

The Palencia town of Paredes de Nava hosts the 2nd edition of the Convive Awards

## Iberdrola recognises the best initiatives for environmental, agricultural and social coexistence with clean energies

- *The Town Councils of Paredes de Nava and La Serna; Red Española de Desarrollo Sostenible; Ocean Ecoestructuras; Técnicas e Instalaciones Eléctricas Salamanca (Tecinsa); Prensa Ibérica; Centro de Investigación en Biodiversidad y cambio global de la UAM, and Patricia Rebollo, shepherdess of the photovoltaic plant in Ceclavín, were the winners in this second edition of the Convive Awards, which brought together more than 300 people.*
- *The event was attended by the President of the Junta de Castilla y León, Alfonso Fernández Mañueco, and the Chairman of Iberdrola, Ignacio Galán, who praised these projects and works as an example of the coexistence of the rural world and the transition to a more sustainable future.*

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Iberdrola has awarded today in the Palencia town of Paredes de Nava the best initiatives of environmental, agricultural and social coexistence with clean energy, highlighting eight projects that exemplify the advantages of the energy transition for the rural world and its positive impact on job creation and development.

The Chairman of Iberdrola, Ignacio Galán, highlighted the benefits of green energy for rural areas. "Today we recognise courageous commitments to the energy transition. We advocate boosting industry, employment and the future to create a fairer, more fraternal and sustainable society".

"Iberdrola has a spirit of service that guides, from the outset, all the projects we undertake, from the largest to the smallest. We know that harmony with local administrations and the communities in which we are present is essential to achieve more objectives and to make this energy transition more tangible and fair", added the chairman of the electricity company.

In this second edition of the [Convive Awards](#), Iberdrola has recognised, in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation in Technology for Human Development of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (itdUPM), the following companies:

- *In the category of Innovative Solutions and Research:* Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS-SDSN) and Ocean Ecoestructuras.
- *In Social and business entrepreneurship:* Técnicas e Instalaciones Eléctricas Salamanca (Tecinsa).
- *In Communication and Awareness:* Prensa Ibérica
- *In the Youth category:* Patricia Rebollo, shepherdess at the photovoltaic plant in Ceclavín in the province of Cáceres.

- In the *Local Entities and Citizen Participation* category: Paredes de Nava Town Council (Palencia) and La Serna Town Council (Palencia).
- Finally, the *Special Biodiversity Award* went to the Biodiversity and Global Change Research Centre of the Autonomous University of Madrid (CIBC-UAM).

The event was also attended by the President of the Regional Government of Castilla y León, Alfonso Fernández Mañueco; the Mayor of Paredes de Nava, Luis Antonio Calderón; the President of the Provincial Council of Palencia, Ángeles Armisen; the CEO of Iberdrola España, Mario Ruiz-Tagle, and the Minister of Economy of the Regional Government of Castilla y León, Carlos Fernández Carriedo, among other authorities.

An independent jury formed by Carlos Mataix, director of the Centre for Technological Innovation for Human Development (itdUPM); María García de la Fuente, president of the Association of Environmental Information Journalists (APIA); José Carlos Díez, director of the Responsible Renewables Chair at the University of Alcalá; Víctor Viñuales, executive director of the Ecology and Development Foundation (ECODES); Elena Pita, director of the Biodiversity Foundation; Ana Barreira, director of the International Institute of Law and Environment (IIDMA) and Juan José Álvarez, secretary of ASAJA, was responsible for choosing the winners, who will become part of the repository of winners, receiving special recognition and other elements of visibility for their project.

### Living in harmony with the environment

Iberdrola's Convive Programme was created with the aim of facilitating the acceleration of the development of clean energy in Spain, improving its contribution to the territories, society, biodiversity and the rural world.

This initiative has two objectives: on the one hand, to promote continuous improvement and best available practices in the integration of renewables, electricity grids and energy storage in the environment, and on the other hand, to contribute positively to local development and biodiversity conservation through collaboration and partnerships.

These actions help to establish long-term relationships with the environment, maximising the positive impact of each Iberdrola project and contributing to mutual understanding by working hand in hand with the public, institutions, government and the third sector at all times.

