Executive summary

Unsurprisingly, the last 12 months have seen significantly fewer developments becoming operational compared to the last 3 years. Delays to many developments globally have been announced since the start of 2020, whilst we try to continue life under a new climate.

Since last year’s edition of the UK Operational Renewables/EICAssetMap Report, the figures have changed and fluctuations in data have occurred with all previous predictions not accounting for the unexpected global pandemic. Projects have seen delays because of this as construction sites changed the way they worked, following government guidance such as social distancing to keep employees safe whilst carrying out delivery of their projects.

Four notable projects suffered significant construction work delays. The Teesside Biomass CHP Plant, the Energy from Waste REnescience Plant, the Burnfoot Hill East Extension Onshore Wind Farm and the High Garrett Solar Farm are the four projects all based in England that suffered COVID-19 related delays. Construction works have been halted on all four sites due to local lockdowns that have been put in place.

New capacity additions to the grid in 2020 are expected to be 75% lower than in 2019. In sectors such as Onshore Wind and Solar, we have seen additional capacity around 80% lower for Solar, and 97% lower for Onshore Wind. Energy from Waste has managed to go against the curve and add above average capacity over the last 12 months. Additional capacity was still low at 97MW but still more than previous new capacity such as 83MW in 2016 and 70MW in 2018.

The projects that were delayed this year have been kept in mind when putting this report together and companies involved with these projects have added a time delay or proposed commissioning date to their projects. This can be seen through the report as some figures may see big fluctuations between 12-month periods.

Please note that data compiled in this report has been taken from EICDataStream and EICAssetMap. We collate information on assets/projects which are/will produce 5MW or more.

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