projects:** Developers of large-scale energy projects—wind farms over 10 MW and solar plants over 5 MW—must present their projects to local citizens before the start of the public information phase.
- **Access and connection:** The Decree introduces measures to remove the discretionary power of distribution companies in access and connection requests, increase transparency, and regulate grounds for denial.
- **Suspension of municipal licences:** A general suspension of municipal licensing procedures is prohibited for the entire municipality when it concerns the study, drafting, or amendment of urban planning in relation to renewable energy or storage installations.
- **Renewable energy in hydraulic infrastructures:** The Decree allows the installation of solar panels, small wind turbines for self-consumption, and biogas recovery systems in hydraulic works and wastewater treatment infrastructures.
- **Renewable installations in road protection areas:** It establishes new rules to authorise renewable energy facilities, storage systems, and underground power lines in areas protected under road network regulations.