This programme is structured around three lines of action:

1. **Contribute to socio-economic development:** Initiatives that enable projects to contribute to economic and social development at local as well as national level.

2. **Protect and enhance biodiversity:** Actions that contribute to the integration of facilities into the territory and landscape by improving their contribution to biodiversity and their environmental impact.
3. **Learning from experts:** Improving the impact and social acceptance of the energy transition through collaboration with third parties.

Some examples of these initiatives are the integration of livestock and agricultural activities around the facilities, the development of beekeeping activities and new developments in agrovoltaics; support for local suppliers; the creation of energy communities and help for municipalities to implement development plans; participation in alliances to define best practices in projects or the generation of new industrial activity and innovation.

## **ANNEX - INFORMATION ON THE PRIZE-WINNERS**

## Local Entities and Citizen Participation:

- Paredes de Nava Town Council
- La Serna Town Council

**Paredes de Nava (Palencia)** - This town has a population of 1,900 inhabitants and is located about 20 km from the city of Palencia, in the heart of Tierra de Campos.

*The socio-economic development strategy of Paredes de Nava has renewable energies as a driving force for change. The implementation of two wind farms in the municipality has made it possible to undertake innovative projects and to be a catalyst for the new municipal model based on a series of proposals for social innovation in three essential areas: culture, repopulation and agri-food. The joint and simultaneous action of these actions is making it possible to multiply impacts and generate a call effect for new projects and agents.*

*A "Repopulation Office" has been set up with an innovative model that allows the intermediation between people who want to leave the city to live in a village and the labour needs in the area. The key is based on the humanisation of the process, in the constant accompaniment by the team that runs the Department of Repopulation. This initiative is supported by the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. It has a population services contract awarded to Proyecto arraigo SL. In two years it has achieved the arrival of 120 new inhabitants, the opening of 6 new businesses, the attraction of talent, different people and profiles that did not exist before. All this with numerous added impacts: an increase in schoolchildren, activation of housing rental, revaluation of real estate, the generation of new programmes such as mobility with municipal electric vehicles.*

*In the cultural field, the opening of the Museo de los Cuentos y la Ciencia or the Casa de los Títeres, managed by new neighbours and with more than 16,000 visits in two years, stand out. Since 2023, the Jorge Manrique Performing Arts Centre has been in operation, an example of collaboration between administrations, with the participation of MITMA and the Ministry of Culture (1.5% Cultural Call), Junta de Castilla y León, Diputación de Palencia and the City Council, whose contribution has been possible thanks to the new income from renewables. Since its inauguration, more than 50 activities have been held and more than 12,000 spectators have attended. The local theatre group Aldagón directs the amateur theatre show, which has 2,500 spectators.*

**La Serna (Palencia)** - *La Serna is a municipality of about 90 inhabitants located 50 km north of Palencia.*

*The municipality's commitment to renewable energies dates back to 20 years ago with the development of a solar farm. The town council, residents and local people (90 of the 120 registered at that time) developed a project with an investment of more than 3 million euros. In this way, they managed to generate public wealth, clean energy and awareness of citizen participation. The installation was made on municipal land of 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> generating additional income.*

*An open energy community project is currently being developed, again with the collaboration of the City Council and neighbours, on the roof of an agricultural building.*

*The two projects, both promoted by the local council, have involved 90 local residents and natives of the village, contributing their work and dedication, as well as their financial resources.*

### **Innovative solutions and research:**

- REDS-SDSN Spain
- Ocean Ecostructures

### **REDS-SDSN Spain: Renewables with the Territory: a shared vision**

*The initiative "Renewables with the Territory: a shared vision" addresses the debate in Spanish society on the process, pace and nature of renewable energy deployment in our territory, with a focus on collaboration and continuous dialogue between all agents. Through a series of dialogues involving 70 people and 60 organisations, including the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and the media, a roadmap has been drawn up with 50 prioritised proposals for legislative changes and best practices. The initiative, developed between April 2023 and February 2024, has involved months of constant communication with these actors, through four dialogue sessions, review of national and international documents and references, rounds of contrasts, etc. The work continues today, focusing on the design and implementation of political and social advocacy actions, seeking the application and impact of the measures proposed in the roadmap.*

