

## Zero-carbon power bigger than fossil fuels in UK

24th June, 2019



Creative Commons 2.0  
via zak zak on flickr.com

The United Kingdom has said it is playing its part in striving for a cleaner and greener planet. For the first time since the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, the UK is being powered

more by zero-carbon fuels than fossil fuels. In each of the first five months of 2019, fossil fuels have produced less than half of the UK's electricity. Analysts say a "tipping point" has been reached and the trend of zero-carbon energy sources providing more power than fossil fuels will continue. Power from wind, solar, nuclear and hydro sources outstripped coal and gas-fired generation. A decade ago, three quarters (75.6 per cent) of the UK's electricity came from coal and gas, and only 22.3 per cent was zero carbon.

The switch to more zero-carbon power was described by the UK's energy chief executive as a "key milestone on the journey towards net zero". CEO John Pettigrew said the zero-carbon share should increase to 90 per cent by the 2030s. The UK's Prime Minister Theresa May has made a commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This would make the UK the first major economy to do so. Energy analyst Tom Burke told the BBC: "Today's landmark is a real tribute to technologists. We have cracked technical problems of dealing with climate change." He added: "As we move towards net zero, jobs will be lost in fossil fuel industries and created in low-carbon industries."

Sources: [metro.co.uk](http://metro.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [iflscience.com](http://iflscience.com)

### Writing

The world will all be carbon-zero one day. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

planet / the first time / Industrial Revolution / zero carbon / fossil fuels / coal / zero / switch / chief executive / journey / commitment / economy / tribute / climate change

### True / False

- a) The UK used less coal for the first time since the Industrial Revolution. T / F
- b) The UK used fewer fossil fuels than renewables for five months in a row. T / F
- c) Analysts say the UK has reached a tipping point regarding fuel use. T / F
- d) Nearly a quarter of the UK's power was zero carbon a decade ago. T / F
- e) An energy executive said net zero was a milestone for the UK. T / F
- f) An energy executive says the UK will be 90% zero carbon by the 2030s. T / F
- g) An analyst said the UK has problems with cracks in its technology. T / F
- h) The analyst said there would be fewer jobs in low-carbon industries. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>part</b>        | a. exceeded            |
| 2. <b>striving</b>    | b. tendency            |
| 3. <b>produced</b>    | c. in the direction of |
| 4. <b>trend</b>       | d. landmark            |
| 5. <b>outstripped</b> | e. created             |
| 6. <b>switch</b>      | f. testimony           |
| 7. <b>milestone</b>   | g. attempting          |
| 8. <b>tribute</b>     | h. solved              |
| 9. <b>cracked</b>     | i. role                |
| 10. <b>towards</b>    | j. change              |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What key milestones has your country reached regarding energy?
- c) How should we change our lives to be greener?
- d) What damage do fossil fuels do?
- e) What technical problems are there in dealing with climate change?
- f) Can coal miners and oil workers find jobs in low-carbon industries?
- g) What will the environment be like in the year 2119?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the energy chief?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. striving for a                    | a. of zero-carbon energy      |
| 2. For the first time since          | b. emissions by 2050          |
| 3. In each of the first five         | c. ago                        |
| 4. the trend                         | d. do so                      |
| 5. A decade                          | e. the Industrial Revolution  |
| 6. a key milestone on the journey    | f. industries                 |
| 7. reach net zero carbon             | g. cleaner and greener planet |
| 8. the first major economy to        | h. to technologists           |
| 9. a real tribute                    | i. months of 2019             |
| 10. jobs will be lost in fossil fuel | j. towards net zero           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of fossil fuels?
- How important are fossil fuels?
- How did the Industrial Revolution change the world?
- What is your country doing to move towards a greener planet?
- When will your country use mainly zero-carbon energies?
- How green is your lifestyle?
- What is the best form of renewable energy?
- Does the world have time to move to zero-carbon energies?

## Spelling

- itsvnrig for a cleaner and greener planet
- the nlstaIrudi Revolution
- a "ptgipin point" has been reached
- the trend of zero-carbon energy cosesru
- outstripped coal and gas-fired eaintgeorn
- A edeacd ago
- the UK's energy chief xecvituee
- Theresa May has made a momnceitmt
- net zero carbon emoinsiss
- a real bturiet to technologists
- problems of eagdnli with climate change
- created in low-carbon isrnstiedu

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. g	3. e	4. b	5. a
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Plant Trees

You think planting trees is the best way to help the planet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): eating less meat, using public transport or recycling.

### Role B – Eat Less Meat

You think eating less meat is the best way to help the planet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): planting trees, using public transport or recycling.

### Role C – Use Public Transport

You think using public transport is the best way to help the planet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): eating less meat, planting trees or recycling.

### Role D – Recycle

You think recycling is the best way to help the planet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): eating less meat, using public transport or planting trees.

## Speaking – Climate Change

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to help to address climate change at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • plant trees      | • use solar panels     |
| • eat less meat    | • walk everywhere      |
| • recycle          | • use less air-con     |
| • no bottled water | • use public transport |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.