

Solar energy, natural gas fuelling stations and the production of reclaimed water are some examples of its sustainability strategy

Canal de Isabel II participates in the UN's water and energy platform

- It has presented its sustainability projects in a panel alongside representatives of Brazil, Paraguay, Bangladesh and Guatemala
- Its '0 Kilowatts' Clean Generation Plan seeks to achieve 100 % self-consumption with renewable or high-efficiency energy

22OCT2020 – Canal de Isabel II has participated in the sustainable energy and water platform promoted by the United Nations on behalf of the Region of Madrid. Its aim is to share knowledge and good practices about projects and initiatives underway in the world within these fields. As a company that is responsible for the integrated water cycle in the Region of Madrid, Canal has presented its main actions concerning the efficient management of the resource and the production of clean energy, a task that it also undertakes. In doing so it was represented by Fernando Arlandis, Deputy Director of Studies and Programmes. The panel where these initiatives were presented also witness the participation of representatives of various bodies and companies from Brazil, Paraguay, Bangladesh and Guatemala.

The public company has established a clear strategy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on the decarbonisation of the economy in the European Union, and whose contribution to them is being measured using key performance indicators for each of the projects initiated.

As regards clean energy generation, Canal de Isabel II has been the company with the greatest installed capacity in electrical energy generation in the Region of Madrid for years, with a total of 107 megawatts. Moreover, through the '0 Kilowatts' Clean Generation Plan, the company seeks to achieve 100 % self-consumption with renewable or high-efficiency energy in 2030.

Likewise, Canal has facilities which, alongside they supply and sanitation processes, make it possible to generate renewable energy, obtain energy from by-products of the processes and co-generate electricity. Notable projects include natural gas fuelling stations, which exploit the biogas from the purification plants as fuel for automotion, or the floating solar panel installation project.

Another of the company's major lines of action for the sustainability of the resource is raising awareness of the use of water through publicity campaigns. This must be seen alongside the efforts to reduce losses in the distribution network and the increase in the production of regenerated water. This latter process, by means of a tertiary treatment, makes it possible to give the wastewater sufficient quality to irrigate public green areas, golf courses, washing down streets and industrial uses.

Canal has 31 tertiary treatments in which it produced, in 2019 alone, 122 million cubic metres of reclaimed water, of which almost 16 were used to irrigate more than 2,800 hectares in 24 municipalities in the Region of Madrid, thanks to a distribution network more than 650 kilometres long. This quantity is equivalent to one-and-a-half times the volume of the Navacerrada reservoir, or fifty times the volume of the Picasso Tower.

Finally, some of the actions Canal has undertaken as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic were also presented, highlighting the company's quick action to guarantee the water supply at all times, protecting all the workers' health and safety. In this regard one of the most noteworthy projects is the 'Vigía' system, which tracks the presence of the virus in the Region of Madrid's wastewater thanks to the implementation of more than 290 sampling points distributed around the sanitation system, which amounts the largest deployment of this type in the country.

Canal de Isabel II was founded more than 165 years ago to supply water to the city of Madrid. Today, its more than 2,800 employees provide a service to over 6 million people in the region. It is an innovative, entirely public company, a leader in its sector, and internationally recognised for its management of the integrated water cycle.

It operates 13 reservoirs; 78 spring tapplings; 14 drinking water treatment plants; 17,651 kilometres of conveyance and distribution channels; 131 pumping stations for drinking water and 133 for wastewater; 15,317 kilometres of sewage networks; 65 storm tanks; 157 wastewater treatment stations; and 651 kilometres of regenerated water channels.