*The Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS-SDSN Spain) was created in 2015 as a space that brings together universities, public administrations, companies and civil society, with the mission of supporting the dissemination and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Spain. REDS-SDSN Spain is part of the global network Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and has more than 100 members and collaborators.*



*The European Climate Foundation (ECF), Eudemon Project and Insta Juridic... also participated in the initiative's driving team.*

### **Ocean Ecostructures - Regeneration of ecosystems in marine infrastructure for renewable energies**

*Created in 2021, Ocean Ecostructures has developed a multi-technological solution to regenerate ecosystems in marine infrastructures that is composed of three elements:*

- 1) Biomimetic micro reefs (LBUs), which replicate the functioning of a natural reef thanks to their multi-layered design, their microfauna attraction system (Life Boosting Mix) and the natural substrate they are made of.*
- 2) Measurement system, validated by the CSIC and other scientific organisations, which makes it possible to establish in detail the real environmental benefits achieved in terms of biodiversity, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, biomass and oxygen generation.*
- 3) Multi-platform reporting service*

*They have two projects currently under development to mitigate the environmental effects generated by marine structures directly related to renewable energies located in the North Sea (electrical substation) and in the Balearic Islands (submarine cable line). The model also contemplates the contribution at a local level, both in the LBUs, which have been designed to be manufactured locally, and in the implementation of solutions, with the support of the local scientific community and in dissemination and awareness-raising.*

### **Social and business entrepreneurship: TECINSA**

#### **TECINSA - Electrical substations for the evacuation of renewable energies**

*TECINSA was founded in 2001, in the province of Salamanca, with the aim of becoming a benchmark company in the electricity generation, distribution and transmission sector in Spain, currently providing assembly, renovation, maintenance, testing, commissioning and engineering services for electrical infrastructures.*

*Since then, it has carried out work all over Spain, thus promoting the expansion of the company. This business expansion led to a process of internationalisation, first in Chile 9 years ago and more recently in Peru, where the company is starting to develop its activity.*

### **Communication and Awareness: Prensa Ibérica**

*With more than 45 years of activity, Prensa Ibérica is the leader in regional and local information in Spain. It has 23 general news titles distributed throughout Spain. Its*



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*great capillarity and proximity are clear signs of its identity. It has a monthly audience of over 24 million unique users, 28 million followers on social networks, and a print audience of 2.3 million.*

**Young people:** Patricia Rebollo González. Pastora Ceclavín (FV Oriol)

*Patricia Rebollo is a young 34-year-old livestock farmer from the municipality of Ceclavín (Cáceres). Since 2022, her flock of around 800 sheep has been grazing all year round at the Oriol photovoltaic plant in the municipality of Ceclavín (Cáceres).*

*The work carried out has served as an example for other women livestock farmers in other municipalities who already graze in other photovoltaic plants. Among them is her cousin, who is younger than her, and who has a cattle farm in the same municipality. Another example is at FV Villarino (Salamanca), where a woman is also the shepherdess.*

**Special Biodiversity Award:** CIBC-UAM

*The **Biodiversity and Global Change Research Centre (CIBC-UAM)** is a centre of the Autonomous University of Madrid that brings together around a hundred researchers from the Departments of Biology and Ecology.*

*It was created in 2018 with the aim of addressing the challenges facing society with regard to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems from a scientific perspective, with the aim of making such conservation compatible and in harmony with our progress and well-being.*

*To this end, researchers with different approaches and approaches (from population genetics to the study of socio-ecosystems) from different departments of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid work and collaborate at the CIBC.*

*They also collaborate, both individually and institutionally, with a large number of other research and knowledge transfer centres (CSIC, INIA, CTFC, numerous Spanish and foreign universities), as well as public administrations (Central State Administration, Autonomous Communities, town councils), NGOs (SEO-BirdLife, GREFA, Fundación Biodiversidad) and companies.*