

Sunday 27 October, the hands of the clock are moved back one hour: at 03:00 winter time returns

TERNA: IN 7 MONTHS OF DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME CONSUMPTION WAS REDUCED BY 505 MILLION kWh

- *Savings of € 100 million for the electricity system in 2019 and a reduction in CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere for 250 thousand tonnes*
- *Since 2004, more than € 1.6 billion and 9.6 billion kWh of electricity have been saved*

Rome, 25 October 2019 – After seven months of daylight-saving time, winter time will return on Sunday 27 October: at 03:00, the hands of the clock are moved back one hour. Daylight saving time will return from 29 March 2020.

According to preliminary estimates by Terna, the company that manages the national electricity grid, from 31 March 2019, thanks to the extra hour of daylight which means a reduction in the need for artificial light, Italy saved an overall total of 505 million kilowatt hours (equal to the annual electricity consumption of approximately 190 thousand families), corresponding to a 250 thousand tonne reduction in atmospheric CO₂ emissions.

Considering that in the period of reference, one kWh cost an average of 20 eurocents to the typical domestic user before tax (according to ARERA's data), the economic saving resulting from daylight-saving time for 2019 is approximately € 100 million.

As usual, the highest electricity savings were recorded in the months of April and October. This is due to the fact that these two months have “shorter” days in terms of natural light, compared to other months in the period. Moving the hands of the clock ahead by one hour postpones the use of artificial light while professional activities are still in progress. Instead, during the summer months such as July and August, as the days are already longer, the delay in turning on the lights occurs in the evening when most working activities have ended, leading to less significant results in terms of electricity savings.

According to data analysed by Terna, between 2004 and 2019, the drop in electricity consumption as a result of daylight saving time has amounted, overall, to roughly 9.6 billion kWh – a volume equivalent to the annual electricity needs of a region such as Sardinia – and has led, in economic terms, to a saving for citizens of over € 1.650 billion..

On the homepage of the Terna website, www.terna.it, the “load curve” is displayed, representing the real-time consumption of electricity in Italy.